

# ALCOHOLISM DRUG ABUSE WEEKLY

News for policy and program decision-makers

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## HIGHLIGHTS...

Oklahoma has released a groundbreaking report on the **direct and economic costs of substance abuse, mental health and domestic violence**. This kind of data is not easy to find and really bolsters advocate's efforts at attaining more treatment funding and establishing innovative programs such as jail diversion and drug courts. The report found that **substance abuse is having an overwhelming fiscal impact** in Oklahoma, with economic costs approaching the size of the state's entire budget. *See lead story.*

The field of addiction is getting a nice boost from a **reality show airing on the Arts & Entertainment (A&E) Network** called *Intervention*. The realistic portrayal of individuals and families struggling with addiction and reaching out for interventions is resonating with viewers and lighting up the phone lines at companies that offer addiction intervention services. The field can't help but benefit from a depiction of dedicated professionals working with families in need of help, going out to a national audience over a major cable network, in prime time to boot. *See story, this page.*

## Okla. releases comprehensive report on costs of SA, MH and domestic violence

***Criminal justice system spends over \$1 billion to address SA, MH***

Oklahoma officials, in a major report released this month, concluded that the economic and fiscal impact of untreated and under-treated substance abuse, mental health and domestic violence is costing the state \$8 billion annually.

State officials say the state is moving forward with several planned initiatives, including more adolescent treatment beds, treatment services for pregnant and parenting mothers, and a proposed \$16 million to expand the state's drug court programs.

Gov. Brad Henry and Attorney General Drew Edmondson convened a task force, which found that despite

the efforts of many dedicated people in substance abuse, mental health, corrections, domestic violence and the private sector, the present system is overwhelmed, less than fully efficient and not optimally organized to address growing demands.

Without more focused and effective support from the executive and legislative branches of the state government, this crisis will progressively worsen, according to the Governor's and Attorney General's Task Force on Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Domestic Violence.

"The task force needed to know where the costs were in order to determine the policy issues involved and determine the most appropriate interventions," said Michael Lapolla,

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## Cable network show on intervention heightens interest, demand for services

A cable television series that follows people living with addiction and documents the intervention efforts that their families and friends take in order to help them recover premiered on the Arts & Entertainment (A&E) Network this month.

*Intervention*, an unscripted documentary which has aired three episodes since its debut March 6, has garnered high praise for its realistic depiction of persons struggling with addiction by a leading intervention provider.

The 13-episode series features real people with addictions ranging from substance abuse to compulsive gamblers to shopaholics. The show includes a team of three professional interventionists, who are addiction specialists, each of whom works

with the show's participants depending on the nature of their addictions. The A&E website indicates that "Intervention" works with treatment and recovery centers throughout the country. A licensed therapist recommends appropriate treatment for the show's participants.

According to A&E, *Intervention* raises awareness about the alternatives and treatment options available to those who suffer from addictions, and gives hope to families who have nowhere left to turn. *Intervention* airs on Sunday nights on A&E at 10 p.m. (EST/PST) and 9 p.m. CST.

Before appearing on *Intervention*, potential participants undergo clinical evaluations in order to determine the appropriate treatment for

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their addictions. "They go through an extensive screening process," Nancy Dubuc, senior vice president of nonfiction and alternative programming for the A&E Network, told *ADAW*. "We take that very seriously from a clinical standpoint."

A&E piloted the show last summer, at which time "it became astoundingly clear that the show was feasible," said Dubuc. The pilot, which featured a gambler and a TV actress unable to control excessive shopping, became the second show in the series, which aired March 13, said Dubuc. "It touched a real nerve in a very real way which is very important to us."

Although the show's participants know they are taking part in a documentary about their addiction, they are unaware that a family intervention is planned, said Dubuc. Only the first name of each participant is used in the show. Each airing of the show ends with the friends, family and a professional interventionist urging the individual to get treatment. If the individual chooses treatment, he or she enters into a recommended treatment facility. Each show concludes with an update of that individual's treatment efforts.

Of the interventions, Dubuc said: "They are there as professionals. This is their passion. I applaud their ability and desire."

Meanwhile, the reaction from participants and non-participants has been positive. Dubuc said one viewer showed up on the doorstep of the Oasis Treatment Center in Anaheim, Calif., one of the recovery centers and treatment programs mentioned in the show. The viewer said she was inspired to seek treatment after viewing the story of one of the show's participants.

### Series depiction

The series premier profiles a 27-year-old woman from Texas who uses heroin and crack. A college-drop out, she lives at home with her mother and her severely ill father. She gets high everyday and steals morphine from her dying father.

Another individual profiled is a 38-year-old executive who uses cocaine. In the year-and-a half that he started using cocaine heavily, he quit his job, sold his Lexus, his retirement plan and condominium to sustain his habit.

Another episode profiled a gambler and a former actress on the TV show, "ER," who suffers from agoraphobia and is unable to control excessive shopping. Future episodes will feature individuals addicted to prescription pills, alcohol, and video games, as well as suffer from bulimia and other self-destructive behaviors said Dubuc. "It's really a very broad spectrum."

### Realistic portrayals

A leading interventionist company official said the show's depiction of intervention for drug-addicted individuals is realistic. "It's absolutely realistic," Bob Poznanovich, president and chief executive of Addiction Intervention Resources, a St. Paul, Minn.-based national consulting company that helps families and organizations that are struggling as a result of addictions in their homes and offices. The company specializes in alcoholism, drug addictions, sex addictions, gambling, eating disorders and other compulsive self-destructive behaviors.

"*Intervention* is the shortest part of the show, but realistic as well. In all cases, the families were part of the intervention," Poznanovich told *ADAW*. A&E did a good job of portraying intervention, showing "how willing people are to get help when help is presented to them," said Poznanovich.


One episode offered a very realistic portrayal of an individual addicted to gambling who left treatment after three weeks despite recommendations from the treatment staff to stay longer, said Poznanovich. Another show depicted how one individual benefited from treatment but ran out of insurance benefits, said Poznanovich. The show also accurately portrayed how people "get stuck in the system and do

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not have enough insurance,” said Poznanovich, who added that the clinicians were also portrayed correctly.

The busiest days the Addiction Intervention Resources call center has experienced so far this year were the two Mondays following the Sunday night airings of *Intervention*, said Poznanovich. “The show does a proper depiction of what intervention is and lets people know this is a viable solution, said Poznanovich. “People can get help early and not wait to hit rock bottom.”

Poznanovich said the producers of the show had asked his company to participate in *Intervention*. He declined the offer, indicating at the time that he didn’t know much about the show and was concerned about whether the producers would accurately portray intervention efforts.

Poznanovich cited a scene from the HBO series, *The Sopranos*, involving intervention efforts with the character Christopher, a heroin abuser, portrayed by Michael Imperioli. The episode involving Christopher’s concerned friends and colleagues resulted in a brawl.

“It was a terrible example of an intervention,” said Poznanovich. “It scared people away from the process — our phones stopped ringing for days after the show aired.” Poznanovich added that “it played into everybody’s fear about what intervention was.”

He said although his company declined to participate in *Intervention*, he provided the A&E show with web-based content about intervention. “We were cautiously optimistic the show would be helpful, not hurtful,” said Poznanovich.

Visit [www.aetv.com](http://www.aetv.com) for more information about *Intervention*, and visit [www.intervene.com](http://www.intervene.com) for information about Addiction Intervention Resources. •

Visit our Web site at  
[www.manisses.com](http://www.manisses.com)

## Another company launches Intervention DVD

Coincidentally, a Las Vegas-based company, Atlantic Syndication Network Inc.(ASNI), is planning to release a DVD entitled *Intervention*. The DVD is structured as an easy-to-follow, step-by-step intervention course for people that need to act now. Officials say the DVD will be promoted via radio, television, infomercials and other direct response mediums using a toll-free number and website.

According to ASNI officials, five years ago the company started work on a docudrama of the same name, *Intervention*, taking viewers into the homes and lifestyles of typical adolescents and teenagers from various socio-economic backgrounds and then chronicling their behavior and battles with drug and alcohol abuse.

“We’re thrilled that a major network has brought the subject matter of intervention to the mass market,” said ASNI President Kent Wyatt. “We believe our upcoming promotional efforts are complimentary to this subject matter.”

## Inhalant use cited as marker for future drug abuse

Inhalant use by young adolescents — 12-and 13-year olds — is a harbinger for future drug use and delinquent behavior, according to a study released last week by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the National Inhalant Prevention Coalition (NIPC).

The report, based on data from the 2002 and 2003 National Survey on Drug Use and Health surveys, found that adolescents ages 12 and 13 who use inhalants are six times more likely to have stolen or tried to steal items worth more than \$50.

The study also found that 35 percent of people ages 18-49 who used inhalants at age 13 or younger were dependent on alcohol or an illicit drug in the past year. This contrasts with 10 percent of people in this age group who never used inhalants and who are addicted to alcohol or an illicit drug.

The report, *Inhalant Use and Delinquent Behaviors among Young Adolescents*, found that 9 percent of youths ages 12 and 13 used inhalants at least once. The most popular substances used were glue, shoe polish and toluene.

According to the National

Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), toluene produces effects in a way similar to cocaine, amphetamine and PCP.

Youths 12 and 13 years of age were more likely to use inhalants than marijuana in the past year. “Parents need to be aware of the immediate, potential danger to their children from the misuse of common, everyday household products,” said SAMHSA Administrator Charles G. Curie.

NIPC Executive Director Harvey Weiss added that concerns about inhalant use include the substances’ toxicity and ability to cause sudden death and new evidence that inhalant use by young adolescents sets them up for problems later in life.

White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Director (ONDCP) John Walters urged parents to learn the signs of inhalant abuse and monitor their teens. The report was released as part of National Inhalants & Poisons Awareness Week.

### Partnership study

A study released last week by the Partnership for a Drug-Free

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America (PDFFA) found that most parents do not know their children are inhaling and are not talking to them about inhalants.

According to PDFFA, parents underestimate the vulnerability of their children to inhalant use. Only four percent of parents of sixth-to-eighth graders believe their child has tried inhalants, when, in fact, 22 percent of sixth-to-eighth graders have reported trying them.

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Director Nora Volkow warned that “even in an otherwise healthy person, a single session of abusing concentrated amounts of certain inhalants can lower oxygen levels enough to cause asphyxiation or disrupt heart rhythms and cause death from cardiac arrest.”

Recent NIDA research showed that 60 percent of adolescents who reported using inhalants during the past year also reported this use of more than one type of inhalant. Those who use at an early age are more likely to become dependent on them.

Rising use of inhalants was one of the few troubling findings from the most recent Monitoring the Future Survey, which found a significant increase in lifetime use rates among eighth-graders, from 15.8 percent in 2003 to 17.3 percent in 2004. In conjunction with this increase, there has been a gradual decline in the perceived risk of using inhalants among eighth-graders since 2001.

The SAMHSA study is available at [www.oas.samhsa.gov](http://www.oas.samhsa.gov). The Partnership for a Drug-Free America is available at [www.drugfreeamerica.org](http://www.drugfreeamerica.org). •

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lecturer and co-director of the Center for Health Policy in the College of Public Health of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. “In other words, they did not want to ‘ready-fire-aim’ — rather they wanted to ‘ready-aim-fire.’”

Officials cite a previous national study comparing the efforts of states, *Shoveling Up: The Impact of Substance Abuse on State Budgets*, produced by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA). The CASA report found that the states in 1998 spent over \$81 billion in the area of substance abuse and addiction — 13.1 percent of the \$620 billion in total state spending (see *ADAW*, Feb. 5, 2001).

“Our literature searches could not find any other efforts that had the breadth and depth of the study we conducted,” Lapolla, also the study’s principal investigator, told *ADAW*. “If there is one out there we couldn’t find it — and we’d love to see it.”

### **Economic cost**

According to the report, in direct costs, over \$3.4 billion will be expended annually in Oklahoma to deal with the issues and problems related to mental health (\$1.77 billion), substance abuse (\$1.4 billion) and domestic violence/sexual assault (\$244 million).

The economic cost, of substance abuse, domestic violence, and mental illness ranged from nearly \$4.2 billion to over \$5.4 billion in 2003, according to the report. Of this amount, substance abuse accounts for almost all (\$3.2-\$4.4 billion) of the foregone productivity. This is almost wholly due to academic underachievement and related criminal activity leading to incarceration, the report found.

State officials say the economic impact is staggering. “Just the dollars are absolutely astounding,” Ben Brown, deputy superintendent of substance abuse services at the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Ser-

**“Our literature searches could not find any other efforts that had the breadth and depth of the study we conducted. If there is one out there we couldn’t find it — and we’d love to see it.”**

**Michael Lapolla**

vices, told *ADAW*.

“The cost of the disease for mental illness is upwards towards \$100 million and substance abuse is \$4.3 billion — almost \$4.4 billion dollars,” said Brown. “That’s our entire state budget in the state of Oklahoma.”

The state conducted a report on the economic impact of substance abuse several years ago, but this report is more comprehensive. “The current report is an expansion and update of one done earlier to try to put some numbers to the dollars and cents impact of substance abuse,” said Brown. “It’s a very conservative study.”

Brown said he intends to use the report, for example, to try and make the case for persons entering the criminal justice system who can be successfully treated for substance abuse. The state legislature is very attuned to these needs, said Brown. “They struggle with limited budgets. I can’t quibble with that [but] we have to make our case for treatment” funding, said Brown.

Brown said he is encouraged by the governor’s budget, which includes \$16 million towards expansion of the drug court program to add additional treatment slots and to establish programs in additional counties. “If you invest in drug courts, for example, that \$16 million

could save \$38 million in the first year," said Brown. "We have data that can substantiate that."

Brown added, "It's good public policy to spend money for treatment as opposed to sweeping up afterwards. The governor and the attorney general have been very appreciative of the opportunity to get these numbers."

The task force released good recommendations, which "all of us need to be paying attention to," said Brown. "For example, we have to do a better job of prevention, of identifying groups at risk of developing mental health, substance abuse or violence problems. We all know that when you see it in black and white and it has [the backing of] the governor's task force, you've got to do a better job."

The majority of the direct costs of alcohol and drug abuse are related to safety and security issues (prisons, jails, prosecution, etc.) and the contribution of substance abuse to domestic violence/sexual assault and the resulting child abuse and neglect.

An estimated \$1.8 billion annual expense is related to mental health, predominantly because of disability payments and treatment and health care costs.

Although domestic violence/sexual assault only accounts for a fraction of the expense (\$244 million) compared with the mental illness and substance abuse, it is almost totally attributable to the consequences of child abuse and neglect, which is closely associated with substance abuse, according to the report.

### Other findings

According to the report, community hospitals (not including free-standing psychiatric facilities) provide over \$600 million in health care services to mentally ill, substance abusers and victims of domestic violence/sexual assault.

Over \$200 million annually is expended for mental health related pharmaceuticals in Oklahoma; the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (Medicaid) expended \$90 million.

According to the report, there are a host of costs related to special injuries and conditions related to alcohol and substance abuse. They include spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, domestic violence injury, fetal-alcohol syndrome, liver transplants and vehicular crashes. The total expense is an estimated \$109 million annually.

The report found the expense of Social Security disability payments due to mental illness is substantial. It is estimated that \$337 million will be paid annually to Oklahomans with qualifying conditions.

Each year, 6,530 students in Oklahoma's colleges and universities will drop out of school because of problems related to alcohol. This will cost institutions over \$11 million in tuition revenue.

### Promising approaches

Besides the planned drug court expansions, the state is working on other initiatives aimed at evidence-

based treatments, said Brown. One approach is the Multi-Dimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) model, a research-based program that addresses problems in all areas of an adolescent's life and includes the family in treatment. MDFT yields significant decreases in chemical use by the adolescent, improves family functioning and impacts school performance.

"We continue to work with providers and provider groups to provide training in evidence-based practices to help build their skill level," said Brown. Last year, Oklahoma passed licensing laws for substance abuse professionals, said Brown.

There are also plans for a residential program in Oklahoma City for pregnant and parenting women that will happen over the next several months, said Brown.

The state was also awarded an Access to Recovery grant by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health

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## Okla. task force examines jail costs of substance abuse, mental health

The Oklahoma Governor's and Attorney General's Task Force on Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Domestic Violence examined issues involving the criminal justice system and learned about Oklahomans who are incarcerated for nonviolent offenses in an overcrowded jail and prison system when treatment for an existing mental illness or substance abuse was a viable alternative.

The report found that Oklahoma's criminal justice system spends 63 percent of its annual budget (over \$1 billion) to address the needs of people with mental illness or substance abuse/addiction. The study found that almost 18 percent of prison inmates are being treated for a diagnosable mental illness and that 50 percent of all criminal justice system expenses are attributable to substance abuse issues.

The task force suggests that the state expand and appropriately staff therapeutic-model courts and pre-trial conditional jail diversion programs. All counties should have regional access to therapeutic-model programs, including drug courts, mental health courts, and crisis centers, with oversight by the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

"In Oklahoma, drug courts and mental health courts seem a promising approach — and PACT (The Program of Assertive Community Treatment) mental health teams have potential," Michael Lapolla, co-director of the Center for Health Policy in the College of Public Health of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, told *ADAW*.

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Services Administration (SAMHSA). The program uses a voucher system to allow people in need of substance abuse treatment to choose among providers. "We have lots of exciting things going on," said Brown.

## Report recommendations

- Prevention and early intervention programs, along with appropriate treatment and recovery support services, must be made available to those in need.
- Non-violent persons who suffer from a major mental illness or addiction should be identified and targeted as early as possible upon entry into the criminal justice system for referral to more cost-effective systems that are better able to treat, monitor, rehabilitate, and appropriately supervise.
- Oklahoma should establish minimum standards of mandated training for all who provide services to those impacted by mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence or sexual assault. The task force recommended the establishment of a Training and Coordination Council responsible for oversight, coordination, and evaluation.
- Oklahoma's leadership should work to increase, to the highest possible level, the number of trained and educated professionals and paraprofessionals equipped with the knowledge and expertise to address these issues.
- The task force recommends further study in 2005-2006 to evaluate the needs of offenders and other custody populations who have substance abuse and/or mental illness issues and data collection systems on sexual assault.

For a copy of the report, visit [www.odmhsas.org](http://www.odmhsas.org).

## Federal study finds continued increase in drunk-driving fatalities

A report from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) reveals that drunk driving fatalities continue to rise — and that thousands of them are caused by extreme or repeat offenders that the report calls "hard core drinking drivers."

In 2003, 17,013 people died in the United States from alcohol-related crashes. Almost 40 percent of these accidents involved drivers with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of 0.15 percent or greater, or drivers who had been convicted of driving while intoxicated (DWI) within the previous ten years. These "hard core drinking drivers" make up about one third of all persons arrested for DWI or driving under the influence of alcohol.

The toll of 17,013 in 2003 far exceeds the target of 11,000 for 2005 declared by the Secretary of Transportation ten years ago.

In 2000, NTSB focused its attention on hard core drinking drivers. The result was a "recommended model program" that includes frequent and statewide sobriety checkpoints; programs for identifying individuals who drive on a suspended or revoked license; defining a repeat offender as anyone arrested or convicted of a DWI offense within 10 years of a prior arrest or conviction for DWI; and enhanced penalties for DWI offenders arrested with a BAC level of 0.15 percent or higher.

In its official recommendation, the NTSB asked the states to "establish a comprehensive program that is designed to reduce the incidence of alcohol-related crashes and fatalities caused by hard core drinking drivers and that includes elements such as those suggested in the National Transportation Safety Board's Model Program."

The NTSB believes that the Model Program should be implemented throughout the United States. "If 17,000 Americans were dying each year from terrorist actions we would be outraged," declared NTSB Chairman Ellen Engleman Connors, "yet we're not doing everything we can to stop alcohol-related fatalities on our highways. Adopting the Model Program — and getting these hard core drinking drivers off the road — ought to be top priority for every governor and state legislator in the country."

## RESOURCES

### CADCA offers training for community coalitions

The Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) has announced that its National Coalition Institute is offering free, two-day trainings for coalitions in three U.S. cities. The trainings are entitled "Core Competencies That Lead to Successful and Sustainable Coalitions." The series aims to train participants in the essential skills necessary to have a true impact on their communities. The schedule is as follows: Houston (April 21-22), Philadelphia (June 16-

17), and San Francisco (Sept. 29-30). For more information or to register, visit [www.cada.org](http://www.cada.org).

### New opioid journal guides physicians

A new bimonthly journal, *The Journal of Opioid Management*, aims to assist physicians in the proper prescription of opioids amid growing trends of abuse and addiction. The journal will include coverage of medication types and dosages, patient reactions to treatment, and the "seven sins" that physicians commit when prescribing opioids. The journal's editor Robert E. Enck, M.D. said "there is a clear need for education in the use and abuse of

opioids in clinical practice.” Visit [www.opioidmanagement.com](http://www.opioidmanagement.com) for more information.

**BUSINESS NOTES**

**Addiction Recovery Services assumes management of clinics**

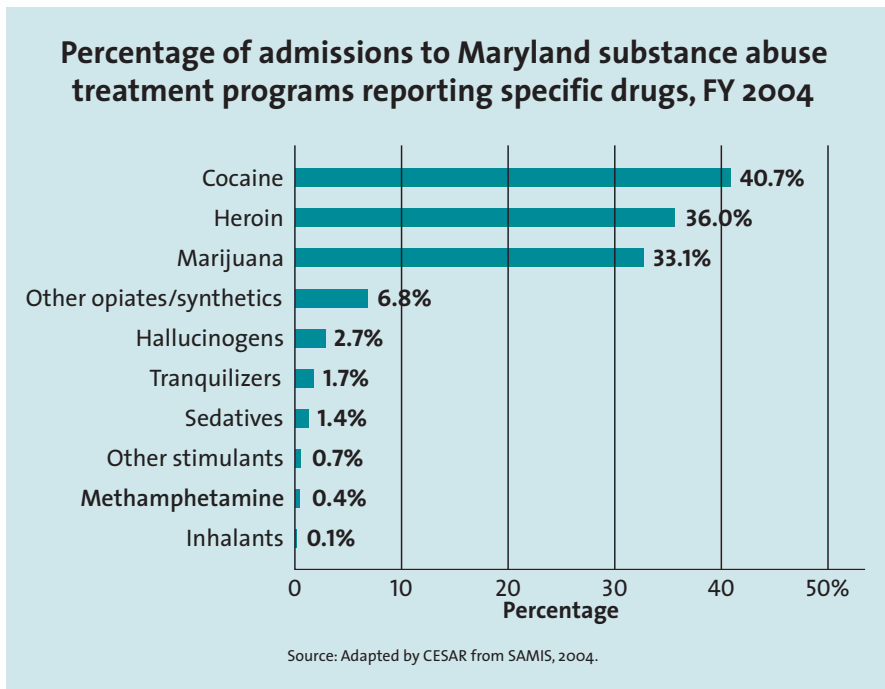
Addiction Recovery Services (ARS) has assumed management of Family Addiction Treatment Services’ two New Jersey clinics, according to an announcement by ARS president and founder, Jeffery J. Kegley. “Our major goal is to continue to provide the best in care for our patients,” said Kegley. “The effort is designed for the benefit of both organizations.” ARS provides medication-assisted treatment for substance dependent individuals in professional medical settings. Family Addiction Treatment Services has been in operation at Somers Point and Rio Grande, N.J. for roughly 5 years under the leadership of James Manlandro.

**BRIEFLY NOTED**

**Campaign asks NCAA to ban alcohol ads**

For the second consecutive year, Rep. Tom Osborne (R.-Neb.), a member of the national advisory council for the Campaign for Alcohol-Free Sports TV, has advanced a resolution asking the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) to eliminate alcohol advertising from radio and television broadcasts during college athletic events. The campaign’s website claims that 227 NCAA schools have committed to such a ban.

According to the New York Times, this four-page resolution, introduced in the House of Representatives just as the NCAA launches its “March Madness” basketball tournament, indicates that alcohol producers spent \$21 million in radio/TV advertising during the 2003 tournament. It also cites a 2002 study by the National Institute on



Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) that found that two in five college students are binge drinkers and that each year 1,400 students die of alcohol-related injuries. Last year’s resolution did not come to a vote.

**University of New Mexico to study rural youth drug use**

A University of New Mexico grant project entitled “Drug Use, Ethnicity, and Help-Seeking among Rural Youth” was awarded over \$200,000 for research, announced Sen. Pete Domenici (R.-N.M.). “The problem of drug abuse continues to cause real harm to our nation,” said Domenici, “and cannot be classified as only an urban problem. Increasingly, young individuals in rural areas are affected by substance abuse.” The funding was awarded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

**Iowa lawmakers agree on tough meth law**

In a House-Senate conference committee, Iowa lawmakers came to agreement on the details of a law to restrict sales of cold medicine con-

taining pseudoephedrine, in an attempt to reign in methamphetamine production. The Associated Press reported that Iowa has among the highest number of illegal meth labs in the country. The law is expected to meet quick approval in both legislative chambers. “I am confident that this will be the toughest pseudoephedrine law in the country,” said Sen. Keith Kreiman (D.-Bloomfield) “We are going to have fewer meth labs by more than half.”

The agreement specifies that retail stores can sell each customer just one package of liquid gel capsules containing the medication in dosages under 360 milligrams (about the equivalent dose of children’s cold medicine), and all other products containing this chemical can be purchased only through the pharmacy.

**Drug-related crimes cause female inmate surge**

Kentucky corrections officials believe that the increase in recent years in female prison inmates could be due to drug-related crimes, such as burglary or sex crimes, according to the Associated Press. Based on

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## Coming up...

**Foundations Associates** will sponsor "Critical Connections in Co-Occurring Treatment" **March 30-31 and April 1 in Knoxville, Tenn.** and **Aug. 29-31 in Baltimore.** For more information, visit <http://co-connections.com>.

**The American Society of Addiction Medicine's** 36th annual conference will take place **April 14-17 in Dallas.** For more information, visit [www.asam.org](http://www.asam.org).

**The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA)** presents "Missed Opportunity: Substance Abuse and Primary Care" **April 21 in Washington D.C.** with keynote addresses by Nora D. Volkow, M.D. and Louis W. Sullivan, M.D. For more information, visit [www.casacolumbia.org](http://www.casacolumbia.org).

**The World Congress** Leadership Summit on Innovation in the Cost-Appropriateness of Behavioral Health & Wellness will take place **May 2-3 in Baltimore.** For more information, visit [www.worldcongress.com](http://www.worldcongress.com).

**The Employee Assistance Society of North America (EASNA)** will hold its 17th Annual EASNA Institute **May 5-7 in Chicago.** For more information, visit [www.easna.org](http://www.easna.org).

**The 21st Annual National Rural Institute on Alcohol and Drug Abuse** will take place **June 12-16 at the University of Wisconsin-Stout.** For more information, visit [www.uwstout.edu/solutions/ces/ruralaoda](http://www.uwstout.edu/solutions/ces/ruralaoda).

**The North River Foundation Inc.** will sponsor the 18th Cape Cod Symposium on Addictive Disorders **Sept. 29-Oct. 2 in Hyannis, Mass.** For more information, call 781-585-3536.

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Kentucky Corrections Department figures, the number of women incarcerated with felony convictions in the state climbed by nearly a fourth between June 2003 and December 2004, from roughly 1,300 to 1,700.

"I think prosecutors and judges are looking at women more equally than they did historically," said Kentucky Corrections Commissioner John Rees, attempting to explain why the state's female prison population growth has outpaced its male population growth. About forty percent of Kentucky's female inmates are housed at the state's sole women's prison, while the rest are in county jails and treatment centers.

### College students binge-drink more than non-college peers

The findings of a recent study support previous indications that U.S. college students engage in more drinking and are more likely to binge-drink than their same-age peers who are not attending col-

lege, although the latter are more likely to drink daily and be dependent on alcohol. "Although college students suffer from some clinically significant consequences of their heavy-handed drinking," wrote study author Wendy Slutske of the University of Missouri at Columbia, "they do not appear to be at greater risk than their non-college attending peers for the more pervasive syndrome of problems that is characteristic of alcohol dependence."

According to Reuters, the 2001 survey of 6,300 young adults ages 19-21 showed that 18 percent of col-

lege students reported "alcohol-related problems," compared with 15 percent of those not in college. The study, published in the journal *Archives of General Psychiatry*, suggested that each year, alcohol is involved in about 1,400 student deaths and 70,000 sexual assaults on college campuses.

### Majority of smoking-prevention programs ineffective for youth

A study published in the *Journal of Adolescent Health* suggested that the majority of youth smoking prevention programs are ineffective. "Our study shows there is little evidence to suggest that existing school-based smoking prevention programs produce long-term reductions in smoking prevalence among youth," said the lead study author Sarah Wiehe, M.D. According to Join Together Online, researchers arrived at this conclusion after considering eight controlled smoking-prevention trials, as well as follow-up data through 12th grade or age 18.

Meanwhile, another study found that the "truth" antismoking campaign, launched in 2000 by the American Legacy Foundation, accounted for "a significant portion" of the recent decline in youth-smoking prevalence. The study, published in the *American Journal of Public Health*, looked at data for 50,000 students in grades 8, 10 and 12 and found that smoking prevalence among all students declined from 25.3 percent to 18 percent between 1999 and 2000, and that the "truth" campaign accounted for roughly 22 percent of this decline.

## In case you haven't heard...

*A strong alcoholic drink a day keeps food poisoning away. Recent research suggests that there may be truth behind this old wives tale. The New York Times cited a 2002 Spanish study, which suggested the generous consumption of wine, beer and spirits protected some banqueters from an outbreak of food-borne salmonella. In a 1992 study of an outbreak of hepatitis A from bad oysters, U.S. health officials found that only drinks with an alcohol concentration of 10 percent or greater offered any protection from illness. The benefits could be due to alcohol's action of stimulating gastric acid in the stomach.*