



NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY

A New, Balanced
Approach

Highlights

2010



2010 National Drug Control Strategy

Highlights

To the Congress of the United States

I am committed to restoring balance in our efforts to combat the drug problems that plague our communities. Drug use endangers the health and safety of every American, depletes financial and human resources, and deadens the spirit of many of our communities. While I am proud of the new direction described here, a well-crafted strategy is only as successful as its implementation. To succeed, we will need to rely on the hard work, dedication, and perseverance of every concerned American.

Barack Obama
The White House

Preface from Director Kerlikowske

The Obama Administration's strategy is unique because it takes advantage of what we now know about how to more effectively prevent drug use, provide addiction treatment, and enforce the law against illegal drugs. The balanced approach of evidence-based prevention, treatment, and enforcement presented in this *Strategy* will effectively address the serious drug problem faced by our Nation today.



R. Gil Kerlikowske
Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy

Key Strategy Objectives

President Obama's 2010 *National Drug Control Strategy* ("Strategy") reflects a comprehensive approach to reducing drug use and its consequences. Endorsing a balance of prevention, treatment, and law enforcement, the *Strategy* calls for a 15 percent reduction in the rate of youth drug use over 5 years and similar reductions in chronic drug use and drug-related consequences, such as drug deaths and drugged driving.

Below is a summary of the *Strategy's* key objectives:

Strengthen Efforts to Prevent Drug Use in Our Communities

Preventing drug use before it begins is a cost-effective, common-sense way to build safe and healthy communities. Instead of a system in which communities must adapt to the ways and conveniences of Federal and State agencies, it is vital for these agencies and departments to adapt and remain sensitive to the needs of local communities. This new system must help communities become prepared for prevention and support states in their efforts to expand upon the number of such communities.

Seek Early Intervention Opportunities in Health Care

Only a fraction of the money spent on health-related drug abuse costs is spent on identifying and intervening early in emerging cases of drug abuse or treating those with the disease of addiction. Research has clearly established that a brief intervention by a primary care provider can help people who abuse substances, but are not yet addicted, cut back or eliminate their substance use. It is both more humane and less costly to intervene when a case of addiction is just emerging than to wait until the disease is well-established. The *Strategy* calls for increasing screening and early intervention for substance use in all healthcare settings and expanding prescription drug monitoring programs.

Integrate Treatment for Substance Use Disorders into Health Care, and Expand Support for Recovery

For millions of Americans, substance use progresses to a point where brief interventions are not sufficient to promote recovery. Addiction treatment can be a critical—even lifesaving—resource in such situations, but only if it is readily available and of high quality. Among other measures, the *Strategy* calls for expanding addiction treatment in Community Health Centers and the Indian Health Service.

Break the Cycle of Drug Use, Crime, Delinquency, and Incarceration

Drug use is often interwoven with criminal and delinquent behavior that disrupts family, neighborhood, and community life in fundamental and long-lasting ways. Actions described in the *Strategy* include supporting law enforcement efforts to reduce drug availability, promoting alternatives to incarceration, and mandating treatment and court monitoring for chronic drug-using offenders.

Disrupt Domestic Drug Trafficking and Production

Drug trafficking organizations move large quantities of illicit drugs into the United States. These same groups, at times working through street and prison gangs, employ criminal networks that return the illicit proceeds of the drug trade—along with an array of weapons—across our borders. Specific steps in the *Strategy* include maximizing Federal support for law enforcement drug task forces, assisting tribal authorities in combating drug trafficking, and interdicting the southbound flow of currency and weapons.

Strengthen International Partnerships

The United States is one of the world's most lucrative markets for illegal drugs. It is in our interest to work collaboratively with international partners to reduce the global drug trade. Actions described in the *Strategy* include conducting joint counterdrug law enforcement operations with international partners, promoting alternative livelihoods for coca and opium farmers, and targeting the illicit finances of drug-trafficking organizations.

Improve Information Systems for Analysis, Assessment, and Local Management

Science should help inform policy and rigorously evaluate its effects. This can be possible only with near real-time information on drug use patterns, associated problems, and the results of previously implemented policies. The *Strategy* focuses on enhancing current data systems and assessing the availability, price, and purity of illicit drugs on the street so that it is known when our programs have a measurable impact on drug markets.

A New Approach to America's Drug Problem

The Obama Administration's *National Drug Control Strategy* relies on a comprehensive approach, informed by experience and evidence, to reducing drug use and its consequences in the United States. The *Strategy* is a collaborative effort by dozens of departments, agencies, Members of Congress, and the American people, and its implementation is a shared responsibility guided by the Office of National Drug Control Policy and its interagency partners.

This vision for United States drug policy is responsible, realistic, and informed by experience. We will implement a balanced public health and public safety strategy that recognizes that the demand for drugs and, increasingly, their production are within our own borders. We will foster collaboration and coordination at every level of government to create a drug policy that keeps our communities safe, supports the healthy development of our Nation's youth, and offers treatment and the hope of recovery to every addicted American.

National Drug Control Strategy Goals to be Attained by 2015

Goal 1: Curtail illicit drug consumption in America

- 1a. Decrease the 30-day prevalence of drug use among 12–17 year olds by 15%
- 1b. Decrease the lifetime prevalence of 8th graders who have used drugs, alcohol, or tobacco by 15%
- 1c. Decrease the 30-day prevalence of drug use among young adults aged 18–25 by 10%
- 1d. Reduce the number of chronic drug users by 15%

Goal 2: Improve the public health and public safety of the American people by reducing the consequences of drug abuse

- 2a. Reduce drug-induced deaths by 15%
- 2b. Reduce drug-related morbidity by 15%
- 2c. Reduce the prevalence of drugged driving by 10%

Data Sources: SAMHSA's National Survey on Drug Use and Health (1a, 1c); Monitoring the Future (1b); What Americans Spend on Illegal Drugs (1d); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Vital Statistics System (2a); SAMHSA's Drug Abuse Warning Network drug-related emergency room visits, and CDC data on HIV infections attributable to drug use (2b); National Survey on Drug Use and Health and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) roadside survey (2c).

ONDCP Mission Statement

ONDCP seeks to foster healthy individuals and safe communities by effectively leading the Nation's effort to reduce drug use and its consequences.



Contact ONDCP

**For more information about the
Office of National Drug Control Policy,
or to view the full text of the
2010 National Drug Control Strategy, visit:**

www.WhiteHouseDrugPolicy.gov