



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New National Partnership Tackles Issue of Alcohol Misuse and Crime

Federal agencies, corporations, nonprofits working to mitigate epidemic, help budget-stricken criminal justice agencies

February 3, 2009, Washington, D.C. – More than 50 influential organizations met in Washington, D.C, last week to tackle what they say is the most pervasive problem crippling local governments and corrections agencies nationwide: the epidemic rate of crime related to alcohol “misuse” in the U.S.

The meeting was the second for the newly formed [National Partnership on Alcohol Misuse and Crime \(NPAMC\)](http://www.alcoholandcrime.org), a public-private partnership that, according to founder and former MADD Policy Director [Stephen Talpins](http://www.alcoholandcrime.org), represents the first time that the issue’s stakeholders have all come together under the umbrella of a single organization in order to address the problem. “Alcohol-involved offenders are literally paralyzing the criminal justice system by clogging court dockets, caseloads and our jails and prisons. We can no longer afford to simply debate the issue,” says Talpins, a former DWI prosecutor for the Miami-Dade County State Attorney’s Office.

Public Safety, Overcrowded Jails and Prisons, Taxpayer Dollars

In 2008 the Pew Center on the States released [“One in 100: Behind Bars in America 2008.”](http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org) The report paints a grim picture of the burden placed on U.S. penal institutions, where one in every 100 adults in the U.S. is incarcerated. But according to Talpins, you can’t look at that issue without focusing in on the burden alcohol misuse places on the entire system. In its most recent report, [The U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics](http://www.bureauofjusticestatistics.gov) estimated that nearly 36 percent of convicted adult offenders who were under the jurisdiction of probation, jails, prisons or parole agencies had

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been drinking at the time of their offense.

The financial burden on taxpayers and criminal justice agencies is equally telling: In 2000, the U.S. surpassed the \$100 million-dollar-a-day mark in spending to incarcerate individuals with serious addiction problems. “The numbers, no matter how you look at them, are staggering,” says Talpins. NPAMC defines “alcohol misuse” as any type of alcohol use that results in harmful consequences, and specifically criminal behavior, regardless of whether the alcohol use meets the diagnostic criteria for alcohol abuse or dependence.

NPAMC is comprised of and funded by its [Participating Organizations](#), a notable list of federal agencies, nonprofits, research groups and think tanks. Private industry is also represented, including the insurance and liquor industries, as well as pharmaceuticals and companies that manufacture high-tech monitoring solutions for the criminal justice community.

The partnership was established in 2008 specifically to provide an open forum for debate and a platform to build consensus among the stakeholders, as well as a vehicle for driving implementation of new policies and programs at the individual court level. “Our goal, quite simply, is to drive systemic change in the way we manage alcohol misuse in the criminal justice system,” says Talpins. NPAMC has also launched their website, www.alcoholandcrime.org, an information portal that will provide ready access to any up-to-date research, data, reports, articles or other information related to the issue of alcohol misuse and crime.

About NPAMC

The [National Partnership on Alcohol Misuse and Crime](#) is a public-private partnership established to bring together stakeholders in the issue of alcohol misuse and crime in order to effectively change the way the U.S. justice system manages and rehabilitates alcohol-involved offenders. Established in April 2008, NPAMC is comprised of 50 Participating Organizations and their representatives, including scientists and researchers, justice professionals, victims groups, treatment professionals, the corrections industry, pharmaceutical and technology companies, policy experts and distilleries. Based in Washington, D.C., NPAMC operates with two voluntary staff members and is funded by both private donations and sponsorships from its Participating Organizations.