

December 3, 2004

<b>DIRECTIVE:</b> JOB CORPS INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 04 -11
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**TO:**                    ALL JOB CORPS NATIONAL OFFICE SENIOR STAFF  
                             ALL JOB CORPS REGIONAL DIRECTORS  
                             ALL JOB CORPS CENTER DIRECTORS  
                             ALL JOB CORPS CENTER OPERATORS  
                             ALL NATIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT CONTRACTORS  
                             ALL OUTREACH, ADMISSIONS AND CTS CONTRACTORS

**FROM:**                GRACE A. KILBANE  
                             National Director  
                             Office of Job Corps

**SUBJECT:**            Reducing the Risk of Impaired Driving During the Holidays

1.     Purpose. To provide center staff with information and strategies to reduce the risk of student involvement in an impaired driving incident during the winter break.

2.     Background. As students prepare to leave the safe and structured center environment for winter break, they should be reminded of the potential consequences of involvement in a drug or alcohol incident, particularly an incident involving a motor vehicle.

Typically, most Americans spend the time between Thanksgiving and New Year's with family and friends, celebrating the holiday season. Unfortunately, more impaired drivers are also on the road during this time, making it the deadliest driving period. Nearly 39 percent of driving fatalities during the 2002 holiday season were alcohol related.<sup>1</sup> December is designated as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention (3D) Month. During the holidays, communities will hold events and conduct impaired driving activities to raise awareness and support campaigns to prevent impaired driving. Also, law enforcements will be engaging in a variety of highly visible enforcement methods to deter impaired driving.

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<sup>1</sup> All statistical information is from the Center for Substance Abuse Research and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

### Youth Impaired Driving Statistics:

- Young male deaths outnumber young female deaths by a wide margin for both alcohol- and nonalcoholic-related fatalities.
- In alcohol-related crashes, almost four times as many youth die who are not wearing seat belts than youth who are wearing seat belts.
- Of those killed in impaired driving accidents, close to one-third were younger than 25 years of age.
- More than half of the drivers involved in fatal alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes are young drivers (those under 21), making this group responsible for more alcohol-related crashes than any other age group.
- Drivers aged 15 to 24 that are involved in fatal car accidents are more likely to test positive for cannabis and cocaine, with or without alcohol, than drivers aged 25 and older.
- In fatal crashes in 2003, the highest percentage of drivers (32 percent) with a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) of 0.08 or higher were drivers 21-24 years old.
- Since PY02, three Job Corps students were killed in an alcohol-related motor vehicle accident.

### 3. Action. Centers should:

- Provide students with information and training on how to reduce their chances of injury or death from an impaired driving motor vehicle accident.<sup>2</sup> Topics for discussion should include making responsible choices; designated drivers; sober ride programs; aggressive and unsafe driving; airbags and restraint systems; pedestrian, bicycle, and motorcycle safety; and responsible driving.
- Remind students that in addition to risking injury or death to themselves or others, that they could jeopardize their future if they are caught driving impaired. Consequences could include separation from the Job Corps program, legal repercussions, and loss or suspension of their driver's license.

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<sup>2</sup> The National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (NCADI), a service of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, provides a pamphlet and other information on alcohol-safe and drug-free holiday celebrations, <http://www.health.org/seasonal/healthyholiday/>.

- Have staff members from different areas participate in a panel presentation to students about some of the health and social consequences associated with alcohol and drug abuse. For example:
  - Training Employee Assistance Program (TEAP) specialist: substance abuse and dependence;
  - Health and wellness manager: traumatic injury, death, alcohol poisoning, and drug overdose;
  - Mental health consultant: high risk-sexual behavior, violence, homicide and suicide; and,
  - Standards officer: criminal activity.
- Hold or participate in community 3D Month activities/events. Possible activities could include:
  - A 3D Month Kick-off, with a center-wide goal of no alcohol/drug-related incidents or deaths during winter break. As part of the kick-off, students can sign pledges to enjoy an alcohol-safe and drug-free winter break.
  - Inviting a speaker to the center to talk about impaired driving or enjoying the holiday season without alcohol or drugs.
  - Working with community partners to plan a substance-free holiday party.

For information, materials, and tool kits on 3D Month, visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Web site at <http://www.nhtsa.gov>, or the National Commission Against Drunk Driving Web site at <http://www.ncadd.com>. For information and resources on underage drinking, visit the Mothers Against Drunk Driving Web site at <http://www.madd.org/home/>. Addressees are to ensure that a copy of this Notice is distributed to appropriate staff.

4. Expiration Date. Until superseded.

5. Inquiries. Questions concerning this Notice should be directed to Barbara Grove, RN, at (202) 693-3116, or emailed to [grove.barbara@dol.gov](mailto:grove.barbara@dol.gov).