



VIOLENCE PREVENTION COALITION OF GREATER LOS ANGELES

A Project of Community Partners®

FACT SHEET: ALCOHOL AND VIOLENCE

- ❖ In 2005, 58.1 percent of males aged 12 or older were current drinkers, higher than the rate for females (45.9 percent). However, among youths aged 12 to 17, the percentage of females who were current drinkers (17.2 percent) was higher than that for males (15.9 percent). *The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), 2005.*
- ❖ In 2005, about 10.8 million persons aged 12 to 20 (28.2 percent of this age group) reported drinking alcohol in the past month. Nearly 7.2 million (18.8 percent) were binge drinkers, and 2.3 million (6.0 percent) were heavy drinkers. These figures have remained essentially the same since the 2002 survey. *The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), 2005.*

SUICIDE

- ❖ Adults with a past year major depressive disorder (MDE) who reported past month binge alcohol or illicit drug use were more likely to report suicidal thoughts and suicide attempts than their counterparts with a past year MDE who had not engaged in past month binge drinking or illicit drug use, accessed 2007. *Suicidal Thoughts, Suicide Attempts, Major Depressive Episode, and Substance Use among Adults, SAMHSA, 2007.*
- ❖ In 2002, approximately 3 million youths were at risk for suicide during the past year. Youths who reported past year alcohol use were twice as likely to attempt suicide. *Substance Use and the Risk of Suicide Among Youths, SAMHSA, 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 had been a factor. *Bureau of Justice Statistics, US Department of Justice, 2006.*
- ❖ Among spousal abuse victims, 75% of the incidents were reported to have involved an offender who had been drinking. *Bureau of Justice Statistics, US Department of Justice, 2006.*
- ❖ An estimated 31% of stranger victimizations were perceived to be alcohol-related. *Bureau of Justice Statistics, US Department of Justice, 2006.*

CRIME

- ❖ Almost four in 10 violent crimes involve alcohol, according to the crime victim, as do four in 10 fatal motor vehicle accidents. And about four in 10 criminal offenders report that they were using alcohol at the time of their offense. *Bureau of Justice Statistics, US Department of Justice, 1998.*
- ❖ In 2005, there were 5.2 million victims of violence, 27% of which perceived the use of alcohol or drugs by their attacker. *Bureau of Justice Statistics, US Department of Justice, 2005.*
- ❖ Published studies suggest that 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. *National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, 1997.*
- ❖ Alcohol availability is closely related to violent assaults. Communities and neighborhoods that have more bars and liquor stores per capita experience more assaults. *"The risk of assaultive violence and alcohol availability in Los Angeles County," American Journal of Public Health, 1995.*

(OVER)

YOUTH

- ❖ In a study by UCLA, in violent acts involving adolescents, drugs and/or alcohol were frequently used by both the assailant (58% of the males and 55% of the females) and the victim (56% for the males and 66% for the females). "Incarcerated Adolescents' Experiences as Perpetrators of Sexual Assault," *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*, 2002.
- ❖ In 2002, more than 70,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 were victims of alcohol-related sexual assault in the U.S. "Magnitude of alcohol-related mortality and morbidity among U.S. college students ages 18-24." *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, 2002.

CHILD ABUSE

- ❖ Alcohol and other drug abuse by a parent or guardian is involved in 7 out of 10 cases of child abuse and neglect; 90 percent of child welfare professionals cite alcohol as the drug of choice in these cases. "Millennium Hangover: Keeping score on alcohol," *Drug Strategies*, 1999.
- ❖ According to a 1993 study conducted by the Research Institute on Addictions, nearly nine in ten alcoholic women were physically or sexually abused as children. "Millennium Hangover: Keeping score on alcohol," *Drug Strategies*, 1999.

ALCOHOL ADVERTISING

- ❖ Alcohol manufacturers spend more than \$1 billion each year advertising their products. "Millennium Hangover: Keeping score on alcohol," *Drug Strategies*, 1999.
- ❖ The beer industry spends \$700 million per year on advertising—nearly three times the 1999 budget for the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. "Millennium Hangover: Keeping score on alcohol," *Drug Strategies*, 1999.
- ❖ Billboard advertising is a popular medium for promoting alcohol, especially in minority neighborhoods. In San Francisco, African American neighborhoods have more than three times as many alcohol billboards per capita as white neighborhoods, and Latino neighborhoods have more than twice as many. "Millennium Hangover: Keeping score on alcohol," *Drug Strategies*, 1999.

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

For a full citation list or more information, please contact:

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