

New study explores the relationship between crime and substance abuse

A new CCSA report confirms the close association between substance abuse and criminal behaviour and indicates that a substantial portion of this association is causal. This is the first study in Canada to establish that the crime and substance abuse link is more than a mere statistical coincidence.

The report, *Proportions of Crimes Associated with Alcohol and Other Drugs in Canada*, was released jointly by CCSA and the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) at an international gathering of researchers in Charlottetown. CSC provided much of the data used in the study.

"From our perspective as Canada's national addictions agency, we knew that very little research had been done in Canada linking crime and substance abuse, and yet the need for this kind of information is critical," CCSA's CEO Michel Perron told the gathering.

One of the more significant findings in the study was that alcohol-dependent federal inmates were twice as likely to have committed violent crimes such as murder and assault as those dependent on drugs (37% vs. 18%). They were correspondingly less likely to



CEO Michel Perron (centre) introduced CCSA's study of crime and substance abuse at a CSC-sponsored research forum in Charlottetown, PEI. Mr. Perron is flanked by one of the study's authors, Serge Brochu, and Federal Solicitor General Lawrence MacAulay. Photo: Gary Roberts

have committed a gainful crime such as robbery. Drug-dependent inmates were more likely to have committed a gainful crime, often to get drugs.

Federal inmates who said they had used neither drugs nor alcohol during a six-month period prior to being jailed reported an average of 1.7 crimes a week, while those who used one or more substances *without being dependent* on any had committed 3.3 crimes a week. Inmates who were *dependent* on drugs and/or alcohol had committed the most crimes – averaging about 7.1 crimes in a one-week period. Three-quarters of these were drug crimes, mostly possession.

The authors estimate that 40-50% of the crimes they studied can be attributed to at least one psychoactive substance (either alcohol or an illicit drug).

The three-year study was carried out by a team of researchers led by Dr. Kai Pernanen, National Institute for Alcohol and Drug Research, Norway and Uppsala University, Sweden; and Dr. Serge Brochu, Director of the International Centre for Comparative Criminology, University of Montréal.

The 132-page study is available on CCSA's Web site at www.ccsa.ca. A highlights document and a list of questions and answers are also available. □

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Illustration: Rand MacIvor

► A trend toward easing of liquor regulations since the mid-1990s has made alcohol more readily available in many parts of Canada. The number of liquor outlets has multiplied, hours of operation have increased, and control of sales and distribution has fallen increasingly into the hands of the private sector, including alcohol manufacturers and private home-delivery services. BC is the latest province to loosen its liquor laws.

Relaxed controls on alcohol prompt calls for closer scrutiny

British Columbia's health officer has raised concerns about BC's plans to ease restrictions on alcohol sales. Perry Kendall says the changes will make alcohol more available, and in a recent Public Health Approach to Alcohol Policy report (www.healthplanning.gov.bc.ca/pho/other.html), he calls for measures to counteract potential harm from increased alcohol use.

BC will lift a 10-year ban on new cold beer and wine stores, and will allow stores to double their floor space and to sell spirits. Bars and lounges will be able to stay open until 4 a.m.

Dr. Kendall says that in-

creased consumption will predominately occur among younger drinkers and this "will exacerbate the trends of increased risky drinking" by this group. He calls for monitoring of the public health and safety impacts of policy changes, as well as for enhanced prevention and treatment programs, stricter enforcement of laws against sales to under-aged and intoxicated drinkers, and the involvement of public health experts in planning policy.

Several Canadian jurisdictions have eased restrictions on alcohol over the last 10 years and in some provinces a once tightly controlled distribution chain now involves many new players, including

private home-delivery services. In a move to compete with private firms, Canada Post has succeeded in having its mandate changed to allow it to deliver alcohol from manufacturers and government liquor boards to any person in Canada.

Meanwhile, a new bill introduced by Quebec's minister of public security would allow restaurants to include alcohol with home deliveries.

"Alcohol policy is often developed with insufficient attention to adverse health consequences," said Eric Single, CCSA's senior policy associate. "Recommendations such as Dr. Kendall's could help to address this shortcoming." □

Changing the drinking culture in Australia's sporting clubs

Australia's Good Sports program is helping to change a tradition of heavy drinking in hundreds of community-based sporting clubs. John Rogerson, who directs the program for the Australian Drug Foundation (ADF), says largely male-dominated "footy" (football) and cricket clubs were headed for extinction because of

growing reluctance by female teachers and mothers to steer children toward sports that encouraged drinking. The program has made the clubs far more "family-friendly", says Rogerson, and surprisingly they have not suffered financially, as many feared, because of lower alcohol sales. The clubs enjoy a better image in the community, improved

relationships with the police, and reduced risk of liability.

Clubs are encouraged to protect their liquor licences by complying with the law and implementing harm reduction practices, including responsible service of alcohol (RSA). Accreditation is granted incrementally over a period of up to five years as clubs comply with more and more criteria. At the highest level, clubs are expected to develop and promote an Alcohol Code of Conduct. Rogerson says monitoring is a unique feature of the program: once clubs are accredited, their compliance with the program is tracked by "community partners" – local organizations employed by ADF to implement and promote the program.

► For more details: www.adf.org.au/goodsports □

► Good Sports director John Rogerson (right) exchanges ideas with CCSA senior associates Gary Roberts and Jill Austin following an informal discussion of the program with CCSA personnel. The evidence-based initiative, operating throughout southeastern Australia, was the subject of Rogerson's presentation, "Footy, Booze and Mates: The Good Sports Accreditation Program", at a recent international conference on safe communities in Fort Francis, Ont.





CCSA Board appoints new members from Quebec and BC

At its most recent meeting in Ottawa in May, CCSA's Board of Directors elected two new members.

Edgar Kaiser is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Kaiser Resources Ltd. and the Kaiser Foundation, headquartered in Vancouver. A graduate of Stanford University and Harvard Business School, Mr. Kaiser was born in the US, but moved to Canada where he

has held a variety of key corporate positions.

As a public servant, Mr. Kaiser served as chair of BC's Royal Commission on Education Reform, and once acted as special assistant to former US president Lyndon Johnson.

Yvon Picotte is President and Director-General of Des Pavillons du Nouveau Point du Vue and President of Groupe Conseil Yvon Picotte Inc. He has

served for two years as a member of Quebec's Standing Committee on Substance Abuse. Mr. Picotte was a teacher before turning to politics in 1973 when he was elected as a Liberal member of Quebec's National Assembly. He held various portfolios, including Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. □

► CCSA Board chair Barry King introduces Federal Health Minister Anne McLellan at CCSA's Board dinner in May. Ms. McLellan spoke of the need for a "national drug strategy for the 21st century".



We must rethink alcohol policy where youth is concerned

Public responses to the problems of alcohol and youth have been characterized by "benign neglect", says CCSA's senior policy associate Eric Single in an editorial published in the May-June issue of the *Canadian Journal of Public Health*. Dr. Single says population-based strategies to reduce overall drinking levels by hiking taxes and controlling availability have had some success, but have not effectively addressed drinking problems among young people. He says con-

trol measures must be balanced with more targeted "harm reduction" strategies, such as server training, aimed at preventing problems when drinking occurs.

"Rather than 'drinking less is better,' the key prevention message is 'avoid problems associated with drinking,'" Dr. Single writes. He also credits graduated licensing systems and zero BAC limits for new drivers with helping to reduce motor vehicle accidents – the leading cause of death among young people.

The traditional emphasis

on reducing overall drinking levels in the population stemmed from the notion that chronic diseases such as cirrhosis and alcohol dependence were the major causes of death and hospitalization. We now recognize, however, that accidents, suicides and other acute causes account for half of alcohol-related deaths. Because such deaths often involve young people, acute causes account for two-thirds of years of potential life lost due to alcohol, says Dr. Single. □



► Eric Single: "The simple solutions of the past... are not sufficient to meet the challenge. What is required is a mix of strategies, including more targeted prevention initiatives based on sound research."

Building the HEP network – one organization at a time

CCSA co-chairs and coordinates the Health, Education and Enforcement Partnership (HEP), which unites key players from a wide variety of disciplines in a common goal to reduce the harm associated with substance abuse. In an effort to develop and formalize its network, HEP has recently

completed an environmental scan of HEP-type activities across Canada. These initiatives include awareness building, prevention, treatment, harm reduction, intervention and education.

Contact information and detailed project descriptions have been compiled for close to 90 organizations, each of which has been for-

mally invited to join the HEP network. The HEP Steering Committee will review the report at their next meeting on July 9 and will post it on the HEP Web site. If you think your organization could benefit from joining the HEP network, please contact Lisa Gallinaro at lgallinaro@ccsa.ca. □



Find out more about the Health, Education and Enforcement Partnership at www.ccsa.ca/HEP/index.htm A recently completed survey of HEP-type activity across Canada will be posted on the site after July 9.

Montréal 2002



World Forum on Drugs and Dependencies

CCSA will co-host the World Forum on Drugs and Dependencies at Montreal's Palais des Congrès, Sept. 22-27. The aim of the Forum is to engage addictions professionals and those affected by drug use in an open, creative and collaborative consideration of:

- ◇ the human, social, environmental and economic impacts of drugs and dependencies;
- ◇ information and ideas on the most promising approaches to prevention, treatment and rehabilitation;
- ◇ the clarification of a truly "integrated and balanced approach"; and
- ◇ closer partnerships between governments and civil society.

The event is expected to attract delegates from 50 countries, representing a wide range of interests, including public policy, social services, academia, the justice system, law enforcement, community services, education and health. Alcohol, tobacco, illicit and "designer" drugs, and compulsive gambling will be among the topics on the agenda. For more information on the Forum program and how to register, please consult the World Forum Web site at www.worldforumdrugs-dependencies.com, or call Karen Cumberland at (613) 235-4048 ext. 241.

Directory of Addictions Organizations in Canada

The 2002 Directory offers you more than 2,000 listings, including information on problem gambling organizations.

NEW THIS YEAR: Canadian addictions researchers.

Internet orders: www.ccsa.ca/orders/ordirect.htm, or fill out this form and send it to: **CCSA Directory, Suite 300, 75 Albert St., Ottawa, ON K1P 5E7**; fax: 613-235-8101.

Please send ____ copies of the Directory of Addictions Organizations in Canada to the following address. I understand that I will be billed \$49.95 plus GST for each copy, plus a single \$5 charge for shipping and handling.

Name (please print).....
 Organization.....
 Street/Number.....
 City..... Province..... Postal Code.....
 Signature.....

Events



July 8-27 – 17th Annual Summer Institute for Advanced Social Work Practice and Addictions Studies, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, New York. Contact: Program of Continuing Education, School of Social Work, Tel.: (716) 645-6140, Fax: (716) 645-7901, e-mail: go@acsu.buffalo.edu, Web site: www.socialwork.buffalo.edu/iast/summer_institute.htm

July 14-18 – 43rd Annual Institute on Addiction Studies: Responses to Global Trauma,, Kempenfelt Conference Centre, Barrie, ON. Contact: Sandra Caswell, Tel.: (416) 293-3400, Fax: (416) 293-1142, e-mail: s.caswell@concerns.ca, Web site: www.concerns.ca

Aug. 4-9 – T 2002: 16th International Conference on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety, Palais des Congrès de Montréal. Contact: Elizabeth Wells-Parker, Tel.: (601) 325-7959, Fax: (601) 325-7966, e-mail: bw Parker@ssrc.msstate.edu, Web site: www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca/t2002/

Aug. 6-10 – RADAR Network International/National Conference, Denver, Colorado. Contact: SAMHSA's National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information, Tel.: 1-800-729-6686, Fax: (301) 468-6433, Web site: www.health.org

Aug. 20-23 – 3rd Annual Manitoba Summer Institute on Population Health Promotion: Building Supportive and Influential Communities, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg. Contact: 2002 Summer Institute office, Tel.: (204) 474-6935, e-mail: ummarch4@cc.umanitoba.ca, Web site: www.umanitoba.ca/social_work/summer_institute/index.html

Aug. 21-24 – MADD Canada Youth Power Camp, Call For Presenters, Mississauga. Contact: Carla Powell, Tel.: 1-800-665-6233, Fax: (905) 813-8920, e-mail: cpowell@madd.ca, Web site: www.madd.ca

Aug. 24-29 – XII World Congress of Psychiatry: Partnership for Mental Health, Pacific Convention Plaza, Yokohama, Japan. Contact: Tel.: +81-3-5770-5549, Fax: +81-3-5770-5580, e-mail: info@wpa2002yokohama.org, Web site: www.wpa2002yokohama.org/

Sept. 2-6 – Healing Our Spirits Worldwide 2002, Albuquerque Convention Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Contact: Healing Our Spirit Worldwide, Tel.: (303) 759-3075, Fax: (303) 759-3674, e-mail: jroberts@nihb.org Web site: www.healingourspiritworldwide.com

Sept. 15-18 – Première Conférence internationale francophone sur le contrôle du tabac, Palais des Congrès, Montréal. Contact: CIFICOT Tel.: (514) 527-0325, Fax: (514) 527-8745, e-mail: info@cifcot.com, Web site: www.cifcot.com

Sept. 15-17 – Addictions 2002: Integrating substance abuse treatment and prevention in the community, Dorint Hotel Cocagne, Eindhoven, Netherlands. Contact: Joanne Walton, Tel.: +44 (0) 1865 843643, Fax: + 44 (0) 1865 843958, e-mail: j.walton@elsevier.co.uk, Web site: www.addictions2002.com

Sept. 18-19 – 23rd Annual EAP Conference: Creating a Drug-Free Workplace, Stillorgan Park Hotel, Dublin, Ireland. Contact: Conference Administrator, Tel.: +353 (051) 855 733, Fax: +353 (051) 879 626, e-mail: eapinstitute@eircom.net

Sept. 22-27 – World Forum Montreal 2002: Drugs, Dependencies and Society: Impact and Responses, Montreal. Contact: Bureau des Congrès Universitaires, Tel.: (514) 340-4550, Fax: (514) 340-4440, e-mail: secretariat@worldforumdrugs-dependencies.com Web site: www.worldforumdrugs-dependencies.com/

Sept. 26 – 2nd Annual Conference: Debating Drug and Alcohol Policies, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland. Addiction Research Centre, Tel.: +353 (01) 6083647, Fax: +353 (01) 6083790, e-mail: addiction.research@tcd.ie

Sept. 26-28 – Breaking the Chains: People of Color and the War on Drugs. Hyatt Regency at Macy's Plaza, Los Angeles, CA. Contact: e-mail: conference@drugpolicy.org, Web site: www.drugpolicy.org

Oct. 2-5 – 5th European Conference on Gambling and Risk Taking, Barcelona, Spain Contact: European Association on the Study of Gambling, e-mail: easg@easg.org, Web site: www.easg.org/5th_european_conference_on_gamb.htm

Oct. 6-7 – Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction Annual Meeting, Montreal. Contact: Tel.: (514) 761-6131, Fax: (514) 888-4060, e-mail: inmha@cibr.ca, Web site: www.cibr.ca/institutes/inmha/inmha_e.shtml

► For more details on these and other events, please visit www.ccsa.ca and follow the links for Resources.