



## Substance Abuse Policy Research Program

### An RWJF national program

*The Substance Abuse Policy Research Program (SAPRP)*, first authorized by the Board of Trustees of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) in July 1994, funded investigator-initiated projects that identified and assessed policies to reduce the harm caused by substance abuse. Projects analyzed the feasibility, effectiveness, and likely consequences of these policies. The program helped ensure that the understanding gained through these analyses would be used by decision-makers in the public and private sectors.

SAPRP sought proposals from experts in diverse disciplines such as medicine, health economics, political science, public health, sociology, criminal justice, and law, who sought to use evidence gained in policy-focused research to inform substance abuse policies. The January 2006, 48-month authorization was the final one.

### CONTEXT

*Substance Abuse: The Nation's Number One Health Problem*, an analysis by the Schneider Institute for Health Policy at Brandeis University, published by RWJF in February 2001, reported that "There are more deaths, illnesses and disabilities from substance abuse than from any other preventable health condition. Of the more than 2 million deaths each year in the United States, approximately one in four is attributable to alcohol, tobacco and illicit drug use."

Moreover, "The abuse of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs places an enormous burden on the country. As the nation's number one health problem, it strains the health care system and ... harms family life, the economy and public safety. It gives many children a poor start in life." No population group is immune from substance abuse and its effects, although substance abuse disproportionately affects disadvantaged people.

Researchers at Brandeis further concluded that the use of alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs fluctuated during the past century in response to shifts in public tolerance of

substance use and the effect of political, economic, and social events. Overall, smoking began to decrease in the mid-1960s, drug use in the late 1970s, and alcohol consumption in the early 1980s.

The decreases are attributed to:

- Increased awareness of the health risks
- Government involvement in prevention, intervention, and treatment efforts
- Federal legislation to raise the minimum drinking age to 21 and to ban broadcast advertisements for cigarettes
- Workplace smoking bans
- The development of grassroots efforts and community coalitions directed toward decreasing substance abuse

However, between the early 1990s and 1996, tobacco and illegal drug use increased among youth. Alcohol use among high school and college students remained widespread and problematic. Although the trends in overall use shifted downward again in the late 1990s, a heightened focus on strategies to reduce the harmful effects of substance abuse, especially on youth, remained important.

## **RWJF's Interest in This Area**

RWJF's mission is to improve the health and health care of all Americans, and at the time SAPRP was initially funded in July 1994, one of its four grantmaking goals was to reduce the personal, social, and economic harm caused by substance abuse—tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs.

### ***Building on SAPRP's Predecessor: The Tobacco Policy Research and Evaluation Program***

In the 1980s, the National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society's National Coordinating Committee for Tobacco-Related Research laid the groundwork for an emerging field of tobacco policy research. Before that, little empirical research existed to inform policy-makers about the likely impact of alternative policy measures on cigarette smoking.

In 1990, RWJF funded the Intergovernmental Health Policy Project at George Washington University to produce reports for state policy-makers on issues related to substance abuse. (See [Program Results](#).) Soon afterwards, a broad spectrum of organizations and health professionals reached a consensus on the need for substance abuse research that could be used to inform policy decisions, and they identified priority policy topics.

In response to this consensus, RWJF created the *Tobacco Policy Research and Evaluation Program* and provided \$4.6 million in funding for 22 tobacco policy research projects from January 1992 through December 1994. See [Program Results](#) for more information on the program.

Building on the accomplishments of this program, the 1994 decision by RWJF Research & Evaluation program staff and leadership to expand the Foundation’s policy research focus to include alcohol and illegal drugs was timely—the tobacco program had established RWJF’s leadership in funding substance abuse policy research. No other programs had the same mission as SAPRP; and there was a growing need for credible research to inform the policy development process.

During the 1990s, several national events served to highlight the importance of substance abuse policy research. These events included:

- The proposed Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulation of tobacco
- Litigation against tobacco companies that created a pool of funds through the Master Settlement Agreement
- Increased concern about environmental tobacco smoke
- Welfare reform
- Policy debate about the health effects of needle exchange
- Growing concern about underage drinking and adult intoxication

These events and concerns pointed out the need for additional policy research to guide federal, state and local decision-making. The alcohol and tobacco industries—with billions of dollars in retail sales and advertising and product promotion—can influence public opinion and government policies regarding substance abuse. The public health community sought to counter this influence with effective policies and health promotion activities, and later with effective tobacco control marketing campaigns at local, state and national levels, such as the Legacy Foundation’s far-reaching “truth” campaign.

### ***RWJF’s Other Work in the Field***

Other RWJF national programs have helped advance the environment for policy research and both stimulate and use the findings from SAPRP research. These national programs include:

- *SmokeLess States: National Tobacco Policy Initiative*. A program supporting development and implementation of comprehensive statewide strategies to reduce tobacco use through education, treatment, and policy initiatives. See [Program Results](#).

- *Bridging the Gap: Research Informing Policies and Practices for Healthy Youth.* A program to improve the understanding of the role of policy and environmental factors in youth substance abuse, including tobacco use. In 2008, it expanded its focus to improve understanding of school, community, state and national policies, and environmental factors affecting youth diet, physical activity, and obesity. See [Program Results](#).
- *A Matter of Degree: Reducing High-Risk Drinking Among College Students.* A program to develop model approaches to reduce student high-risk drinking on campus and in the surrounding community by developing college/community partnerships. See [Program Results](#).
- *Reducing Underage Drinking Through Coalitions.* A program to reduce underage drinking problems using strategies that include youth leadership development, coalition enhancement, alcohol policy development, and public awareness campaigns. See [Program Results](#).
- *Fighting Back<sup>®</sup>: Community Initiatives to Reduce Demand for Illegal Drugs and Alcohol.* Support of community-wide efforts to reduce alcohol and drug abuse through public awareness strategies, prevention, early identification, and treatment interventions. See [Program Results](#).
- *Tobacco Etiology Research Network.* A program to bring together leading researchers from a variety of perspectives and disciplines to work collaboratively in the study of the etiology of tobacco dependence in an effort to increase understanding of the development of tobacco dependence. See [Program Results](#).
- *Partners With Tobacco Use Research Centers: Advancing Transdisciplinary Science and Policy Studies.* A program launched by NCI and National Institute on Drug Abuse to apply and integrate advances in molecular biology, neuroscience, genetics, and behavioral science to the challenge of tobacco control. RWJF funded dissemination and policy research and analysis, and supported efforts to communicate scientific breakthroughs in language that policy-makers, the public, and media can easily understand. See [Program Results](#).

RWJF also provided major long-term support for innovative institutions to bring the best resources to bear on the substance abuse problem. These include:

- [Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids](#) (For more information, see [Program Results](#).)
- National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (See [Program Results](#).)
- Brown University Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies
- Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (See [Program Results](#).)
- Join Together (See [Program Results](#).)

- Reducing young people’s exposure to alcohol advertising (See [Program Results](#).)

All of these programs and organizations helped shape the policy environment and create constituencies of advocates and organizations that need credible research to inform their work.

According to a forthcoming retrospective on RWJF’s work in the field of substance use, from 1983 through 2010, the Foundation spent nearly \$700 million in pursuit of the goal of reducing the harm caused by alcohol and other drugs in the United States. RWJF established 33 major national programs and initiatives and supported 1,528 individual grants, representing the largest investment in substance use prevention and treatment ever made by a nonprofit, philanthropic funder.

## **THE PROGRAM**

### **The Program’s Goals**

#### ***Policy-Relevant Research***

The primary goal of SAPRP was to support “research projects that will produce policy-relevant information about ways to reduce the harm caused by the use of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs in the United States.”

More specifically, SAPRP was intended to fund research projects that will “identify and assess policies that can reduce the harm caused by substance abuse; and to analyze their feasibility, effectiveness, and likely consequences.” Research funded by the program was intended to include public policies at all levels—federal, state, and local—as well as private and public organizational policies.

The program’s complementary goal was to “help ensure that the understanding gained through these analyses will be used by decision-makers in the public and private sectors.” This meant going beyond passive dissemination of research evidence to taking a proactive and dynamic stance to communicating with policy-makers, either directly or indirectly through advocacy organizations and the media. It also meant working with the principal investigators and their institutions to maximize their capacity to communicate research findings with policy-makers, advocates, and the media.

#### ***Growing the Substance Abuse Policy Research Field***

The secondary goal of SAPRP was to help “grow the field” of substance abuse policy research by supporting senior investigators and also attracting and supporting new researchers to the field. In keeping with the nature of substance abuse policy, SAPRP encouraged researchers from a wide array of disciplines to seek funding from the program.

In addition to human capital development, SAPRP hoped to nurture the field by leveraging additional support for policy research from other funding organizations and agencies, such as other foundations and federal research institutes.

### ***Working to Achieve These Objectives***

To achieve the program's objectives, the national program office solicited proposals from experts in diverse disciplines—such as medicine, health economics, political science, public health, sociology, criminal justice, and law—who sought to use evidence gained in policy-focused research to inform substance abuse policy.

Proposals addressed public policies at the national, state, or local levels, or private-sector policies within companies, associations, unions, or trade groups. The program focused on topics with little research history, and it supported projects that were unlikely to receive funding from the federal government or other private foundations.

The guiding premise of SAPRP was that policy-makers would use research findings if they were timely, spoke to relevant topics, and were presented in language that was easy to understand. If the results of SAPRP-funded research were disseminated rigorously, the national program office and RWJF staffs believed that this evidence-based information could play an important role in the development of more effective policies to improve the way society addresses substance abuse problems.

RWJF's Board of Trustees authorized the program four times starting from July 1994 through January 2006. RWJF invested more than \$71.9 million in the program, which ended in December 2009. Various program officers in the RWJF Research & Evaluation department managed the program, along with program officers on the Tobacco team and the Addiction Prevention and Treatment team.

### ***Program Management***

#### ***National Program Office and Leadership***

The national program office was located at the Center for Creative Leadership (CCL) in Greensboro, N.C., from November 2003 through the end of the program in December 2009. From 1994 to late 2003, the program was located at the Wake Forest University School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, N.C. The program director was David G. Altman, PhD, who previously served as the deputy director of the *Tobacco Policy Research and Evaluation Program*.

Co-Director was Marjorie Gutman, PhD (who from 1994 to 1997 was the RWJF program officer responsible for SAPRP), working from the Treatment Research Institute in Philadelphia. The deputy director was Andrea E. Williams, MAEd, also located first at Wake Forest University and then at CCL.

The national program office managed the grantmaking process, supervised project selection, provided technical assistance to investigators and prospective grantees, and convened the annual meeting for investigators. It was also charged with integrating the efforts of SAPRP's off-site communications office and technical advisers with national program office activities to achieve the program's objectives.

### **Senior Program Consultants**

SAPRP recruited a group of senior program consultants to assist national program office staff and RWJF in all aspects of the national program. The senior program consultants were integrally involved in determining SAPRP's research agenda, selecting proposals for funding, and providing technical assistance to investigators.

At the beginning of the program, the national program office recruited three senior program consultants, one for each major substance abuse topic area (tobacco, alcohol, drugs). Additional consultants were added to the group to increase capacity and expertise on tobacco and substance abuse treatment issues, as well as to infuse more of a policy-impact perspective into the review process. At the close of the program, nine consultants (seven current) had been instrumental in guiding the program.

They included:

- A legal scholar predominantly focusing on tobacco control
- An epidemiologist specializing in alcohol
- A psychologist specializing in research on alcohol and tobacco
- A physician researcher whose work focused on illegal drugs and HIV/AIDS
- A health economist with expertise in mental health
- A health services researcher specializing in addiction treatment
- An epidemiologist specializing in tobacco use
- A policy-maker with broad research expertise

See [Appendix 1](#) for a list of the senior program consultants.

### **Technical Assistance**

The primary responsibility of the national program office staff was to develop and coordinate the application review process and to provide technical assistance once grants were awarded. The staff also provided pre-award consultations with applicants at every stage of the grant process.

### ***Consultations With Applicants***

In concert with the accepted protocol for peer-reviewed grantmaking, applicants who requested it received verbal feedback about their applications from the national program staff. Each investigator who submitted a letter of intent was asked to complete a survey that provided the national program staff with demographic information (including gender, race/ethnicity, and institutional affiliation) and information about how they had found out about SAPRP.

### ***Annual and Mini Meetings***

One objective of SAPRP's technical assistance effort was to promote sharing of research methods and findings. The annual meeting became a comprehensive policy research conference and training session that not only featured presentations by project investigators but also included interactive poster sessions, networking opportunities, speakers who addressed national policy topics, and enhanced technical assistance opportunities.

The national program office also convened periodic mini meetings—small working sessions for researchers engaged in similar policy areas. The mini meetings helped build relationships among researchers, fostered collaboration, and provided a vehicle for researchers to share methods and findings.

### **Project Selection**

Each year, RWJF issued a call for proposals to encourage experts in a variety of disciplines to submit letters of intent to the national program office in response to guidelines. Letters of intent were evaluated by national program office staff, outside reviewers, senior program consultants, and RWJF staff to determine which applicants would be asked to submit full proposals. Proposals were then evaluated by national program office staff, senior program consultants, and two outside reviewers using a standardized review protocol. Overall, approximately 9 percent of letters of intent received resulted in grant awards.

Over time, 525 individuals served as outside reviewers. Reviewers represented diverse disciplines and perspectives, including economics, epidemiology, law, medicine, and public health.

### ***Investigator-Initiated Studies***

SAPRP funded two types of investigator-initiated studies:

- Small, more rapidly awarded grants for proposals submitted on a rolling basis (under \$100,000)

- Moderate-sized grants for proposals submitted on an annual batched basis (between \$100,000 and \$400,000)

### ***Program-Initiated Special Solicitations***

Starting in 2001, SAPRP began issuing special solicitations seeking proposals in specific policy areas that had been understudied or were particularly pressing. This generated 50 percent more letters of intent than had been received in response to the previous general call for proposals, and there was no decrease in the quality of the applications as judged by the national program staff, senior program consultants, and reviewers.

In addition, in order to provide a more nimble mechanism to fund specific policy studies, SAPRP awarded smaller grants on a rolling basis. For example, small grants were used when a policy was unexpectedly being put into place, and it was important to collect baseline data. As SAPRP unfolded, it also became evident that the smaller grants worked well for studies employing secondary analysis of large datasets.

### ***Targeted Rapid Response***

In addition, starting in 2004, SAPRP tested a funding mechanism called Targeted Rapid Response grants. These even smaller grants were focused on providing funding to the front lines of policy organizations or state and local governments so that they could undertake a highly targeted policy analysis or study for a highly specific and time-sensitive policy purpose.

While advocacy groups, state and local government organizations, and professional or trade associations were originally invited to apply for these funds, and while many expressed an interest in the initiative, the actual response in terms of applications was less than SAPRP staff hoped for.

### ***Diversity Partnerships***

Initially, few minority investigators applied for or received SAPRP grants. The national program office took steps to increase minority representation in the program based on the belief that policy informed by diverse perspectives would more effectively address the persistent gap in health status and access to care among the nation's minority populations.

In addition to normal outreach to minority and other underrepresented groups, beginning in 1998, SAPRP offered Diversity Partnerships as a means of enlisting more minority investigators to join teams already working on SAPRP-funded projects. The goals of these partnerships were to attract and encourage investigators from historically underrepresented groups to enter and pursue substance abuse policy research careers, and to strengthen research projects by promoting the inclusion of diverse perspectives on policy topics.

Under this mechanism, these investigators could apply for a modest grant (\$40,000 per year for up to three years of funding) to conduct a study that supplemented an existing SAPRP study. The principal investigator of the existing larger study served as the mentor for the Diversity Partnership principal investigator.

The national program staff and one of the senior program consultants provided individual support to Diversity Partnership investigators and mentors. The national program office also convened semiannual meetings and workshops for these investigators to network and build skills in areas such as grant proposal writing, scientific paper preparation, time management, and career management.

SAPRP funded 28 Diversity Partnership grants between 1998 and 2008. The Diversity Partnership studies represented each substance area, however, the multi-substance (39%) and tobacco (32%) areas were more heavily represented. Drug studies were 21 percent while alcohol studies represented 7 percent.

Investigators varied from MD, to PhD, to master's degrees; across disciplines; and from individuals whose careers had been straight from undergraduate studies through graduate school to those who had gone back to graduate school a bit later in life after family and other career choices.

The promise of the Diversity Partnership program component is evident from its adaptation by RWJF for its *New Connections* program, and within other RWJF-supported research programs—*Active Living Research*, *Healthy Eating Research*, and *Health Care Finance and Organization*.

### Assessment of Effectiveness

National program office staff conducted an assessment of the effectiveness of the Diversity Partnership effort by holding focus groups with grant recipients; conducting phone interviews with them at the middle and end of their studies and one year after; conducting phone interviews with mentors at the end of the studies; doing an archival document review; and tracking the accomplishments of these investigators while they were funded by SAPRP and for several years subsequently.

The Diversity Partnership investigators reported a number of benefits of SAPRP grants, including being a principal investigator for the first time, enhancing research skills, learning valuable lessons about managing a project, enjoying the support of mentors, and taking advantage of the training and networking opportunities provided by the national program office.

The assessment found that Diversity Partnership investigators achieved a variety of career accomplishments since receiving an SAPRP grant. These included:

- Receiving tenure track faculty appointments
- Entering a doctoral or medical school program and completing the course work
- Receiving a postdoctoral fellowship
- Completing a master's degree in a new field of study
- Becoming the principal investigator on substance abuse grants from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Peter F. McManus Charitable Trust, and the Claude Pepper Institute at the University of Michigan
- Being promoted to vice president in an independent research organization

### ***Commissioned Reviews of Scientific Knowledge***

In 2001, RWJF made a \$58,000 grant to the national program office<sup>1</sup> to fund six SAPRP-commissioned reviews, each of which synthesized a body of literature in a selected area of substance abuse policy research. The reviews were designed to:

- Inform and advance the field of substance abuse policy research by summarizing findings and identifying future research needs in selected areas
- Inform future priorities and grantmaking by SAPRP
- Identify the implications for policy-making

The first three commissioned reviews covered clean needle access, perinatal substance abuse, and welfare reform as they related to substance abuse. Although commissioned reviews included both SAPRP research and non-SAPRP research, review topics were selected only if SAPRP projects addressed aspects of the policy.

- A policy briefing on needle access laws was held in Washington to inform advocacy groups about the current state of science and policies related to providing sterile needles to injection drug users in order to prevent the spread of AIDS and other communicable diseases.
- The commissioned review on perinatal substance abuse was the subject of a SAPRP teleconference with more than 110 professionals, representing state legislators, state-based grassroots and advocacy groups, treatment professionals, and state agency officials.
- The commissioned review of welfare reform was published in the *Milbank Quarterly* in 2005.<sup>2</sup>

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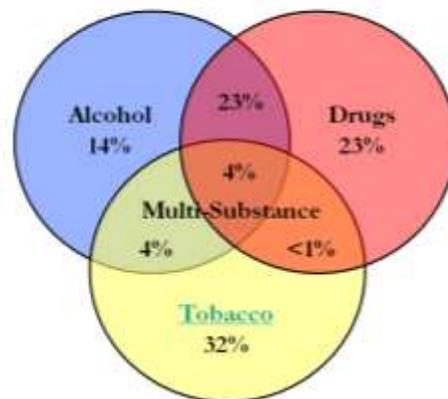
<sup>1</sup> Grant ID# 43570

After the first three papers were completed, the national program office stopped commissioning them because they took too long to produce. In 2005, the synthesis role was taken on by the program's Knowledge Assets. See [Knowledge Assets](#) for more information.

## Funding Profile

Through 12 funding rounds up to December 2009, RWJF funded a total of 363 projects under SAPRP. The majority of these projects focused on specific topics that few researchers had previously studied. The diagram below shows the breakdown of SAPRP grants by substance area.

### SAPRP Grants Funded by Area



Some projects addressed more than one topic. For example, more than 83 percent of projects have addressed some element of treatment (for alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or multi-substances) and more than 13 percent have addressed criminal justice.

Additional topics addressed included clean indoor air, marketing, access and availability, taxing and pricing, enforcement policies, driving while intoxicated (DWI) and employment/workplace issues around substance abuse. See the [topic list](#).

In total, the program received 4,033 brief proposals; solicited 1,139 full proposals; and awarded 379 unique grants.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Metsch LR and Pollack HA, "Welfare Reform and Substance Abuse." *Milbank Quarterly*, 83(1): 63–97, 2005.

<sup>3</sup> The number of grants is larger than the number of projects because of transfer grants, which occur when an investigator moves to another institution, and some projects that received renewal grants.

## Evaluations and Program Evolution

There were three external evaluations of SAPRP and one self-assessment.

### **1997 and 1999 Evaluations**

The Lewin Group conducted evaluations in 1997 and 1999. Lewin found that SAPRP was an important funding resource for substance abuse policy research, especially for descriptive studies that addressed the combined effects of multiple substance abuse policies, legal/ethical analyses, and policy process studies, which were rarely supported by federal agencies or private foundations. Evaluators also concluded that SAPRP was demonstrating progress in building the field of policy research in four ways:

- Bringing new researchers into the field
- Increasing the number of experienced investigators doing policy research
- Expanding funded research projects to areas not previously studied
- Leveraging existing research findings to stimulate subsequent work

The evaluations also made recommendations to RWJF and national program staff that led the program to increase its efforts to attract diverse applicants through the Diversity Partnership effort and to synthesize its findings in commissioned reviews. See [Appendix 2](#) for a fuller account of findings and recommendations.

### **2003 Self-Assessment**

In 2003, the national program office conducted surveys of principal investigators to look at the following questions:

- What was the evidence that SAPRP-funded research is policy relevant and had informed policy-making?
- What was the evidence that SAPRP had generated scientifically high-quality research?
- Was SAPRP continuing to fill a needed niche given other funders and funding?
- How had SAPRP contributed to “growing the field?” Had investigators obtained subsequent grants for studies building on SAPRP ones?
- How had SAPRP interacted with RWJF staff and other RWJF-funded programs in their work? With non-RWJF funded programs and entities?
- How had the national program office structure, which advised and managed the program, worked?

See [Appendix 3](#) for the findings.

## **2005 Assessment**

Prior to the final reauthorization of the program, in 2005, RWJF commissioned a fourth assessment by Seth Emont, PhD, a former RWJF evaluation officer who became principal of White Mountain Research.<sup>4</sup> The assessment surveyed policy-makers, practitioners, and advocates regarding their knowledge about SAPRP and its research, and their preferences for various knowledge products. The findings from the evaluation spurred the national program staff and communications director to consider more innovative ways to package and disseminate bodies of evidence to non-research audiences.

Approaching the last phase of the program, staff realized that a still more accessible, efficient, and effective vehicle was needed for synthesizing findings per policy area. The Knowledge Assets format was developed as a result.

## **Communications Strategies and Results**

### **Communications Strategies**

In April 1998, a communications professional, Prabhu Ponshe, MA, LLB, joined the national program office as communications director to develop and implement a strategic communications plan. He established a communications office at Matrix, which was part of the national program office but based outside Washington.

As director of communications, Ponshe provided communications planning, media relations, training, and technical assistance to both the national program staff and the investigators to maximize dissemination of research findings so that they played an important role in the policy development process. SAPRP's strategic communications plan had the following objectives:

- Position investigators as a source of information and commentary on emerging substance abuse policy issues to local, state, and national media
- Promote major findings from SAPRP-supported studies to media and scientific outlets in an accurate and balanced manner
- Provide communications support to SAPRP events to broaden the scope and impact of the program
- Present SAPRP as a source of policy-related research findings and communications products and services

Some investigators required basic communications assistance such as announcing grant awards or preparing press releases. Others required more sophisticated assistance such as

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<sup>4</sup> Grant ID# 52897

media training, message framing, how to speak at news conferences, and how to present legislative testimony.

Ponkshe worked directly with Burness Communications (based in Bethesda, Md.) through a subcontract with the national program office; Burness provided support for large-scale SAPRP dissemination activities such as major news conferences and policy briefings.

SAPRP's communications efforts helped investigators to bridge the gap between their research and the policy environment around substance abuse issues. It sought to increase the use of research findings by decision-makers and enable timely, credible research to inform any important substance abuse policy debate. SAPRP conducted its communications effort on several levels at once and used many platforms to pursue its strategic communications objectives.

## **Communications Results**

### **Media Briefings**

SAPRP held two media briefings and two policy briefings a year with an average attendance of 25 to 100 people, including reporters and legislative staff from the U.S. Senate, House and congressional committees; representatives from government agencies such as the National Institute on Drug Abuse, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the U.S. Department of Justice, the FDA, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); and members of policy advocacy groups.

### **Publication in Peer-Reviewed Journals**

Publishing the results of SAPRP-supported research in peer-reviewed journals was a core communications objective and a critical component in confirming the program's credibility.

Most SAPRP investigators published their results in one or more peer-reviewed journals, including the *American Journal of Public Health*, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Preventive Medicine*, and *Tobacco Control*.

### **Targeted Media Efforts**

Targeted media efforts focused on SAPRP project findings included:

- A media briefing regarding substance abuse among pregnant women presented by five SAPRP researchers, televised on C-SPAN, with coverage in the *Washington Post* and on CNN

- A news conference on the impact of clean indoor air laws on New York City’s hospitality industry, presented by three SAPRP researchers whose projects were featured in a theme issue of the *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*, covered by the *New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, AP, several hotel/hospitality trade magazines, and many New York radio and television stations.
- A news conference on the implementation of the Synar Amendment presented the findings of a SAPRP researcher in conjunction with the publication of his results in the *Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine*, a journal published by the American Medical Association. ABC World News Tonight interviewed the investigator and aired a story on the night of the news conference. The *Washington Post*, *USA Today* and the *San Francisco Chronicle* also ran stories as a result of the news conference.

The Synar Amendment requires states and territories to enact a law prohibiting the sale of tobacco to minors and to enforce that law in a manner that could reasonably be expected to decrease the availability of tobacco to minors.

- A public forum in California at which a SAPRP-funded researcher presented the policy implications of his findings to county administrators. His research examined how federal laws that changed the definition of disability to exclude most substance abusers affected California residents with substance abuse problems.

SAPRP's communications office issued 15–20 news releases each year to trade and popular media with an average pickup by 30 media outlets, including radio, television, newspapers, newsletters, and websites. SAPRP research was often featured in leading national dailies and radio/television newscasts including the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, ABC World News Tonight, NPR Marketplace and CNN. These releases resulted in requests for additional information from members of Congress, state legislators, local policy-makers, and advocacy groups.

Most SAPRP investigators presented their work at professional conferences, and many have given testimony to federal, state, and local government representatives about their research (or it has been cited in legal documents).

### Website

The SAPRP [website](#) provides comprehensive information on the program, including [program statistics](#), [news releases](#) summarizing funded projects and their key findings and policy implications and [Knowledge Assets](#), each of which has a comprehensive body of information focused on a particular substance abuse issue. The site also includes resources for investigators, policy-makers, and the media.

By clicking on the “[View Grants by Type](#)” drop-down box at the top of the page, viewers can search grants alcohol, drugs, multi substance, and tobacco. To the right, projects can

be viewed by [principal investigator](#), [topic](#), and [start date](#). The website also includes publications and abstracts for all projects for which findings have been published. Topics with grant descriptions are:

- Access and Availability
- Cessation
- Child Welfare System and Substance Abuse Treatment
- Clean Indoor Air
- College Drinking
- Cost of Treatment
- Counter-Advertising
- Disparities in Treatment
- Drug Testing
- Employment and Workplace
- Enforcement/Sanctions
- Harm Reduction
- Health Care Services and Financing
- Impact of Managed Care on Treatment
- Impact of Tobacco on Vulnerable Populations
- Industry Strategies
- Internet Sales
- Legalization/Depenalization
- Litigation
- Marketing
- Medicinal Marijuana
- MSA (Master Settlement Agreement)
- Native Americans and Alcohol Policy
- New Products and Technology
- Office-Based Treatment
- Organizational Context of Treatment
- Other Alcohol Policy Areas
- Outlet Density
- Perinatal Substance Abuse
- Prevention/Education
- Smoking and Weight
- Smoking Risk Perception
- Smokeless Tobacco/Cigars
- Social Norms
- Taxes and Pricing
- Treatment Access
- Treatment Delivery
- Treatment Effectiveness
- Treatment for Opioid Dependence
- Treatment within the Criminal Justice System
- Welfare Reform
- Youth Smoking



## Knowledge Assets

Emont's 2005 assessment led program staff to realize that policy-makers and policy influencers needed an even more accessible product that synthesized findings per policy area and could, at the same time, provide more detailed information if wanted. The communications director and national program staff developed the [Knowledge Assets](#) format as a result. Each provides policy-makers, journalists, and researchers accurate and peer-reviewed insights on policy research related to alcohol, tobacco, and drug use.

Each Knowledge Asset was written by a leading researcher and reviewed by a team of independent researchers or experts. It includes an overview of the topic; implications for policy; research results from SAPRP-funded and other landmark studies; and charts and graphs to clearly convey the scope of the issue. Each asset also includes links to other resources and key researchers in the field.

“The Knowledge Assets offers perspective and context for a wide variety of contemporary challenges surrounding alcohol, tobacco and drug use in modern society,” said Altman, the program director. “They help answer practical questions that are often asked in the public and policy debates surrounding substance abuse issues.”

Knowledge Assets also highlighted the available scientific evidence to help resolve conflicting viewpoints. Each Knowledge Asset also is summarized in a policy brief.

In its summative report to RWJF, national program office staff noted, “The Knowledge Assets provide the many people involved in issues related to substance abuse with a template for engaging in meaningful discussions and making informed decisions.”

- Key Results summarized the findings from leading research studies funded by SAPRP and other institutions.
- Key Resources provided the sources for the key results as well as additional information, such as interviews with leading experts in a field.
- Key Researchers provided names, institutional affiliation, and e-mail addresses of researchers whose work is featured in each Knowledge Asset.

Knowledge Asset topics are:

- Alcohol Retail Policy
- American Indian and Alaska Native Alcohol Policies
- Barriers to Treating Alcohol and Drug Problems Among Adolescents
- Binge Drinking on College Campuses and in Communities
- Buprenorphine Treatment for Opioid Addiction
- Cigarette Taxes and Pricing
- Clean Indoor Air
- Cost Effectiveness of Substance Abuse Treatment in Criminal Justice Settings
- Drug Testing of Adolescents in Schools
- Drug Treatment for Drug-Abusing Criminal Offenders: Insights From California’s Proposition 36 and Arizona’s Proposition 200
- DUI Policy
- Increasing the Use of Smoking Cessation Treatments
- Internet Cigarette Sales
- Minimum Legal Drinking Age Policy
- Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Substance Abuse Treatment
- Substance Abuse and Co-Occurring Disorders
- Substance Abuse and Healthcare Costs
- Substance Abuse & Welfare Reform
- Substance Abuse Treatment Benefits and Costs
- Syringe Access Interventions
- Treating Opioid Addiction in an Office-Based Practice

## **OVERALL PROGRAM RESULTS**

Over the years, SAPRP funded 363 projects that contributed to the overall debate on substance abuse policies and the outcome of policies that emerged following the debates. SAPRP researchers held briefings for policy and advocacy groups, participated in news conferences, testified before legislative committees, filed court briefings (including in the United States Supreme Court), served as expert witnesses in court proceedings, and affected regulatory changes, especially at the federal level.

In its summative report filed with RWJF in February 2010, the national program office provided a series of case studies, summarized below, to look at how SAPRP-funded research has informed policy. Other examples below appeared in a previously posted version of this report.

## Policy Change: Answering Questions That Policy-Makers Are Asking

### *The Synar Amendment*

During the late 1980s and early 1990s, tobacco use among youth was characterized as a pediatric epidemic. In 1992, Congress enacted the Synar Amendment requiring states and territories to enact a law prohibiting the sale of tobacco to minors and to enforce that law in a manner that could reasonably be expected to decrease the availability of tobacco to minors. The federal Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) was mandated to withhold block grant funding from noncompliant states.

A few years after the law passed the obvious question raised by policy-makers was whether or not the Synar Amendment had achieved its purpose. With funding through SAPRP,<sup>5</sup> University of Massachusetts researcher Joseph DiFranza, MD, conducted studies to ascertain whether states had enacted a tobacco sales law, conducted enforcement inspections, penalized violators, and conducted a statewide survey. The studies also examined whether DHHS regulations and actions were consistent with the statutory requirements of the Synar Amendment.

- **Findings.** In the first study in 1997, DiFranza found that both the states and DHHS were violating the statutory requirements of the Synar Amendment, rendering it ineffective. Very few states had implemented effective enforcement programs, and national surveys confirmed that there had been no measurable reduction in the availability of tobacco to youths.

These findings served notice to the states and to the federal government that their implementation of the Synar Amendment was being scrutinized by independent researchers. DiFranza got similar findings in the following few years. As he expanded his research on the Synar Amendment, he analyzed data from 1997 to 2003 and was able to demonstrate that there was a drop in cigarette sales to youth associated with improved implementation and enforcement of the Synar Amendment.

- **Results.** DiFranza's studies demonstrated that research can perform a valuable function of providing oversight on implementation of policies and in evaluating the impact of a policy on behavior (in this case, youth purchase of cigarettes).

### *Alcohol Ignition Interlocking Devices*

To address the public safety risks posed by habitual offenders of laws related to driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol, the Colorado General Assembly authorized a voluntary alcohol ignition interlock pilot program in 1995 (Senate Bill 95-011).

An alcohol ignition interlock is an electronic device that is mounted in a vehicle's dashboard and connected to its ignition system. The driver is required to blow into the

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<sup>5</sup> Grant ID#s 31604 and 45644

device. If the driver's on-the-spot BAC (blood alcohol concentration) is above a pre-determined level, the vehicle cannot be started. Interlocks also require "rolling re-tests" while the car is in motion.

In 1999, four years after the original legislation, a law was passed mandating interlock installation for drivers with two or more alcohol offenses within a five-year period. The new law mandated the interlock for a period of one year at the time of license reinstatement.

Through a SAPRP grant,<sup>6</sup> University of Colorado researcher William Marine, MD, MPH, conducted a study to determine whether or not the interlock devices program had enrolled high-risk repeat offenders and the effect of interlock use on repeat drunk driving offenses.

- **Findings.** Marine's research, co-funded by the State of Colorado, found that the voluntary interlock program enrolled 900 DUI offenders in its first three years of operation. While this was an important achievement, it represented a very small fraction of the more than 37,000 Colorado motorists arrested for DUI in 1998.

Marine also found that offenders who had interlocks installed had a lower rate of rearrest for alcohol-related offenses, compared with all the other groups. The rearrest rate was highest in the comparison groups that did not apply for or did not install interlocks.

- **Results.** In part because of SAPRP-funded research, the Colorado legislature required, after 2001, that repeat alcohol offenders have an ignition interlock device installed on their vehicle(s) before they could reinstate their driving privileges. Reinstated licenses were restricted to the use of vehicles equipped with an approved ignition interlock device for a period of at least one year.

### ***Additional Examples***

Additional examples of policy change based on SAPRP research include:

- **New York City clean indoor air laws.** SAPRP-funded research on the effect of smoke-free laws on restaurants and bars in New York City provided justification for New York City to enact the laws. SAPRP investigators were invited to testify before the New York City Council. A city council member said, "We are glad we passed the current smoke-free legislation. These studies justify our actions."
- **Effect of youth's exposure to antismoking messages.** An SAPRP-funded study found that teenagers regularly exposed to antismoking messages are half as likely to start smoking as those not exposed, and that teenagers who own tobacco promotional items are twice as likely to become established smokers as those who do not own such items. NPR's Morning Edition covered the findings: "Two new studies provide the first hard evidence that aggressive antismoking advertising can deter youth

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<sup>6</sup> Grant ID# 28805

smoking, but that tobacco industry marketing works with teens.” A Massachusetts official said that states no longer have to operate their campaigns in a vacuum, knowing from the first long-term study that antismoking messages work.

- **A link between state and local alcohol policies and fatality rates.** A SAPRP study ranked cities and states by the extent and effectiveness of alcohol-related policies. Associated Press quoted traffic safety expert Steven Flint: “Albuquerque ranks near the top of a list of cities with high numbers of alcohol-related traffic fatalities ... New Mexico has some excellent laws against drunk driving ... it's time for executive agencies and the courts to do their jobs.” The study continues to be cited when major traffic fatalities are attributed to alcohol use.
- **Safe and drug-free schools.** Two states conducted a full review of effective drug prevention programs based on SAPRP research findings. “Public schools in 11 states use drug prevention programs not proven by scientific study and could run afoul of a federal law requiring program assessment. A 1998 federal policy requires that drug prevention programs be assessed for effectiveness,” according to an Associated Press article.
- **Substance abuse provisions in the welfare reform reauthorization process.** Four SAPRP investigators presented data on substance abuse and welfare reform during an SAPRP briefing held in the U.S. Senate. Citing research from the SAPRP briefing, David Butler of Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation told the U. S. Senate Finance Committee, “Research indicates that a three-month limitation on treatment participation will be too restrictive and for some hard-to-employ recipients is unlikely to yield positive results .... The odds of working were greatly increased for each month of treatment duration .... This suggests that more than three months of treatment is necessary.” The full text is [online](#).

## **Policy Change: Raising New Questions and Providing the Answers**

Substance abuse policy research, as demonstrated by SAPRP investigators, has been as much about raising new questions and providing answers for those questions as it has been about answering questions that are already being asked. This function of research often changes the platform for policy debates, but it is only possible when a robust field of researchers is challenged to develop creative policy-based solutions to vexing problems.

### ***Office-Based Methadone Treatment***

Methadone has been used in the treatment of heroin addiction for more than 50 years and has been found to be effective in reducing drug use, improving social behavior and personal productivity, and preventing the spread of infectious diseases. Traditionally, all recovering heroin addicts have had to get their methadone from specialized treatment centers through daily visits.

The treatment centers are highly regulated through federal, state, and local laws and are difficult to get started and maintain. Almost 200,000 patients receive treatment at these specialized centers by going in every day for their dose of methadone. There are many more needy patients waiting to get treatment than the centers can support.

The questions raised by SAPRP grantee,<sup>7</sup> Joseph Merrill, MD, MPH, of the Harborview Medical Center in Seattle were: Is it possible to transfer some patients from community opioid treatment programs (OTPs) to primary care facilities in order to create space for those waiting to get methadone from OTPs? And what have been the complexities for a primary care facility to get the necessary legal waivers to provide methadone treatment?

- **Findings.** Merrill found that providing methadone treatment in a primary care setting is feasible and can result in healthy outcomes for patients addicted to heroin who are stable on methadone, including fostering a more productive life by allowing for fewer treatment visits and more take-home medications.

His studies also found that primary care facilities can get successful results in helping patients recover from heroin addiction, while providing treatment for other health problems and improving physician attitudes about addiction.

- **Results.** The Seattle studies recognized that getting the necessary regulatory approvals to provide methadone in a primary care setting can be a complex task, but it also provided early indications of how those regulatory processes could be streamlined and navigated.

Merrill demonstrated that providing methadone at primary care facilities, even after getting regulatory approvals, only helps the minority of patients who have achieved long-term stable recovery; it does not substantially improve access to initial methadone treatment.

### ***Drugged Driving***

Each year, millions of Americans reportedly drive shortly after using marijuana or cocaine. The question is: Why is it difficult to identify, prosecute, or treat drugged drivers? That question was posed by SAPRP grantee, J. Michael Walsh, PhD, of the Walsh Group.<sup>8</sup> Walsh is a former executive director of the President's Drug Advisory Council.

The answer Walsh found was that there were no national standards for testing drugged drivers, and too few police officers were trained to detect drivers who may be under the influence of drugs. Walsh developed a consensus report in 2002 based on input from national experts in substance use, traffic safety, auto insurance, state and local law

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<sup>7</sup> Grant ID#s 34895 and 44114

<sup>8</sup> Grant ID# 40023

enforcement, advocacy groups, federal agencies, legal services, state and county attorneys, and research organizations.

- **Findings.** As laid out in the consensus report, laws affecting driving under the influence of drugs fell into three main categories: (1) Some states required that the drugs render a driver incapable of safely operating a vehicle; (2) other states required that the drug “impair” the driver’s ability to operate a vehicle safely or require the driver to be “under the influence of or affected by an intoxicating drug”; and (3) a small group of states have “zero tolerance” or “per se” laws, which make it a criminal offense to have a drug or metabolite in the body while operating a motor vehicle.

Walsh found that the first two types of laws, which were in existence in 42 states, made it extremely difficult for prosecutors to prove that the impairment of the driver was directly related to the drug ingested. The zero tolerance or per se laws, found in eight states (Arizona, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Rhode Island, and Utah) at the time, simply made it a criminal offense to operate a vehicle while having a drug or a drug metabolite in one’s body or bodily fluids.

- **Results.** The SAPRP-funded study on drugged driving has been the basis of several subsequent reports, and according to an opinion piece published by Walsh in the *Washington Post* on June 17, 2007, 15 states had passed legislation to make it easier to convict drugged drivers by establishing per se standards.

### **Policy Change: Softening the Ideological Rhetoric**

Policy debates around substance abuse often touch other social issues, such as poverty, race, housing, and welfare. There is also some stigma associated with individuals who are dependent on drugs and alcohol. And these individuals by themselves are not a “political constituency.” These conditions have made for a significant amount of ideological rhetoric in the policy debates involving prevention and treatment for drug and alcohol abuse. Research-based evidence has often had a softening effect on these sharp policy debates.

### **Crack Babies**

The problem of crack cocaine took society by surprise in the 1980s and quickly became known as an epidemic. A particularly horrifying and polarizing part of it was the use of crack cocaine by pregnant women.

Early reports linked prenatal cocaine exposure to physical and mental damage to the child and resulted in a premature rush to judgment that these children were beyond hope and help and destined to become wards of society, and that draconian penalties were appropriate for the mothers. TV and newspaper pictures of feeble infants, especially Black babies, shaking in the hands of nurses and other caregivers, made it easy to blame and shame the mothers involved in drug abuse.

To look at the reality and not the drama of cocaine-exposed children, SAPRP funded Barry Lester, PhD, of Brown University from 1996 to 1999 to develop a computerized database containing all of the published studies on prenatal cocaine exposure and child outcomes.<sup>9</sup>

- **Findings.** With all of the information from each study in the database, Lester was able to demonstrate that of the 100 plus published studies, only five had followed cocaine exposed children through school age. He was also able to show that the effects of cocaine use by mothers on their infants were mild and subtle, and they were not observed among all children.

The review of the literature also showed that even subtle effects will impact a large number of children and require additional resources from society. The good news was there was no evidence showing these children to be irreparably damaged. Through prevention and intervention programs, it was possible to identify the children who needed help and provide services to facilitate their normal development.

- **Results.** Lester's work also put the problem within the context of environmental factors such as poverty, stress, violence, and poor parenting—factors that can affect a child even without exposure to drugs in utero. Because of these factors it was difficult but not impossible to tease out the effects of cocaine exposure in utero. His research was cited in several court cases, including the United States Supreme Court, challenging the validity of sanctions against women who used cocaine during pregnancy.

### ***Homeless Alcoholics***

Significant amounts of taxpayers' dollars in every major city go toward police and emergency health care services that are provided for the homeless and especially homeless alcoholics.

A King County (Seattle) initiative called Housing First, which provided housing and support services for homeless alcoholics without promises of sobriety, resulted in a sharp political debate. Policy-makers, ordinary citizens, and business interests argued the alcoholics should be left on the street rather than providing them with services that would siphon money from other efforts.

- **Findings.** The debate has since nearly ended, at least in Seattle, after SAPRP grantee Mary Larimer, PhD, of the University of Washington found that Housing First saved taxpayers more than \$4 million over the first year of operation.<sup>10</sup>

During the first six months—even after considering the cost of administering housing for the 95 residents in a Housing First program in downtown Seattle—the study

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<sup>9</sup> Grant ID# 28878

<sup>10</sup> Grant ID# 44771

reported an average cost savings of 53 percent or nearly \$2,500 per month per person in health and social services—compared to a control group of homeless alcoholics.

The study also found that stable housing reduced drinking among homeless alcoholics, even though Housing First did not require participants to stop drinking. The longer alcoholics stayed in the program, the less they drank.

- **Results.** The SAPRP-funded study generated interest from many other cities around the country. Larimer and her authors noted: “In most U.S. cities, people with behavioral health disabilities die on the streets far more frequently than any other subset of the homeless population. Before they die, they use large amounts of taxpayer-funded services in the health care and criminal justice systems.

“The King County housing program was created to stabilize people and stop them from endlessly cycling through emergency rooms, prisons and other crisis institutions, reducing the amount of taxpayer money spent on them.” Since the results of Larimer’s study were published, additional locales (e.g., New York City) have adopted the “housing first” approach. The Corporation for Supportive Housing, with funding from RWJF, has used this model to providing housing and supportive services to chronically homeless people. See [Program Results](#).

## Policy Change: Developing Game Changers

While policy research has been influential in the three categories discussed above, this last category of “game changers” shows that policy research by several independent researchers, repeatedly examining an issue from multiple perspectives, can result in major shifts in policy-making.

### **Tobacco Taxes**

During and through most of the 1980s, the idea of raising state or federal excise taxes on tobacco products drew much criticism as an unsound economic policy or as an unfair penalty on a legitimate industry and its loyal customers.

Fast forward to 2009 when there was a sense of inevitability and muted opposition to a 61-cent federal tax increase on tobacco to pay for expansion of the Children’s Health Insurance Program. Also, by November 2009, the average cigarette tax across all states was \$1.34, with 46 states, the District of Columbia, and several U.S. territories having increased their cigarette tax rates more than 95 times between 2002 and 2009.

During the intervening years, the evidence showing the health consequences of smoking became conclusive. But that evidence in itself would not have resulted in as much change as has occurred.

- **Findings.** The intervening years were also marked by one study after another, funded by SAPRP and others, showing that tobacco taxes not only raised revenue, but that

they reduced the incidence of smoking among several vulnerable groups, including youth and pregnant women. This created the traction for the national and grassroots advocacy movement engineered by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. (RWJF founded the campaign and has been its major supporter. See [Program Results](#).)

SAPRP over the years supported 33 studies on tobacco taxes and pricing, resulting in 97 publications on this issue by the end of the program.

One of first studies on tobacco taxes was awarded by TRDRP (Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program) in 1993 to Frank Chaloupka, PhD, at the University of Illinois at Chicago. That study found youth smoking was about three times more sensitive to price than was smoking among adults, with estimates indicating that a 10 percent price increase would reduce the prevalence of youth smoking by nearly 7 percent, while lowering cigarette consumption among youth who did smoke by about 6 percent.

Subsequent research by SAPRP grantees and others has continuously demonstrated the beneficial effects of raising tobacco taxes, leading to an overwhelming body of evidence that tobacco taxes are an effective way of reducing consumption.

- **Results.** The combination of this kind of policy research and advocacy has changed the policy debate around tobacco taxes.

## Policy Impact Survey

SAPRP asked each funded investigator to respond multiple times to an e-survey to assess the policy impact of their research. Surveys have found that SAPRP-funded projects have 96 noted instances of policy impact.

Impacts have occurred at local, state, and federal levels, as well as on organizational and institutional levels. Two specific examples of research not included elsewhere in this report, are:

- “My research on Internet tobacco sales was cited in Congressional Testimony at the first ever hearing related to Internet tobacco sales. See: HR 1839: Youth Smoking Prevention and State Revenue Enforcement Act: Hearing before the Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property of the Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives, 108th Congress. Serial No.19. Washington, May 1, 2003.”
- “After the DUI papers were published and received media coverage, I received calls from state legislators and their aides re how they might modify relevant policies in their state.”

## High Quality Research

The quality of the research under SAPRP can be judged from publications and the additional grants that have been leveraged by the researchers.

## ***Publications***

As of the close of the national program office in December 2009, SAPRP completed grants had produced almost 1,000 reported publications. Twenty books had been published based on the research and more than 775 articles published in peer-reviewed journals. Each grant produced an average of 2.7 publications.

There was some difference in total publications by the amount of the award; with awards more than \$100,000 averaging 3.6 and those under \$100,000 averaging 1.9.

## ***Leveraged Funds***

Another way to judge the quality of the research is to look at whether researchers have received additional funding to continue their work on the same topics.

As of December 2009, \$140 million in research funding via 200 spin-off grants had been awarded to SAPRP investigators subsequent to their SAPRP funding. Most of the grants came from the National Institutes of Health (65), other federal agencies (35), and foundations (38). Thus, each SAPRP \$1 invested in an investigator generated more than \$2 of additional research funding from other sources.

Often, this other funding supported studies that were more costly than SAPRP could fund since maximum SAPRP funding was \$400,000 per grant. Numerous investigators reported that without SAPRP funding and the data and publications that resulted from it, they would not have been as successful obtaining funding for their subsequent policy research proposals.

## **Building the Field**

SAPRP enhanced the careers of both newer and established investigators and attracted researchers from other disciplines to enter the field of substance abuse policy research.

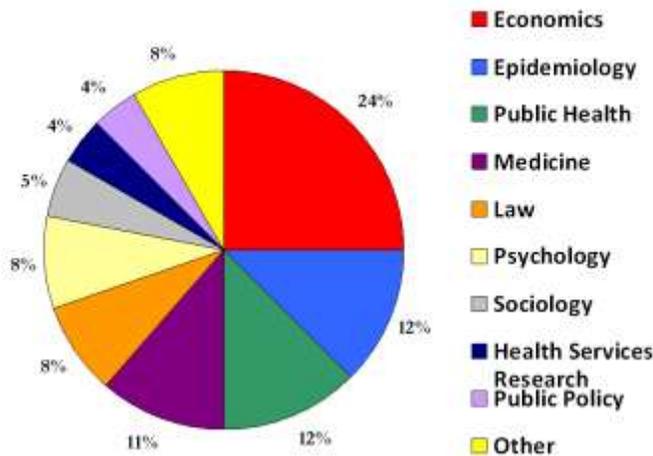
About 20 percent of the investigators who received SAPRP funding reported being in the early stages of their careers, and more than two-thirds of the investigators had not received previous funding related to substance abuse policy research.

At the same time, SAPRP had long funded many researchers experienced in the field whose work has been cited often in scientific and policy deliberations. The following illustrates SAPRP's impact on the growth of the substance abuse policy research field:

- Forty-four percent of investigators were new to the field when they received funding from SAPRP.
- Forty percent of investigators indicated that substance abuse policy was not their primary area of research focus.

- More than 20 percent of SAPRP investigators described themselves as belonging to ethnic minority groups (not counting the Diversity Partnership investigators).
- SAPRP principal investigators (PIs) included a wide array of disciplines including anthropology, economics, sociology, medicine, history, and political science, as shown in the chart below.

### Disciplinary Diversity: SAPRP PIs



### SAPRP’s Guidance to Other RWJF Programs

SAPRP’s strategy and approach to funding policy-focused studies became a model for other RWJF national programs and initiatives. These include:

- *Active Living Research*, a program to support investigator-initiative research to identify and assess structural, environmental, and policy changes with the potential to increase population levels of physical activity; for more information see [Program Results](#). SAPRP staff provided extensive consulting on start-up issues, and David Altman, SAPRP’s national program director, serves on the scientific advisory committee.
- *Healthy Eating Research*, a program to support studies that identify and evaluate policies and environmental approaches with strong potential to improve children’s diets, targeting children and adolescents ages 3 to 18 and their families; for more information see [Progress Report](#). SAPRP staff provided extensive consulting to the national program office on start-up issues.
- *Public Health Law Research: Making the Case for Laws That Improve Health*, a program to promote effective regulatory, legal, and policy solutions to improve public health; for more information see [Progress Report](#). This program funds legal analyses and research to learn about the impact of specific laws and regulations on public health. It is modeled after SAPRP and Ponske, who served as SAPRP’s

communications director, is now communications director for *Public Health Law Research*.

- *Bridging the Gap: Research Informing Practice for Healthy Youth Behavior*, a program to improve understanding of school, community, state, and national policies and environmental factors affecting youth diet, physical activity, obesity, and tobacco, alcohol, and drug use, and to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions to prevent youth obesity and tobacco use; for more information see [Program Results](#). SAPRP-funded research seeded *Bridging the Gap* efforts on tobacco, alcohol, and drug use; representatives from both programs have presented at each other's annual meetings; some *Bridging the Gap* researchers have been funded under SAPRP, with funding filling in gaps in science identified by *Bridging the Gap* researchers.
- *Partners with Tobacco Use Research Centers: Advancing Transdisciplinary Science and Research Studies*. SAPRP provided training on policy research; consulting to partners' staff at start up, reviewer lists, and information on managing the review process. See [Program Results](#) for more information on the program.
- *Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids*. SAPRP provided the science base for the overall strategy of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, educated local advocacy groups on emerging science, and provided emerging research in support of the campaign's specific legislative efforts. See [Program Results](#) for more information on the campaign.

## LESSONS LEARNED

Program lessons were drawn from the program's summative report to RWJF and also from interviews with: Program Director David Altman; Co-Director Marjorie Gutman; Communications Director Prabhu Ponkshe; Deputy Director Andrea Williams, from and Senior Scientist/Senior Program Officer, C. Tracy Orleans, former RWJF Senior Program Officer Victor Capoccia, and former RWJF Senior Program Officer and Evaluator Seth Emont.

1. **Investment in the generation of knowledge to inform policy generally needs to be of several years duration.** This allows evidence to accumulate across individual studies eventually yielding products that synthesize a body of evidence on major policy topics. Synthesis can take the form of policy briefs, knowledge assets, and systematic scientific reviews. One study, or even several, rarely yields sufficient evidence to credibly guide policy compared to a set of well-designed, well executed studies. Further, a multi-year initiative allows the ongoing, iterative process of research to influence the policy environment. New evidence can be brought to bear on the policy process, which can inform the development of new policies which can, in turn, engender further research to assess their implementation, effectiveness and consequences. Longer term funding also permits the program to become a more visible and credible source of information for researchers, the media, policy-makers

and advocates. (Summative Report; Program Co-Director/Gutman; Communications Director/Ponkshe)

2. **Develop a qualified and committed group of senior program consultants to advise the program on operations, grant review, and strategic planning.** Over the course of the program, the consultants (see [Appendix 1](#)) were invaluable assets. Importantly, they not only assisted the national program office with important basic functions (strategic planning, proposal review) but also sometimes individually served additional functions. For example, two of the consultants were primary authors on sections of the research agenda. One consultant co-led the Diversity Partnership grant component of the program office for six years. (Summative Report)
3. **Adopt a customer service orientation in relationship to funded investigators and applicants.** This approach involves communicating expectations clearly and early to applicants and funded investigators, staying focused on funding only the highest quality research, treating applicants/funded investigators with civility and respect, carefully considering and soliciting suggestions for improving program operations and products, and providing oral feedback to applicants who were denied funding. This orientation led both to improved proposals upon resubmission and to improved relationships with applicants and investigators. (Summative Report)
4. **When researchers from different disciplines examine different aspects of an issue, they provide policy-makers with a less fragmented picture of the issue.** This comprehensive picture can lead to more thorough discussions of findings and to policy recommendations or options that are more responsive to the real-world environment. SAPRP's mini meetings brought together researchers who were examining the same policy area, allowing them an opportunity to share research methods and findings.
5. **For example, SAPRP funded several projects related to substance abuse among pregnant women.** Collectively, these projects examined ways to identify the problem, the nature of existing policies in this area, the limitations of current policies, and ethical and political challenges that arise in setting policies to reduce perinatal substance use. The collection of research laid out the entire picture of the problem and potential solutions. One of the researchers was asked to write a portion of the brief presented to the U.S. Supreme Court regarding the constitutionality of taking blood or urine samples from pregnant women in order to analyze them for drug use. (Program Co-Director/Gutman; Communications Director/Ponkshe)
6. **To attract investigators from underrepresented groups, it is important to not just try the usual outreach.** In 1998 SAPRP staff decided to employ a new strategy to attract a diverse cadre of researchers: offering Diversity Partnership grants, which were supplemental grants piggybacked onto grants to experienced investigators who could act as mentors. The Diversity Partnership component was later adopted by other RWJF national research programs. (Summative Report)

7. **The SAPRP experience suggests that promoting innovation, experimentation, and risk-taking can pay off.** This stance extended to all aspects of SAPRP, from the studies funded to field building and dissemination efforts. There were times when the review committee would select a study that was “outside the box.” Provided that the science was strong and the potential for policy relevance was high, SAPRP regularly funded studies that were “flyers.”
- For example, a study that was completed in 2001 examined whether a Colorado law (implemented in one community) that provided ignition interlock devices to drivers who had gotten a DUI citation and whose licenses had been suspended was effective in reducing further driving under the influence. At that time, interlock devices were first being pilot tested as a policy tool. Since this study was funded, interlock devices have become an increasingly well-known and tested part of criminal justice response to drinking and driving.
  - In another example, SAPRP awarded a grant to a partnership between a university and a human services organization in Seattle to study the feasibility and effectiveness of “housing first,” an approach that provides housing to homeless individuals with alcohol dependence without requiring that they first become abstinent. None of the members of the review committee had heard of the housing first approach but thought it merited a rigorous test as a new option for this longstanding problem. Since the positive results of that study, additional locales (e.g., New York City) have been adopting the housing first approach. (Summative Report)
8. **Strategic communications of research findings is essential.** The SAPRP experience has provided several lessons regarding strategic communications of research findings:
- Making communications a priority and developing an independent communications effort devoted entirely to the program can enhance capacity to use evidence to inform the policy debate. Hiring a communications director, developing a strategic plan, and devoting funding to those activities were ways in which SAPRP made communications a priority. (Summative Report)
  - A national program funding research projects should have a proactive communications effort to assure that scientific findings are covered in the media and communicated effectively to policy-makers and the public. Investigators often do not know how to translate their scientific research findings for policy-makers. SAPRP filled this gap by incorporating communications training into annual meetings and by planning with investigators from the beginning of the grant cycle what the potential communications opportunities for their research might be. (Former RWJF Senior Program Officer/Capoccia)
  - A communications effort is inseparable from the scientific aspects of the program. The communications director worked “hand in glove” with the rest of the program leadership, particularly the director and co-director, the review committee, and the investigators. In this way the research was respected and conveyed accurately,

and both investigators and program scientific leadership gained skills and comfort as active partners in the communications effort. (Summative Report)

- A multifaceted strategic communications campaign should use multiple approaches (directly to policy-makers, to the media, to advocates) and methods (editorials, media briefings, congressional briefings). (Summative Report)
- Triaging was essential to strategic communications. The communications director, in collaboration with the director and co-director, continually assessed which studies were getting ready to publish findings, and which findings were most pertinent to policy debates. He then allocated communications resources according to priorities. (Summative Report)
- Different types of research require different dissemination strategies. The communications director worked with individual researchers in designing appropriate dissemination strategies. Some types of research were particularly amenable and some were more difficult to communicate effectively to the media, the public, and policy-makers. For example, it was somewhat difficult to convince audiences that the results of studies built around economic modeling were relevant to policy development, even though these models are important to researchers. On the other hand, research that compared the performance of different jurisdictions on a certain policy issue, such as alcohol outlet density and traffic fatalities, was useful and easy to communicate widely through print, broadcast, and Web-based media outlets. (Communications Director/Ponkshe; Summative Report)

**9. Harness the latest technology to improve program efficiency and effectiveness.**

SAPRP developed an informative [website](#), a comprehensive relational program management database, Knowledge Assets, and a program self-assessment. (Summative Report)

**10. Start planning and working on sustainability early and often.** This is an area where SAPRP had mixed results.

- Concerted efforts to enlist other funding organizations were not as productive for research in the substance abuse policy arena as they were for tobacco-focused efforts. Results indicate that collaborative funding efforts need to start in the early years of a program versus later in the funding cycle. (RWJF Senior Scientist and Senior Program Officer/Orleans)
- Concerted efforts to enlist other funding organizations were not so productive. These efforts need to start in the early years of a program versus later in the funding cycle. By late in the program's life, RWJF had little leverage with other substance abuse policy treatment and prevention funders and few remaining to devote to this effort. (RWJF/Orleans)

- In contrast, Foundation staff dedicated considerable time and effort to building complementary and collaborative relationships with leading government and private tobacco control research funders (i.e., National Cancer Institute, National Institute on Drug Abuse, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Legacy Foundation). These efforts led to the development of several jointly-funded policy-focused research and research-dissemination collaboratives, including the National Tobacco Cessation Collaborative and its related Consumer Demand Roundtable, the National Partnership to Help Pregnant Smokers Quit, and the Youth Tobacco Cessation Collaborative which were instrumental in expanding and sustaining policy-focused tobacco control research. These efforts helped to lay the groundwork for the National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research (NCCOR), a public private partnership that joins the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, RWJF and U.S. Department of Agriculture to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and application of childhood obesity prevention research to reverse the nation’s childhood obesity epidemic. (RWJF/Orleans)

## **SAPRP LEGACIES**

### **Designing a Way to Look Ahead: Research Agendas**

SAPRP conducted a year-long effort in 2008–09 to develop a set of research agendas for the field of substance abuse policy research based on a consensus process with participation from senior investigators and leaders of relevant research associations and advocacy groups. The purpose was to distill and catalogue key policy findings to date (“what we know”) and stimulate and guide the field by prioritizing areas for study during the next five years (“what we need to know”). An additional goal was to facilitate enhanced investment in substance abuse policy research by federal and private funders after SAPRP’s closure.

In October 2009, the SAPRP released four research agendas that pose key questions for advancing tobacco, alcohol, and drug abuse policy. Each agenda includes a full-text document and an accompanying highlights document that poses key questions for advancing tobacco, alcohol, and drug abuse policy.

The agendas identify proven policies and highlight the major outstanding questions that need to be explored during the 2010 to 2015 period. Program staff believes these research agendas will be important to policy-makers, advocacy groups, and federal agencies.

The research agendas and their highlights are available on the RWJF website:

- [Policies for the Treatment of Alcohol and Drug Use Disorders: A Research Agenda for 2010–2015](#)
- [Policies to Achieve a Smoke-Free Society: A Research Agenda for 2010–2015](#)

- [Policies to Prevent Alcohol Problems: A Research Agenda for 2010–2015](#)
- [Policies to Prevent Drug Problems: A Research Agenda for 2010–2015](#)

The agendas were released in Washington in conjunction with a Congressional briefing. More than 100 people attended the event, including policy-makers, advocacy groups, and representatives of key government organizations such as the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Department of Justice.

These agendas represent one legacy contribution of SAPRP. No other funder, domestically or internationally, has published documents that articulate a five-year, forward-looking research agenda.

## **Social Networking**

By the end of the decade, social networking strategies were exploding in many aspects of business and personal life, but there was relatively little being done in the field of substance abuse policy research using these tools. With a grant from RWJF starting in January 2010,<sup>11</sup> SAPRP began testing a number of social media strategies to leverage RWJF’s investment in the program.

SAPRP planned to use Web 2.0 strategies to:

- Transfer the program’s research knowledge base to the public domain
- Mobilize experts to participate in and moderate discussion as it pertains to the knowledge base
- Examine how social networking affected dissemination
- Connect researchers around substance abuse policy research

Little was known about how researchers would use social media. “The approach we took was to throw a lot of stuff out there. It was like the Wild West because you don’t know whether the websites you are posting your material on will continue to exist. Some that we used didn’t last” said Deputy Director Williams.

Staff posted Knowledge Assets on Google Knols and Delicious; videos of 17 funded researchers summarizing Knowledge Assets on YouTube; and comments by funded researchers on controversial topics on Grouply.

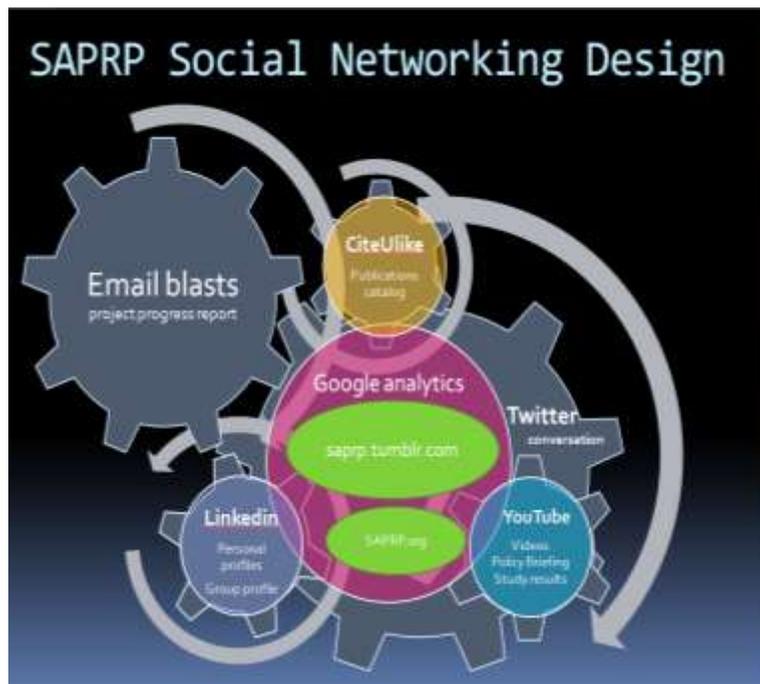
Staff also created a Facebook page for the program, advertised the program and the Congressional briefing for the Research Agendas on Twitter, and created a mirror of the

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<sup>11</sup> Grant ID# 67386

SAPRP website on Tumblr. They wanted to examine how social networking strategies functioned for a research program using a knowledge base as the core communications product. The project did not use results of individual studies to drive networking among audiences.

See [YouTube](#) and [Tumblr](#) for videos and reports based on Knowledge Assets.



In a September 2010 report to RWJF, Altman observed:

- Researchers are not tuned into the Web 2.0 environment.
- Presenting an evidence base through YouTube produces comments that are not substantive, but the videos are used by many more people than just those who comment.
- Google ads and searches drive significant traffic but optimizing Google search by tagging is essential.
- SAPRP’s presence on YouTube and the ads that were purchased to support the videos did generate traffic to the SAPRP website.
- Dissemination can be influenced by social networking, but only in a general sense. It helps to have a controversial topic, but even so, expecting researchers to be comfortable and willing to invest time was a challenge.

The report concludes “Connecting researchers and encouraging researchers to participate in social networking will continue to be an uphill task, given the current way in which scientific information is presented, reviewed, discussed, and published.”

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## APPENDIX 1

### Senior Program Consultants

*(Current as of the end date of the program; provided by the program's management; not verified by RWJF.)*

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## APPENDIX 2

### Findings From Evaluations in 1997 and 1999

*(Current as of the end date of the program; provided by the program's management; not verified by RWJF.)*

#### **The First Evaluation**

The first evaluation was part of a comprehensive assessment of the *Tobacco Policy Research and Evaluation Program* (TRREP) and SAPRP, conducted in preparation for SAPRP's reauthorization request to the RWJF Board of Trustees in 1997. The evaluation

ran from December 1996 through May 1997 and assessed the impact of the tobacco policy research program, the transition to SAPRP, and the early work of SAPRP.

Evaluators sought to understand how RWJF support differed from other potential funding sources and how SAPRP could be designed and operated to better contribute to the future need for policy research. The evaluators:

- Reviewed the literature to examine trends in policy issues and policy research needs
- Analyzed letters of intent from the first two years of SAPRP to assess the kinds of policy research investigators had proposed
- Interviewed national program office staff, senior program consultants, and RWJF staff
- Conducted focus groups of investigators who received funding from the first two rounds of SAPRP

Findings include:

- The expansion from TPREP to SAPRP to include research on alcohol and illicit drugs provided an opportunity to create a synergy for researchers to explore policy options that are applicable both to particular and to multiple substances. While government agencies have adopted primarily a categorical approach in which various agencies deal with specific substances, SAPRP strives to “cut across substances.”
- SAPRP studies are clearly relevant to policy formulation. Evaluators reviewed some 700 letters of intent and found that the letters parallel the issues featured most prominently in public policy literature: prevention, treatment; and limits on the legal availability of alcohol and tobacco. Of 53 SAPRP-funded grants reviewed by evaluators, 21 focused on treatment, 13 on availability of alcohol and tobacco and 11 on prevention.
- The policy focus and mission of SAPRP make it a unique resource. While some projects focusing on a single substance might receive funding from traditional federal sources, projects that focus on policy analysis and policy implications are less likely to receive that support. In addition, federal grants generally take a long time to secure, which limits their impact on topical policy debates.

### ***The Second Evaluation***

In May 1999, RWJF asked the Lewin Group to conduct a reassessment of SAPRP that would build on the earlier evaluation. The objectives of this evaluation were to examine the closeness of fit between SAPRP’s accomplishments and RWJF’s goals over the prior two years; and to better understand the impact of modifications in program design and operations on the program’s outcomes. Findings include:

- **SAPRP continues to fund relevant research on topical policy issues.** The breadth and focus of projects coincide with policy areas that public and private sector experts consider timely and important: demand reduction (e.g., access to and effectiveness of substance abuse treatment; prevention programs in schools; forecasting substance abuse patterns or trends); criminal justice (e.g., enforcement regarding underage use of tobacco, drug courts, penalty structures); and civil policy (e.g., excise taxes, impact of welfare reform, smoke-free environments, drug-free workplaces).
- **SAPRP fills a unique niche and makes important contributions to the substance abuse policy development process.** For example, evaluators found that:
  - The program supports work that, in general, is otherwise unlikely to receive funding from other sources.
  - Only a limited number of organizations funded substance abuse research during the period from 1996 through 1999, and the majority of those projects focused on services research rather than policy research.
  - The majority of grants funded under SAPRP between 1997 and 1999 focused on specific topics that few researchers had previously studied.
  - Seventy-two percent of investigators funded since 1997 reported that their SAPRP research stimulated subsequent work. Funding for subsequent work came from sources such as the National Cancer Institute, National Institute on Drug Abuse, the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
  - SAPRP’s practice of continuously reviewing letters of intent and proposals for under \$100,000 enables researchers to respond quickly to hot issues and to research their topics in a timely fashion.
  - The program is making contributions not only at the federal level but also at state and local levels.
- **SAPRP is demonstrating progress in building the field of policy research in four ways:** bringing new researchers into policy research; increasing the number of experienced researchers; expanding funded research projects to areas not previously studied; and leveraging existing research findings to stimulate subsequent work.
- **SAPRP has had a high level of success in disseminating findings to key stakeholders (e.g., federal, state, and local policy-makers; public and private sector health care organizations; the media; and community groups).** The national program office and the funded investigators have employed numerous avenues to disseminate their findings, including: news conferences and press releases; newspaper stories; journal articles; testimony before federal, state, and local governments; and presentations at conferences.

## APPENDIX 3

### Findings From the 2003 Program Self-Assessment

The assessment asked five questions of principal investigators. The answers provided below are compilations of the findings.

**1. What is the evidence that SAPRP-funded research is policy relevant and has informed policy-making?**

**Answer:** The substantive topics studied by SAPRP-funded researchers mirror the key policy issues on the national agenda. SAPRP-funded research has been used by public and private policy-makers at all levels, by the media, and by advocacy organizations (e.g., welfare reform, clean indoor air, perinatal substance abuse). Examples included:

- New York City clean indoor air laws
- The Synar Amendment to restrict youth access to tobacco
- The effect of youth's exposure to anti-smoking messages
- The impact of cigarette excise taxes on smoking rates among pregnant women
- The link between state/local alcohol policies and fatality rates
- Opiate treatment in clinical settings and substance abuse provisions in the welfare reform reauthorization process

**2. What is the evidence that SAPRP has generated scientifically high-quality research?**

**Answer:** As of spring 2004, 139 projects (out of 226) had received 528 total publication citations in more than 200 different journals, and 68 percent of completed grants had at least one citation.

**3. Is SAPRP still filling a needed niche given other funders and funding?**

**Answer:** There was little evidence of an overlap between National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding and SAPRP priorities. There was also little evidence that SAPRP had “infected” the decision-makers that set the agenda of NIH substance abuse research. Anecdotally, there was no evidence that foundations other than RWJF had invested in substance abuse policy research in any systematic, sustained, or financially substantive manner.

**4. How has SAPRP contributed to “growing the field”? Have investigators obtained subsequent grants for studies building on SAPRP ones?**

**Answer:** Researchers who were young and/or new to policy were applying to SAPRP and competing successfully for funding.

- Some 22 percent of funded researchers were 24 to 35 years old.
- Some 10 percent had zero to one year of experience, and 28 percent had two to five years of experience with policy research.
- SAPRP had a respectable proportion of minority applicants and grantees: 17 percent of applicants and 20 percent of funded researchers are members of minority groups.
- Some 64 SAPRP projects had leveraged 133 funded grants. Among projects whose directors responded to the survey, the total SAPRP funding awarded was \$14,737,598. The total amount of leveraged funding obtained was \$105,241,034—7.14 times the original amount.

**5. How has SAPRP staff interacted with RWJF staff and staff from other RWJF-funded programs in their work?**

Answer: SAPRP staff collaborated with many other RWJF programs, including: Join Together (a national resource for community substance abuse initiatives); *Bridging the Gap: Research Informing Practice for Healthy Youth Behavior* (a program to improve the understanding of the role of policy and environmental factors in youth substance abuse); *Partners with Tobacco Use Research Centers: Advancing Transdisciplinary Science and Research Studies*; and the *Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids*.

SAPRP staff communicated regularly with a variety of federal, state, and local government agencies, as well as with policy organizations. These included:

- Center for Substance Abuse Treatment
- National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors
- National Conference of State Legislators
- Office of National Drug Control Policy
- National Institute on Drug Abuse

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

(Current as of date of the report; as provided by the grantee organization; not verified by RWJF; items not available from RWJF.)

### Book Chapter

Gutman MA, Altman DG and Rabin RL. “Tobacco Policy Research.” *In To Improve Health and Health Care, 1998–1999: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Anthology*, Isaacs S and Knickman J (eds). San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1998. Also appears [online](#).

### Report

*Syringe Access Laws in the United States: A State of the Art Assessment of Law and Policy. Substance Abuse During Pregnancy: Time for Policy to Catch up with Research.* Commissioned Review.

### Communication or Promotion

[www.saprp.org](http://www.saprp.org), provides information about the *Substance Abuse Policy Research Program* to potential applicants, funded investigators, the media, and policy-makers. It also lists all funded projects in each substance area (tobacco, alcohol, drugs and multi-substances). Grants in each substance area can be viewed by clicking on the “[View Grants by Type](#)” drop-down box at the top of the page. Grants can also be searched by topic, start date, and principal investigator.

## PROJECT REPORT LIST

Reports on a selection of projects managed under this national program are listed below. Click on a project's title to see the complete report, which typically includes a summary, description of the project's objectives, its findings or results, post grant activities, and a list of key products.

### Alcohol

- [A Case for Regulation: Less Access to Alcohol, Fewer Traffic Deaths \(December 2003\)](#)
- [Binge Drinking on College Campuses Unaffected by School and Community Alcohol Policies \(December 2003\)](#)
- [Car Crashes, Fatalities Rise Sharply With New Mexico Sunday Package Liquor Sales \(November 2007\)](#)
- [Cost, Lack of Insurance Coverage, Anti-Medication Bias Limit Scripts of Naltrexone for Alcoholism \(December 2005\)](#)
- [Curbing Alcohol Abuse: Careful Research and Consensus, Not Quick Fixes, Should Sway Policy \(December 2003\)](#)
- [In Louisiana, the Number of Local Bars Predicts Degree of Violence; Neighborhood Controls Needed \(December 2003\)](#)
- [Mixed Results for Risk-Assessment Tool in Curbing Illegal Alcohol Sales \(February 2007\)](#)
- [New York Drug Users Go Untreated Due to Lack of Insurance, Resources \(August 2006\)](#)
- [Researchers Study Utilization and Costs for Medicaid and Non-Medicaid Patients Seeking Substance Abuse Treatment Through a California HMO \(August 2006\)](#)
- [Resource Center Addresses Legal Issues for People With Fetal Alcohol Syndrome \(February 2007\)](#)
- [States Crack Down on Drunk Driving: Immediate Driver License Suspension Found Most Effective in Saving Lives \(May 2008\)](#)
- [Study Finds All Massachusetts State Colleges Have Rules Restricting Alcohol Use But Enforcement Varies \(November 2005\)](#)
- [Study Finds That Rigorous Graduated Teen Driver Licensing Programs Reduce Traffic Fatalities \(July 2006\)](#)

## **Illicit Drugs**

- As Co-Payments Rise, Participation in Treatment Falls and More Substance Abusers Relapse (December 2005)
- Can Insurers Afford to Cover Substance Abuse Treatment the Same as Other Mental Health Services? (December 2003)
- Getting Off Drugs and Alcohol, Getting Back to Work (December 2003)
- In Trial, Addicts Choose to Receive Their Methadone in Medical Setting (September 2006)
- It Is Legal to Prescribe, Dispense Needles to Injection Drug Users in 48 of 52 Jurisdictions Studied (December 2005)
- Mathematical Model Studies Cost-Effectiveness of School-Based Cocaine Prevention Compared to Treatment and Enforcement (December 2003)
- Miami Study Shows Youth Less Likely to Have Conduct Problems if They Lived in Mixed-Use Neighborhoods (July 2007)
- National Survey on Drug Policy Shows Education and Insurance-Paid Treatment Best Tools for Curbing Abuse (December 2007)
- National Survey Reveals Physicians Do Not Support Adolescent Drug Testing (December 2007)
- RAND Analysis of California's Proposition 36, Which Provides Drug Treatment Instead of Jail Time to Non-Violent Drug-Possession Offenders, Shows No Increase in Crime (July 2007)
- RAND Researchers Study Racial Disparities in Substance Abuse Treatment Programs (June 2007)
- Research Shows Consequences of Exposure to Cocaine in the Womb Not Severe (December 2003)
- Researchers Develop a Model for Measuring Heroin Use Based on Dosages of Methadone Given to Addicts (December 2003)
- Study Leads Pediatricians to Discourage Home Drug Testing by Parents (July 2008)

## **Multi-Substances**

- Analysis Shows Substance Abuse Treatment Programs Are Cost Effective, Reducing Crime, Increasing Employment (August 2006)
- Companies Exploiting Unregulated Internet to Sell Alcohol, Tobacco Products, Study Finds (December 2003)

- Have Drug Treatment Services Suffered Under Managed Care? (December 2003)
- Illicit Drug Use and Mental Health Problems More Common in Women on Welfare Than Those Who Are Not (November 2005)
- Researchers Find Substance Abuse Treatment During and After Prison Term Reduces Reincarceration Rates, Is Cost Effective (July 2006)
- School Districts Respond to New Regulations - Report Changes in Substance Abuse Prevention Programs for Students (February 2007)
- Substance Abuse Treatment for Connecticut Prisoners Reduces Rearrest Rates and Is Cost Effective (August 2006)

## **Tobacco**

- Carcinogens Found in Nonsmoking Workers Exposed to Secondhand Smoke in Oregon Bars and Restaurants Exempt From Clean Air Laws (February 2008)
- Enforcing No Tobacco Sales to Minors: Few States Do It Despite Federal Regulations (December 2003)
- Four-Year Survey Shows Cigarette Smokers Unaware of Health Risks of Low Tar and Nicotine Cigarettes (August 2006)
- Laws Regulating Tobacco Sales and Industry Marketing Affect Teen Smoking Rates Says Survey in Massachusetts (December 2005)
- Massachusetts Ex-Smokers Rated Negative Ads as Most Effective; Enforcement of Workplace Bans Is Associated With Smoking Cessation (September 2006)
- N.Y.'s Smoke-Free Restaurant Law Doesn't Hurt Business, Wins Wide Support, Study Finds (December 2003)
- Restricted Access to Cigarettes and Fines for Possession Reduce Underage Smoking (May 2008)
- Smoke-Free Policies Do Not Harm Restaurants' Bottom Line, Study in Massachusetts Finds (December 2003)
- Smoke Screen: Research Finds Underage "Decoys" Don't Mimic Real Life (December 2003)
- Study: Nicotine Gums and Patches Go OTC and More Smokers Try to Quit (June 2006)
- Tobacco Harm-Reduction Products Get Mixed Reviews (November 2005)
- Unexpected Factors Strengthen Laws Banning Tobacco Sales to Kids (December 2003)