

# Bulletin of the Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation Unit



March 2007

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The Bulletin of the Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation Unit of the Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) is issued with the purpose of informing about important advances, news and publications in the areas of mental health, alcohol and substance abuse, rehabilitation and the protection of human rights within this context. In particular, the Bulletin focuses on those activities related to the technical assistance provided by PAHO/WHO to different actors in the Region. We hope it will become a useful tool for all those working in this important field of public health all over the Americas.

*The Unit Team*

*“Transcultural Mental Health in a Changing World: Building a Global Response”  
2007 Official Motto*

*October 10<sup>th</sup>, “World Mental Health Day”*



**National Latino Council on  
Alcohol and Tobacco Prevention**



**National Highway Traffic  
Safety Administration**

## Priorities to Reduce Impaired Driving Among USA Latin Communities

The Regional Adviser on Alcohol and Substance Abuse of the Pan American Health Organization, **Maristela G. Monteiro, MD, PhD**, participated in the Meeting organized by these two prestigious institutions, whose objective was to discuss and promote effective strategies for reducing impaired driving traffic fatalities and injuries among Latin American populations in the USA. Participants shared and discussed the latest data and research studies which show why this should be a problem of particular concern to all social actors these days.

The new NHTSA initiative prioritizes three areas: high visibility enforcement, support for prosecutors and DWI courts, and alcohol screening and brief intervention in emergency departments and other settings. The meeting recommended ways of translating these priorities into programs effective for Latin populations as well.

The Latin Community constitutes the largest minority group in the United States, -it has grown over 60% in the last 10 years-, and is expected to reach 59 million people in 2030. As a result of this impressive population growth, the Latins are being noticed for their consumption patterns and are being labeled by some domestic brewers as one of “the hottest emerging markets”. This will result in a greater exposure of Latin American groups to advertising, which at present is 5 times larger when compared with other communities.

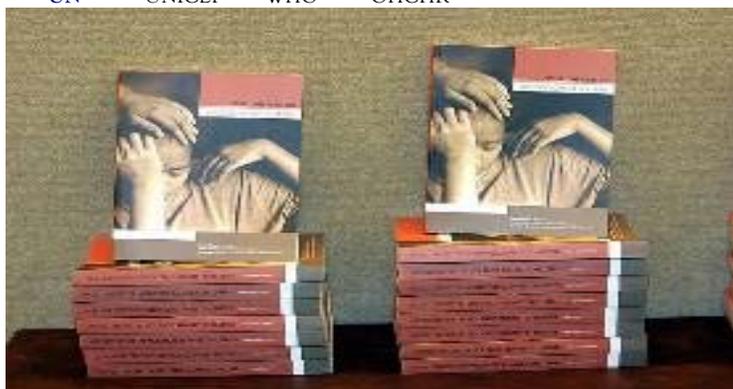
Regarding consumption, Latin men consume more alcohol than men belonging to other communities and they believe that the number of drinks needed to affect driving is generally higher (4 to 8 drinks). Moreover, 56% of students in grades 5 through 12, say that alcohol advertising encourages them to drink and Latin young people are likely to drink and to get drunk at an earlier age.

As to the consequences, Latin women suffer three times as many social consequences from drinking than other communities. Men are more likely to die from cirrhosis of the liver and have a higher prevalence of contracting Hepatitis C; more than 40% of those who begin drinking before 13 will develop an addiction and alcohol dependency associated with alcohol use at some point in their lives. Alcohol use contributes to the three leading causes of death among Latinos ages 12-20, which are unintentional injuries -including car crashes-, homicide and suicide. In fact, motor vehicle crashes (due to alcohol consumption) are the leading cause of death among Latinos between the ages of 1 and 44.

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UN UNICEF WHO OHCHR



## Launching of the UN Secretary-General's World Report on Violence against Children.

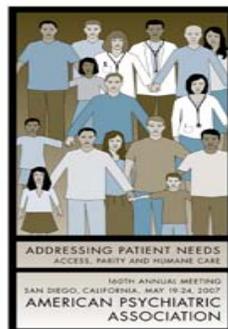
Pan American Health Organization's Headquarters

6 March, 2007

[http://www.who.int/entity/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/violence/activities/child\\_maltreatment/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/entity/violence_injury_prevention/violence/activities/child_maltreatment/en/index.html)

*The study was a joint initiative, directly supported by:*

- World Health Organization (WHO) <http://www.who.int/>
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), <http://www.unicef.org/>
- Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR), <http://www.unhchr.ch/>



## New Website

Featuring the DSM-IV-TR® and "The American Journal of Psychiatry", among other relevant publications from the field.

<http://www.psychiatryonline.com/>



**Journal WATCH**  
MEDICINE THAT MATTERS

### Do Antidepressants Make Patients Suicidal?

Suicide attempts, but not suicides, may increase slightly, but the mechanism remains unclear.



ASSOCIAÇÃO BRASILEIRA DE PSIQUIATRIA

Associação Mundial de Psiquiatria - WPA  
Associação Psiquiátrica da América Latina - APAL  
Associação Médica Brasileira - AMB



Revista Brasileira de Psiquiatria (RBP) is the official publication of the [Associação Brasileira de Psiquiatria](http://www.abp.org.br), the Brazilian Psychiatry Association. Issue No.4 is already available online.

## Mental Health Policy and Service Guidance Package

"A focus on quality helps to ensure that scarce resources are used in an efficient and effective way. Without quality there will be no trust in the effectiveness of the system."



The Guidance package comprises 14 modules, each of which is designed to cover an essential component of mental health system development. Each module is accompanied by a training pack that includes a workbook and case study.

- [http://www.who.int/entity/mental\\_health/resources/en/Quality.pdf](http://www.who.int/entity/mental_health/resources/en/Quality.pdf)
- [http://www.who.int/entity/mental\\_health/resources/en/Organization.pdf](http://www.who.int/entity/mental_health/resources/en/Organization.pdf)
- [http://www.who.int/entity/mental\\_health/resources/en/context.PDF](http://www.who.int/entity/mental_health/resources/en/context.PDF)
- [http://www.who.int/entity/mental\\_health/resources/en/Legislation.pdf](http://www.who.int/entity/mental_health/resources/en/Legislation.pdf)

## OTROS EVENTOS

- The Challenge of Promoting Health in Persons with Serious and persistent Mental Illness, March 28-31, 2007, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, [www.bu.edu/cme](http://www.bu.edu/cme)
- XI Conferencia Latinoamericana de Comunidades Terapéuticas, April 12-14, 2007, Buenos Aires, Argentina, [congresofonga@expoam.com](mailto:congresofonga@expoam.com)
- Segundo Congreso Internacional de Psiquiatria Biológica April 17-21, 2007, Santiago de Chile, [www.wfsbp.org](http://www.wfsbp.org)
- Tercer Congreso Iberoamericano sobre Trastornos Adictivos, April 12-14, 2007, Buenos Aires, Argentina, [cita2007@fibertel.com.ar](mailto:cita2007@fibertel.com.ar)
- WPA, Regional Meeting, Seoul, Korea, April 18-21, 2007, <http://www.wpa2007seoul.org>
- II Simposio de Psiquiatria Transcultural: Salud Mental en el Paciente de América Andina, May 3-4, 2007, Barcelona, España, [casas@vhebron.net](mailto:casas@vhebron.net)
- VI Simposio Internacional "Aspectos Biológicos y Farmacoterapéuticos de los Trastornos Mentales", La Habana, Cuba, June 18-22, 2007, [ccunp@infomed.sld.cu](mailto:ccunp@infomed.sld.cu)
- Congreso Latinoamericano de Adicciones: Adicciones un Desafío a la Mente", Medellín, Colombia, July 26-29, 2007, [congresoalad2007@gmail.com](mailto:congresoalad2007@gmail.com)



**Pan American  
Health  
Organization**



Regional Office of the  
World Health Organization