



NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP ON ALCOHOL MISUSE AND CRIME

MEDIA KIT: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What does NPAMC do?

NPAMC brings together all agencies, organizations and associations that are stakeholders in the issue of alcohol misuse and crime. NPAMC works to leverage the vast amount of research and evidence-based practices, as well as the individual perspectives of each participating group in order to evaluate and recommend concrete policies and programs that federal, state and local criminal justice programs can implement. The ultimate goal: Protect the public by greatly reducing the rate of crime related to alcohol misuse in the U.S.

2. How do you become a member of the organization?

Rather than members, NPAMC is comprised of Participating Organizations. The NPAMC Board of Directors compiled a comprehensive list of every organization that is a potential stakeholder in the issue of alcohol misuse and crime and invited each group to become a Participating Organization. Any group or individual interested in participating in NPAMC is welcome to do so.

3. Do the individual members and their organizations endorse the policies and recommendations that come from NPAMC?

NPAMC is unique in that it works with its Participating Organizations to identify areas of agreement and implement evidence- and consensus-based solutions. NPAMC provides an open forum for research and debate, free of traditional bureaucratic restraint or political limitations. NPAMC captures the views of Participating Organizations via Consensus Statements that reflect the sense of the group, even if some participants do not subscribe to the specifics of each statement or policy. In addition, to the consensus statements, NPAMC has the ability to issue its own policy recommendations that represent only the opinions and recommendations of NPAMC and its board.

4. What if NPAMC's recommendations are in conflict with those of a member organization?

Each individual Participating Organization has willingly engaged in NPAMC and its mission, knowing that not all policies and recommendations issued by NPAMC will be in agreement with every group. Continued participation in NPAMC is at the discretion of each individual organization.

5. What does the term "misuse" mean?

NPAMC defines alcohol misuse as any type of alcohol use that results in harmful consequences, regardless of whether the alcohol use meets the diagnostic criteria for alcohol abuse or dependence.

6. Why does NPAMC just focus on alcohol? Aren't drugs a bigger criminal issue than alcohol?

Alcohol misuse represents the single largest substance abuse issue in the criminal justice system. Drunk driving alone is the most frequently committed substance abuse crime in the U.S., with 1.1 million arrests each year. Estimates are that 80 percent of drug-addicted offenders are also misusing alcohol, either in conjunction with their drug abuse or as a substitute for their drug of choice once they are subjected to regular drug testing. Alcohol is legal and often easier to obtain. When you add other offenses—40 percent of all violent crime and 75 percent of all cases of domestic violence involve alcohol—the issue of alcohol misuse and its relationship to crime has reached epidemic proportions.

NPAMC chose to focus on alcohol because few resources have been invested in effectively managing and monitoring alcohol-involved offenders. However, it would be impossible to deal exclusively with the issue of alcohol misuse without addressing co-occurring conditions involving drug abuse or mental health issues. NPAMC policies and programs will address all three issues.

7. If there are so many organizations that focus on alcohol misuse and crime, why is NPAMC important or necessary?

While there is no shortage of groups that focus on some element of the alcohol misuse and crime issue, the mission of each group is either single-focused (i.e., drunk driving, treatment) or so broadly focused that it makes it difficult for any one organization to research, recommend, advocate or implement effective change at the local jurisdiction level. NPAMC will work to centralize the vast resources available to its Participating Organizations and overcome the political, organizational and bureaucratic obstacles that traditionally slow progress. NPAMC will take advantage of the collective value of each group's expertise when forming policy and driving implementation of best-practice programs.

8. How is NPAMC funded?

NPAMC is funded through private donations from Participating Organizations and individuals.

9. How is NPAMC accountable for the success of the recommendations that they make to criminal justice agencies?

NPAMC's programs and policy recommendations are based on evidence-based tactics and processes brought to NPAMC by its Participating Organizations. In addition, Participating Organizations and their constituents will work to help NPAMC evaluate success on an ongoing basis, providing for real-world testing of programs and solutions. NPAMC represents the country's stakeholders in the issue of alcohol misuse and crime, and both NPAMC and its Participating Organizations are fully invested in the goal of reducing alcohol misuse related crime in the U.S.

10. Does NPAMC have a lobbying arm?

As an advocate for the issues related to alcohol and crime, NPAMC is forming a legislative committee that will identify opportunities to drive legislative change in the way states manage and monitor alcohol-fueled offenders. NPAMC also serves as a resource for lawmakers and other constituents working on related issues.