SAVE THE DATES:

Membership renewals must be received at SALIS Home by January 31, 2004. The membership application will be available on our web site in the middle of October.

The 26th Annual SALIS Conference will be held April 20-24, 2004, at the Berkeley City Club, Berkeley, CA., USA

Coming soon - call for abstracts, exhibitors, and additional information. Check the SALIS web site (www.salis.org) for the most current information.

ALCOHOL POLICY RESOURCES - NIAAA’S NEW “APIS”

By Samantha Helfert, Web/Resource Manager, Northrop Grumman IT Health Solutions and Services Tobacco Control Programs, Rockville, MD

Last spring after seeing many policy questions related to alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs on the SALIS Listserv, I planned to review available web resources on the topic for an upcoming Websights column. After initial exploration, I discovered that the subject was too complex and vast for one column, and would need to be addressed in a series of columns. This first column in the series will cover web resources on alcohol policy; future columns will address policy resources related to tobacco and illicit drugs. The focus will primarily be on United States policy, but will also point out selected international sources.

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RADAR Steering Committee Report

By Jessica Hinkson, Information Specialist/Librarian, Higher Education Center, Newton, MA

Celebrating Collaboration in Prevention

This past summer, several SALIS colleagues* and I participated in the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention’s (CSAP) Regional Alcohol and Drug Awareness Resource (RADAR) Network Steering Committee Meeting, held August 13-15, 2003, in Miami Beach, Florida. The RADAR Network was established in 1989 by CSAP to make current prevention information readily available at the State and community levels. It is now the largest substance abuse prevention and treatment network of its kind, with more than 715 active centers here and abroad. Its mission is to strengthen communication, prevention, and treatment activities.

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Book Review

By Clare Imholtz, Librarian
Center for Substance Abuse Research
College Park, MD


The title says it all. This book is not just about saying no to the War on Drugs, nor does it just present a case for legalizing drugs. Rather it argues that "responsible drug use" can be a positive part of people's lives.

Jacob Sullum is a senior editor and regular columnist for Reason, a leading libertarian magazine. In this book, he argues that most people who use illegal drugs do not become addicted and are not harmed by drug use; in fact, he says, their lives are enhanced through drugs. He offers himself as an example, stating that he has used several illegal drugs with no ill effects. Nor does he limit his defense to the more socially acceptable illicit drugs such as marijuana. He doesn't hesitate to support the use of drugs that are potentially highly destructive, such as crack and heroin.

Sullum says that he wants to dispel stereotypes such as lazy potheads and violent PCP users. But in the process he inevitably finds he needs to overstate his case, or at least ignore negative evidence. For example, he claims that withdrawing from heroin feels like a case of the flu and that bad LSD trips could actually be due to the user's fear of being caught taking an illegal substance.

Sullum's approach is hardly science-based. He relies on highly selective evidence, mainly anecdotal accounts from interviews with a sample of 32 drug users, all of whom volunteered to talk to him about their use, and can be seen as advocates. He'll cite a research study when he finds one that supports his argument, but most of his sources from the research literature tend to be dated.

Sullum claims that drugs get a bad rap because responsible users (the majority according to him) are invisible users. He sees excess as the exception. And this is the major problem with the book: there is a lot about drug use that is invisible to him. There is not an addict to be found in this book; there is not a single drug user who has had difficulties with or because of drugs (other than difficulties with the law).

(Continued on page 6)
Children’s Books About Substance Abuse – Fiction

By Meg Brunner, Librarian
Alcohol & Drug Abuse Library,
University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Recently, a call for help rang out over the SALIS listserv. The question was about finding fictional books for children about smoking. A handful of SALISers were able to respond with a few ideas and web sites, but most of us probably haven’t had to deal with children’s literature, at least from a librarian’s perspective, since graduate school, if then!

Given enough time, I’m sure we all could come up with a list of great kids’ books on substance abuse. After all, not knowing much about a subject rarely gets in the way of a good librarian! However, finding that necessary time can be a challenge, and why do all that work if you can find somebody else who’s willing to do it for you? Taking just that type of shortcut, I went straight to an expert, and within a few hours had a long list of suggested resources and search strategies ready to offer my fellow SALISers, so that in the future, finding children’s materials on substance abuse will be quick and easy.

My expert was Mary Palmer, a children’s librarian at the Seattle Public Library, and what follows is a selection of some of her favorite resources. This article will focus primarily on children’s fiction, with a follow-up to this on non-fiction planned for a future issue of SALIS News.

Your Local Public Library

One of the best resources for children’s books on any topic is, of course, your local public library. Public libraries almost always have large children’s collections, and librarians who specialize in finding great stuff for kids. Based on my searches of a number of on-line public library catalogs across the country, the strategies best used to find books on substance abuse for children are fairly simple. Many of the catalogs use different indexing languages, but for the most part, subject/topic searches for “drug abuse fiction,” “smoking fiction” or “alcohol fiction” that were then limited to books for children (which can often be done in the “advanced search” option, in a “limits” box on the results page, or by searching for call numbers that start with “j” or “juv”) would return a good set of results. Many public libraries also used subject headings like “Smoking – Juvenile literature,” but when doing a search that way, the results would often contain both fiction and non-fiction.

The other good thing about the public library is that it’s the perfect place to refer your patron, if the request for

(Continued on page 5)
ISAJE MEETING

By Andrea L. Mitchell, Librarian
Alcohol Research Group, Berkeley, CA

September 2003

The International Society of Addiction Journal Editors, known now by their acronym as ISAJE, met outside London this year on the campus of the Royal Holloway College in Egham. One of the theme topics of this year’s forum concerned ethics, with presentations and group discussions on various ethical issues and problems which editors face in their professional work.

Also very enlightening was a futurist talk by Desmond Reaney, Head of Business Development, Journal Sales, and Marketing at the Institute of Physics Publishing, on the evolution of electronic media, in particular the academic journal and what editors should be considering if they want to stay the course in journal publishing. According to Mr. Reaney, electronic journal publishing is the future, and that future is already upon us.

Of special interest to SALIS members, Dr. Tom Babor, Associate Editor of Addiction, and Kerstin Stenius, Editor of Nordisk Alkohol and Narkotikatidskrift are currently working on a Guide to Scientific Publishing in Addiction Journals which will include: journal name, theme, publisher, editor, ownership, editorial policy, content coverage, language, issues/year, subscribers, major substances/disorders considered, peer review process, rejection rate, impact factor, etc. In addition, the Guide will cover other relevant topics, such as how to choose the appropriate journal for your article, how to determine authorship, how to use citations, the editorial decision-making process, and ethical issues in addiction publishing such as plagiarism, scientific fraud, etc. According to their work so far, “there are more than fifty-two journals in eighteen languages [currently] devoted primarily to the dissemination of scholarly information about addiction and related health problems”. Indeed, I am sure this will be a reference document which many of us will find very useful.

As SALIS’s representative to this fifth annual meeting, I presented an update on the Virtual Clearinghouse Project. Although the response was mainly positive from the group, at least one of the editors from an Elsevier journal was somewhat worried. His comment was that easier access to government reports afforded by the VC-ATOD, might curtail the need for journal articles in which only a subset of the data is presented. Someone else reminded him that the journal article may offer review and analysis.

Overall, this meeting gave me a much broader view of the challenges which editors face in their work. And it certainly was fun to finally meet some of the people who I have corresponded with over many years.

New From NIAAA


2004 Membership Dues

The deadline for 2004 membership renewals is January 31, 2004. The membership form will be available on our web site in the middle of October. Please note the increase in dues as decided by the SALIS Board in April. Note, too, that all SALIS full members will be receiving a free subscription to Manisses’ Addiction Professional. A one year subscription is $127 for libraries and institutions.
children’s materials isn’t really in your library or organization’s purview. For your own acquisitions needs, it’s perfect because you can actually take a look at the books you’re interested in. Are the story and artwork entertaining and lively? Does the message seem like a good one for kids, or is it confusing or vague? Does it seem like a book little kids will be able to enjoy, but not destroy? These are just a few issues you might want to consider before selecting a book to add to your collection.

Barnes & Noble.com (www.barnesandnoble.com)

Whether you like the companies or not, it’s hard to deny that their web sites are extremely useful resources for librarians. Not only can you find complete purchasing information (publisher, ISBN, price, etc.) about a book, but you can read a variety of professional and personal reviews, which provide a fast and easy way to determine whether a book is worth suggesting to someone, or even acquiring for your collection. To get to a list of B&N’s children’s books on substance abuse from their home page, click on “Children” at the top, then do a search for “Substance abuse.” I couldn’t figure out a way to sort out the fiction from the nonfiction, but for the most part, it’s fairly easy to distinguish from the title, and if not, then certainly by taking a look at the item’s description and reviews. Amazon.com also has a substance abuse bibliography for children, though their list is shorter and focuses primarily on non-fiction. For the Amazon list, click on "Books" from the home page, then "Children's Books," "Science, Nature, & How It Works," "Health," and finally, "Substance Abuse."

Horn Book (http://www.hbook.com)

This is by far one of the most useful resources I came across in my investigation. Horn Book, started in 1924, is an organization that specializes in publications about books for children and young adults. Not only do they publish a magazine that is sort of like a “Booklist” for kids, but they have an on-line catalog that lets you search through their enormous collection of materials and reviews. The only downside is that they charge for access to that catalog ($55/year); however, you can register for a free trial account that will allow you full access for a day.

Their search engine allows for a lot of limits – you can search by age group, keyword, subject heading, and even fiction or nonfiction, as well as the usual author, title, and publisher fields. There are four subject headings useful for SALIS librarians – “substance abuse,” “substance abuse – alcohol,” “substance abuse – drugs,” and “smoking.” Each record contains a description of the book, including critical commentary not only about the quality of the story, but also the appeal of the illustrations and overall presentation. And each book is rated by Horn Book staff, using a scale of 1 to 6, where 1 is the highest approval rating and 6 the lowest.

OCLC’s WorldCat

Most of us know about WorldCat and have used it many times. But perhaps you’ve never noticed how easy it is to limit your searches to materials for juveniles? All you have to do is click on “Expanded Search” and set the limits to “juvenile” and then “fiction” and you’re off! Though they don’t let you filter that “juvenile” category any more tightly (it includes children and young adults), once you get your list of results, the full records contain information about the appropriate age groups, as well as a brief description of the book and the holdings in libraries around the world.

Journals about Books for Kids

Mary also suggested that SALISers take a look at some of the journals that focus on children’s books, many of which have had special issues about substance abuse literature for kids. Some of the publications she herself consults often are Booklist and Booklinks (both published by the ALA), School Library Journal, and Publisher’s Weekly. Most public libraries carry subscriptions to some or all of these journals.

Some Suggested Titles

No time for searching? Here’s a list of some suggested titles, culled from all the sources discussed above.

1. Dutton C. Not in Here, Dad! Hauppauge, NY : Barron’s Juveniles, 1989. ISBN: 0-8120-6105-5. Grades K-3. The Smith family has a nice life, tarnished only by Mr. Smith’s vile smoking habit, which makes everyone miserable. Eventually, and not without difficulty, Dad stops smoking and joins his family as a vehement anti-smoker.

Will I use *African American*, the controlled term, or will I use *Black*, a term that is being taken back by this community and accepting it as positive? Will I use the term accepted by the mainstream community and established as “controlled” or will I use the term used by my clientele so that they can do their own searches? Certainly, a controlled vocabulary and the structure provided by a thesaurus will determine the terms to be used when performing a query. Still, the question of what term should be selected as controlled remains open. Perhaps we have to consider and be open to the possibility that more than one term can be accepted, and that when establishing controlled vocabulary, we accept popular terms as options to be included in the thesaurus. I am not sure what the right answer is or what terminology I will decide to use. I don’t think my problem will be easily resolved.

The field continues to bring new terms like *health justice*, *communities of color*, *popular education*, and *social justice*, while old ones like *people of color*, *black*, and *queer* may be coming back. As expressed during the discussion following the session, there is still much debate to follow.

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**Children's Books from page 5**


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**Commonly Used Terms from page 3**

**Book Review from page 2**

Drug use is presented as solely a political rather than a public health issue. Sullum argues that addiction is rare, even among heroin users. He consistently underestimates the likelihood of addiction by regular users of drugs. He totally ignores the ugly reality of how addiction affects individual lives, along with the public health and social and economic costs that accompany intoxication, dependence, and addiction. I think what disturbs me about this book is that it has a cold heart. Sullum never comes right out and says that as a libertarian he believes people and their children have the right to become addicted and to hell with them, but isn't this what he means?

Despite its radical message, Sullum's book has received mostly positive reaction. The user reviews at amazon.com are uniformly complimentary, and the newspaper reviews that I have read have also generally been kind, and in my opinion, much too easy on the author.

So why has the book been received so warmly? I think primarily because many readers agree strongly with its opposition to the War on Drugs. Sullum does a creditable job of pointing out the woeful inconsistencies and occasional hypocrisy of our drug laws. But while he makes many points worthy of discussion, I don't think that overall this one-sided book adds much to the debate.
ALCOHOL POLICY INFORMATION SYSTEM

The first column highlights the recently released web site on alcohol policies, the Alcohol Policy Information System (APIS), which adds to the many existing U.S. web resources on state alcohol policy. Most of these resources focus on practical issues related to drinking and driving and exist to promote advocacy and support policy advocates. However APIS (http://alcoholpolicy.niaaa.nih.gov) differs from these resources because its scope is broader, and because the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) (http://www.niaaa.nih.gov) developed it to support and facilitate alcohol research. Launched in June 2003, APIS is a web-based tool that provides authoritative, detailed, and comparable information on alcohol-related policies in the United States, at both state and federal levels. This column is based on a review of the APIS web site and conversations with Gregory Bloss, APIS project officer, Division of Epidemiology and Prevention Research at NIAAA.

Development

The impetus for APIS came from the recognition, both at NIAAA and among members of the scientific community, of the need for research to advance understanding of how public policies might help to reduce alcohol-related problems. Because accurate and consistent data is needed to advance the body of research on specific alcohol policy outcomes, NIAAA developed and designed APIS to provide researchers with reliable and comparable data on state and federal alcohol-related policies.

NIAAA sought input from the future users from the project’s inception. To assess needs about the scope and features of such a system, NIAAA commissioned a feasibility study in 1998, and then convened an expert meeting of alcohol policy researchers. Following the award of a contract in September, 2001 to the CDM Group, Inc. to establish, operate, and maintain the APIS, researchers continued to serve as consultants to offer feedback on the content and the system’s interface. The beta-testing of the web interface by a small set of researchers resulted in additional refinements to the search interface, page layouts, and descriptive information available on the site.

In addition to researcher input, NIAAA examined comparable resources to gather ideas for presentation and content. Principally NIAAA used the Alcohol Policies: State Enacted Bills Database (http://www.epi.umn.edu/енаcted/) as a starting point for APIS. This web database, developed by the Alcohol Epidemiology Program (AEP) at the University of Minnesota, includes bills enacted from 1998 through 2000 pertaining to all aspects of alcohol policy. The full-text of each bill is available and AEP applied subject indexing to each bill. APIS expands on the AEP database in scope, level of indexing, synthesis of data, and format. The AEP database is still searchable on the web, but it is no longer being updated with the advent of APIS. In addition to the AEP database, the NIAAA project officer met with staff from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to discuss lessons learned on the development of the State Tobacco Activities and Tracking System (http://www2.cdc.gov/nccdphp/osh/state/).

To address the needs of researchers, APIS provides two separate, yet complementary, tools: the Detailed Information on Selected Alcohol Policy Topics and the Archive of Alcohol-Related Bills and Regulation. The Detailed Information component provides a state comparison of selected policy topics, while the Archive is a searchable database of all state and federal bills and regulations related to alcohol. To enhance the organization of the Archive, APIS staff created the Alcohol Policy Classification System (APCS) to define and index each bill and regulation.

The Archive is broader in scope than the Detailed Information component and is more current. It is useful to find specific policy changes in a state and to get a sense of how various state legislatures are treating a topic. However the Archive houses “raw data,” that is not easily comparable across states. The Detailed Information compiles and analyzes this raw data and provides a synthesis of state policies in a comparable manner for research purposes.

The Archive and Classification System

The goal of the Archive of Alcohol-Related Bills and Regulation is to capture every bill or regulation related to alcohol policy enacted at the state or federal level. The Archive includes bills and regulations enacted since January 2002, and it will be updated with new bills. For each bill or regulation, there is a brief summary that notes its relevance to alcohol, the full-text of that bill or regulation, and date the item was enacted. Another unique feature of the Archive is the inclusion of the full-text of the statutory or regulatory code(s) as amended by that bill or regulation.

The sophisticated search interface to the Archive allows users to search by state(s), date of enactment or adoption, and by APCS categories. Note that the date that a bill or regulation went into effect is not indexed or searchable.

The interface also provides a means to search the full-text of the bills and/or regulations. However, because the developers encourage users to search for policies by the

(Continued on page 8)
classification scheme initially, the full-text search feature is not readily apparent, located at the bottom of the search screen.

This classification system provides a hierarchal indexing system to categorize each bill and regulation in the archive by one or more alcohol policy areas and when applicable, by one or more “cross-cutting” dimensions. Both the classification system and the indexing of the classification were tested during its development. APIS staff has designed the classification with future growth in mind. Each area has an “other” category for unspecified policy to capture new and emerging policy issues.

The classification includes two sections. A three-level hierarchy of “Alcohol Policy Areas” which comprise of nine major policy areas:
- Alcoholic Beverage Control
- Taxation and Pricing
- Advertising, Marketing, and Mass Media
- Transportation, Crime, and Public Safety
- Health Care Services and Financing
- Education
- Public Services, Functions, and Programs
- Employment and Workplace
- Other Alcohol Policy Areas

APCS also includes a “Cross-cutting Dimensions” hierarchy that covers other factors important in defining a law—including demographics, type of beverage, and penalties.

Detailed descriptions are available for each category in the APCS. The descriptions can be found under the APCS section of the web site, but also as rollovers on the Archive search screen, which is where and when the searchers will need to reference them. The search interface has been designed to take advantage of the hierarchal nature of the classification system. Users can easily search in the Archive for a very specific type of policy, for all laws in a particular category, or all categories.

**Detailed Information**

APIS adds value to the raw data in the Archive in the **Detailed Information on Selected Alcohol Policy Topics.** This component provides in-depth comparisons of state policies on selected alcohol-related topics. The comparisons can be customized by state and/or date and are displayed in table format. These tables can then be downloaded as data files (in .TSV, or tab-separated variables format) and used in statistical programs.

Currently, Policy Topics include specific policies in the following areas:
- Alcohol Control Systems (i.e., retail and wholesale distribution systems for various beverages)
- Keg Registration
- Beverage Service Training and Related Practices
- Alcohol Beverage Taxes
- Blood Alcohol Concentration
- Vehicular Insurance Exclusion
- Insurers’ Liability for Losses Due to Intoxication

Additional Policy Topics are planned and are currently in various stages of development.

Each Policy Topic includes the following information:
- An overview of the policy
- Description of the variables used to define the policy
- Relevant text of each statute or regulation (with a few exceptions when permission to use full-text was not available)
- Maps with state comparisons
- Summary of related federal laws, if applicable
- Detailed explanatory notes about the comparison and limitations to the data
- References

The coverage of policies by date varies for each Policy Topic. Most topics have tables that compare policies in effect as of January 2003, and others as of January 2002. Historical information is available for a few topics. For example, users can create comparison tables on BAC with policies in effect as of January 2002, or over time from 1/1/1998 through 1/1/2002. Note that unlike the Archive, the date in this component is the date the policy went into effect, not the date of enactment or adoption.

The strength of this component is the synthesis of state policies into a comparable manner for research purposes. Another plus is that APIS goes out of its way to provide the detailed notes about the inclusion and exclusion of data for each topic. Users must view “limitations” before accessing the tables and explanatory notes are included in the downloadable tables. Many databases or compilations do not make “selection criteria” available to end-users. APIS recognizes that these specifics are particularly critical for research.

**Maintenance and Updates**

NIAAA views APIS as a work in progress. The project is currently funded for 5 years and NIAAA is committed to updating the site and expanding the number of topics. Future usability testing is planned, and developers anticipate changes to the system. In addition, NIAAA welcomes comments and suggestions on the site.
Most importantly, the content of the Detailed Information section will be expanded. A number of Policy Topics are in development and NIAAA plans to add Policy Topics in the Fall 2003 related to underage drinking and alcohol and pregnancy.

As noted earlier, the date coverage of the Policy Topics varies. Unfortunately there is no set schedule for closing this gap. Note that the Archive will always be more current than the Detailed Information. New bills and regulations will be added to the Archive at intervals based on when they are enacted or adopted. However, developing a new policy topic for the Detailed Information section requires extensive legal research. Project staff members are developing a schedule for completing new policy topics and updating topics already covered.

**Marketing**

As previously mentioned, the intended audience of APIS is the research community. NIAAA rolled out APIS at the Research Society on Alcoholism Meeting in July 2003 to introduce APIS to its primary constituents. NIAAA will also market APIS at other meetings, including the 2003 American Public Health Association conference to reach out to a broader research audience.

To document the usage of APIS, NIAAA will be tracking hits to the site, referring sites, and the search terms users entered to find APIS. However NIAAA does not have a mechanism in place to monitor how APIS is specifically being used in research projects. Hopefully, APIS Staff will find a way to learn how researchers are using APIS and for what research projects. This information could be posted on the site and would be helpful for other researches to review.

**Summing Up APIS**

APIS has a broad and ambitious scope, and a narrow user focus. The subject coverage is not comprehensive yet, but the information available now is well presented. Given the complex nature of the content, the site is relatively easy to use and navigate. Because the developers involved the intended users in the development process, the tool has been shaped for their use.

For those doing research on the outcomes of alcohol policy measures, APIS offers the data that documents policy. However it is not a tool to actually do the research per se. Non-researchers may also find uses for APIS, by looking up a specific policy in a state and finding out what is going on in a particular policy area. In addition, APIS covers administrative regulations related to alcohol policy, something not covered in most other resources on the topic.

Because of APIS’ scope and intended research use, there are situations when it would not be a useful source of alcohol policy information:

- APIS does not include a narrative comparison of state policy--the state comparisons are coded for research purposes.
- Alcohol policy on the local level is not included.
- Legislation in process is not tracked.
- Case law is not included, so it would not be of use for an attorney conducting legal research.
- Coverage of policy related to penalties or enforcement is limited.

Further, APIS is not a resource for general alcohol information or data on use, consumption, or even outcomes of specific policy measures. While references are provided for each Policy Topic, most are limited and primarily just link to ETOH, NIAAA’s Alcohol and Alcohol Problems Science Database. ETOH covers policy research, but it might be more helpful if APIS provided the specific ETOH descriptors that describe the Policy Topic. Individuals looking for literature on policy research will be served better elsewhere.

**OTHER SOURCES ON U.S. POLICY**

If APIS does not meet your need for alcohol policy information, there are other sources for alcohol policies on the web. They cover the topic differently, and fill in some of what is not covered on APIS, especially in the area of drinking and driving issues.

For those looking for a general overview on state alcohol policies, there are two good places to start:

- AEP developed a guide for the ImpacTEEN Project, Alcohol Policies in the United States: Highlights from the 50 States [http://www.impacteen.org/chartbooks.htm]. This report provides a snapshot of alcohol policy in the states through 2000.
- The National Liquor Law Enforcement Association makes available The Alcohol Beverage Control Enforcement: Legal Research Report [http://www.nllea.org/reports/ABCEnforcementLegalResearch.pdf], a state-level analysis of twelve policies (e.g., keg registration, licensing, advertising) that pertain to alcohol beverage control enforcement in the areas of underage drinking and impaired driving. This research is current through January 2003 and includes specific state enforcement and penalty information activity.

(Continued on page 10)
Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) features a section on Alcohol and Traffic Safety Laws (http://www3.madd.org/laws/) on its web site. Users can choose to view which states have various laws related to drunk driving and underage drinking. The feature provides a narrower scope than APIS, but it also includes information related to penalties such as administrative license revocation. While MADD provides a general definition of each policy area, the specifics on the policy in that state are not included. For those wanting those specifics, a link to the state legislative web site is provided. Also note that the date of coverage is not included. The MADD web site also has other information on alcohol policy, including:

- Rating the States 2002 (http://www.madd.org/stats/0,1056,5546,00.html), a report card on the status of alcohol- and other drug-impaired driving in the U.S. The report is useful as a snapshot for what is going on in each state and includes state comparison of laws. The specifics of the law in each state are not included.
- Fact sheets and links covering enforcement, 0.8 BAC levels, and minimum drinking age laws.

Users can find additional resources on drinking and driving policy on the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) web site including the National Conference of State Legislature’s Online Tracking Database (http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ncsl). This database provides more in-depth coverage of transportation-related policies than does APIS, but does not cover many of the alcohol-related policy topics outside the transportation area that are available in APIS. The database also differs from APIS in that it tracks legislation, as opposed to enacted bills. Each record includes the bill number, history of the bill, status of each bill, and a description of the provision. The search interface is easy to use and allows users to find legislation in a particular year by state or topic. Date coverage includes 1998 through 2003. Note that the topics are broad, so users cannot expect to search for a specific policy as they can searching APIS. For example, users should use “General DUI” for most drinking and driving issues including various penalties and policy related to sobriety checkpoints. In addition, one can find legislation of interest under the “Teen Driver Issues,” including graduated driver licensing systems (GDLs).

NHTSA also provides an overview of various policies through its State Legislative Fact Sheets (http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/outreach/safesobr/19qp/factsheets/index.html). Topics include .08 BAC, ALR, GDLs, open container laws, and repeat intoxicated drivers policies. The fact sheets cover which states have the policies and research on implementing and effectiveness of the policy, but unfortunately are not dated.

If you want another comparison on traffic safety laws related to alcohol, check out the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety (IIHS) State Law Facts (http://www.highwaysafety.org/safety_facts/safety.htm). The State Law Facts are updated continuously, as state legislatures enact and/or amend their laws. The DUI/DWI Laws section includes a comparison of BAC, ALR, and penalties updated through August 2003. In addition, IIHS provides a fact sheet on a topic not found elsewhere--state court decisions on sobriety checkpoints. The fact sheet includes citations to common law and statutes relevant to the constitutional and other issues raised by sobriety checkpoints.

If you need policy information related to drinking and driving or underage drinking, you have a range of resources to choose from. Many of these are particularly useful for advocates and provide narrative summaries about the policies. However many of the sources lack details on state laws or indicate currency of information.

OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

For those interested in learning about alcohol policy beyond the U.S., international resources exist. None of them cover the topic as APIS does for the U.S., but they do provide useful information on the treatment of alcohol policy in other countries.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a good place to start for international data. The WHO Department of Mental Health and Substance Dependence offers two publications (http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/pubs_alcohol.htm) that address alcohol policy:

- The 1999 Global Status Report on Alcohol includes the status of alcohol use and policy for each member country. Information about the controls of alcohol products and problems, and any federal funding for data collection, research, and treatment is noted. In addition, Chapter 8: Alcohol Control Policies is an overview of the implementation of alcohol policies internationally and includes comparisons by country.
- The 2001 Global Status Report: Alcohol and Young People briefly addresses the status of minimum drinking or purchase age laws in selected countries.

The WHO Regional Office of Europe maintains the Alcohol Control Database, as part of the European Alcohol Information System (http://www.who.dk/alcoholdrugs/20020611_1), to track and assess the alcohol...
hol policies and situations within and across countries. Topics include restrictions on alcohol consumption, drunk driving, sales restrictions, advertising, treatment and some elements on implementation of a national alcohol policy. Note that the data is provided in tabular format and specific definitions for each policy and the date coverage are not included.

Other non-U.S. resources include:
- Alcohol Policy Network (http://www.apolnet.org/), an online service devoted exclusively to Canadian alcohol policy issues includes current alcohol-related bills and legislation in the province of Ontario and Canada.
- Brewers Association of Canada (http://www.brewers.ca/EN/index.htm) prepares and sells print resource, the International Survey: Alcoholic Beverage Taxation and Control Policies, which compiles consumption, taxation, and government trends (cost $475 Canadian and $350 American)
- Eurocare (http://www.eurocare.org/), an advocacy organization that provides some information on alcohol policies among their member countries in Europe
- MADD Canada produces Rating the Provinces (http://www.madd.ca/library/prov2003/index.htm), a report similar to the U.S. Rating the States. The study reviews and grades each provincial and territorial government’s impaired driving legislation.
- International Center for Alcohol Policies (http://www.icap.org/) has prepared reports that include an international dimension on various alcohol policy issues. Topics include alcohol and workplace, alcohol and pregnancy, health warning labels, drinking age limits, and BAC. Note that ICAP is sponsored by and affiliated with the alcoholic beverage industry.

Comparing policy issues across countries is difficult. In addition to the range of cultural issues, varying economies, and differing governmental structures, data collection is inconsistent. Further, like the U.S., much of alcohol policy is enacted at the local level not the Federal level.

**ALCOHOL POLICY: WHERE TO GO**

The range of resources available to disseminate information on alcohol policy is abundant and often overlapping. Sometimes it would seem more efficient to have one source to find all the information we need on the topic. But on the other hand, it is great that the topic has coverage for a range of purposes and users. NIAAA’s new product, APIS, joins the mix by bringing a tool for researchers. The next time you have a requestor with a question about alcohol policy, I hope this column serves as a guide to selecting and using the appropriate resource.

The article editor would like to extend a special thanks to Greg Bloss, NIAAA’s APIS project officer, for his assistance.

**RADAR Report from page 1**

among a broad range of organizations to address problems related to substance abuse. The Steering Committee is comprised of nearly 25 members and meets every year to serve as the advisory board to CSAP and to process recommendations and ideas for the operation of the RADAR Network.

Luisa del Carmen Pollard, MA, Chief, Division of Prevention Education at SAMHSA/CSAP, updated attendees on several initiatives. The National Registry of Effective Programs (NREP) was created to screen and select science-based prevention programs based on 18 criteria. Programs are then defined as a Model Program, Effective Program or Promising Program. Out of 872 submitted programs, 52 have been deemed Promising, 46 Effective, and 51 Model.

SAMHSA is also promoting their “Make the Connection” initiative, which focuses on building awareness of the link between substance abuse and HIV/AIDS in communities of color. A Resource Guide, Materials Development Guide, and Culturally-Conscious Curriculums will soon be available to help communities craft culturally-conscious messages.

SAMHSA’s CSAP and CSAT are jointly administering the “One Sky Center: American Indian/Alaska Native National Resource Center.” The objectives of this Center are to promote and nurture effective and culturally appropriate prevention and treatment services for native populations, identify culturally appropriate prevention and treatment practices and disseminate them, and provide training, technical assistance, and products to expand the capacity of practitioners serving the American Indian/Alaska Native population.

Ms. del Carmen Pollard also informally provided updates on other SAMHSA/CSAP initiatives. CSAP will be focusing on evidence-based prevention as opposed to science-based prevention in coming months. There is a sys-
tem similar to the Prevention Decision Support System (Prevention DSS) in the works, but it will be more basic and accessible, and based on community experience versus scientific research. CSAP is also interested in ways to coordinate data collection efforts among the states more effectively. Another coming change is the merging of two SAMHSA clearinghouses, though the changes will not be evident to the public - the National Mental Health Information Center (formerly known as KEN) and the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (NCADI) will be merging to one contract. Ms. Del Carmen Pollard also unveiled the SAMHSA Priorities: Programs & Principles Matrix, explaining that issues of cultural competence, sustainability and fidelity are immediate concerns for the agency.

Barbara Blue, MA, Web Developer at SAMHSA’s National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information, helped us to “Get Wired and Web Wise.” Wireless technology is growing quite rapidly with companies considering such mind-boggling concepts as using hyper-tag technology to enable cell phone and PDA users to click at an advertising poster to access digital information on the topic. Industry leaders are also examining the possibility of storing data on the moon. We learned the basics of web design and content selection, as well as how to promote and market a website. Ms. Blue also led the group through ways to make your page appear near the top of search engine results and how to use meta tags effectively. Webmonkey is a useful online web developer’s resource that offers beginners and advanced developers alike a how-to library with quick reference guides.

While we learned about many valuable resources that are now available or in the works, Steering Committee members also reported on emerging issues, program updates, and suggestions relative to their respective organizations. Steering Committee members were quite interested in learning about the newly-revised SALIS web page, advances in the Virtual Clearinghouse on Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs, and developments with the Elisad Gateway project (Information Gateway on Alcohol, Drugs and Addiction.) Many concerns voiced by SALIS members were reiterated by other organizations as well, including getting free materials shipped overseas and there being a lack of culturally-sensitive resources that are more than mere translations, especially for Hispanic/Latino populations. Committee member suggestions also included providing RADAR members with an electronic list of new NCADI and other agencies’ acquisitions, providing ready-to-use web content on popular topics that information centers could download and use on their sites, organizing a system to publicize other RADAR centers’ acquisitions for the purpose of keeping our own audiences well-informed, and providing prevention alerts in Word and Adobe Acrobat (pdf) versions as well as HTML formats.

The most common concerns among Committee members involved a need for resources that address emerging drug issues, and the lack of culturally-sensitive materials. Several members highlighted an increase in abuse of methamphetamine, heroin, MDMA/Ecstasy, Ketamine, Oxycontin and Ritalin. The rising trend of prescription drug abuse, as well as mixing prescription and over-the-counter medication with alcohol and/or other illegal substances (e.g. drug cocktails) is a concern. The issue of Internet wine sales and underage drinking was also raised. Many members indicated the clear need among agencies and centers for common, consistent language among prevention specialists. A prevention professionals certification system is also needed, as well as training in prevention strategies.

As with any worthwhile meeting, members departed with more questions raised than questions answered. What is our role? What are the core competencies for prevention professionals and for RADAR Network folks? Could we create levels of certification? As we adjourned, we were urged to recognize the strides we have all made in our work and look forward to active collaborations and information sharing as we move forward.

_We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit._ - Aristotle

* SALIS attendees included: Barbara Seitz de Martinez, Indiana Prevention Resource Center; Linda Garrett, Colorado Department of Human Services’ Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division; Stephanie Asteriadis, Nevada Prevention Resource Center; Liz Wilhelm, Washington State Alcohol/Drug Clearinghouse; and Jessica Hinkson, U.S. Department of Education’s Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention

**Online resources:**

Regional Alcohol and Drug Awareness Resource (RADAR) Network:

SAMHSA Priorities: Programs & Principles Matrix:

National Registry of Effective Programs (NREP):
[http://modelprograms.samhsa.gov](http://modelprograms.samhsa.gov)

Webmonkey:
[http://www.webmonkey.com](http://www.webmonkey.com)
New Books

Compiled by Andrea L. Mitchell, Librarian
Alcohol Research Group, Berkeley, CA

Allen, John P.et al. (Eds.) Research on Alcoholism Treatment : methodology, psychosocial treatment, selected treatment topics, research priorities. (Recent developments in alcoholism ; v. 16.) New York : Kluwer Academic/Plenum c2003. 438 p. $150.00 (h) ISBN 0306472589

Ashton, Robert. This is Heroin. London: Sanctuary, c2002. 200 p. $9.95 (p) ISBN 1860744249


Constable, Nick. This is Cocaine. London: Sanctuary Pub., c2002. 200 p. $9.95 (p) ISBN 1860744230


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Owen, Kimberly. The Apple Doesn't Fall Far From the Tree. Frederick, MD: PublishAmerica, 2003. 116 p. $16.95 (p) ISBN 1592869424


Sheridan, Janie and John Strang (Eds.). Drug Misuse and Community Pharmacy. London ; New York : Taylor and Francis, c2003, 256 p. $95.00 (h), ISBN: 0415282896; 224 p. $31.95 (p), ISBN: 041528290X


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**Member News**

Congratulations to George Marcelle, of the ORC Macro/Social & Health Services, Ltd. Los Angeles office, for winning the National Prevention Network's (NPN's) annual Award of Excellence during the group's annual meetings in Arlington, VA on June 3, 2003.


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**Government Documents & Fugitive Literature**


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**Save These Dates**

The 26th Annual SALIS Conference will be held April 20-24, 2004, at the Berkeley City Club, Berkeley, CA. See the SALIS web site (www.salis.org) for more details.

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This September, CHN rolled out a new content management system that is shortening the time for the network to process some 500 additions/revisions a week. Information Specialists used to forward records in Word files, now they enter them directly. The new system will enable the network managers to more easily update the structure and the look of the site. Using the DEVINE platform, CHN is building a sophisticated web-based health information service that they hope meets the needs of the Canadian public for many years.

To view the CHN Substance Use/Addictions Health Centre, visit: [http://www.canadian-health-network.ca](http://www.canadian-health-network.ca) and select the topic Substance Use/Addictions.
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Deadline for next Issue of SALIS News, Vol. 23, No. 4, Winter 2003 is:

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