



PRESENTATION

# Understanding Patient Perspectives: OUD

*Jessica Hulsey*

## Vision

# Our Why.

## Vision

Our vision is to eliminate addiction as a major health problem.

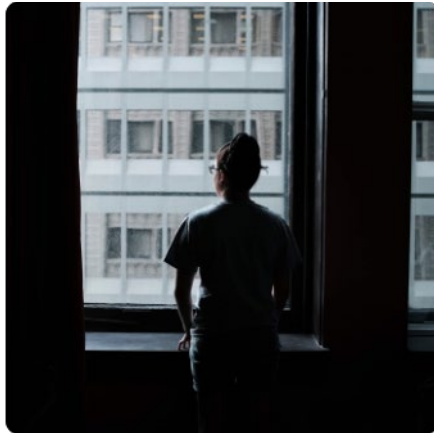
## Mission

We lead the fight against the deadly consequences of addiction and help patients, families, and communities affected by the disease.

## Who We Are

The Addiction Policy Forum is a nationwide nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating addiction as a major health problem. Our national headquarters are located in Washington, DC with resources and services in every state.

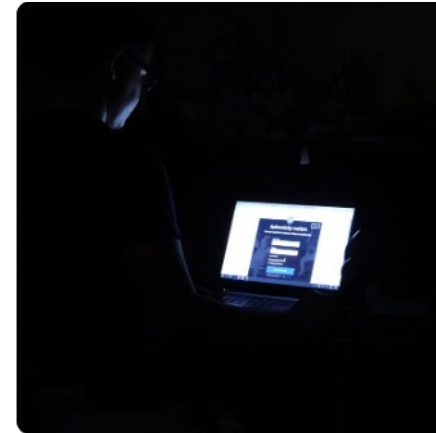
# Patient Perspectives



**Individuals with Active SUD**



**Individuals in Recovery  
& Treatment**



**Family Members/Caregivers**





Cassidy was one of the 185 people who die in our country each day from an overdose.

Get help today if you or a loved one are struggling.

**185  
A DAY**

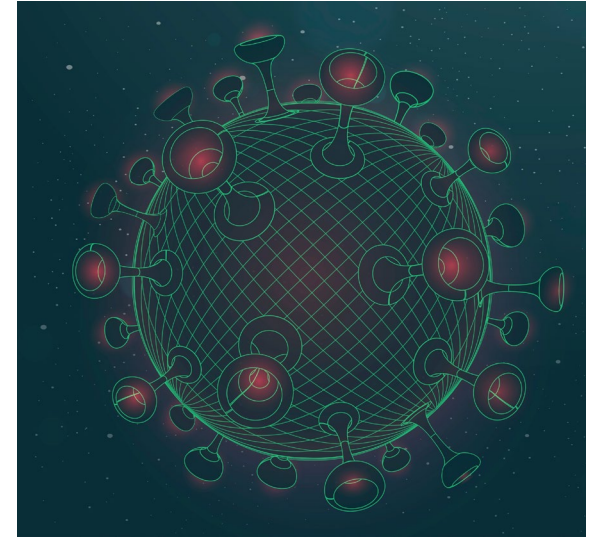


## COVID-19 Pandemic Impact on Patients, Families and Individuals in Recovery from Substance Use

To better understand the impact of COVID-19 on individuals with substance use disorders (SUDs), the Addiction Policy Forum with funding support from NIDA administered a survey to our network of patients, families and survivors between April 27 and May 8, 2020.

### Key Takeaways:

1. One in three respondents (34%) report changes in treatment or recovery support services due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. 3% reported a non-fatal overdose and 1% reported a fatal overdose since the pandemic began.
3. 87% of those who report access disruptions also report emotional changes since the pandemic began, compared to 72% of those who do not report access disruptions.
4. Twenty-four percent of responses indicate that their/their family member's substance use has *changed* because of COVID-19. Of these, 83% say that that change was counter therapeutic, and substance use increased.
5. 48% of patients and families reported fear of becoming infected with COVID-19 as a top concern, followed by spreading the virus (46%) and social isolation (40%).



**1,079**  
**Complete Surveys**

**46/50**  
**States**



## Results

# Reduced Access to Treatment and Recovery Services During the Pandemic

**1 in 3 respondents report changes or disruption in treatment or recovery support services**

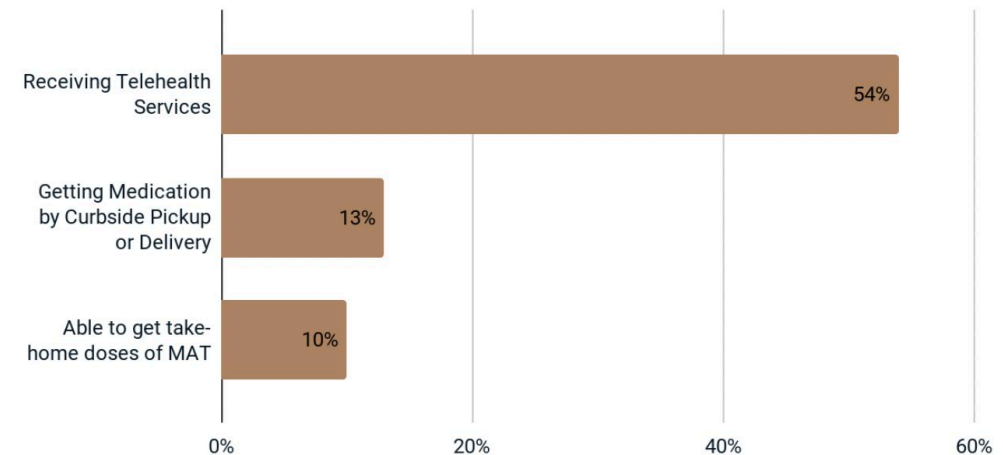
### Categories of Service Disruption

Unable to Get Needed Services	41%
Unable to Access Support Groups	21%
Unable to Access Naloxone	8%
Unable to Access Syringe Services	7%

### How Treatment is Changing

Among patients and families reporting changes in their service delivery, many report accessing modified access points.

### Changes in Service Delivery

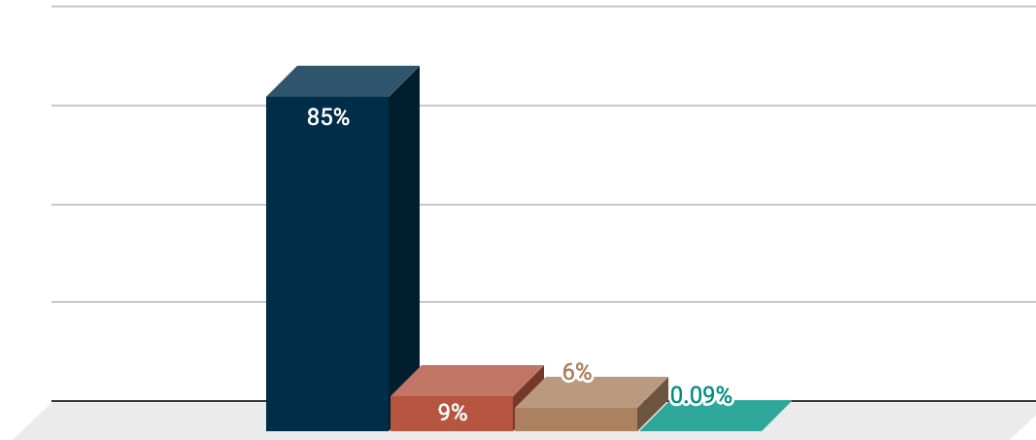


## Results

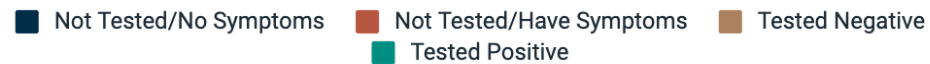
# COVID-19 Effects and Concerns

Overall, 74% of respondents say they had noticed changes in their emotions since the pandemic began. The percentage of those who reported emotional changes was higher among those who have had changes in treatment access. Among those who reported changes in treatment access, 87% report emotional changes.

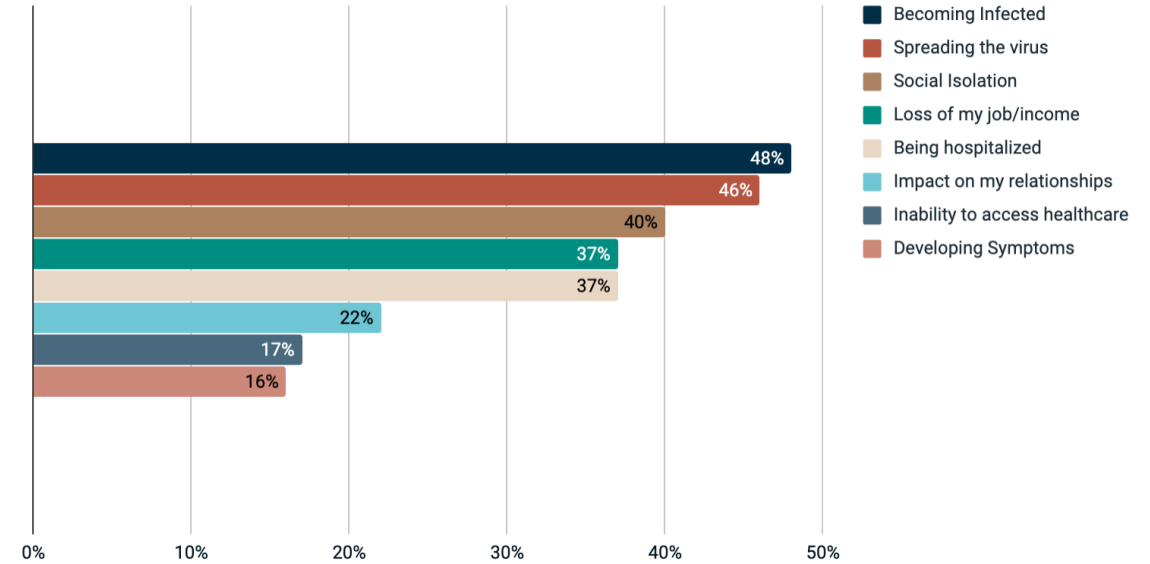
## COVID-19 Testing and Symptoms



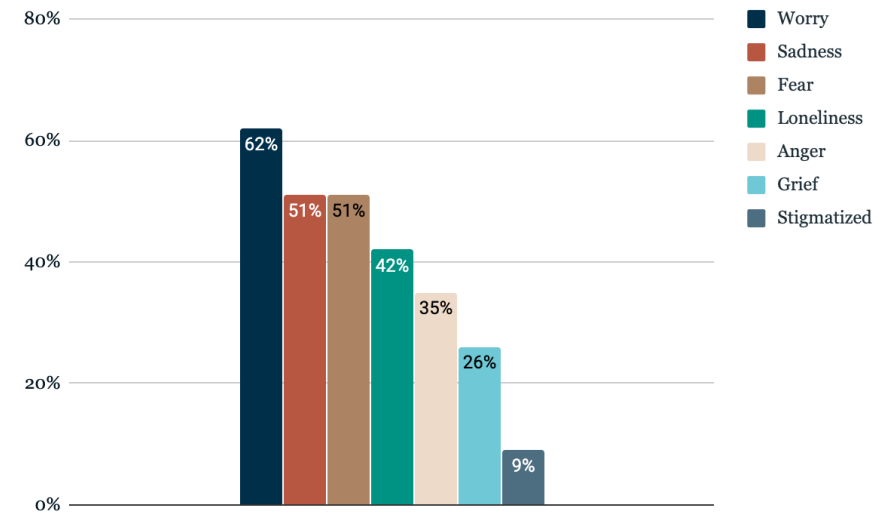
Source: Addiction Policy Forum



## Concerns About COVID-19 Pandemic



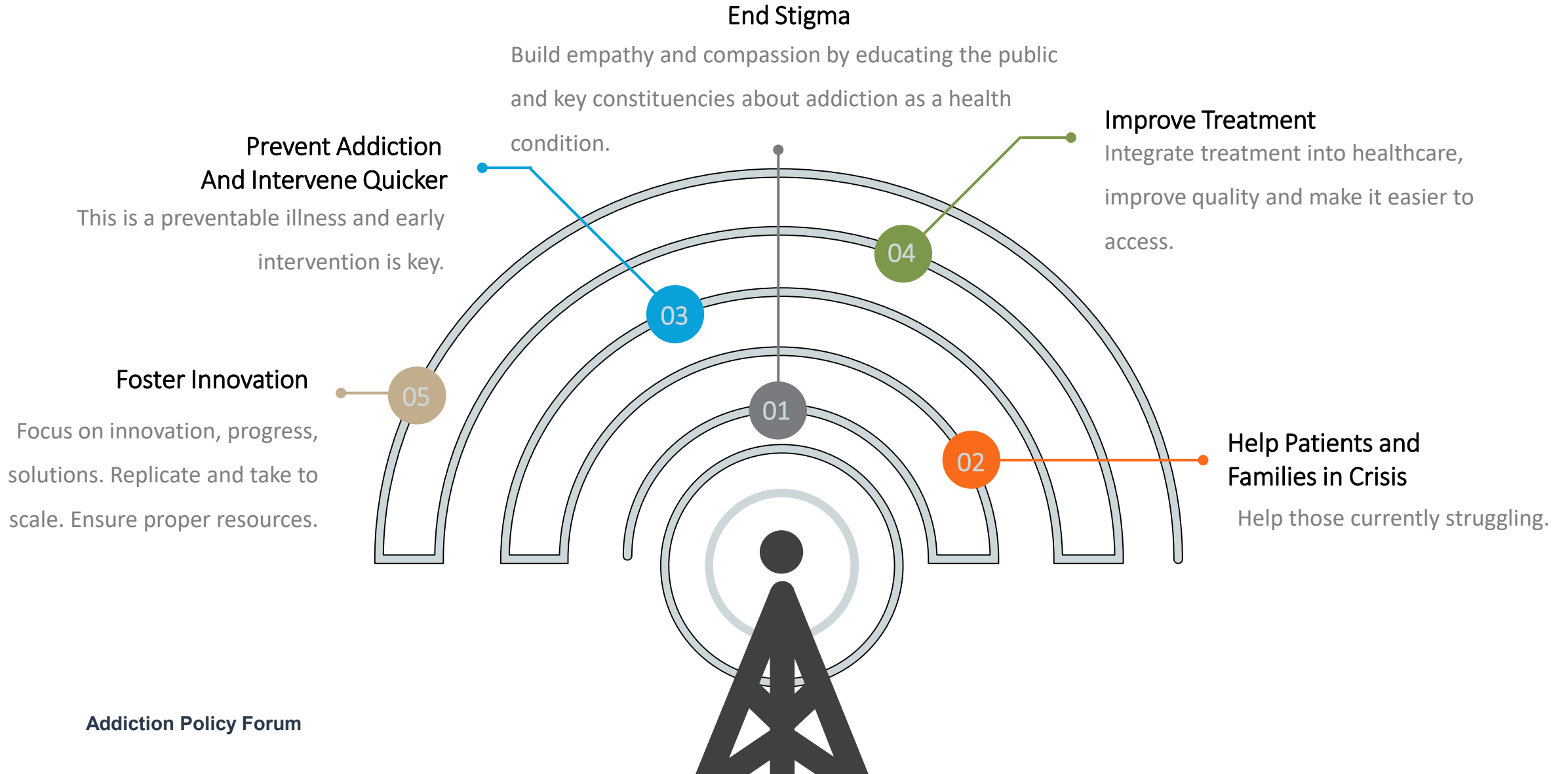
## Percent of Responses Endorsing Emotional Changes





# Addiction Policy Forum's Strategic Priorities

8





# THANK YOU

ADDICTION POLICY FORUM

[jhulsey@addictionpolicy.org](mailto:jhulsey@addictionpolicy.org)



[@addictionpolicy](#)

[www.addictionpolicy.org](http://www.addictionpolicy.org)