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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Date: March 31, 1978

MEMORANDUM

**FOR ACTION:**

Bert Carp

**FOR INFORMATION:**

**FROM:** Rick Hutcheson, Staff Secretary

**SUBJECT:** Peter Bourne Report (re Drug) Use Patterns, Consequences,  
and the Federal Response

**YOUR RESPONSE MUST BE DELIVERED  
TO THE STAFF SECRETARY BY:**

**TIME:**

**DAY:** INDEFINITE

**DATE:**

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Your comments     Please return attached report  
Other:

**STAFF RESPONSE:**

I concur.

No comment.

*Please note other comments below:*

**PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.**

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately. (Telephone, 7052)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 31, 1978

Dear Mr. President:

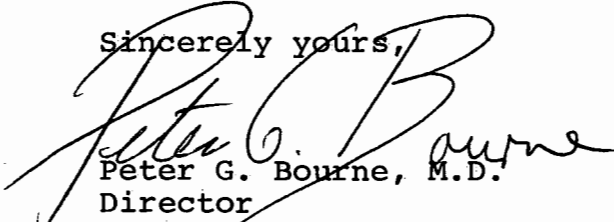
I am pleased to forward to you the Office of Drug Abuse Policy report, Drug Use Patterns, Consequences and the Federal Response: A Policy Review. This review highlights the health and social problems associated with drug abuse and the Federal approach to reduce the number of drug abusers in our society and the human suffering associated with drug abuse.

The review was conducted with the assistance of an interagency team representing those Federal Departments and agencies which have a major role in drug abuse prevention and treatment: the Departments of Health, Education, and Welfare; Defense; Justice; Labor; Transportation; and the Veterans Administration.

The report contains forty-five recommendations which are in the process of being implemented. The Strategy Council on Drug Abuse will monitor the implementation and receive periodic status reports from the appropriate agencies. We expect the implementation to result in (a) enhanced treatment services available to alcohol and drug abusers including improving the access by these persons to the major, non-categorical health and social service systems; (b) the development of a broader base of knowledge about the fundamental causes of drug abuse; and (c) more effective efforts at the Federal, State, and community level to prevent drug abuse by young people.

Thank you for your continued interest and dedication to the reduction of drug abuse in society.

Sincerely yours,

  
Peter G. Bourne, M.D.  
Director  
Office of Drug Abuse Policy

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report, Drug Use Patterns, Consequences and the Federal Response, is an interagency policy review of Federal drug treatment, prevention, rehabilitation and research efforts conducted by the Office of Drug Abuse Policy. The following Departments and agencies participated in the review: the Departments of Health, Education, and Welfare; Defense; Justice; Labor; Transportation; and the Veterans Administration.

Significant among the recommendations are those calling for improved collaboration between substance abuse treatment programs and other support service programs. Federal leadership is requested in designing and promoting access by alcohol and drug abusers to the major health, social service, and employment and training systems. Other recommendations cite the need for the development of a broader base of knowledge about the fundamental causes of drug abuse and call for a government-wide research plan which will identify gaps in knowledge, establish priorities for future research, and assign research responsibilities to appropriate agencies. Recommendations to improve systems for data collection on the nature and extent of drug abuse and misuse in society are also included.

One of the most pressing concerns in the drug abuse field is how to keep people, particularly young people, from abusing drugs. The report endorses the concept of promoting drug abuse prevention through community-based programs which offer positive non-drug alternatives for young people. The report concludes that current Federal prevention programs are fragmented and address only limited aspects of youth development. An analysis is recommended to develop a more rational, coordinated approach to federally-funded efforts to improve the healthy development of young people.

In addition to the recommendations, the report discusses the recent history of Federal involvement in problems of domestic drug use and summarizes Federal activities in the field. The report reviews currently available data on the patterns of drug taking in society and the negative consequences associated with the use of specific drugs. Some attention is also paid to the health and social consequences of drug abuse and misuse by higher risk persons such as women, youth, elderly and ethnic minorities.

This report sets a new tone for the Federal effort in drug abuse by focusing concern on the negative health and social consequences to the individual and society which result from the abuse or misuse of any psychoactive substance, whether from illicit or from therapeutically-intended sources. The findings and recommendations will be incorporated in the 1978 Federal Strategy for Drug Abuse Prevention and will serve as guidelines in future drug policy decisions.