



FEBRUARY 2007

## CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS WEEK

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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- **Community Awareness**
- **Education**
- **Prevention**
- **Intervention**
- **Treatment**
- **Recovery**

This year's National Association for Children of Alcoholics (NACoA) campaign, "A Celebration of Hope and Healing," takes place from February 11th through 17th. An estimated one in every four children is affected by family alcohol problems, and countless others are affected by drug abuse in the family. Children of Alcoholics Week, February 11-17, 2007, is designed to raise the public's awareness of the impact addiction has on children.

No child from a home where alcohol or drugs is a problem should have to grow up in isolation and without support. And, no home is immune from alcohol or drug problems regardless of income or education. These children are in our midst, in our schools, in our homes and in our churches. It is the child who doesn't want to go home after a game; the student whose behavior, grades and appearance have gone downhill; the child in the nurse's office week after week with vague complaints.

Young people who have a

parent or caregiver with a drinking problem often live with family tension, broken promises, even violence. These young people frequently feel like they have contributed to the problem or that there must be something they can do to control it. They can also feel very alone. Many work very, very hard to keep the drinking a family secret. This secret keeping can include never having friends over for fear that they will find out about the drinking or working extra hard in school and sports to prove that all is fine at home. In an effort to cope, some young people develop strategies that are useful in the short term but can be harmful in the long run.

Well-meaning adults often add to the problem by saying nothing, even if they suspect or know about the drinking. They convince themselves that it is not that bad because the young person is not acting troubled or asking for help. And, few of us like to get involved in another family's troubles for fear of appearing to meddle. But,

silence is not helpful. By appearing to ignore their situation, adults give youth the message that the problem drinking is okay and their feelings and concerns are not real or important. By playing it safe and not wanting to pry, adults deprive that young person of the opportunity to let them know they care. It is important to let young people know that there are caring adults who are willing to listen when the young person is ready to talk. Let them know they are not alone and that there are many other families in the same school, church or community where alcohol is a problem. Hope and healing from addiction in the family is possible.

For more information visit the National Association for Children of Alcoholics' website at [www.nacoa.org](http://www.nacoa.org).



## NATIONAL CONDOM WEEK

Each year in the U.S. there are approximately 19 million new cases of sexually transmitted infections (STI). However, many individuals with STIs are unaware they've been infected, or that they may potentially infect partners. With this in mind, the American Social Health Association (ASHA) recognizes National Condom Week 2007 (February

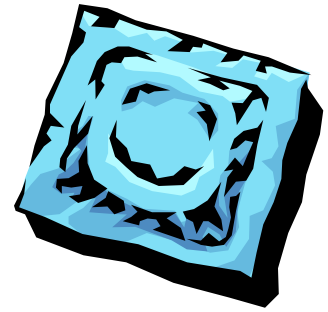
11-17) and emphasizes the value of safer sex practices.

While anyone can contract STIs, about half of all new cases occur among youths ages 15-24 years.

"The American Social Health Association encourages abstinence from sexual intercourse as the most effective way to reduce the risk of all sexually transmit-

ted infections," emphasizes Deborah Arrindell, Vice President for Health Policy. "But for young people who choose not to be abstinent, it is essential to understand the importance of using condoms with each episode of sexual intercourse and how to use them correctly."

For more information visit [www.ashastd.org](http://www.ashastd.org)



## INHALANTS 101

On March 7, 2007, The CT Inhalant Taskforce will be hosting Inhalants 101 at the American Heart Association in Wallingford, CT from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Inhalant abuse is the intentional breathing in of concentrated gases and the fumes from solvent-based products in order to produce intoxication. Over one thousand common household, office and shop supplies are abused and abuse often

starts as early as third grade. Often misunderstood and overlooked, inhalant abuse goes undetected with serious and potentially lethal consequences. In this workshop, participants will learn:

- An overview of the topic and how inhalant abuse differs from "drug" use
- What constitutes an abuseable product and the modes of transmission

- Physiological effects and dangers including sudden sniffing death
- Appropriate responses to users and how inhalant abuse affects the family.

For more information or to register visit

[www.ctinhalanttaskforce.org](http://www.ctinhalanttaskforce.org)



"Teenagers, especially young women, are too often victims of violence that goes unacknowledged and unreported," said Mary Beth Buchanan, Acting Director of the Office on Violence Against Women. "During this National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week, and throughout the entire year, it is crucial to raise awareness about such an important issue that greatly touches the lives of so many teens."

## NATIONAL TEEN VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION WEEK

To continue its efforts to raise awareness and increase education of the alarming and often under-reported crime of teen dating violence, the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) has observed Feb. 5-9 as National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week. OVW is also joining with Liz Claiborne Inc. and the Domestic

Violence Hotline to launch the National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline (NTDAH). The NTDAH is a 24-hour national Web-based and telephone hotline that has been created to help teens (ages 13-18) experiencing dating abuse. The hotline will be the only helpline in the country serving all

50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Teens and parents anywhere in the country can call toll-free, +1-866-331-9474 or log on to the interactive Web site, <http://www.loveisrespect.org/>, and receive immediate and confidential assistance.

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## ADDICTION: HBO'S GROUNDBREAKING 14-PART SERIES

One in four Americans has a family member who is struggling with addiction. In 2005, there were 23.2 million Americans who needed treatment for their illicit drug or alcohol abuse problems, yet only about 10% received the treatment they needed.

HBO, in partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), the National Institute on Drug Addiction (NIDA), and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), has produced an unprecedented multi-media campaign aimed at helping Americans understand addiction as a treatable brain disease, as well as spotlighting new medical advancements.

For the first time, HBO will use all of its digital platforms, including the HBO main service, multiplex channels, HBO On Demand, podcasts, web streams, and DVD sales. The major components of the ADDICTION Project are :

- A groundbreaking 14-part documentary film series;
- A companion book published by Rodale Press (available March 6);
- A large and comprehensive website on addiction, treatment and recovery at hbo.com (launching March 5);
- Four independent addiction-themed films;
- A \$2 million national media campaign to promote the show and its themes; and
- A grassroots outreach and community mobilization project organizing town meetings and house parties in cities and towns nationwide.

The ADDICTION project targets anyone concerned about addiction: addicted individuals themselves, or their family and friends --

all of whom are searching for a better understanding of what addiction is and how to find effective treatment.

Countless television shows, both fictional and real, have captured the seemingly hopeless downward spiral of the drug addict or alcoholic. But, they have failed to explain to the public:

- What addiction really is (a brain disease);
- What causes it (a variety of genetic and psychosocial factors); and
- How to get the best available treatment (by seeking out evidence-based medical and behavioral treatments).

A spouse, child, parent or friend who is struggling with drug or alcohol addiction often asks "why can't they just stop?" or wonders whether treatment might work for them.

ADDICTION brings together leading thinkers and organizations that are at the threshold of new treatments. Current advances in brain imaging science make it possible to see inside the brain of an addicted person, pinpoint the parts of the brain affected by addiction, and see how the addict's brain differs, ushering in a great many advances in medical treatment. A candid depiction of the emotional, psychological, social and political toll that addiction takes on the country, the ADDICTION project demonstrates conclusively that the disease is treatable and shows that there are millions of Americans in long-term recovery. Topics covered include: the nature of addiction, addiction in the workplace, and the protracted insurance battles waged by families, as well as the

difficulty of finding and getting adequate treatment.

Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA), Faces & Voices of Recovery and Join Together are collaborating to build on this powerful opportunity to expand public understanding of addiction and recovery.

With support from the Robert Johnson Foundation, a grassroots campaign is working in communities across the country to maximize the impact of HBO's ADDICTION documentary in their local communities in the weeks leading up to and the months following the broadcast of the program through National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month in September 2007.

Events nationwide with a special focus on 30 communities will bring together community coalitions, people in long-term recovery and their families, elected officials, civil servants and allied organizations to raise awareness about addiction and recovery and promote new attitudes and policies.

Through a variety of local activities, communities across the country will use the HBO show to jump start or expand advocacy activities to make it possible for more people to get the help they need:

- Town Hall Meetings
- House Parties bringing together friends, neighbors or co-workers to watch and discuss ADDICTION.
- Briefings and preview screenings and other community-wide events to raise public awareness about addiction recovery.

The Campaign encourages communities to form broad-based local partnerships to sustain their activities over the long term. For more information visit [AddictionAction.org](http://AddictionAction.org).

[WWW.SCCRAC.ORG](http://WWW.SCCRAC.ORG)

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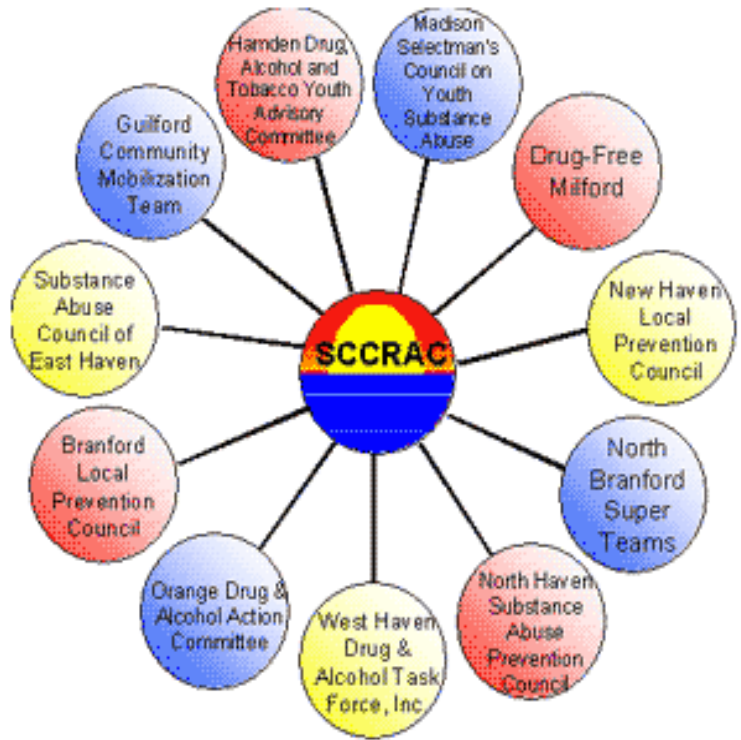
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*SHINING A LIGHT ON PREVENTION*



**NATIONAL TEEN VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION WEEK**

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"Teenagers, especially young women, are too often victims of violence that goes unacknowledged and unreported," said Mary Beth Buchanan, Acting Director of the Office on Violence Against Women. "During this National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week, and throughout the entire year, it is crucial to raise awareness about such an important issue that greatly touches the lives of so many teens. OVW has made combating this issue a priority, and we are pleased that members of the public and private sectors are helping to raise the profile of teen dating violence." According to recent studies, 20 percent of teenage girls and young women have experienced some form of dating violence. Teen dating violence often increases the risks of substance abuse, sexual activity, pregnancy and suicide, especially for female victims. The Justice Department's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) has made

combating teen dating violence a priority. In 2006, OVW convened roundtable discussions in partnership with the Department of Education and the Office of Justice Programs to discuss efforts to address teen dating violence. In 2002, OVW funded the national Teen Dating Violence Resource Center at the National Center for Victims of Crime. The center provides communities and programs across the country with training, resources and information to increase awareness of and commitment to addressing this crime.

The helpline and Web site will be operated by the National Domestic Violence Hotline, which was established in 1996 and is a grantee of OVW. Since then, the Hotline has answered over 1.5 million calls and now responds to 16,000 calls each month, offering translations for 140 languages, a TTY line for the deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing, and now a National Helpline for Teen Dating Abuse victims.

Teen dating violence includes physical abuse as well as sexual, verbal and emotional abuse. The potential for violent behavior in an abusive relationship often escalates as the relationship becomes more serious. Victims may remain in abusive relationships for many reasons, including fear of the perpetrator, self-blame, loyalty, love for the perpetrator, social stigma, or lack of understanding. Teen dating violence crosses all gender, racial and socioeconomic lines. Although the dynamics are similar to those for adult domestic violence, teens generally have less experience with relationships, so may be less likely to recognize abuse. Some of the signs of abuse, such as jealousy or possessiveness, may be confused as signs of love.

For more information visit [www.usdoj.gov/ovw](http://www.usdoj.gov/ovw)

