

## Oklahoma: A State in Need

A five-year study recently completed by the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services had some unsettling conclusions. Using specific criteria, the study found that thousands of Oklahomans demonstrate a need for alcohol and/or drug treatment.

- **Of the state's 2.4 million adults, more than 130,000 – 5 percent of the population – need treatment for alcoholism.** Another 1 percent, or 21,000 people, need treatment for other types of drug use.
- **Women living in poverty are 82 percent more likely to need substance abuse treatment than women not living in poverty.** By comparison, men living at or below the poverty level are 19 percent more likely to need substance abuse treatment than men not living in poverty. Males, however, account for almost three-fourths of Oklahomans in need of treatment.
- **Oklahomans' use of stimulants, such as methamphetamine,** is significantly higher – approximately 42 percent higher – than the national average. The problem is worse among Oklahomans age 26 to 34, who use the drugs at a rate 78 percent higher than the rest of the country.
- **Estimated prevalence of treatment need is as follows:** 5.7 percent for adults in households with phones; 7 percent for adults in households without phones; 9 percent for Native American adults; 25.6 percent for prison inmates; 52 percent for adult psychiatric inpatients; and 66.9 percent for the homeless.
- **By region, the central Oklahoma area has the most people in need of substance abuse treatment, with 8.8 percent,** followed by the **Oklahoma City metro area** at 7.7 percent. Other regions include: **Tulsa metro** – 6.6 percent; **southwest** – 6.2 percent; **northeast** – 5.9 percent; **east central** – 6.4 percent; **southeast** – 5.8 percent; and **northwest** – 5.3 percent.
- **For each Oklahoman needing treatment for drug abuse, 7.5 Oklahomans need alcohol treatment,** a statistic that varies by region and is **worst in the southwest** region, where 15.4 people need alcohol treatment for every one person needing drug treatment. Other regions are as follows: **east central** – 10.4 to one; **central** – 9.5 to one; **Tulsa** – 6.9 to one; **southeast** – 5.8 to one; **Oklahoma City** – 5.4 to one; **northeast** – 4.4 to one; and **northwest** – 4.4 to one.

