

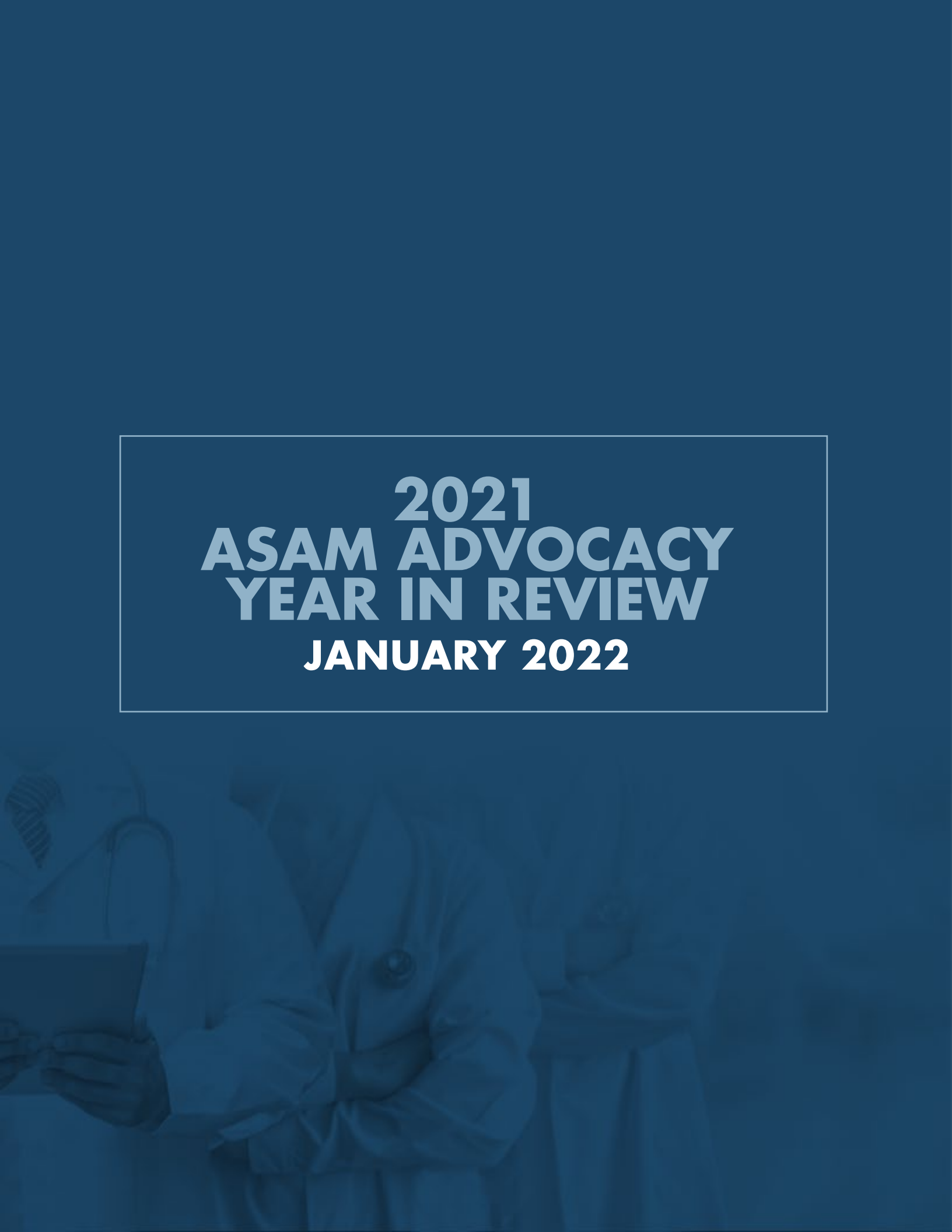


ASAM

American Society of
Addiction Medicine

**2021
ASAM ADVOCACY
YEAR IN REVIEW
JANUARY 2022**





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The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) continued to urge bold, swift, and comprehensive action in 2021 for addressing the human and societal costs of addiction and overdose in the United States in ways that advance racial justice and health equity.

This 2021 ASAM Advocacy Year in Review provides an overview of some of the new policies and resources that ASAM and its State Chapters have helped advance in 2021. With the [ASAM Advocacy Roadmap](#) as their guide, ASAM members continue to pursue a future when addiction prevention, treatment, remission, and recovery are accessible to all.

NATIONAL ADVOCACY

STRENGTHENING THE ADDICTION TREATMENT WORKFORCE

- Advocated for pending¹ language in the House and Senate for **at least \$28 million for FY 2022** for the [Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Loan Repayment Program](#) (STAR-LRP).
- Advocated for pending² language in the House and Senate for **at least \$34 million for FY 2022 for the Mental and Substance Use Disorder Workforce Training Demonstration, which includes the [Addiction Medicine Fellowship Program](#).**
- [Advocated](#) for pending³ **Build Back Better (BBB)** language in the House and Senate that would provide **4,000 new, Medicare-supported graduate medical education slots** in FY 2025 and 2026. The provision would require that **15% of the slots go to “psychiatry residencies,” which is defined to include addiction medicine.**
- Successfully [advanced](#) **inclusion of addiction medicine** (and addiction psychiatry) **programs** in hospitals serving mental health-only shortage areas for prioritization with respect to the Consolidated Appropriations Act’s **1,000 additional Medicare-supported residency slots starting in FY 2023.**



STANDARDIZING THE DELIVERY OF INDIVIDUALIZED ADDICTION TREATMENT

- [Advocated for the passage of the **MATE and MAT Acts**](#) - that, together, would eliminate the separate DEA waiver requirement for prescribing buprenorphine for opioid use disorder and establish a requirement that prescribers of controlled medications complete a minimum amount of education on treating addiction.

¹A FY22 omnibus spending package has not been passed as of January 2022.

²A FY22 omnibus spending package has not been passed as of January 2022.

³The BBB has not passed the Senate as of January 2022.

ENSURING EQUITABLE ACCESS AND COVERAGE FOR COMPREHENSIVE, HIGH-QUALITY ADDICTION CARE

- [Advocated](#) for the passage of the **Medicaid Reentry Act**, which would allow states to restart Medicaid coverage for eligible individuals up to 30 days prior to release from incarceration; pending⁴ **BBB** language in the House and Senate includes language from the Medicaid Reentry Act.
- [Advocated](#) for passage of the **Parity Enforcement Act**, which would give the U.S. Department of Labor a critical tool to ensure health plan compliance with federal parity law; pending⁵ **BBB** language in the House and Senate includes language from the Parity Enforcement Act.
- Successfully led [adoption](#) of **updated policies by the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association (AMA)** on medications for opioid use disorder in correctional facilities and repeal of Medicaid's inmate exclusion.

STATE CHAPTER ADVOCACY

ASAM state chapters engaged in a total of 29 advocacy actions in 2021. Below are highlights:

- **Colorado** - On April 15, 2021, Colorado Governor Jared Polis signed SB 21-122 into law. This legislation allows harm reduction centers, law enforcement, and first responders to **purchase naloxone from the opioid antagonist bulk purchase fund**. The Colorado Society of Addiction Medicine endorsed SB 21-122 and wrote a letter to Governor Polis urging his signature.
- **Colorado** - On June 28, 2021, Colorado Governor Jared Polis signed SB 21-137 into law. This legislation **extends state funding for addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery programs**. The Colorado Society of Addiction Medicine endorsed SB 21-137 while it was under consideration by the Colorado Senate.
- **Illinois** - On August 25, 2021, Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker signed HB 2595 into law. This legislation **requires that all utilization reviews for medical necessity determinations are conducted in accordance with *The ASAM Criteria***. Additionally, it **strengthens parity enforcement** by empowering the Department of Insurance to levy significant fees against payers for violation of the law. The Illinois Society of Addiction Medicine endorsed HB 2595 while it was under consideration by the Illinois House of Representatives.
- **Louisiana** - On June 10, 2021, the Louisiana State legislature adjourned **without passing** HB 166. This legislation threatened to weaken Good Samaritan protections by imposing a three strike rule. The Louisiana Society of Addiction Medicine **sent a letter in opposition** to this bill while it was under consideration by the Louisiana House of Representatives.



⁴The BBB has not passed the Senate as of January 2022.

⁵The BBB has not passed the Senate as of January 2022.

- **Maine** - On July 9, 2021, Maine Governor Janet Mills signed LD 994 into law. This legislation **decriminalizes the possession of hypodermic apparatuses** statewide. The Northern New England Society of Addiction Medicine endorsed LD 994 while it was under consideration by the Maine Legislature.
- **New York** - On October 7, 2021, New York Governor Kathy Hochul signed A533/S1795 into law. This legislation **expands addiction medication programs to all correctional facilities** throughout the state and **extends recovery assistance during discharge and reentry**. The New York Society of Addiction Medicine strongly supported this bill and sent a letter urging its enactment.
- **New York** - On December 22, 2021, New York Governor Kathy Hochul signed A2030/S649 into law. This legislation **removes prior authorization on all addiction medications** under the state's Medicaid program. The New York Society of Addiction Medicine strongly supported this bill and sent a letter urging its enactment.
- **Oklahoma** - On May 3, 2021, Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt signed SB 647 into law. This legislation **expands the accessibility of telehealth** statewide. Specifically, it requires that insurers reimburse telehealth services at the same rate as in-person services and prohibits additional utilization reviews for telehealth. The Oklahoma Society of Addiction Medicine endorsed SB 647 while it was under consideration by the Oklahoma House of Representatives.
- **Oregon** - On July 27, 2021, Oregon Governor Kate Brown signed HB 3046 into law. This legislation **enhances mental health and addiction parity** by restricting payers from placing non-quantitative limitations on medically necessary care. The Oregon Society of Addiction Medicine was heavily involved in the successful passage of this bill, submitting a one-page fact sheet in support.

Public Policy Statements

ASAM's public policy statements guide its advocacy on legislative and regulatory issues. In 2021, ASAM issued the following public policy statements:

- [Access to Medications for Addiction Treatment for Persons Under Community Correctional Control](#)
- [Advancing Racial Justice in Addiction Medicine](#)
- [Use of Naloxone for the Prevention of Opioid Overdose Deaths](#)
- [Patient Review and Restriction \(PRR\) Programs](#)
- [Overdose Prevention Sites](#)
- [The Regulation of the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder with Methadone](#)
- [Morphine Milligram Equivalents for Medications for Opioid Use Disorder](#)

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT & REGULATORY AFFAIRS WORK

- Released a [Reimbursement for Medications for Addiction Treatment Toolkit](#).
- Successfully [advanced](#) the **creation of two new category III CPT codes for digital cognitive behavioral therapy services** by the American Medical Association's CPT Editorial Panel.
- Successfully [advocated](#) for promulgation of DEA's [final rule](#) that allows the operation of a **mobile component associated with a DEA-registered opioid treatment program (OTP)** to be considered a **coincident activity** permitted under the OTP's registration.
- Successfully [advocated](#) for **continued Medicare coverage for the use of audio-only communication technology** for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health treatment without the in-person requirements that apply to other mental health disorder telehealth services in CMS' CY 2022 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) [final rule](#).

OTHER ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

- **Grasstops and Grassroots Advocacy and Conferences:**
 - Co-led **1 Congressional Roundtable** and **2 Federal Agency Roundtables** via [Coalition to Stop Opioid Overdose](#).
 - [Advocated](#) for passage of the **EQUAL Act**, which would **eliminate** the federal crack and powder cocaine **sentencing disparity** and apply it retroactively to those already convicted or sentenced; House passed this legislation on September 28, 2021.
 - Sent hundreds of **grassroots emails** to Capitol Hill on issues ranging from Medicaid Reentry to strategic investments in the addiction treatment workforce.
 - In March 2021, ASAM held its **first-ever, virtual Addiction Medicine Advocacy Conference** in partnership with ACMT, ACAAM, and AOAAM. **Over 100 ASAM members** registered to receive training from expert advocacy professionals and participated in virtual meetings with Capitol Hill policymakers.
 - In May 2021, **ASAM** and the **AMA partnered with the American Bar Association (ABA)** for its [Opioid Summit II](#), which brought together experts and practitioners from law and medicine working with and for people with substance use disorders.
 - In July 2021, [teamed up with](#) the **AMA and Shatterproof** to launch of a new, free, one-hour, **online training module** designed to educate medical professionals and students about prescribing buprenorphine to patients with opioid use disorder.



- In November 2021, ASAM hosted its **first-ever, virtual State Advocacy Summit**. This members-only event featured presenters with wide-ranging expertise in advocacy and health policy, including a discussion panel of ASAM state leaders.
- The **Addiction Medicine Action Network (AMAN)** launched in 2021 and held four inaugural **training sessions** for ASAM's **first class of grasstops advocates**:
 - March 2021 - [Overview of the New Congress and Tips for Meeting with Your Members of Congress](#).
 - May 2021 - [Connecting Your Story to ASAM Policy Priorities for the 117th Congress](#).
 - August 2021 - [August Recess: Making the Most of In-District Meetings & Online Advocacy](#).
 - November 2021 - [Making a Difference Through Media](#).
- **Media Relations**:
 - Generated **millions of social media impressions** of media stories highlighting ASAM policy positions.
 - Drove media narrative through **high-profile media coverage** in *NPR*, *CNN*, *CQ/Roll Call*, *National Journal*, and other national outlets.
 - Secured publication of ASAM member-led, **national op-ed's covering an array of addiction policy topics**, including the [addiction treatment workforce and barriers to evidence-based addiction treatment](#), [contingency management](#), [overdose prevention sites](#), and the importance of [clinician education on addiction](#), in *STAT News*, *Medpage Today*, and *Morning Consult*.
 - **NPR featured** ASAM's public policy **statement on advancing racial justice in addiction medicine**, as well as interview commentary with physician leadership. The radio segment aired a total of 273 times in 31 states and the District of Columbia, and there were 43 reprints of the online story, for a total of 67.8 million impressions.
 - **Inside Health Policy featured** ASAM's public policy **statement on the regulation of the treatment of opioid use disorder with methadone**.
 - Physician leaders **quoted in Congressional press releases** by various policymakers, including Sen. Tammy Baldwin, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Sen. Ed Markey, and Rep. David Trone.



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