

THE LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT

Omar Palma - C50

LOCATION

Chicago – Back of the
Yards / West Englewood

PROBLEM

LACK OF INFORMATION

Institutes of law/medicine and consumers do not know enough of the cause and effects of substance abuse and how to address them effectively.

LACK OF SUPPORT

Homelessness of mentally ill people. Less job opportunities for drug offenders. Broken households. Mass incarceration.

In the 40 years since President Richard Nixon declared **war on drugs**, the Commission says repressive strategies focused on criminalization have not worked. “Arresting and incarcerating tens of millions of these people in recent decades has filled prisons and destroyed lives and families without reducing the availability of illicit drugs or the power of criminal organizations,” the report concludes.

CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS NEWS, CRIMINAL
JUSTICE NEWS, CRIMINAL JUSTICE
RESOURCES / 06.8.11



The Leadership Conference
Education Fund

As an alternative, the Commission – which includes activists, business leaders, former American cabinet officials, and former European and Latin American presidents – points to a number of countries that have decriminalized drugs without seeing a significant rise in use or drug related-violence. Portugal saw declines in heroin use, new HIV infections, and the incarceration rate once it coupled the decriminalization of all drugs with treatment policies. Similar drops in problematic drug use, especially heroin, were observed in both Switzerland and the Netherlands after adopting policies that emphasized treatment rather than criminalization.



THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC BY THE NUMBERS



70,630

people died from drug overdose in 2019²



10.1 million

people misused prescription opioids in the past year¹



1.6 million

people had an opioid use disorder in the past year¹



2 million

people used methamphetamine in the past year¹



745,000

people used heroin in the past year¹



50,000

people used heroin for the first time¹



1.6 million

people misused prescription pain relievers for the first time¹



14,480

deaths attributed to overdosing on heroin (in 12-month period ending June 2020)³



48,006

deaths attributed to overdosing on synthetic opioids other than methadone (in 12-month period ending June 2020)³

SOURCES

1. 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2020.
2. NCHS Data Brief No. 394, December 2020.
3. NCHS, National Vital Statistics System. Provisional drug overdose death counts.



OBJECTIVE OVERVIEW

MISSION STATEMEN

Reforming America's approach on substance abuse, one person at a time.



MEET THE TEAM



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Secretary



MICHELLE OBAMA
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