



**National Association of  
State Alcohol and Drug  
Abuse Directors, Inc.**

**1025 Connecticut Ave.,  
N.W.,  
Suite 605  
Washington, DC 20006  
Tel: (202) 293-0090  
Fax: (202) 293-1250  
Web page:  
<http://www.nasadad.org>**

### Prevention Works:

- Drinking among high school seniors has decreased by ten percentage points since 2000
- Drinking among 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders had decreased by 13.8 percentage points and 9.7 percentage points, respectively, since 2000
- In the decade between 1999 and 2009, New York State reduced current alcohol use among high school students from 50 percent to 41 percent and binge drinking declined from 29 percent to 24 percent
- Iowa saw a 17 percentage point decline in past month alcohol use by 11<sup>th</sup> graders between 1999 and 2010
- In the decade between 2001 and 2011, Vermont saw a decline in lifetime use of alcohol by underage persons from 75 percent to 60 percent, with past month binge drinking decreasing from 29 percent to 21 percent

## POLICY BRIEF: SAPT BLOCK GRANT PREVENTION SET-ASIDE

### Overview: Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant Set-Aside:

The Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant, the cornerstone of the States' substance abuse prevention, treatment and recovery systems, accounts for approximately 40 percent of expenditures by State substance abuse agencies across the country. Federal statute requires States to direct at least 20 percent of the SAPT Block Grant toward substance abuse prevention services. The substance abuse prevention set-aside is a core component of each State's prevention system, making up 64 percent of State/Territory-coordinated primary prevention funding. In:

- 6 States, the set-aside is 100 percent of funding
- 15 States, the set-aside is 75-99 percent of funding
- 16 States, the set-aside is 50-74 percent of funding
- 10 States, the set-aside is 25-49 percent of funding
- 4 States, the set-aside is 24 or less of funding.

In 2010, funding for the SAPT Block Grant prevention set-aside was \$358,718,000. In 2011, the prevention set-aside decreased to \$356,530,453. However, 34 States spend more than the 20 percent required in law for primary substance abuse prevention.

### Scope of the Problem:

Substance abuse represents a major problem in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) "Excessive Alcohol Use: At a Glance 2011," excessive alcohol use is the third leading cause of preventable deaths in the United States with 79,000 deaths per year. CDC also found 36,500 individuals died in 2008 from drug poisoning, a six fold increase from 1980. According to the 2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), among the approximately 38 million 12-20 year olds:

- 26.3 percent drank alcohol in the past month
- 17 percent binge drank in the past month
- 14.8 percent used illicit drugs in the past month
- 11.4 percent needed alcohol or drug treatment (met clinical criteria for abuse or dependence)
- Of those that needed treatment, only 14.1 percent received any treatment

In addition, NSDUH showed the overall rate of current illicit drug use in the United States rose from 8.0 percent of the population aged 12 and older in 2008 to 8.9 percent in 2010.

"In these lean budget times, it's especially critical for us to utilize the most cost efficient and effective means at our disposal. Every dollar invested in prevention programs saves up to ten dollars in costs related to treatment for substance use. ...Our supporters must know that there are risk factors specific to substance abuse...which must be considered in designing and supporting effective drug prevention programs." Director of ONDCP, Gil Kerlikowske (CADCA 2011 Leadership Forum)

### SAPT Block Grant is Effective:

An independent evaluation of the SAPT Block Grant was released in June 2009 found the SAPT Block Grant:

- Increased the availability of services for underserved populations while increasing the development and implementation of evidence-based practices.
- Enabled States to leverage funding to sustain and improve current programs – and create new initiatives.
- Contributed to the development and maintenance of successful State collaborations with other agencies and stakeholders.

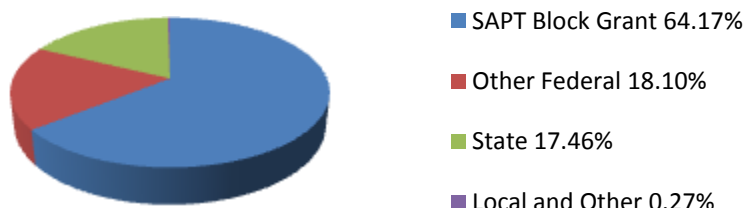
### Evidence-Based Practices:

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) 2011 Congressional Budget Justification (CBO), approximately 70 percent of SAPT Block Grant set-aside funds were spent on evidence-based practices.

### SAPT Block Grant Set-Aside Outcomes:

In 2009 and 2010 States, as an aggregate, exceeded all targets set for key performance indicators for the set-aside.

## Total State Substance Abuse Prevention Expenditures, \$583 Million, FY 2008



### How SAPT Block Grant Set-Aside Funds are Used:

By statute, the SAPT Block Grant prevention set-aside must be spent on primary prevention services. Substance abuse prevention is broken into three classifications—universal, selective, and indicated. States have the flexibility to decide how to spend funds based on local need derived from data. Examples of categories include:

- **Environmental** strategies involve establishing or changing community standards, codes, and attitudes in order to influence alcohol and other drug use.
- **Information Dissemination** provides knowledge and increases awareness of the dangers of alcohol and other drug use, abuse and addiction as well as the available prevention and treatment programs and services.
- **Alternatives** provide participation in healthy activities that exclude alcohol and other drugs. The purpose is to discourage the use of alcohol and drugs through these activities.
- **Problem Identification and Referral** aims at identification of those who have engaged in inappropriate use of tobacco or alcohol and those who have engaged in the first use of illicit drugs in order to assess if their behavior can be reversed through education.

### Role of State Substance Abuse Agencies and Prevention:

NASADAD represents State substance abuse directors from the 50 States, the District of Columbia and five U.S. Territories. A component organization of NASADAD is the National Prevention Network (NPN). NPN is comprised of State Prevention Coordinators, who work with State substance abuse directors and local communities to ensure the provision of high quality and effective alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse prevention services in each State. States work with local communities to employ mechanisms to ensure that public dollars are dedicated to programs that work through tools such as performance data management and reporting; contract monitoring; corrective action planning; on-side reviews; and technical assistance to community coalitions. Encouraging use of evidence-based prevention practices is a major emphasis of State substance abuse agencies.

### Reduced Substance Abuse Prevention Resources:

The SAPT Block Grant is the major source of funding many States rely on to support substance abuse prevention programs, but other funding streams are necessary and valuable to effectively prevent the use and abuse of alcohol (especially underage drinking), tobacco, marijuana, and other illegal drugs, including over-the-counter and prescription medications. Unfortunately, as a result of State and federal deficits, prevention resources are dwindling. **Between 2005 and 2012, substance abuse prevention funding was cut by 47 percent at the federal level.**

Substance use prevention is unique and effective. Fully-funded prevention activities change social norms; and reduce access to and availability of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs.

### Primary Prevention Demographic Composition of SAPT Block Grant Programs

#### Direct Services Programs (Selective and Indicated) Population Served: 6,356,000

<u>Age</u>	
<5 years	2.1%
5-11	24.8%
12-14	20.4%
15-17	17.8%
18-20	4.3%
21-24	3.8%
25-44	15.8%
45-64	7.8%
65 + years	3.5%

<u>Sex</u>	
Male	46.9%
Female	53.1%

<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>	
White	74.8%
Black	16.1%
Hispanic/Latino	12.7%
Pacific Islander	0.7%
Asian	2.7%
American Indian	3.2%
More than one race	2.5%

#### Population-Based Programs (Universal)

Personal Contacts: 96,367,000

<u>Age</u>	
<5 years	3.8%
5-11	7.1%
12-14	9.9%
15-17	10.8%
18-20	7.4%
21-24	9.4%
25-44	23.7%
45-64	19.3%
65 + years	8.6%

<u>Sex</u>	
Male	49.2%
Female	50.9%

<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>	
White	76.1%
Black	17.1%
Hispanic/Latino	13.3%
Pacific Islander	0.3%
Asian	3.1%
American Indian	0.9%
More than one race	2.5%

\*Data from the 2011 SAPTBG applications.



NASADAD's mission is to promote effective and efficient State substance abuse service systems.

Contact information: Michelle Dirst, Director of Public Policy, at (202) 293-0090 x 109 or [mdirst@nasadad.org](mailto:mdirst@nasadad.org)