



CCSA: Alcohol Policy and Research Initiatives

*Research and Planning Meeting of Alcohol Policy Network,
Association to Reduce Alcohol Promotion in ON, OPHA Alcohol
Work Group, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health's Alcohol
Policy & Research Group*

Hosted by: Toronto Public Health

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Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse
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CCSA - Canada's national addiction agency

Who we are



- Created by an Act of Parliament in 1988 as **Canada's national non-governmental organization** on addiction and is the only federally created national agency responsible for drugs and drug abuse.
- Our mandate is to provide a national focus to reduce the harm cause by alcohol and other drugs. We are structured as an arm's length organization, to **facilitate relations with provincial governments, the not for profit and private sectors.**
- **Governed by a Board of Directors** (6 GIC, 9 at-large).
The Deputy Minister of Health and Deputy Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness are ex-officio members.
- **Report annually** to Parliament, via the Minister of Health and to each Provincial Legislature through the Lieutenant Governor in Council.
- Has a proven track record of **leveraging investments** and strives to provide the **highest degree of accountability and transparency** on the use of its funds.

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*R*ole of the CCSA



- ❖ Funded through Canada's Drug Strategy and our own revenue generating activities, the CCSA:
 - promotes informed debate on substance abuse issues and encourage public participation in reducing the harm associated with drug abuse;
 - disseminates information on the nature, extent and consequences of substance abuse; and
 - supports and assists organizations involved in substance abuse treatment, prevention and educational programming.

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What the CCSA offers



- **Information and Reference**
 - National Clearinghouse / FAS/FAE information service
 - Virtual Clearinghouse on Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs
- **Research/Information Development**
 - Canadian Profile / Canadian Cost Study / Drugs and Crime / FAQs
- **Best Practices**
 - Prevention programs for youth / Treatment
- **Policy Statements**
 - Harm Reduction / Cannabis
- **Network Development**
 - *Government:* Stimulating federal, provincial, territorial, regional and municipal government partnerships
 - *Research and academic community:* CIHR / Carleton University
 - *Enforcement:* CACP / CPPA / RCMP / CAPB
 - *Epidemiology:* Canadian Community Epidemiology Network on Drug Use
 - *Policy:* Health, Education and Enforcement in Partnership (HEP)
 - *Addiction Agencies:* Canadian Executive Council on Addictions

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*R*elationship with the Federal Government



- CCSA leads on issues of national interest where there is no strict Federal/Provincial/Territorial mandate
- CCSA brings the not-for-profit and private sector to the table
- Works closely with the Parliament of Canada
- Supports Canada's foreign policy activities

- Co-leads with Health Canada on several high-profile activities and events
- Close working/planning relationship with the Department of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness (including the RCMP, Correctional Services of Canada and the Customs Border Services Agency) and other agencies

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***R*elationship with other orders of Government**



- CCSA primarily engages with the provinces and territories through their lead non-governmental agencies
- CCSA also partners directly with provincial governments on joint projects
- CCSA works similarly with municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities

**CCSA works extensively with
national organizations and associations**

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CCSA's additional responsibilities in the new drug strategy



- Responsible to provide an independent annual national Assessment of Drug Policy in Canada
- Manage the development and role out of a national prevalence survey (2004 only)
- Co-host with Health Canada a biennial national drug policy conference
- Lead the implementation of triennial cost estimation surveys
- Lead the coordination of school based prevalence surveys with the provinces
- Co-host an annual national research forum and priority setting exercise

Current Activities: Canadian Addiction Survey



- National survey of Canadians' attitudes, beliefs, and personal use of alcohol and other drugs
- CAS a collaborative initiative supported by:
 - CECA: Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA)
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)
Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (AADAC)
Addictions Foundation of Manitoba (AFM)
Prince Edward Island Mental Health and Addictions
Kaiser Foundation
 - Federal Government: Health Canada
 - Provincial Governments: New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia
- Field work completed March 2004
- National report released November 2004

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Canadian Addiction Survey



- Alcohol measures in CAS:
 - Prevalence (past year, past 30 days, past week)
 - Frequency
 - Quantity
 - Context of use
 - Occasion-based patterns
 - Driving
 - Consequences of use (AUDIT, i.e. hazardous, harmful consequences)
 - Experiences with other's drinking (family problems, verbal/physical abuse, injury, etc.)
 - Public opinion (taxes, legal drinking age, private/public liquor stores, random roadside police checks, advertising, impact on society, etc.)
 - Treatment (needs & barriers)

Current Activities: *Follow-up to Forum* on Alcohol and Illicit Drugs Research in Canada



- Forum held in Ottawa, October 2-4, 2004
- Strategic Research Themes identified by participants:
 - Aboriginal peoples
 - Biology of substance use and addiction
 - Epidemiology
 - Health promotion, prevention, and healthy public policy
 - Populations/resiliency
 - Research into knowledge exchange and dissemination
 - Sex differences and gender influences
 - System design and evaluation, and public policy
 - Treatment and relapse prevention

***Alcohol research questions and policy issues
embedded in strategic themes***

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Forum on Alcohol and Illicit Drugs Research in Canada

Commitments & Next Steps



- Commitments:
 - CIHR/INMHA -- development of a coordinated national research agenda for alcohol and illicit drugs through Requests for Applications (RFAs) or training and infrastructure support
 - CCSA -- advance the work started at the Forum in collaboration with other partners to *institutionalize* alcohol and illicit drugs research & keep it on the political agenda
- Next Steps:
 - Planning Committee draft RFA flowing from the Forum (CCSA, CECA, Health Canada, Public Security & Emergency Preparedness)
 - RFA will identify the 9 research themes
 - Identification of funding partners
 - Possible announcement of RFA by CIHR December 2004

Current Activities: Costs of Substance Abuse in Canada



- Objectives:
 - Computation of social costs of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drug costs
 - Estimation of deaths and hospitalizations attributable to the use of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs
 - Estimation of crime and imprisonment attributable to the use of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs
 - Detailed comparison of substance-related social costs for Canada between 1992 and 2001
 - Detailed comparison of costs by substance categories
 - Detailed comparison of substance-related costs by province, dependent on the availability of province-specific data
 - Detailed comparison of substance-related costs by socio-demographic characteristics (minimally by sex and age)
 - Identify additional research required to improve the reliability and utility of cost estimates

Costs of Substance Abuse in Canada



- Funding Partners (to date):
 - CCSA (lead)
 - British Columbia
 - AADAC
 - AFM
 - CAMH
 - Nova Scotia
- January 2004 - June 2005
- Principal Investigator - Dr. Juergen Rehm

Opportunities to Engage



- **Annual**
 - Research Forum, Drug Assessment Report, Special Population Surveys
- **Biennial - sequenced**
 - Regional Forum, National Forum, Student Population Surveys
- **Triennial - sequenced**
 - National Prevalence Survey, Cost Estimation

Opportunities to Engage

Looking ahead...



- **Currently**
 - CCSA reviewing its policies to identify gaps, need for updates, new issues
 - Undertaking a review of national and international alcohol policy evaluated in recent book *Alcohol: No Ordinary Commodity*
- **Plan**
 - Host an Alcohol Issues Panel
 - Bring together CECA, alcohol industry, public health, treatment providers, alcohol researchers, non-profit organizations, NGOs, others

Opportunities to Engage



- Issues (tentative):
 - What is the current state of knowledge about evidence-based alcohol policy?
 - What are major groups at risk for alcohol related harm? To what extent is the current policy addressing the needs of these groups?
 - Identification by participants of areas where
 - Existing policy is adequate
 - Existing policy is not adequate
 - Appropriate target groups for a policy have or have not been specified
- Knowledge dissemination and "social marketing".
 - Under what conditions do research results inform social policy?
 - Strategies to inform decision-makers/policy makers about research results
 - Strategies to inform appropriate target groups about harm-minimization policy

Collective challenges can only be addressed together



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