



Women's Services Network

**The Women's Services Network (WSN) is an organization of State Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Agency Treatment Representatives dedicated to the development and promotion of evidence-based practice that addresses the unique alcohol and other drug prevention, treatment, and recovery service needs of women and their families throughout their lifespan.**

### WSN Overview

**As a component of National Association of State Alcohol/Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) and the National Treatment Network (NTN), The Women's Services Network functions as a specialty network under the auspices of the NTN, and in collaboration with the National Prevention Network (NPN) having women's treatment and prevention issues as the focus while remaining dedicated to the NTN's overall goal of effective, socially responsive treatment delivery for all populations.**

The WSN is comprised of women's treatment coordinators from across the country that have been appointed by the State Director, and who have the responsibility of guiding the development and the delivery of prevention, treatment, and recovery support services in their respective states.

The primary role of the WSN is to partner with the NTN/NPN to ensure that the unique treatment and prevention needs and concerns of women and their families are addressed. The WSN works to expand and improve the publicly-funded treatment and prevention systems and services, and to facilitate collaboration with other public and privately funded service agencies that serve women and their families. The NTN and WSN also work with the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) and other stakeholders to support and promote shared interests including expansion of effective and efficient treatment for substance use disorders that is comprehensive as well as culturally and gender appropriate.

### Women with Substance Use Disorders

- ❖ In 2006, there were 949,604 women with past year illicit drug or alcohol dependence – with their own children under 12 in the household. (SAMHSA TEDS and NSDUH data, special run conducted for CSAT)
- ❖ Women are becoming a larger percentage of the treatment population. Admissions for females rose from 28.5% in 1994 to 31.5% in 2004. (2004 TEDS data)
- ❖ In 2003, women made up 45.8% of admissions to treatment for methamphetamine abuse or dependence. (Vaughn, 2003)
- ❖ Women in community samples report a lifetime history of physical & sexual abuse ranging from 36-51%, while women with substance use disorders report a lifetime of history ranging from 55-99%. (Najavits, et. al., 1997)
- ❖ Substance use disorders have been shown to increase women's vulnerability to violence through exposure to unsafe situations. (Parks & Miller, 1997).
- ❖ 80% of women in prison and jail have been victims of sexual and physical abuse. (Jennings, 2004)
- ❖ In 2004, 60.2% of women offenders under state jurisdiction met criteria for drug dependence or abuse (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2004)
- ❖ Approximately two-thirds of incarcerated mothers were the primary caregivers for at least one child before they were arrested. (Bureau of Justice Statistics, Incarcerated Parents and their Children, 2001)