



Alcohol Policy **UPDATE**

“No individual substance, either cannabis or cocaine or heroin, is as consistently part of serious drug-related crimes as is alcohol.”

— PERNANEN et al, *Proportions of Crimes Associated with Alcohol and Other Drugs in Canada*, p. 116.

Behind bars:

Alcohol and Crime

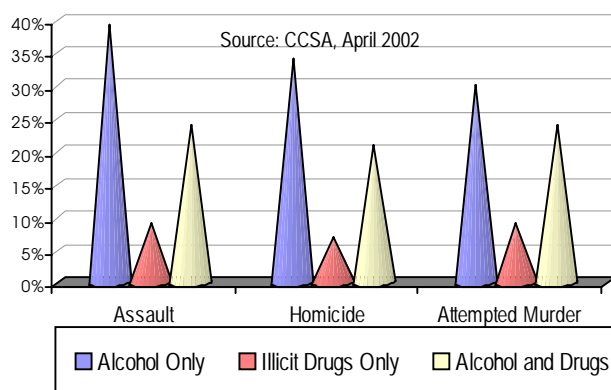
In April, the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA) released a groundbreaking 3-year study on the links between substance abuse and crime in Canada. The report draws on an impressive array of data including: a Correctional Service of Canada survey of 8,598 male federal inmates admitted between 1993 and 1995; 469 in-depth interviews with newly admitted male inmates in federal prisons in Québec and Ontario; interviews with 100 female and 94 male inmates sentenced to two years or less in two prisons in Québec; and a special study of police records on 1,890 individuals arrested in 14 Canadian cities during May and June, 2000.

The findings are startling. Among federal offenders:

- 38% reported having been under the influence of alcohol when they committed their most serious crime.
- those who were *dependent* on alcohol or alcohol and drugs reported the most crimes in a six month period prior to being jailed - an average of 7.1 in a one week period, compared with 3.3 crimes for non-dependent users and 1.7 crimes for non-users.

Among crimes committed by federal inmates, 39% of *assaults* were attributable to alcohol and another 24% to alcohol and drugs. The proportions of *homicides* and *attempted murders* attributed to alcohol alone were 34% and 30%

Intoxication and Violent Crime in Canada



respectively, while alcohol and drugs together predominated in 21% and 24% of these crimes respectively.

Overall, the study found a *causal link* between alcohol and 15-20% of crimes reported to the authors; 10-20% of crimes were causally linked to alcohol and drugs. Although the authors point out that more studies are needed to refine their calculations, they note that, in the presence of other factors or circumstances, there is clear evidence these substances can "increase ... risk-taking and confrontational behaviour resulting in criminal acts." The 132 page study is available on the CCSA website, www.ccsa.ca.

The policy implications of the report are not yet clear although the National Crime Prevention Centre, www.crime-prevention.org, has announced funding for several substance abuse prevention projects in recent months. CCSA's long-term objective is to use the findings to estimate the economic impacts on Canadian society.

APN Facts & Stats

What's in a number? Not much, or a whole lot . . . you decide. Here are a few facts and figures excerpted from APN's 2001-2 Annual Report. All were correct as of March 31, 2002.

9,468 Number of visits to the APOLNET website during the month of March. "Hits" during the same period totalled 289,126.

749 Number of people who receive this fax-newsletter 4 times a year. Past issues posted in the Resources Section of our website receive 100-200 "hits" per month.

273 Number of entries in the *2002 Funding Sources Directory*. Available online free of charge. Print copies are \$12.

259 Number of APOLNET listserv subscribers. To connect with colleagues and receive regular features such as *Alcohol in the News* and *Alcohol Research Update*, email apolnet-l-request@list.web.net. Type **subscribe apolnet-l** in the body of the message. Leave the subject line blank.

240 Number of people who've registered in the *Key Contacts Database* as speakers, consultants & suppliers, media spokespeople, program contacts and more. Are you there?

105 Number of policies in the *Sample Alcohol Policy Collection* on APOLNET. Covers alcohol consumption, sales, service and promotion in municipalities, workplaces, campuses,

licensed establishments, etc. To add your policy, please email us the document or a direct link to its location on your website.

70 Approximate number of upcoming conferences and workshops in the *AOD Events Calendar*. Use it to promote your event or to ensure there's no scheduling conflict if you're planning one.

68 Number of brochures, posters, "how-to" documents and other resources in the *Alcohol-related Educational Materials (AEM) Database*. See what's out there...and add your stuff!

25 Number of groups or organizations APN partnered with over the past year to develop resources or organize networking and training opportunities for AOD practitioners across Ontario.

18 Number of public service announcements in the *Alcohol PSA Database*. To view, go to the website of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters, www.cab-acr.ca. (Joint Issues - Societal Issues). To add PSAs suitable for airing in Ontario, visit the AEM Database.

14 Current number of "movers and shakers" representing various health and safety groups on the APN Coordinating Committee.

2 Number of paid staff (1.5 FTEs) working at APN.

Research

* Denotes Canadian content

Corner

Below is a selection of recent articles on alcohol policy and prevention issues. For copies or to borrow a journal contact the CAMH-ARF Library, isd@camh.net, 416-535-8501 ext. 6144. For additional research items, see *Alcohol Research Update*, www.apolnet.org/listservaru.html.

- *Alcohol consumption and the risk of cancer. A meta-analysis.* Bagnardi, Vincenzo, et al. *Alcohol Research & Health* 2001; 25(4):263-270. www.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/arh25-4/263-270.pdf
- *Children and adolescents with acute alcohol intoxication/self-poisoning presenting to the emergency department.* Woolfenden S, Dossetor D, Williams K. *Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med* 2002;156(4):345-348. archpedi.ama-assn.org/issues/v156n4/abs/poa10309.html
- *A developmental perspective on alcohol use and heavy drinking during adolescence and the transition to young adulthood.* Schulenberg JE, Maggs JL. *J Stud Alcohol Suppl* 2002 Mar;(14):54-70.
- *Drugs-violence nexus among American and Canadian youth.** Harrison, L.D., Erickson PG, Adlaf, E Freeman, C. *Substance Use & Misuse* , 2001; 36(14):2065-2086. www.health.org/research/res-brf/research2.asp?ID=742
- *The early effects of Ontario's administrative driver's licence suspension law on driver fatalities with a BAC >80 mg%.** Mann RE, RG Smart, G Stoduto, D Beirness, R Lamble and E Vingilis. *CJPH*, May-June 2002; 93(3): 176-180.
- *Injury among detoxification patients: alcohol users' greater risk.* Rees, V.W., et al. *Alcoholism* 2002; 26(2):212-217.
- *Reviews of evidence regarding interventions to reduce alcohol-impaired driving.* Shults, Ruth, Randy W Elder, David A Sleet et al. *Am J Prev Med* 2001; 21(4S):66-88. thecommunityguide.org/GUIDE/MVOI/pdf/alc_driving.pdf
- *The role of early, multilevel youth development programs in preventing health risk behavior in adolescents and young adults.* Kathleen Ethier and Janet S. St Lawrence. *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine* 2002; 156(5): 417-524. archpedi.ama-assn.org/issues/v156n5/ffull/ped20000.html
- *The spatial dynamics of violence and alcohol outlets.* Lipton R, Gruenewald P. *J Stud Alcohol* 2002; 63(2):187-195. www.safetylit.org/week/new020603.htm
- *Substance use and abuse in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender populations.* Hugher, T.L., Eliason, M. *Journal of Primary Prevention* 2002; 22(3):263-298. www.health.org/research/res-brf/research2.asp?ID=749
- *Universal family-focused interventions in alcohol-use disorder prevention: cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit analyses of two interventions.* Spoth RL, Gyll M, Day SX. *J Stud Alcohol* 2002 Mar;63(2):219-28. www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/80
- *Young people's images of cigarettes, alcohol and drugs.* Leeming D, M Hanley and S Lyttle. *Drugs: Education, Prevention & Policy* May 2002; 9(2): 169 - 185. taylorandfrancis.metapress.com/link.asp?id=8r4cba1xp5x5muq8

Round Up

“ Got a question? comment? announcement? Get connected!
Join the APOLNET Listserv, www.apolnet.org/subscribe.html.”

Drug policy draws attention

As noted in the previous issue of this newsletter, consultations are underway to develop a new *Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Framework* for Ontario. For progress updates, visit the website of the FOCUS Resource Centre, www.frcentre.net. Meanwhile, pressure for a new national drug strategy continues to mount at the federal level. In a statement released on March 11, the Canadian Medical Association and the Canadian Society on Addiction Medicine (CMSM) called on the Special Senate Committee on Illegal Drugs to recognize addiction as a disease. They also recommended that a greater proportion of resources be devoted to prevention, harm reduction and treatment. For summaries of other submissions or background info on the Senate Committee visit www.parl.gc.ca/illegal-drugs.asp. For more on *Canada's Drug Strategy*, see www.ccsa.ca/cds.htm.

Private member's bill supports lower BAC limit
MADD Canada's campaign to reduce the legal BAC in the *Criminal Code* to .05% has been hotly contested in the media and in electronic discussion groups across the country. But Canadian Alliance MP Chuck Cadman (Surrey North) is undeterred. On May 22, he introduced a private member's bill (C-464) to amend the *Criminal Code of Canada*. If passed, the bill would impose a permanent criminal record on drivers convicted for the third time of operating a motor vehicle with a BAC of .05%. A minimum fine of \$600, a minimum one year driving prohibition and up to six months in jail would also apply. First and second time

offenders would be subject to less severe fines and driving suspensions. Those with no other impaired driving charges within two years of being convicted would have their records erased. The bill is likely to be opposed by groups such as the Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF), who have been critical of the MADD proposal. Indeed, in a 121 page document entitled *The Safety Impact for Lowering the BAC Limit for Drivers in Canada*, TIRF researchers argue that there is no "strong, consistent and unqualified support for lowering the

BAC limits" in the international literature. Not all researchers agree with this conclusion, however. CAMH, for one, appears poised to release a best advice supporting a lower BAC limit. It is unclear where the new federal Justice Minister stands on the issue. To download the TIRF report, visit www.trafficinjuryresearch.com. For a copy of MADD's legislative agenda, including the recently released *Rating the Provinces and Territories: The 2002 Progress Report*, go to www.madd.ca. For more on *Bill C-464*, contact MP Chuck Cadman, 613-992-2922.

Quick Quiz # 3

Alcohol Policy: Who's Who?

This quiz is part of the new Alcohol Policy 101 series designed to orient APU readers to alcohol-related laws and policies, and the substance abuse prevention field. Please visit the Resources or Contacts Sections of www.apolnet.org for the answers, including additional contact information. Good luck!

These 25 individuals have a great deal to say on alcohol policy and health and safety in Ontario. Do you know who's who? Simply match the name to the title.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Andrew S Brandt | Chair and CEO, Liquor Control Board of Ontario |
| 2. Anne McLellan | Chair, Alcohol & Gaming Commission of Ontario |
| 3. Barry King | Chair, Alcohol & Gaming Committee, Assoc of ON Chiefs of Police |
| 4. Bob Walsh | Chair, Alcohol Policy Work Group, Ontario Public Health Association |
| 5. David Christopherson | Chair, Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse |
| 6. Dr Colin D'Cunha | Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ontario |
| 7. Dr Paul Garfinkel | Director of Legal Policy, MADD Canada |
| 8. Ernie Eves | Liberal Critic, Consumer and Business Services |
| 9. Gilles Bisson | Liberal Critic, Health and Long-Term Care |
| 10. Jan Wescott | Liberal Critic, Transportation (Ontario) |
| 11. John Coones | Minister of Consumer and Business Services |
| 12. Larry Moodie | Minister of Health (Canada) |
| 13. Linda Franklin | Minister of Health and Long-Term Care (Ontario) |
| 14. Lucio Di Clemente | Minister of Justice & Attorney General of Canada |
| 15. Lyn McCleod / Sandra Pupatello | Minister of Transportation (Ontario) |
| 16. Martin Cauchon | NDP Critic, Consumer and Business Services |
| 17. Mike Colle | NDP Critic, Health and Long-Term Care (Ontario) |
| 18. Norm Sterling | NDP Critic, Transportation (Ontario) |
| 19. Pat Hoy | Premier of Ontario |
| 20. Randy Barber | President & CEO, Brewers Association of Canada |
| 21. Robert Solomon | President, The Beer Store |
| 22. Sandy Morrison | President & CEO, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health |
| 23. Shelley Martell | President & CEO, Spirits Canada |
| 24. Timothy Hudak | President, Wine Council of Ontario |
| 25. Tony Clement | President, Ontario Liquor Boards Employees' Union |

News & Views

“ Many messages; one medium ... the Alcohol PSA Database, a resource for broadcasters and communities.”

Useful Resources

On September 15, mandatory certification requirements for small pleasure craft operators will come into effect across Canada. If working with boaters this summer, check out the interactive quiz on alcohol and boating safety on the Canadian Coast Guard website, www.pacific.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/obs. If targeting your safety messages to drivers of other motorized vehicles, see the just released *Ontario Road Safety Annual Report*, www.mto.gov.on.ca.

In June, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) released a *Position Paper on Harm Reduction*. CAMH defines harm reduction as "any program or policy designed to reduce drug-related harm without requiring the cessation of drug use." Alcohol is included in the definition. For a copy, please visit www.camh.net.

Earlier this year, APN, ARAPO, The Health Communication Unit, CAMH and the Canadian Association of Broadcasters (CAB) unveiled a new searchable online database for alcohol-related public education materials such as posters, brochures, booklets, promotional items, radio and TV public service announcements and more. Selected content from the *Alcohol-related Educational Materials (AEM) Database* appears on the websites of all the partners, including CAB's (where it's dubbed the *Alcohol PSA Database*). The database is designed to showcase resources developed by Canadian non-profit and broader public sector organizations. Everyone who submits resources through the public posting page on www.apolnet.org between **July 1 and August 31, 2002**, will be entered in a **draw** for one of several donated prizes. The winners will be announced in the next issue of *APU*.

Upcoming Events

A **Newbie Teleconference** for health professionals new to the substance abuse prevention field has been tentatively scheduled for the morning of **August 20**. It's a joint activity of ARAPO, Ontario Drug Awareness Partnership, Parent Action on Drugs, FOCUS Resource Centre and APN. Registration forms will be available in mid July. To receive one, email us.

Other notable dates: **June 20**, APN Policy Tele-roundtable #1: Municipal Alcohol Policies: Sharing Experiences on What Works, What Doesn't and What Next • **June 24-27**, Health Promotion in Action: Embracing the Winds of Change, 9th annual Ontario Health Promotion Summer School (Toronto) • **July 14-18**, 43rd Annual Institute on Addiction Studies (Barrie) • **August 4-6**, 16th International Conference on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety (Montreal) • **August 21-24**, MADD Canada Power Youth Power Camp (Mississauga) • **September 9**, International FAS Awareness Day • **September 22-27**, World Forum on Drugs, Dependencies & Society (Montreal). For details, click on *Events & Milestones* on the top right-hand side of our homepage.

About Us

Alcohol Policy Update (APU) is a free quarterly fax-newsletter of the Alcohol Policy Network. APN is a project of the Ontario Public Health Association. Our mission is to facilitate the development of policies that prevent problems associated with alcohol use and enhance the health, safety and well-being of individuals and communities across Ontario.

APN offers a range of products and services including information and referral, regional workshops and seminars, publications and a comprehensive website called APOLNET.

APN does not take public positions on issues although individual members and the Ontario Public Health Association may do so. Information appearing in this newsletter reflects the views of the author and not necessarily the positions of OPHA.

APU is distributed via fax to over 700 subscribers active in substance abuse prevention, injury prevention and public health. It can also be downloaded from the Resources section of our website, www.apolnet.org.

For more details on this newsletter or our other products and services, please contact Paula Neves, Project Manager, apn@opha.on.ca, or Ana Almeida, Web Development and Training Consultant, apolnet@opha.on.ca.

Alcohol Policy Network

◇ Please remove me from this list.

◇ Update my contact info as follows:

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(416) 367-2844

How would you rate this issue of Alcohol Policy Update...

Comments and suggestions...

Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
1	2	3	4	5