

## **NASD office at Screening for Mental Health**

**For Immediate Release: February 3, 2003**

### **National Screening Program Addresses Alcohol Problems Among College Students**

The fifth annual National Alcohol Screening Day (NASD) will be held on April 10, 2003. NASD is an outreach, education and screening program that raises awareness about alcohol misuse and refers individuals with alcohol problems for further evaluation. As part of the program, registered schools will receive, at no charge, materials to screen students for alcohol problems as well as educate students about alcohol's effect on overall health.

According to an April 2002 study, the consequences of college drinking are larger and more destructive than commonly realized. The study, commissioned by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) Task Force on College Drinking, reveals that drinking by college students age 18-24 contributes to an estimated 1,400 student deaths, 500,000 injuries, and 70,000 cases of sexual assault or date rape each year. It also estimates that more than one-fourth of college students that age have driven in the past year while under the influence of alcohol.

In an effort to address this public health issue, colleges across the country can register to host an alcohol screening event. The NASD program is free as a result of a grant provided by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Colleges can register online by going to [www.NationalAlcoholScreeningDay.org](http://www.NationalAlcoholScreeningDay.org) or by calling the NASD office at 1-800-253-7658

The college component specifically targets students who are risky drinkers, with a focus on binge drinking. Last year, NASD drew more than 100,000 participants with unexpectedly high participation by college students.

Participating colleges receive a comprehensive kit of materials to help them conduct the event. Materials include:

- step-by-step instructions for planning and conducting a screening event;
- ready-to-use screening materials, educational flyers, brochures, and videotape;
- give-away promotional items.

National Alcohol Screening Day, held in April to coincide with Alcohol Awareness Month, is a program of the nonprofit organization Screening for Mental Health, in partnership with NIAAA and SAMHSA. The American Medical Association is a co-sponsor of NASD.

To register for NASD 2003, go to [www.NationalAlcoholScreeningDay.org](http://www.NationalAlcoholScreeningDay.org), or contact the NASD office at Screening for Mental Health, One Washington Street, Suite 304, Wellesley Hills, MA 02481, phone: 1.800.253.7658, fax: 781.431.7447.