

FACT SHEET: ALCOHOL AND VIOLENCE

SUICIDE

- ❖ Among adults with a major depressive disorder in the past year, those who reported binge drinking or illicit drug use were more likely to report suicidal ideation and attempts than those who did not engage in binge drinking or illicit drug use. *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), 2006*
- ❖ In 2002, approximately 3 million youth thought about or tried to kill themselves. Youth who reported alcohol use were twice as likely to attempt suicide. *SAMSHA, 2002*

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

- ❖ Two-thirds of victims who suffered violence by an intimate (a current or former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend) reported that alcohol may have been a factor. *US Department of Justice, 2006*
- ❖ Among spousal abuse victims, 3 out of 4 incidents were reported to have involved a batterer who had been drinking. *US Department of Justice, 2006*

CRIME

- ❖ Among violent offenders, 41% of probationers, 41% of those in local jails, 38% of those in State prisons, and 20% of those in Federal prisons were estimated to have been drinking at the time of the offense. *US Department of Justice, 2007*
- ❖ As many as 86% of homicide offenders, 37% of assault offenders, 60% of sexual offenders, up to 57% of men and 27% of women involved in marital violence, and 13% of child abusers were drinking at the time of the offense. *Roizen, 1996*
- ❖ Alcohol availability is closely related to violent assaults. Communities and neighborhoods that have more bars and liquor stores per capita experience more assaults. *Scribner, MacKinnon & Dwyer, 1995*

YOUTH

- ❖ In 2007, about 10.7 million persons aged 12 to 20 (27.9 percent of this age group) reported drinking alcohol in the past month. Of those persons, approximately 7.2 million were binge drinkers, and 2.3 million were heavy drinkers. *SAMSHA, 2008*
- ❖ In 2007, 57% of males aged 12 or older were current drinkers, higher than the rate for females (46%). However, among youths aged 12 to 17, the percentage of males who were current drinkers (16%) was similar to the rate for females (16%). *SAMSHA, 2008*
- ❖ In violent acts involving adolescents, drugs and/or alcohol were frequently used by both the assailant (58% of males and 55% of females) and the victim (56% of males and 66% of females). *Morris, Anderson & Knox, 2002*

- ❖ In 2002, more than 70,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 were victims of alcohol-related sexual assault in the US. *Hingson, Heeren, Zakocs, et al., 2002*
- ❖ Those who started drinking before age 17 were 2.9 to 4.1 times more likely ever in their lifetime, and at least 3 times more likely in the past year, to have been in a fight after drinking. *Hingson, Heeren & Zakocs, 2001*

CHILD ABUSE

- ❖ Approximately 1 in 4 children younger than 18 years in the United States is exposed to alcohol abuse or alcohol dependence in the family. *Grant, 2000*
- ❖ Children living in families with alcohol-abusing parents have an increased risk of other adverse childhood experiences, including being abused or neglected, witnessing domestic violence, and being exposed to drug-abusing, mentally ill, suicidal, or criminal household members. *Anda, Whitfield, Felitti, et al., 2002*

ALCOHOL ADVERTISING

- ❖ In 2005, alcohol advertisers spent \$2 billion on alcohol advertising in measured media (television, radio, print, outdoor, major newspapers and Sunday supplements). *Nielsen Media Research, cited by the Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth, n.d.*
- ❖ Youth who saw more alcohol advertisements on average drank more; each additional advertisement seen increased the number of drinks consumed by 1%. *Snyder, Milici, Slater, M., et al., 2006*
- ❖ Among youth in markets with greater alcohol advertising expenditures, each additional dollar spent per capita on alcohol advertising raised the number of drinks consumed by 3%. *Snyder, et al., 2006*

For more information about alcoholism treatment and referral to alcoholism treatment centers, please call 1-800-ALCOHOL.

For full citations or more information, please contact Billie Weiss at bpweiss@ucla.edu.