

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

1997 "Keeping Score" Report Highlights Youth Substance Abuse Programs; Recommends Increased Spending on Evaluation and Prevention Programs

The 1997 edition of *Keeping Score*, released by Drug Strategies last week, calls for increased spending on drug prevention programs, which currently receive the least amount of support from the federal drug control budget. The report focuses on substance use among youth and highlights 18 innovative local and national prevention, treatment, and criminal justice programs. Below are some of the national prevention programs identified:

- **Reconnecting Youth**, a school-based program that targets students in danger of expulsion, school failure, or dropout. Eligible students meet five days a week to receive instruction on self-esteem, communication, decision making, and personal control.
- **SMART Moves** (Skills, Mastery, and Resistance Training), a community-wide program working to reduce substance use as well as premature sexual activity. The comprehensive program includes the SMART Kids drug prevention program, after-school homework assistance, tutoring, a parenting program, and family enrichment activities.
- **Youth Out of the Education Mainstream** (YOEM), a federally funded program that helps at-risk youth to continue and/or complete their education. YOEM also helps communities form local partnerships and develop prevention strategies, and then provides the resources necessary to implement those strategies.

While many of the programs identified in *Keeping Score* appear to have had promising results, only a few have been "rigorously evaluated through scientifically controlled outcome studies." The report recommends that more money be invested in evaluation research "so that programs can build on what we have learned about the impact and cost-effectiveness of various prevention efforts" (p. 1).

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Drug Strategies, *Keeping Score: We Can Reduce Drug Abuse*, Washington, D.C., 1997.

1997 *Keeping Score* Report Now Available from Drug Strategies

To receive a copy of the 1997 edition of *Keeping Score*, please send a request, along with your name and mailing address, to Drug Strategies, 2445 M Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20037.

Requests may also be faxed to 202-663-6110.