



Fact Sheet:



Alcohol Use

Use

- An estimated 5.5 million adults in California are binge drinkers (defined as men who drink five or more drinks, or women who drink four or more drinks in a row at least once during the past month).

(Facts and Figures on Alcohol and other Drugs, ADP, 2004)

- Approximately 40 percent of college students engage in binge drinking.
(2001 estimates based on percentages originally from The Economic Cost of Alcohol and Drug Abuse in the U.S., 1992, National Institute on Drug Abuse & National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.)
- 23 percent of 11th graders surveyed in the 10th Biennial California Student Survey were binge drinkers (drinking five drinks in a row at least once during the past month).
(Tenth Biennial California Student Survey 2003-2004)
- 30 percent of the 11th graders surveyed in the 10th Biennial California Student Survey used alcohol excessively in 2003-2004. These are driving-age kids, 16 and 17 years old.
(Ibid)
- 62.5 percent of 11th graders used alcohol in the previous six months in 2003.
(Ibid)

- Fetal alcohol syndrome, caused by drinking during pregnancy, is the number one cause of preventable mental retardation and birth defects in the United States.

(Facts and Figures on Alcohol and other Drugs, ADP, 2004)

Cost

- There were 3,497 alcohol-related deaths in California in 2002.
(California Department of Health Services, 2004)
- In 2002, drunk driving was the cause of 1,048 fatal and 16,261 injury traffic accidents in California.
 - 1,141 people died.
 - 32,073 people were injured.
 (California Highway Patrol, 2002)
- A report by a task force of the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism found that on an average day four college students die in accidents involving alcohol.
(A Call to Action: Changing the Culture of Drinking at U.S. Colleges, NIAAA, April 2002)
- Alcohol abuse costs the State about \$20.6 billion annually. This estimate takes into consideration loss of productivity, health care costs, prevention and treatment costs, criminal justice costs and losses due to crime.

(Facts and Figures on Alcohol and other Drugs, ADP, 2004)

Alcohol Use

- 52,973 people were admitted to treatment primarily for alcohol abuse in 2002/03:
 - 68.7 percent were males
 - 31.3 percent were females
 - 60.1 percent were 31-50 years old

(ADP CADDs data FY 2002/03)

- In most treatment programs the majority of abusers abuse more than one substance.

(Ibid)