

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



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Our Mission Statement

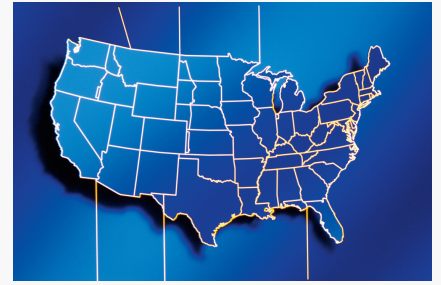
Save Our Society From Drugs (S.O.S.) is a 501(c)(4) national nonprofit organization committed to establishing, promoting, and enabling sound drug laws and policies that will reduce illegal drug use, drug addiction and drug-related illness and death. Our purpose is to help Americans advocate for sound drug policies.

We work to educate our nation's lawmakers and activate grassroots anti-drug coalitions to promote policies that enhance community health and safety.

We provide support and resources to professionals working in fields that are impacted by drug use and abuse such as prevention and treatment providers, medical doctors, lawmakers, teachers, law enforcement officers and others who are working to build a better future.

S.O.S. takes a comprehensive approach to promote sound drug policy that includes education, prevention, abstinence-based treatment, scientific research, and community awareness.

State Legislation



Save Our Society From Drugs is the only national drug policy organization tracking ALL drug policy legislation at the federal and state levels. Every day our staff looks at legislation introduced in each state, determines if it is appropriate legislation to track and then categorizes it as pro-drug or anti-drug. In the last decade, S.O.S. has tracked 7,771 state legislative drug policy efforts. Of those, we considered 3,926 pro-drug and defeated 2,972 of them, representing a 76% legislative success rate over the last decade!

In 2019, 45 states and the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico, introduced 433 pieces of legislation that sought to reduce illicit drug use and abuse. This number is lower than what we saw in 2018 when 598 pieces of anti-drug legislation were introduced.

Of the 433 bills introduced in 2019, 69 were signed into law and 110 will carry over to the 2020 session.


Wins for drug prevention and substance abuse treatment include bills that:

- Enhanced state prescription drug monitoring programs
- Regulate vaping and tobacco products
- Implemented and enhanced state problem solving courts, such as drug courts, DUI courts and veterans courts
- Addressed the opioid epidemic by increasing penalties for fentanyl trafficking, expanding access to naloxone, and increased access to Medication Assisted Treatment (MATs)
- Restricted state marijuana programs by addressing marketing, smoking in public, and product labeling



2019 was another record-breaking year for the number of pro-drug bills introduced at the state level. S.O.S. tracked 834 pro-drug state bills, a significant increase compared to 685 bills in 2018, 610 in 2017, 555 in 2016 and 416 in 2015.

Of the 834 pro-drug bills, 110 will carry over to the 2020 session and 510 were defeated. This result was directly tied to the aggressive efforts of S.O.S., including our members and grassroots partners who worked passionately to prevent the escalation of drug use and abuse.

When you compare our staff size and operating budget to that of Big Marijuana, the results are impressive! 

Pro-drug state legislation was mostly singular in theme. Of the 834 bills that were tracked in 2019, 96% were marijuana related. Efforts to legalize and regulate marijuana were introduced in 27 states and defeated in all but 2 (Illinois and Guam).

SOS Advocacy & Lobbying

With more than two decades of experience, S.O.S. continues to be a leading voice in all matters related to drug policy. We accomplish this by furthering the conversation along with advocacy and lobbying.

Furthering the Conversation

S.O.S. delivers national legislative updates on drug policy issues to our subscribers and partners, as well as state-specific legislative tracking reports to community anti-drug coalitions around the nation who, without us, would have a difficult time navigating the legislative process. Our reports also include information on emerging drug trends and new research.

In 2019, S.O.S. successfully disseminated research on drug policy issues and effective strategies to reduce drug abuse by presenting to state associations, community and civic groups and legislative delegation meetings. S.O.S. also partnered with local community coalitions to provide speakers and panelists at town hall meetings and drug summits.

In Florida, S.O.S. partnered with county and statewide coalitions to co-host our 7th annual drug prevention summit in Tampa, Florida that was attended by approximately 300 state and community stakeholders.



Advocacy and Lobbying

S.O.S. continues to work closely with local coalitions and national colleagues to prepare and submit testimony before legislative committees in many states to educate lawmakers on the impacts of proposed legislation and to support efforts that put community health and safety first by reducing access to addictive substances. Many of our partners are unable to lobby and in those instances S.O.S. takes special care to provide tools that can be used to educate using data-driven talking points and research materials. Many times S.O.S. is asked to take the lead on specific issues and be a voice for groups whose funding prohibits lobbying.

In Florida, S.O.S. partnered with the Florida Coalition Alliance to host the Annual Prevention Advocacy Day at the State Capitol where members from prevention coalitions distributed information and conducted legislative meetings with all members of the House and Senate regarding the impacts of substance abuse in the state.



Votility Stats

Votility is the advocacy system that S.O.S. uses to send out action alerts. The system allows us to create landing pages on different bills we are following or issues of concern and also allows users to sign up and have a page devoted to legislation in their state.

This year our action alerts resulted in thousands of advocacy messages being sent to elected officials across the nation. By providing this service, S.O.S. is allowing citizen voices to be heard on important drug policy issues that impact their communities.

Social Media

Social media provides abundant opportunities to educate and engage individuals on drug policy issues. S.O.S. uses Twitter to engage elected officials and the media on trending drug topics and legislative actions while Facebook is used to share research, media updates and action alerts.

Through our daily Facebook posts, S.O.S. reached approximately 25,000 individuals and our Twitter impressions exceeded 12,500.



2020 Focus

S.O.S. will actively work to support legislation that addresses the nation's opioid epidemic, expands problem solving courts, combats access to synthetic drugs, enhances prescription drug monitoring programs, and prevents youth access to vaping products. S.O.S. will continue to provide model ordinances and legislation to local, state, and federal lawmakers on a variety of drug policy issues and work with community organizations to promote prevention priorities.

We will continue to push back against groups seeking to legalize illicit drugs and lawmakers who put special interest groups before public health and safety priorities of their constituents.

In 2020, S.O.S. will advocate for federal and state funding for substance abuse prevention efforts and will urge the current administration to take a continued leadership role in addressing the opioid epidemic while expanding national campaigns to include drug prevention.





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