



The National Center on
Addiction and Substance Abuse
at Columbia University

152 west 57th street
New York, NY 10019-3310

phone 212 8415200
fax 212 956 8020
<http://www.casacolumbia.org>

Board of Directors

Joseph A. Califano, Jr.
Chairman *and President*

James E. Burke
Kenneth I. Chenault
James Dimon
Mary Fisher
Betty Ford
Douglas A. Fraser
Donald R. Keough
LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr., M.D.
Manuel T. Pacheco, Ph.D.
Nancy Reagan
E. John Rosenwald, Jr.
George Rupp, Ph.D.
Michael P. Schulhof

Barbara C. Jordan (1936-1996)
Frank G. Wells (1932-1994)

Substance Abuse and Women on Welfare

June 1994

Board of **Directors**

Joseph A. Califano, Jr.

Chairman and President of CASA

James E. Burke

Chairman of the Partnership for a Drug-Free America

Kenneth I. Chenault

Vice Chairman, American Express Company

James Dimon

President, Chief Operating Officer and Director of Travelers Group

Mary Fisher

Founder of Family AIDS Network

Betty Ford

Chief Executive Officer of the Betty Ford Center in Ranch Mirage, California

Douglas A. Fraser

Professor of Labor Studies at Wayne State University (former President of United Auto Workers)

Donald R. Keough

Chairman of the Board of Allen and Company Incorporated
(former President of The Coca-Cola Company)

Lasalle D. Leffall, Jr., M.D., F.A.C.S.

Charles R. Drew Professor of Surgery, Howard University Hospital

Manuel T. Pacheco, Ph.D.

President of The University of Arizona

Nancy Reagan

Former First Lady

E. John Rosenwald, Jr.

Vice Chairman of The Bear Stearns Companies Inc.

George Rupp, Ph.D.

President of Columbia University

Michael P. Schulhof

Barbara C. Jordan (1936-1996)

Frank G. Wells (1932-1994)

This report was prepared by Jeffrey C. Menill, Vice President for Policy and Research at CASA; Kimberley S. Fox, Senior Program Manager; Jennifer C. Friedman, Research Associate and Gerald E. Pulver, Data Manager. The report was funded by core grants from the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Ford and Robert Wood Johnson Foundations. Data analysis was done by CASA's Substance Abuse Data Analysis Center made possible by a grant from The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation.

Copyright © 1994 by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University

BACKGROUND

Substance abuse and addiction is Public Health Enemy Number One in America. The grim reality, shrouded for so long in our individual and national self-denial, is that any meaningful reform of our health care, criminal justice or welfare systems must mount an all fronts attack on all substance abuse--legal and illegal drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.

The central missions of the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA) are to inform the American people of the social and economic costs of substance abuse and its impact on their lives; to find out what works for whom in prevention and treatment; and to encourage all individuals and institutions to take responsibility for combatting substance abuse.

This study is one in a series examining the costs of all forms of substance abuse to our society. We have already published reports on the costs of substance abuse, to the Medicaid and Medicare programs and the impact of substance abuse on college campuses.' This report examines the extent of substance abuse in the AFDC population and its implications for welfare reform.

THE AFDC POPULATION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program provides financial support primarily to low-income women and their children. In 1993, 14.2 million individuals received AFDC, comprising 4.5 million families. Two-thirds, or 9.5 million, of the recipients are children, representing 13 percent of all children in the United States. The AFDC population is 38 percent white and 38 percent black, with Latinos making up most of the remaining 24 percent. Almost 90 percent of the adults on AFDC--more than 4 million--are women?

The total cost of AFDC in 1993 was 22.2 billion dollars, including 12.2 billion federal dollars. AFDC recipients are automatically eligible for Medicaid, and their coverage under this program costs an additional 36 billion dollars. The combined AFDC cash payments and related Medicaid costs approached 60 billion dollars in federal and state expenditures in 1993.

Overall, 28 percent of adult individuals receiving AFDC abuse or are addicted to drugs and alcohol,* a higher rate than the 20 percent of people in a comparable age group not receiving public assistance. Since almost 90 percent of adult AFDC recipients are female, this report focuses on this population.**

- * Women receiving AFDC are nearly twice as likely to abuse or be addicted to alcohol and illicit drugs than women not receiving AFDC (27 percent compared to 14 percent).***
- * 37 percent of AFDC women 18 to 24 years of age abuse or are addicted to alcohol and drugs.

-
- ***Alcohol abuse is defined as drinking 5 or more drinks in one sitting, two or more times in a month. Drug use is defined as having used illicit drugs in the past year.***
 - ** ***Among adult male AFDC recipients, 34 percent admit using either illicit drugs or alcohol or both, compared to 27 percent of men not on public assistance.***
 - *** ***The analysis of AFDC “women” includes females 18 years of age and older. The analysis of AFDC “mothers” includes females over the age of 14 with at least one living biological child.***

- Mothers receiving AFDC are three times more likely to abuse or be addicted to alcohol and drugs than mothers not receiving AFDC (27 percent compared to 9 percent).

The substance abuse problem in AFDC is not confined to alcohol or one type of drug. Women receiving AFDC are almost twice as likely to use cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana or cocaine as women not on public assistance. Among women on AFDC:

- 50 percent smoked cigarettes in the last month, compared to 29 percent of non-AFDC women.
- 12 percent consumed five or more drinks in one sitting at least two times in the past month, compared to 6 percent of non-AFDC women.
- 23 percent used an illicit drug in the past year, compared to 12 percent of non-AFDC women.
- 17 percent used marijuana in the past year, compared to 8 percent of non-AFDC women.
- 34 percent of AFDC mothers who abuse illegal drugs also abuse alcohol, compared to 17 percent of non-AFDC mothers.

Explore Litigation Insights

Docket Alarm provides insights to develop a more informed litigation strategy and the peace of mind of knowing you're on top of things.

Real-Time Litigation Alerts



Keep your litigation team up-to-date with **real-time alerts** and advanced team management tools built for the enterprise, all while greatly reducing PACER spend.

Our comprehensive service means we can handle Federal, State, and Administrative courts across the country.

Advanced Docket Research



With over 230 million records, Docket Alarm's cloud-native docket research platform finds what other services can't. Coverage includes Federal, State, plus PTAB, TTAB, ITC and NLRB decisions, all in one place.

Identify arguments that have been successful in the past with full text, pinpoint searching. Link to case law cited within any court document via Fastcase.

Analytics At Your Fingertips



Learn what happened the last time a particular judge, opposing counsel or company faced cases similar to yours.

Advanced out-of-the-box PTAB and TTAB analytics are always at your fingertips.

API

Docket Alarm offers a powerful API (application programming interface) to developers that want to integrate case filings into their apps.

LAW FIRMS

Build custom dashboards for your attorneys and clients with live data direct from the court.

Automate many repetitive legal tasks like conflict checks, document management, and marketing.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Litigation and bankruptcy checks for companies and debtors.

E-DISCOVERY AND LEGAL VENDORS

Sync your system to PACER to automate legal marketing.