


NORTH CAROLINA **Judicial** COLLEGE

Substance Abuse-Why Should You Care ?

School of Government, UNC-Chapel Hill

Presented by:  
Robynn Moraites  
Director  
NC Lawyer Assistance Program

 [www.sog.unc.edu](http://www.sog.unc.edu) January 2010

---

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

Substance abuse is an issue in

1. My immediate family
2. My extended family, but not my immediate family
3. My circle of friends, but not my family
4. None of the above



---

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

Recovery from SA has occurred in

1. My immediate family
2. My extended family, but not my immediate family
3. My circle of friends, but not my family
4. I do not know anyone in recovery



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Substance abuse is

1. The single largest social problem we have today
2. An issue of importance, but somewhere in the middle
3. Not very prevalent



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### As a Judge I think

1. SA issues should be handled by other agencies
2. There's not much I can do, but I want to understand it
3. The courts power can be used to positively affect those with SA
4. SA should not affect my decisions



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Substance abusers who commit crimes

1. Are not treatable ~ resigned to a future of low achievement and probable recidivism
2. Can have positive and productive lives if they get clean and sober



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Narcotic pain medication prescriptions

1. Are valid and need not be questioned because use is monitored by a qualified doctor
2. May be valid, but need monitoring by someone who understands SA
3. Are typically not valid because they are over prescribed



---

---

---

---

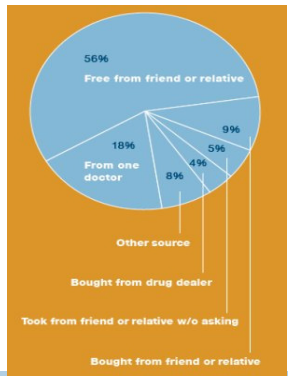
---

---

---

---

Source of Pain Relievers for Most Recent Non Medical Use



Source: SAMHSA, 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (September 2009).



8

---

---

---

---

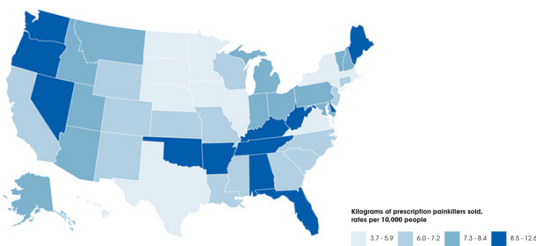
---

---

---

---

### Prescription Narcotic Use



The quantity of prescription painkillers sold to pharmacies, hospitals, and doctors' offices was 4 times larger in 2010 than in 1999. Enough prescription painkillers were prescribed in 2010 to medicate every American adult around-the-clock for one month. Prescription painkiller deaths are on the rise for the 11<sup>th</sup> straight year.



9

---

---

---

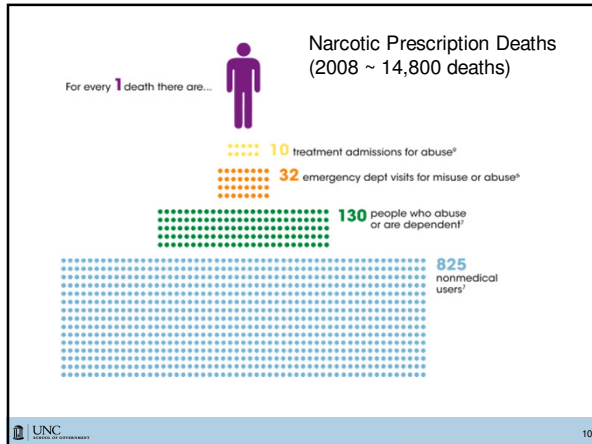
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

A self-identified recovering alcoholic or addict is:

1. Probably a better parent than a non-alcoholic parent
2. Just as good a parent as a non-alcoholic parent
3. Probably not as good a parent as a non-alcoholic parent

UNC  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

California Study

- Family law attorneys— 50% of cases involved substance abuse issues with one or both parents.
- Contested custody and visitation cases in mediation – Drug or alcohol abuse is issue in 27% of cases.

UNC  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

---

---

---

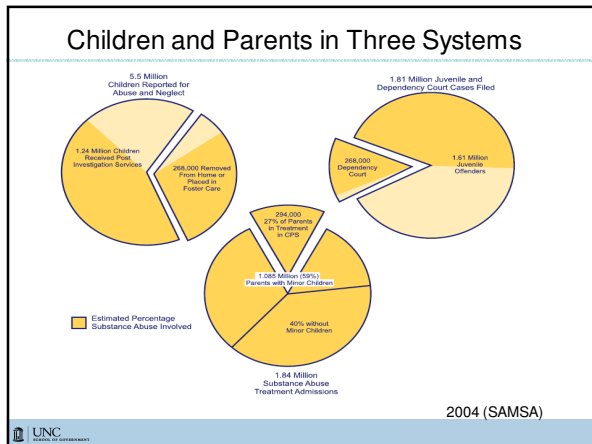
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Which contributes to the most deaths each year?

1. Illegal Drugs
2. Tobacco
3. Alcohol
4. Prescription Narcotics

Tobacco - 400,000

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Which contributes to the second most deaths each year?

1. Illegal Drugs
2. Tobacco
3. Alcohol
4. Prescription Narcotics

Alcohol - 85,000

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

In order from least to most:

1. Illegal Drugs\* – 14,300 – 16,500
2. Prescription Narcotics\* – 14,800 - 16,500
3. Alcohol – 85,000
4. Tobacco – 435,000

\*There are many conflicting statistics. There are many reports of "over 100,000" deaths caused by "drugs" – but the "drugs" category may include illegal drugs, narcotic prescriptions, valid non-narcotic prescriptions, and prescription errors.



16

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Substances and Cars

Alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes kill someone every **31** minutes and injure someone every **2** minutes.

**12% of all adults drive under the influence at least once a year**



17

---

---

---

---

---

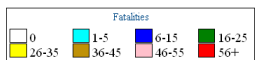
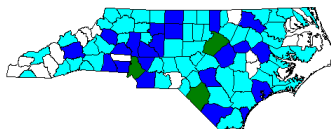
---

---

---

### Alcohol related crash fatalities, 2009

Fatalities in Crashes Involving an Alcohol-Impaired Driver (BAC = .08+)



18

---

---

---

---

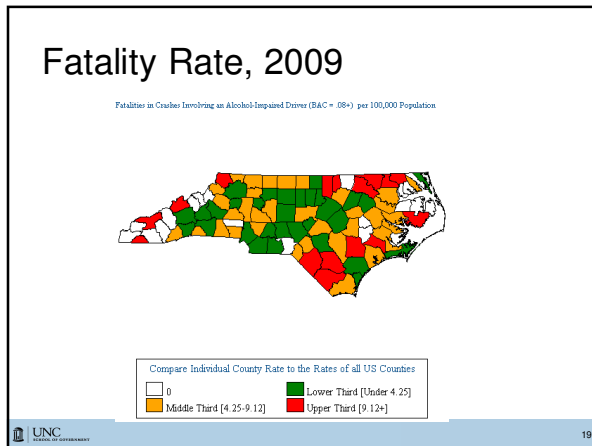
---

---

---

---






---

---

---

---

---

---

---

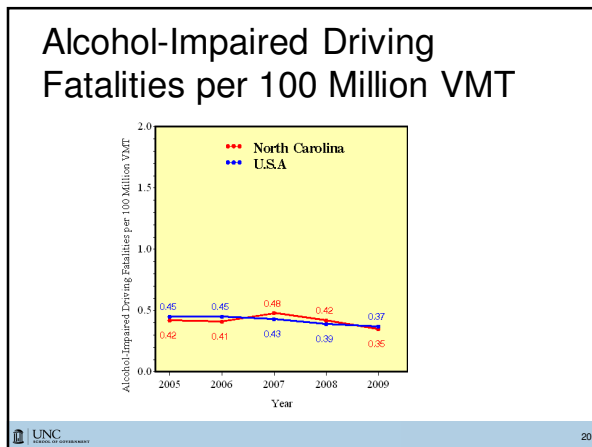
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities

Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities (BAC = .08+)

Year	Total Fatalities in all Crashes	Number	Percent	Per 100 Million VMT	
2005	North Carolina	1,547	429	28	0.42
	US	43,510	13,582	31	0.45
	Best State*		12	0.13	
2006	North Carolina	1,554	421	27	0.41
	US	42,708	13,491	32	0.45
	Best State*		18	0.20	
2007	North Carolina	1,676	497	30	0.48
	US	41,259	13,041	32	0.43
	Best State*		19	0.21	
2008	North Carolina	1,428	423	30	0.42
	US	37,423	11,711	31	0.39
	Best State*		16	0.16	
2009	North Carolina	1,314	363	28	0.35
	US	33,808	10,839	32	0.37
	Best State*		16	0.15	

UNC  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

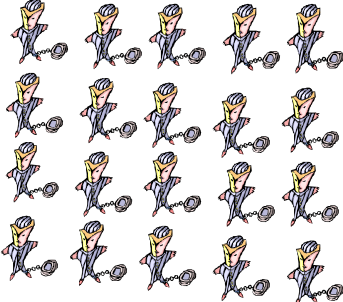
---

---

---

---

### If There Were No Substance Abuse



UNC  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

---

### We'd have this many prisoners



UNC  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Substance Abuse Issues

- Domestic relations court
- Juvenile court
- Involuntary commitment
- Civil court
- Criminal Court

Let's stretch and continue the discussion....

UNC  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



### Vote with your feet...

- Guidelines to remember:
  - Everyone has their own perspective
  - Reasonable people can disagree about these things
- Categories:
  - Strongly Agree
  - Agree
  - Neutral
  - Disagree
  - Strongly Disagree

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Statement #1

- Drug use is a voluntary behavior, not a disease, especially after long periods of abstinence.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Statement #2

- It is more important for a substance-abusing offender to get a job than attend substance abuse treatment.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Statement #3

- Criminal behavior of the substance-abusing offender is due to drugs or alcohol.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Statement #4

- The threat of probation revocation or, brief periods of incarceration are important tools to facilitate substance abuse treatment.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Statement #5

- Children are usually only affected by a parent's SA in cases of physical abuse.

---

---

---

---

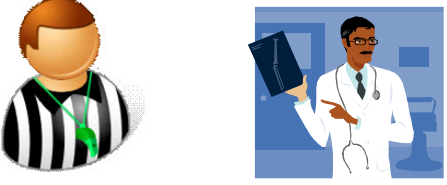
---

---

---

---

Is this Your Problem?



UNC  
SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---