



Underage Drinking

IN HAWAII:

In 2003 the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division of the Hawaii Department of Health conducted the Hawaii Student Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Use Study. Approximately 30,000 sixth through grade students were surveyed from 181 public, 41 private schools and 7 charter schools.

Here are some findings related to underage alcohol use:

- * Alcohol remains the substance of choice for students at all grades.

- * It was estimated that more than one out of ten 8th graders (13%), more than one third of the 10th graders (33%), and half of all Seniors (52%) reported getting drunk at least once in their lifetimes.

- * The peak grade of alcohol initiation was between 7th and 8th grade, with more serious drinking being reported by the 9th grade.

- * Early use and exposure to alcohol and tobacco is significantly related to:

- * The use of illicit drugs and substance abuse
- * Number of different drugs tried
- * Frequency of marijuana use

- * **Getting drunk at an early age is a significant predictor of subsequent drug use.**

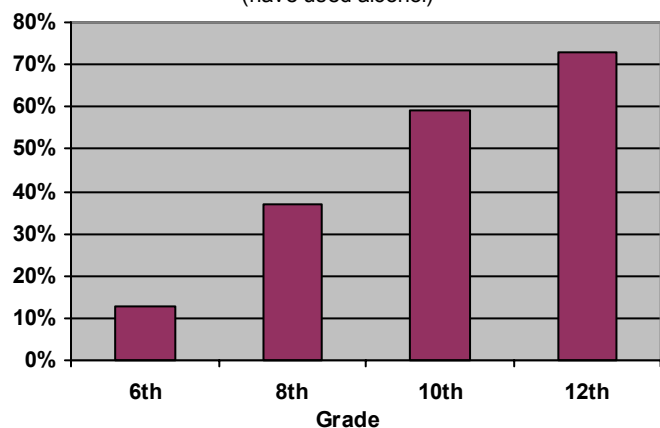
- * An estimated 7,826 (7%) students needed treatment for substance abuse of any kind statewide.

- * Approximately half of the students who need treatment require help for both alcohol and drug abuse rather than for only one or the other.

- * Only 15% of high school seniors diagnosed with a substance abuse problem utilized treatment facilities in the year before the study.

- * Students are much more likely to receive help for a substance abuse problem if they perceive they need help and if they are told by others to get help.

2003 Lifetime Usage Reports
(have used alcohol)



IN THE NATION:

- ◇ People who began drinking before age 15 are **four times** more likely to develop alcoholism than those that begin at age 21.
- ◇ In 2005, 41% of 12-17 year olds reported using alcohol at least once, and 20% of 16-17 year olds report binge drinking.

EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL USE:

Short-Term:

Alcohol blocks the messages going to the brain and alters perceptions and emotions, vision, hearing, and coordination.

Long-Term:

- | | | |
|----------------|--|-------------------|
| *Liver damage | *Vitamin deficiencies | *Stomach ailments |
| *Skin problems | *Sexual impotence | *Loss of appetite |
| *Memory loss | *Damage to the heart and central nervous systems | |

LEGAL ISSUES:

In each of the 50 states, including Hawaii, liquor is prohibited to anyone under 21 years of age.

- * It is illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to drive, operate, or assume actual physical control of the operation of any vehicle with a blood alcohol concentration greater than .02%, but less than .08%.
 - * The "Use and Lose" law suspends the driving privileges for at least 180 days of any person under 21 who illegally purchases, possesses or consumes alcohol.
 - * If the individual does not have a license, a judge would have the discretion to postpone eligibility to obtain a license for 180 days or until the person turns 17.
 - * All violators will be required to perform 75 hours of community service and undergo eight to 12 hours of alcohol education and counseling.
- * It is illegal for anyone to possess- while operating a motor vehicle or moped upon any public street, road, or highway- any bottle, can, or other receptacle containing any intoxicating liquor which has been opened, has a broken seal, or the contents of which have been partially removed.
 - * It is also illegal to use false identification, or the identification of any other real or fictitious person to purchase liquor.
 - * These violations are petty misdemeanors, and can result in fines up to \$2,000, a jail term for up to 30 days or both.
- * It is illegal to host teen drinking parties in you home or provide alcohol to minors under the age of 21.
 - * Parents and other adults can be prosecuted for giving alcohol to minors and can be held liable if they provide alcohol to a minor who then kills or injures another person.
 - * If you break the law you can face a maximum sentence of six months in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine.
 - * Others can sue you if you give alcohol to anyone under 21 and they, in turn, hurt or kill someone or damage property.



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