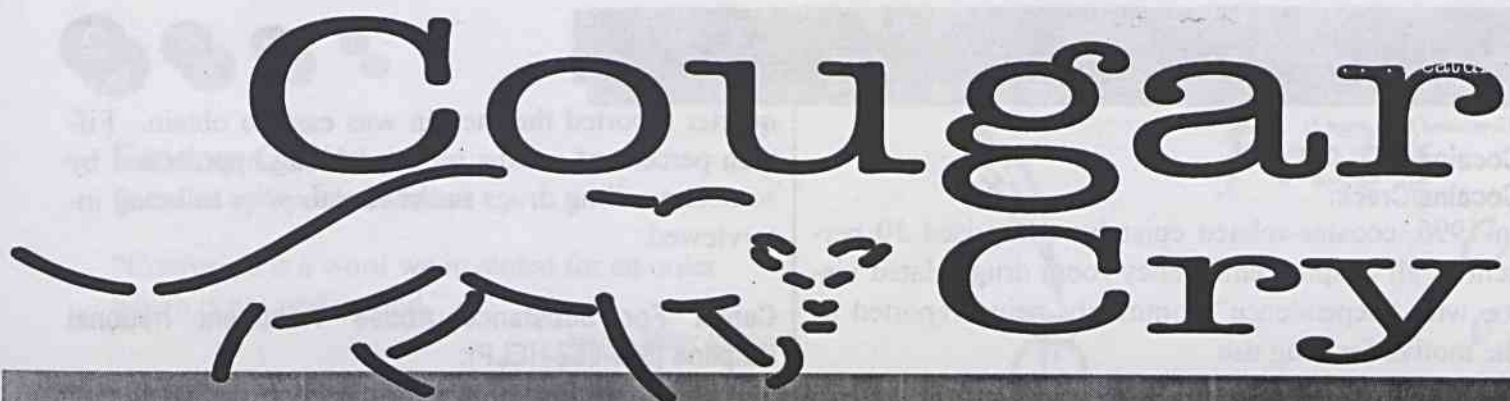


Cougar Cry



Features...

Volume 28 Issue 7

Getting The Facts About Substance Abuse and Treatment

Substance abuse is a major public health problem that affects millions of people and places enormous financial and social burdens on society. It can destroy families, cripple the economy, victimize communities and suffocate the educational, criminal justice, and social services systems. Below are some important facts that relate to substance abuse, addiction, treatment and recovery.

Drug Abuse Among Targeted Populations:

General:

According to the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 13 million people age 12 or older had used an illicit drug during the past month. In addition, 11 million Americans reported heavy alcohol use and 32 million people reported "binge" drinking during the previous month.

Youth/Adolescents:

Use of any illicit drug by students who are warned "a lot" about the dangers of alcohol and drugs by their parents is lower (26 percent) than among students who "never" get parental warnings (37 percent) - a 30 percent relative difference.

Men:

As in prior years, men continued to have a higher rate of current illicit drug use than women (8.1 percent vs. 4.2 percent).

Women:

Adult women who were divorced/separated or never married reported a significantly higher prevalence of

any illicit drug use and problem drug use than adult women who were married.

Pregnant Women:

Among pregnant women, rates of substance use were higher among women age 15-25 than among those age 26-44.

Use of Alcohol and Specific Drugs:

Illicit Drugs:

In the past school year, one quarter of senior high students (25 percent) used an illicit drug on a monthly or more frequent basis.

Alcohol:

Twenty-one percent of state inmates incarcerated for violent crimes were under the influence of alcohol when they committed their crimes.

Marijuana:

Students were twice as likely to smoke marijuana at home than at school (13.5 % vs. 6.5%), and more than four times more likely to smoke pot at a friend's house than at school (28.5 % vs. 6.5%).

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