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PREFACE

This 17th Edition of the *Status Report* brings an expansion of contents and a name change. Since its first release in 1995 the annual *Status Report on Missouri's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Problems* has presented survey data, state and county-level indicators of substance abuse, and clinical treatment admissions in Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse programs. The *Status Report* provides useful data for prevention and treatment needs assessments, services planning, and program evaluation. Some individuals have a combination of problems related to substance abuse, mental health, physical health, family relations, education, employment, legal issues, or other serious concerns. An appropriate and effective treatment system requires a collaborative approach among behavioral health services agencies supported by integrated data analysis.

Earlier this year, the Missouri Department of Mental Health convened the Missouri Behavioral Health Epidemiology Workgroup. Comprised of data specialists from several state agencies, the Workgroup is developing a system to identify, collect, monitor, integrate, and analyze a more comprehensive set of substance abuse, mental health, and related data. This publication's name change to *Status Report on Missouri's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Problems* reflects the Department's commitment to that project. This edition of the report includes some additional mental health indicators and the first-time presentation of clinical data from the Division of Comprehensive Psychiatric Services.

Inquiries and comments should be directed to the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Research and Statistics office at: <mailto:adamail@dmh.mo.gov>.

Prior editions of the *Status Report* are accessible at this website:
<http://www.dmh.missouri.gov/ada/rpts/status.htm>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Stringer".

Mark Stringer