

# Part III: Activity Settings

**P**revious chapters in this report addressed necessary preconditions that must be present in order for substance abuse and addiction to be possible, and some of the risk and protective factors that have been identified as possibly influencing abuse and addiction.

Studying these factors in isolation does not adequately explain how substance abuse and addiction occur. Drug-seeking and drug-taking behavior occurs in neighborhoods, among peer groups. In addition to surveys that attempt to quantify the nation's drug problem, research is also being conducted in order to better explain the environmental contexts in which substance abuse and addiction occurs. Such research is useful in helping to develop antidrug programs that are comprehensive in scope and relevant to different populations.