

2014 SAMHSA Native Youth Conference

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is hosting the 2014 Native Youth Conference to address behavioral health issues facing American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) youth. The 2014 Native Youth Conference will be held on November 17-19 at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, MD. The Conference will bring together for the first time, Native youth, tribal Elders, representatives of SAMHSA-funded projects, government officials, and SAMHSA staff who are vested in the future of AI/AN youth. The goals include:

- Increasing awareness about behavioral health and building the skills of Native youth
- Providing opportunity and value to the youth voice and a platform from which to speak
- Engaging Native youth in a continuing national dialogue about behavioral health
- Developing communication products created by Native youth for Native youth focused on suicide and substance abuse prevention, mental health promotion, and recovery
- Promoting best and promising practices developed by SAMHSA tribal grantees

SAMHSA's Concept of Trauma and Guidance for a Trauma-Informed Approach

In October, SAMHSA released "SAMHSA's Concept of Trauma and Guidance for a Trauma-Informed Approach." This paper introduces SAMHSA's concept of trauma and offers a framework for how an organization, system, service sector can become trauma-informed. The paper includes a definition of trauma (the three "E's"), a definition of a trauma-informed approach (the four "R's"), 6 key principles, and 10 implementation domains. Available to download from the SAMHSA online store at:

[Http://store.samhsa.gov/product/SMA144884?from=carousel&position=4&date=09032014](http://store.samhsa.gov/product/SMA144884?from=carousel&position=4&date=09032014)

FY14 Juvenile Justice Drug Court Awards

SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) recently awarded FY 2014 Grants to Expand Substance Abuse Treatment in Adult Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts and Juvenile Treatment Drug Courts. The purpose of this program is to expand and/or enhance substance abuse treatment services in existing adult Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts (which are the tribal version of adult drug courts) and in Juvenile Treatment Drug Courts (tribal or non-tribal) which use the treatment drug court model in order to provide alcohol and drug treatment (including recovery support services supporting substance abuse treatment, screening, assessment, case management, and program coordination) to defendants/offenders.

New Institute of Medicine (IOM) and National Research Council (NRC) Report on *Investing in the Health and Well-Being of Young Adults*

This HHS-sponsored consensus study from the IOM was tasked with examining the available evidence on the health, safety, and well-being of young adults; on systems and institutions that provide pathways from adolescence into adulthood; and on policies that impact young adult well-being. The consensus study committee examined the state of the science and policies pertinent to the life course of young adults (approximately 18-26 years old), as well as their transitions from adolescence (starting at about age 16) and to full adulthood (up to about age 30). The study undertook a broad examination of young adults and their well-being, investigating relationships; education and employment; civic engagement and national service; public health; the health care system; and government investments in marginalized young adults. Of particular concern were the physical and behavioral health care needs of young adults as well as the systems that serve these needs. In its attention to marginalized young adults, the study paid particular attention to young adults aging out of foster care; young adults in the justice system; homeless young adults; young parents, and young unauthorized immigrants.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ANNOUNCEMENTS
Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Nov 18th, 2014 Meeting

The resulting report, *Investing in the Health and Well-Being of Young Adults*, finds that young adulthood—ages approximately 18-26—is a critical period of development and recommends that young adults be viewed as a separate subpopulation in policy and research. Some of the reports' key findings include that

- earnings gaps between those with a BA and high school only degree have roughly doubled since 1980
- 37% of young adults are obese
- One-fifth of young adults aged 18-25 had a mental illness in the past year, yet two-thirds did not receive treatment

The report offers federal, state, and local policy makers and program leaders, as well as employers, nonprofit organizations, and other community partners' guidance in developing and enhancing policies and programs to improve young adults' health, safety, and well-being. In addition, the report suggests priorities for research to inform policies and programs for young adults.

The report can be downloaded from the IOM's website at
<http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2014/Investing-in-the-Health-and-Well-Being-of-Young-Adults.aspx>