

## **Jail Based Assessment and Treatment**

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) requests \$1.2 million to expand a three-county pilot project aimed at identifying and treating substance abusers among incarcerated populations. This program has been highly successful at treating substance abusers within the correctional system prior to their release, which reduces recidivism. This funding will allow the program to be maintained and expanded.

- Nearly two decades of research finds that substance abuse treatment, especially when it incorporates evidence-based practice, achieves clinically significant reductions in substance use and crime, and improvements in health and social function for many patients (Gerstein & Harwood, 1990; McLellan et al., 1996; Prendergast et al., 2000).
- Economic studies across settings, populations, methods, and time periods consistently find positive net economic benefits of alcohol and other drug treatment that are relatively robust. The primary economic benefits occur from reduced crime (including incarceration and victimization costs) and post-treatment reduction in health care costs.
- As of January 31, 2005, aggregate data compiled by the Iowa Consortium for Substance Abuse Research and Evaluation showed the following:
  - All three programs have shown a decrease in offenders' criminal thinking through the course of their treatment experience as measured by the Criminal Sentiment Scale-Modified.
  - At six months post-admission, 72.1 percent of offenders released from jail to probation reported abstinence from substance use, 94.4 percent had not been arrested, and 49.8 percent were working full time.
  - At one year post-admission, 65.2 percent reported being abstinent, 86.5 percent were arrest free, and 53.9 percent were working full time. Only 30.3 percent of offenders were working full time at admission to the project.