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Alcohol Facts

Iowa Facts

Alcohol is widely abused drug by Iowa youth. 32% of Iowa 11th graders say they currently use alcohol. [Iowa Youth Survey, 2010]

In 2011, 28.3% of youth admitted to treatment said alcohol is their primary substance of abuse. [Iowa Department of Public Health, 2011]

Alcohol is already perceived as accessible to many young Iowans. 69% of 11th graders say it would be easy or very easy for kids their age to get alcohol in their neighborhood or community. [Iowa Youth Survey, 2010]

Alcohol is the most common substance of abuse among Iowa adults. Nearly 58% of Iowa adults in treatment say alcohol is their primary substance of abuse. [Iowa Department of Public Health, 2011]

During the 12 month period of SFY2010, the average adult Iowan consumed 2.14 gallons of distilled spirits, 1.86 gallons of wine, and 37.2 gallons of beer [Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division, 2010]

Iowa adults have a binge drinking rate of 16.9%...compared to the national average of 15.1%. [CDC – Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2010]

U.S. Facts

The 2010 National Survey on Drug Use & Health (NSDUH) shows past-month alcohol use among Americans 12 or older was 51.8%. This translates to 131.3 million people. Among the 16.9 million heavy drinkers aged 12 or older, 31.8 percent were also current illicit drug users.

The 2010 Partnership Attitude Tracking Study shows an alarming pattern in early adolescent alcohol use and found that teens view drinking alcohol – even heavy drinking – as less risky than using other substances. Among teens who reported drinking alcohol, the average age of first use was 14. Forty-five percent of teens reported they do not see a “great risk” in heavy daily drinking. [The Partnership at Drugfree.org, 2010]

According to the Monitoring the Future Study, 41.2% of 12th graders had consumed at least one drink in the 30 days prior to being surveyed and 26.8% of 12th graders had been drunk. [National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2010]

Less than 50% of 12th graders nationally see a “great risk” in having five or more drinks in a row, once or twice a weekend. And nearly 90% of 12th graders say alcohol is “fairly easy or very easy to get.” [Monitoring the Future, 2011]