

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland at College Park

Drug Strategies Releases "Keeping Score 1996"

Keeping Score 1996 examines the effectiveness of federal drug policy by looking at a variety of statistics and reports that reflect the extent and effects of drug abuse across the nation. The report concentrates on four major areas: drug use and drug addiction, drugs and crime, drugs and the workplace, and drug abuse and health. In addition, the report summarizes programs in each of these areas that have been proven to work. Some of the key findings follow:

- One in five Federal prison inmates is a low-level drug offender with no history of violence, and one in five of all drug offenders in state prisons has no previous criminal history.
- Less than 10% of Federal inmates who are addicted to drugs have treatment available to them, despite the fact that "research over the past decade confirms that intensive prison treatment programs can reduce recidivism by half after release" (p. 11).
- Alcohol and drug abuse is associated with family violence. "Three-fourths of men charged with domestic battery in a 1992 study reported by the National Research Council tested positive for alcohol, while half tested positive for illegal drugs" (p. 13).
- Drug treatment improves work performance--employees receiving drug treatment had lower rates of absenteeism, incomplete work, and mistakes at work.
- The number of national drug-related emergency room visits increased by 38% and the number of drug-related deaths increased by 33% from 1990 to 1994.
- "Providing treatment to all addicts in the United States would save more than \$150 billion in social costs over the next 15 years . . . while requiring just \$21 billion in treatment costs" (p. 23).

The study concludes that the "Federal drug budget . . . should support cost-effective approaches to the nation's drug problems," investing in "innovation as well as . . . apply[ing] what we have already learned about what works" (p. 29). To receive a full copy of the report, please fax a request, along with your name and mailing address, to Drug Strategies at 202-663-6110.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Drug Strategies, *Keeping Score 1996*, Washington, D.C., 1996.

KEEPING SCORE 1996 NOW AVAILABLE ON CESAR BOARD

The Drug Strategies' reports "Keeping Score 1995" and "Keeping Score 1996" can be viewed or downloaded from CESAR's electronic bulletin board, under the Drugs Conference, via:

- Modem: 301-403-8343 or 1-800-84-CESAR (toll-free for Maryland callers only)
- World Wide Web: <http://www.bsos.umd.edu/cesar/cesar.html>
- Internet gopher: inform.umd.edu (select Educational Resources, Colleges, BSOS, Departments, CESAR)

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