

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

1998 "Keeping Score" Report Focuses on Substance Abuse Among Women and Girls

Federal funding for women's substance abuse prevention, treatment, and research programs needs to be increased, according to the 1998 edition of *Keeping Score*, released by Drug Strategies last Friday. The annual report reviews the impact and effectiveness of public drug control spending; the 1998 edition focuses on substance use among women and girls. Below are some of the findings:

- "Girls are catching up with boys with regard to alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, and in some cases, already surpassing them," according to the first analysis of gender-specific trends in student drug use from the national Monitoring the Future study (p. 6).
- Previously unpublished data from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports show that "drug arrests of girls have climbed dramatically. In 1996, 19,940 girls were arrested for drug offenses, compared to 6,708 in 1991. The great majority of these arrests were for possession" (p. 23).
- "Emergency room visits by women because of drug-related problems rose 35 percent between 1990 and 1996. During that period, the number of visits related to heroin and marijuana rose more rapidly for women than for men" (p. 5).
- "Women substance abusers account for almost one-third of the total number of people in treatment in 1996 . . . This represents an increase since 1980, when one-quarter of all treatment clients were women"(p. 16).
- Women-specific programs comprise a small fraction of fiscal year 1999 public agency budgets--6% of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) budget, 15% of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) budget and 19% of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) budget is specifically designated for women's programs.

The report also highlights numerous programs for girls, women, and their families in communities across the country. To obtain a copy of *Keeping Score 1998*, 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: Women and Drugs--Looking at the Federal Drug Control Budget*, Washington, D.C., 1998.

December is Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month

Join communities across the country in supporting National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month by providing public awareness and enforcement campaigns to prevent impaired driving. For more information, including a list of national campaign activities, visit the National 3D Prevention Month Coalition's web site at www.3dmonth.org, or call them at 202-452-6004.

•• 301-403-8329 (voice) •• 301-403-8342 (fax) •• CESAR@cesar.umd.edu •• www.cesar.umd.edu ••

CESAR FAX is supported by a grant from the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention.

CESAR FAX may be copied without permission. Please cite CESAR as the source.