

## A Healthier and Safer America

Mental illnesses and addiction disorders are treatable health challenges — just like cancer, diabetes, and heart disease. People with mental illnesses and addictions and their affected family members can recover and have a meaningful life in the community, if they get help. However...

- ❖ Well over 59 million Americans with mental health or addiction disorders don't receive any specialized treatment.
- ❖ Millions never benefit from prevention initiatives that have proven successful.
- ❖ People recovering from mental illness and addiction are discriminated against as they seek employment, insurance, housing, and other necessities of life.

Now is the time for America to adopt health policy reform that will save tens of thousands of lives and billions of dollars — and strengthen families and communities across the country.

**The Whole Health Campaign calls on every Presidential candidate and political party to adopt three principles:**

- 1 **Ensure equitable and adequate mental health and addiction treatment coverage in all public and private health care plans.**
- 2 **Support policies that promote individual and family recovery from mental illnesses and addictions as integral to overall health.**
- 3 **Commit to investing in America's future through prevention, early intervention, and research on mental illnesses and addictions.**

**The Whole Health Campaign is a collaboration of the following organizations:**

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| American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry<br>www.aaap.org                                   | Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law<br>www.bazelon.org                                    |
| American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry<br>www.aacap.org                       | Legal Action Center<br>www.lac.org  |
| American College of Mental Health Administration<br>www.acmha.org                          | Mental Health America<br>www.mentalhealthamerica.net  |
| American Psychiatric Association<br>www.psych.org  | NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals<br>www.naadac.org                                     |
| American Psychological Association<br>www.apa.org  | NASADAD<br>www.nasadad.org  |
| American Public Health Association Mental Health Section<br>www.apha.org                   | NASMHPD<br>www.nasmhpd.org  |
| American Society of Addiction Medicine<br>www.asam.org                                     | National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)<br>www.nami.org  |
| Betty Ford Center<br>www.bettyfordcenter.org   | National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers<br>www.naatp.org                                    |
| Campaign for Mental Health Reform<br>www.mhreform.org                                      | National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors<br>www.nacbfd.org |
| Capitol Decisions<br>www.capitoldecisions.com  | National Association for Children of Alcoholics<br>www.nacoa.org  |
| Caron Treatment Centers<br>www.caron.org   | National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors<br>www.nasmhpd.org                          |
| Carter Center Mental Health Program<br>www.cartercenter.org/health/mental_health           | National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence<br>www.ncadd.org  |
| CHADD - Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder<br>www.chadd.org | National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare<br>www.thenationalcouncil.org                        |
| Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America<br>www.cadca.org                                 | Open Society<br>www.sorosny.org   |
| Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance<br>www.dbsalliance.org                             | Partnership for Workplace Mental Health<br>www.workplacementalhealth.org                                  |
| Drug Policy Foundation<br>www.drugpolicy.org   | Physicians and Lawyers for National Drug Policy<br>www.plndp.org  |
| Ensuring Solutions to Alcohol Problems<br>www.ensuringsolutions.org                        | State Associations of Addiction Services<br>www.saasnet.org   |
| Faces and Voices of Recovery<br>www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org                           | Suicide Prevention Action Network USA<br>www.spanusa.org  |
| Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health<br>www.ffcmh.org                       | Treatment Research Institute<br>www.tresearch.org   |
| Hazelden Foundation<br>www.hazelden.org  | United States Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association<br>www.uspra.org                                     |
| Johnson Institute<br>www.johnsoninstitute.org  |   |
| Join Together<br>www.jointogether.org  |   |

**WHOLE HEALTH CAMPAIGN**  
[www.wholehealthcampaign.org](http://www.wholehealthcampaign.org)



**A call to Presidential candidates and political parties**

**Support Wellness of MIND and BODY for a Healthier America**



# Effective Health Care Supports Mental Illness and Addiction Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery



*American health care strategy that provides cost-effective care and improves the overall health and productivity of America will:*

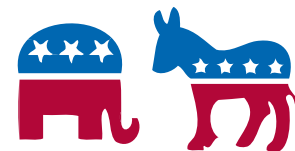
## **Ensure Equitable and Adequate Mental Health and Addiction Treatment and Recovery Coverage in All Public And Private Health Care Plans.**

- ❖ Ensure coverage in all public and private health care plans, including plans to cover the uninsured and in Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP.
- ❖ Provide for comprehensive array of effective, recovery-oriented, and evidence-based mental health and addictions services.

## **Support policies that promote mental health and addictions recovery as integral to overall health.**

- ❖ Ensure access to care for all in need — including our veterans and their dependent family members — regardless of ability to pay.
- ❖ Support coordinated treatment for people who have co-occurring mental illnesses, addictions, and other medical conditions.

- ❖ Reduce disparities in care for underserved populations: communities of color, children and youth, and older adults.
- ❖ Support a quality professional mental health and addiction recovery workforce through equitable compensation and education/training incentives.
- ❖ Increase safe, affordable, and appropriate housing options for people with mental illness or recovering from addictive disorders.
- ❖ Facilitate disability benefits for those who have serious mental illness, addiction, or co-occurring disorders.
- ❖ Support jail diversion programs that provide treatment and support services for people with mental illness or addictive disorders and their families.
- ❖ Repeal laws that create unfair barriers to obtaining food stamps, public benefits, student loans, employment, housing, and the right to vote for people with mental illness or addictive disorders, including those who have been incarcerated.



- ❖ Protect people in early recovery and those willing to enter treatment from employment discrimination.
- ❖ Refocus our nation's programs to support reintegration of people with mental illness or addictive disorders into the workforce.

## **Endorse mental health and addiction prevention, early intervention, treatment, and research as an investment in America's future**

- ❖ Equip children and youth with the knowledge, skills, and supports that build resiliency and reduce the likelihood of developing mental illness and addiction disorders.
- ❖ Promote effective screening and early intervention programs for mental illness and addictive disorders in health, education, child welfare, and justice systems.
- ❖ Commit to vigorous research programs at the National Institutes of Health's National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institute for Mental Health and National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism to develop new treatments and improve delivery of effective services.

### **The Facts on Mental Illness and Addiction in America**

More than 84 million Americans suffer from a mental health or addictive disorder.

Mental health and addictive disorders are the leading cause of combined death and disability for women and the second leading cause for all men.

Mental illness and addiction annually cost the US \$171 billion in lost productivity.

More than 30,000 Americans die by suicide each year and more than 90% have a mental health or addictive disorder.

Mental health and addictive disorders account for the third highest loss of workplace productivity among chronic diseases.

More than half of all prison and jail inmates have a mental health problem or addictive disorder.

50% of students with mental disorders drop out of school, the highest rate of any disability group.

Americans with serious mental illnesses die – on average – 25 years earlier than the general population, mainly due to untreated health conditions.