

Facts Sheet on Alcohol

“Alcohol abuse is up in America – sharply for most groups – a government study said....About 4.65 percent of the adult population reported alcohol abuse in 2001-2002, up from 3.03 percent a decade earlier, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism reported....Combined, alcohol abuse and alcoholism affected 17.6 million Americans in 2001-2002, up from 13.8 million in 1991-1992....A group that showed an especially sharp increase was young adult Asian males...The rate for Asian males jumped from 1.65 percent to 3.20 percent, with almost all the increase between the ages of 18 and 44.”

- Randolph E. Schmid, “Increase in Alcohol Abuse Reported,” *The News & Observer* (June 12, 2004)

“The median age at which children begin drinking is just over 13 years old.”
“According to the Center for Disease Control’s “Monthly Vital Statistics Reports,” alcohol use is a factor in the three leading causes of death from 15 to 24 year olds: accidents, homicides, and suicides.”

- Center for Science in the Public Interest (December, 1996, report)

“the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (NCASA) reports that individuals under twenty-one drink 25 percent of the alcohol consumed in the U.S. More than five million high school students (31.5 percent) report binge drinking at least once a month....A 2002 study by the University of Michigan’s Institute for Social Research revealed that approximately 38 percent of eighth graders, 60 percent of tenth graders, and 71 percent of twelfth graders said they had used alcohol during the past year....approximately two-thirds of teenagers who drink report they are able to buy their own alcoholic beverages, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services....Teen drinkers are seven times likelier to engage in pre-marital sex, and alcohol use is estimated to be complicit in up to two-thirds of sexual assault and date rape cases among teens and college students. NCASA reports the annual cost of youth alcohol use – including traffic accidents, violent crimes, suicide attempts, alcohol poisoning, and drowning – is more than \$53 billion. Adult alcoholism most often has its roots in teenage drinking. People who begin drinking before age fifteen are four times more likely to develop alcoholism than those who begin at twenty-one, reports the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Individuals who do not drink before age twenty-one are almost certain never to drink alcohol. Over 83 percent of adults who drink had their first drink of alcohol before age twenty-one.”

“Teens whose parents regularly talk with them about the dangers of drugs, including alcohol, are 42% less likely to use drugs than those who parents don’t broach the subject. Amazingly, 75% of students say their parents never bring it up.”

- Dwayne Hastings, “Wooing Student to the Party,” *Light* (Jan/Feb 2003) p. 16

“- 10.5 million adults exhibit symptoms of alcohol abuse.
- 7.5 million are considered “problem drinkers.”
- About 76 million Americans have been exposed to alcoholism within their families.
- Nearly one in five U.S. adults lived with an alcoholic as a child.”

- Charles Sell, *Helping Troubled Families: A Guide for Pastors, Counselors, and Supporters* (Baker Books, 2002)

“66 percent of Americans said they drink liquor, wine or beer at least on occasion....More than one fourth of male drinkers (28 percent) admitted that they sometimes drink too much, as did 32 percent of younger drinkers, those under 30.”

- *Associated Baptist Press*

“According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, less than 50% of treated alcoholics are still sober a year after receiving treatment. Almost 90% of those treated experience at least one relapse during the following four years”

- *Family Therapy Networker* (July/August 2000) p. 43

“10.5 million Americans are alcoholics; 76 million more are affected by alcohol abuse...about 14% of women and 4% of men have been married to or had a marriage-like relationship with a problem drinker or alcoholic. Divorced or separated people are three times more likely than married men and women to have been married to a problem drinker and alcoholic. 18% of people overall grew up with an alcoholic or problem drinker; of separated and divorced people under 45, two-thirds of the women and half the men had alcoholism in the family.”

- *USA Today*, October 1, 1991

“some 14 million people in the United States are alcoholics or abuse alcohol....Alcoholism is a disease that can start with a first drink. With that drink, one fork in the road appears, leading some to a future of alcoholism...The brains of people genetically predisposed to alcoholism may be unable to naturally produce adequate dopamine – one of the brain chemicals that make us feel pleasure....1 in 9 people who drink continues the path to alcoholism. Those who do succumb are disproportionately related to alcoholics; an estimated 50 percent to 60 percent of those who become alcoholics have a genetic predisposition.”

“the sooner kids begin drinking, the greater the chance they will develop alcoholism. Among adolescents, 4 percent to 10 percent are full-blown alcoholics....Children of alcoholics are from two to four times more likely to develop the disease.”

- Susan Brink, *U.S. News & World Report* (May 7, 2001)

“Many college students, particularly white athletes who join fraternities or sororities, drink heavily. Below, the percentage of students in each category who binge:

Age:		College residences:		Attitude:
Under 21	45%	Fraternity/sorority	84%	Frequent bingers who think they drink lightly/moderately
21-23	48%			Male 91%
				Female 78%

- Jon McCormick and Claudia Kalb, “Dying for a Drink,” *Newsweek* (June 15, 1998)

“half of all bingers do so regularly – at least three times within a two-week period. And one-third more students now admit they drink just to get drunk....Dangerous drinking is at its worst in fraternities and sororities, where four out of five members acknowledge that they binge.”

- Claudia Kalb and John McCormick, “Bellying Up to the Bar,” *Newsweek* (September 21, 1998) p. 89

“Alcohol-induced liver diseases kill 20,000 yearly. In 1993, some 708,255 patients were treated for alcoholism, and alcohol addiction was the fourth leading cause of hospital stays for men ages 16 to 44, requiring a total of more than 1 million days of hospital care, compared with 741,000 for heart disease....30 percent of suicides, 50 percent of homicides, and 30 percent of accidental deaths are associated with alcohol abuse. Two thirds of all violent crimes are committed by perpetrators using alcohol, and 1 in 500 babies is afflicted with fetal alcohol syndrome....NIAAA, puts the total cost of alcohol misuse at about \$100 billion a year.”

- James Glassman, “Next Target: liquor companies?” *U.S. New & World Report* (July 7, 1997) p. 57

“Alcohol abuse costs American businesses an estimated \$134 billion a year [Up from \$100 billion in 1997]. People with untreated alcohol problems use twice as much sick leave as other employees. They have more on-the-job accidents. They are five times as likely to file a workers’ compensation claim....Ironically, the medical consequences associated with heavy drinking, such as cancer, stroke, cirrhosis of the liver, and injuries from falls and traffic accidents, are all typically covered by insurance. Indeed, alcohol abuse adds \$23 billion to the nation’s annual medical tab.”

- Susan Brink, “The Price of Booze,” *U.S. News & World Report* (February 2, 2004) p. 48

“Alcohol-related deaths outnumber deaths from drug use 4 to 1...Of the nation’s 113 million drinkers, 10 million are underage and 33 million “binge drink,” or have more than

five drinks at one time. An estimated 14 million Americans need treatment for alcohol problems”

- *Associated Baptist Press*, January 20, 2000

“Before reaching legal drinking age, the typical U.S. child will view about 180,000 beer ads. As many as 60% of high school students use alcohol regularly, and only 23% of parents strictly prohibit their children from drinking until they’re of age.”

- *Youthworker*, Sep/Oct 1998 (page 19)

Many who drink badly underestimate how much they actually do drink. A recent study revealed that persons who regularly drink imbibe as much as 2 to 3 times more alcohol than they think they do.

- *Self Magazine*, January 2005