

American College of Addiction Medicine Praises Obama Administration Response to Opioid Epidemic

Drug-related fatalities demonstrates need for coordinated response

Posted by [Kelly A. Mello](#) (Editor) , April 29, 2011 at 12:31 AM

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The American College of Addiction Medicine (ACAM), the educational arm of Addiction Medicine Associates, issued a statement in support of the White House's Office of National Drug Control Policy's (ONDCP) [prescription drug abuse action proposal](#). ACAM, which has an office in on West Main Street, praised President Barack Obama's team for drawing attention to the rapidly escalating rates of Opioid prescription drug misuse, abuse and accidental overdose fatalities.

"Addiction medicine and healthcare practitioners across the country recognize the importance of a White House program that seeks to reduce America's prescription drug epidemic which has developed over the past decade," said Dr. Punyamurtula S. Kishore, M.D., M.P.H., president of the American College of Addiction Medicine. "President Obama must be praised for acknowledging that the fastest growing and most dangerous area of [drug abuse and addiction](#) involves Opioids prescribed for medical use but subsequently used for non-medical purposes."

Noting the Oxycodone epidemic in Massachusetts, as defined by the Massachusetts legislature in 2009, ACAM lauded the ONDCP for declaring the non-medical use of prescription Opioid medication a national epidemic. Widely available statistics, including Centers of Disease Control data showing a 175 percent increase in accidental fatalities stemming from prescription drug misuse and the 400 percent increase in use of prescription Opioids in the United States, underscore the need for a coordinated federal response to the crisis.

"The federal government understands that increased awareness and community-based education are essential in order to combat this epidemic, to save lives and to reduce the incredible impact of Opioid addiction on local cities and towns," said Dr. Nicholas Rencricca, dean of the American College of Addiction Medicine. "The statistics could not be more clear. America is suffering from an addiction epidemic and OxyContin is one of the most prevalent substances that leads to addiction and creates incredibly high

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