

# State of the States: Policy Update

Reena Szczepanski

Director

Drug Policy Alliance New Mexico

# Trends in State Legislation

- Harm reduction
- Controlling precursors
- Increased data/surveillance capacity
- Treatment & criminal justice partnerships

# Comprehensive Goals for Drug Policy

- Make our communities safer
- Reduce death and disease
- Use our scarce resources wisely
- Protect our children and families

# Harm Reduction

- Reducing health consequences of methamphetamine use
  - Disease transmission and progression
- Reducing environmental hazards and injuries due to methamphetamine manufacturing
  - Pollutants and explosion risks

# Controlling Precursors

## ■ Anhydrous ammonia

- Security
- Dyes

## ■ Pseudophedrine

- Purchase limits
- ID and registry
- Meth Watch
- Prescription

# Treatment

- Expand access to evidence-based treatment services
- Treatment diversion programs:
  - Expands access for methamphetamine users
  - Saves money
  - Enjoys public support
  - Reduces crime
- Maryland: 2004 Legislation
- Arizona: 1996 Proposition 200

# Treatment

## ■ California: SACPA

- >50% admissions = methamphetamine
- Treatment success rates comparable
- 19,000 users entering treatment annually
- 66% increase licensed treatment facilities
- Employment doubled among completers

# Treatment

- Wisconsin: The Substance Abuse Offender Accountability and Public Safety Act
  - Establishes locally developed, evidence-based programs that provide alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders who abuse alcohol and other drugs.
  - Focus on outcomes which increase public safety, reduce prison and jail populations, increase personal accountability and responsibility and reduce costs to the taxpayers.

# Public Safety

- Reduce drug-related violence and crime
  - Enhance re-entry and treatment resources to cut crime
- Protect children – focus on parents
- Integrate treatment into criminal justice
  - Drug courts
  - Treatment diversion
- Spectrum of responses to drug issues
- Coordination between public safety agencies

# Surveillance Capacity

- National and local efforts to improve data
- Assists in evaluation and monitoring