On May 11, President Obama announced a new approach to "confronting the complex challenge of drug abuse and its consequences." The new National Drug Control Strategy calls for reducing the rate of youth drug use by 15 percent over the next five years and for similar reductions in chronic drug use, drug abuse deaths and drugged driving.

The plan calls for expanding state programs that monitor prescription drug usage, encourages states to increase penalties for drivers found with illicit drugs, and encourages healthcare practitioners to ask patients about drug abuse to enable early intervention. It also increases resources for treatment and prevention programs.

For more information:

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