

Substance Abuse in NH

Scope of the Problem

- NH has a higher than average rate of alcohol abuse (9.09% compared to 7.59% of the population).
- NH ranks 3rd in the nation for adult binge drinking and 16th among high school students.
- NH teens rank first in the nation in the use of marijuana.
- 19.3% of NH youth have their first drink before age 13.
- Approximately 68,585 Granite Staters are dependent upon alcohol and/or drugs

Impact in New Hampshire

- 147 deaths in 2005 were due solely to drugs.
- In 2004, 37% of highway fatalities were alcohol-related.
- Nearly 95% of youth entering the Youth Development Center (the state's juvenile detention center) have used alcohol or other drugs.
- 22% of people incarcerated in NH were convicted specifically for drug and alcohol use.
- In 80-85% of prisoners, alcohol and drugs played a role in the commission of crime.
- 93% of parole violators used alcohol and drugs.
- 20% of Medicaid hospital days were attributable to substance use.

For more information contact:

**Greater Nashua Mental Health Center
at Community Council**
7 Prospect Street
Nashua, NH 03060
603-889-6147
www.ccofnashua.org

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Substance Abuse in the U.S.

Impact on Society

- In the U.S., 22 million people have a drug or alcohol abuse problem.
- Substance users are more likely to miss two or more days from work a month.
- 31% of homeless individuals suffer from drug addiction or alcoholism.
- Substance abuse costs the nation \$524 billion* per year
 - \$181 billion related to illegal drug abuse
 - \$185 billion related to alcohol abuse
 - \$158 billion related to tobacco use

Substance abuse is responsible annually for

- 550,000 emergency room visits
- 100,000 deaths related to alcohol use
- 12,000 deaths related to illicit drug use

Substance abusers responsible for

- more than 50% of violent crimes committed
- 50-70% of theft and property crimes
- 75% drug dealing
- 50% of all highway fatalities
- 50% of all cases of domestic violence
- 50-80% of child abuse and neglect

Treatment is less expensive than incarceration

- One full year of Methadone maintenance: \$4,700
 - One year imprisonment: \$18,600
- One dollar invested in addiction treatment yields a \$14 decrease criminal justice system costs alone.

**U.S. Surgeon General Report, 2004: Figures include health care costs, lost productivity, criminal justice system expenditures*

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