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**BREAKING THE CYCLE OF DRUGS AND CRIME
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
MICHAEL BOTTICELLI**

Breaking the Cycle of Drugs And Crime

*Office of National Drug Control Policy
Executive Office of the President*



Criminal Justice Challenges

- At the end of 2011, nearly 7 million adults were involved in the criminal justice system—either on probation or parole, or incarcerated in jail or prison. 2 million incarcerated, 5 million on probation/parole*
- State corrections spending increased from \$12 billion to \$50 billion per year from 1988 to 2009
- A recidivism study's findings: in over 40 states, more than four in 10 offenders returned to state prison within three years of their release**

*Glazer, Lauren E., Correctional Populations in the United States. Bureau of Justice Statistics, NCJJ 239972. November 2012

** Pew Center on the States, State of Recidivism: The Revolving Door of America's Prisons (Washington, DC: The Pew Charitable Trust, April 2011)

National Drug Control Strategy

- Signaled a fundamental shift in the way the Federal Government would approach the task of reducing drug use and its consequences
- Based on input from public health and public safety professionals across the country and on decades of research from the Nation's top scientists. This research demonstrated that a substance use disorder is a brain disease – one that can be prevented, treated, and from which one can recover
- Recognizes that the criminal justice system should try a different approach for non-violent offenders instead of incarceration
- Supports efforts within the criminal justice system to address not only the offender's criminal activity, but his or her underlying substance use disorder

Criminal Justice Strategies

- Change in Federal Charging Policy
 - Attorney General Holder's Guidance to US Attorneys
- Alternatives to Incarceration
 - Criminal Drug Courts
 - Testing and Sanction Strategies
 - » Project HOPE
 - » 24/7 Sobriety Project
- Reentry Efforts

Changing Sentencing Guidelines

- The Department of Justice has clarified its charging policy on mandatory minimum penalties for low-level, non-violent drug offenders
- Federal prosecutors' charging decisions should reflect the specific circumstances of the case: conduct, criminal history, circumstances related to the crime and community needs
- The most severe mandatory minimum penalties are reserved for serious, high-level, or violent drug traffickers

Drug Courts

- A proven method for addressing offenders with substance use disorders
- Over 2,700 in the United States
- Intensive treatment and other services provided for a minimum of one year
- Frequent appearances before a judge
- Random drug testing; sanctions and incentives

Testing and Sanction Strategies

- Identifies probationers most likely to violate terms of community supervision
- Every detected violation has consequences
- Frequent and random drug tests
- Uses swift, certain and short terms of incarceration for violations
- Uses warrants and sanctions for absconding probationers
- Drug treatment when requested or if needed due to inability to abstain

Testing and Sanction Strategies

- **Project HOPE¹**
 - In a National Institute of Justice evaluation - after one year, the HOPE probationers were:
 - 55% less likely to be arrested for a new crime
 - 72% less likely to use drugs
 - 61% less likely to skip appointments with their supervisory officer
 - 53% less likely to have their probation revoked
- **24/7 Sobriety Project²**
 - Court-based DUI offender management for repeat offenders
 - Offenders with 30 consecutive days on 24/7 are over 50% less likely to commit another DUI offense

¹ Hawken A, Kleiman M, Managing Drug Involved Probationers with Swift and Certain Sanctions: Evaluating Hawaii's HOPE, U.S. Department of Justice, 2009: <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/229073.pdf>

² Loudenburg R, Drube, G, Leonardson G, Bathke J, South Dakota 24/7 Sobriety Program Evaluation Supplemental Findings Report, Mountain Plains Evaluation, LLC, 2012: <http://apps.sd.gov/ata/dui247/AnalysisSD24.pdf>

In-Custody Treatment

- Treatment should not stop at the prison door
- For incarcerated individuals not eligible for drug court or community supervision, appropriate treatment and other supportive services should be provided in custody to help them fully recover from their substance use disorder and maintain their recovery after their sentence is complete
- A study in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation found that inmates who participated in an in-prison treatment program and completed an aftercare program had the lowest recidivism rates—31.3 percent—when compared to those who did not receive treatment

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, 2012. Outcome Evaluation Report, p. 50: http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Adult_Research_Branch/Research_Documents/ARB_FY_0708_Recidivism_Report_10.23.12.pdf

Reentry Efforts

- The long-lasting and far reaching consequences of criminal justice involvement are an impediment to employment, housing, and education
- In the past year, the Administration has issued guidance and best practices on the appropriate use of criminal histories in hiring procedures
- The *Strategy* supports the provision of services that can help released offenders successfully reintegrate into the community
- To decrease the rate of re-offending and re-entering the criminal justice system, local, state and Federal systems are piloting projects that connect offenders to services outside prison

Conclusion

- The *National Drug Control Strategy* supports effective strategies and programs that help address the treatment and other needs of offenders with substance use disorders
- Since the release of the President's first *Strategy*, the Administration has emphasized the importance of a full range of interventions for individuals with substance use disorders at every stage of the criminal justice system
- Connecting released offenders to community services and eliminating barriers can reduce recidivism