

# The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

A Healthcare Service Agency

## **INFORMATION...** foundation for good policy

John G. Rowland, Governor

Thomas A. Kirk Jr., Ph.D., Commissioner

## STATEWIDE ADDICTION SERVICES—THE NEXT THREE YEARS

Which state agencies fund substance abuse services? How much do they spend? What services do they buy? Who receives them? Are they effective?

The Connecticut Alcohol and Drug Policy (ADPC) was formed in 1996 to find answers to these questions. The ADPC brings together the heads of seventeen state agencies, experts from the private sector and people who use these services. It provides coordination to ensure the highest standards and promote efficiency.

The ADPC recently issued its second three-year *Statewide Interagency Substance Abuse Plan, 2002–2004.* The plan has 28 action recommendations to improve prevention, treatment and criminal justice services for juveniles and adults. The full plan can be accessed on the DMHAS website at www.dmhas.state.ct.us. Below is a sampling of the ADPC recommendations.

## **PREVENTION**

Design a single student health and safety survey to eliminate duplicative survey questions. Schools have been burdened with administering numerous student surveys from multiple sources. A uniform survey would provide comprehensive, consistent data to track trends and monitor behaviors while relieving administrative burden.



The Governor's Prevention Initiative for Youth 2000 Student Survey: State of Connecticut

A collaboration of the following state agencies:

Governor's Office, Dept. of Children and Families, Dept. of Education, Dept. of Public Health, Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services, Dept. of Social Services, Dept. of Transportation, Judicial Branch-Court Support Services Division, Office of Policy and Management

Research by the University of Connecticut Health Center, Dept. of Community Medicine and Health Care

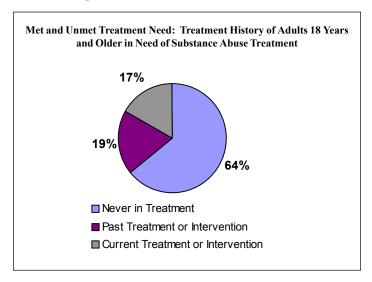
Data Source:

Connecticut Compendium on Substance Abuse Treatment Need: 2001

Visit www.dmhas.state.ct.us/infobriefs.htm to view previous issues of "Information . . . "

### TREATMENT

Increase treatment capacity at points of gridlock using proven approaches that adhere to cultural competency standards. Treatment must be available when a person needs it. Culturally competent and gender appropriate treatment help to engage and retain people in treatment. Effective services are those that improve outcomes, reduce costs and respond to individuals' particular needs.



### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Establish community-based programs to help offenders (youth and adults) transition from correctional facilities back into the community. Offenders transitioning back into the community face difficult challenges. Effective treatment and recovery support services reduce relapse and criminal recidivism by helping people to live successfully in the community.

