

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

***What Works to Prevent and Reduce Alcohol and Drug Problems?
Join Together Releases Guide to Recommended Drug and Alcohol Policies***

Join Together, a project of the Boston University School of Public Health, recently published a guide “intended to help voters and candidates for public office in 2004 learn about practical policies that, if adopted, can help save lives and restore families.” The publication, *10 Drug and Alcohol Policies That Will Save Lives*, outlines ten policies that are based on scientific evidence and were developed by groups of national experts and community leaders. Following are highlights from the guide. The full publication, including references, is available online at <http://www.jointogether.org/sa/action/tenpolicies/>.

Preventing Underage Drinking

1. Increase alcohol prices through taxes, particularly on beer.
2. Limit alcohol advertising and promotional activities that target young people.
3. Adopt laws that will prevent alcohol-related deaths and injuries among young people.

Treating Addiction

4. Require and enforce equal insurance coverage for drug and alcohol treatment.
5. Support the development and use of effective medications for addiction treatment.
6. Make screening for alcohol and drug problems a routine part of every primary care and emergency room visit.
7. Give higher payments to providers who get better results.

Reducing and Preventing Crime

8. Require effective treatment and continuing, supervised aftercare programs instead of incarceration for non-violent drug and alcohol offenders.
9. Repeal policies that prevent ex-offenders from returning to full participation in society.
10. Support the work of community coalitions.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Join Together, *10 Drug and Alcohol Policies That Will Save Lives*, 2004.