



## Fact Sheet:



# Facts and Figures On Alcohol and Other Drugs

- Alcohol is a drug.
- Alcohol and other drug abuse is a major factor in chronic disease, the spread of infectious diseases, hospital emergency room visits, newborn health problems, violence, and auto fatalities.
- Fetal alcohol syndrome, caused by drinking during pregnancy, is the NUMBER ONE cause of preventable mental retardation and birth defects in the United States.

### Substance Use Prevalence

- Alcohol is the most commonly used drug. An estimated 14.6 million Californians aged 12 years old and over use alcohol and 6.2 million are binge drinkers (drinking 5 or more drinks on one occasion during the past month).
- An estimated 2.6 million Californians, 12 years of age and over, are currently using illicit drugs.

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies, *State Estimates of Substance Use From The 2002 National Survey On Drug Use And Health*

### Economic Impact

- In California, the estimated cost of alcohol and other drug abuse to society is \$35.0 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.

- Drug Abuse - \$14.0 billion per year
- Alcohol Abuse - \$21.0 billion per year

Sources: National Institute on Drug Abuse and National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, *The Economic Cost of Alcohol and Drug Abuse in the U.S., 1992*. State of California, Department of Finance, *California Population Estimates for Cities, Counties, and State, 2001-2004*

### Deaths

- Alcohol and other drug use killed approximately 5,549 Californians in 2002.
  - Alcohol related - 3, 526 deaths
  - Drug related - 2,023 deaths

Source: California Department of Health Services, 2002

### Traffic Accidents

- In 2002, there were 20,633 traffic collisions that involved alcohol.
  - 1,411 people died
  - 32,073 people were injured

Source: Department of California Highway Patrol, *2002 Annual Report of Fatal and Injury Motor Vehicle Traffic Collisions*

**Arrests**

- Approximately 40 percent of all arrests in California are alcohol or drug related. Nearly 562,000 Californians were arrested on alcohol/drug related charges in 2002.
  - Alcohol related - 308,160 arrests
  - Drug related - 257,801 arrests

Source: California Department Justice, 2002

**Treatment Demographics**

- There are about 241,000 admissions per year to state treatment programs with a primary alcohol/drug problem. State treatment programs refer to those programs receiving federal or state funds, or are licensed by the Department to operate a narcotic replacement treatment program.

Treatment Population Demographics		
	<u>Treatment Population</u>	<u>CA Population</u>
<u>Gender</u>		
Male	64.6%	49.8%
Female	35.4%	50.2%
<u>Race</u>		
White	51.7%	59.5%
African American	17.0%	6.7%
Am Ind and Alaskan Nat	3.4%	1.0%
Asian/PI	2.7%	11.3%
Other	25.1%	21.5%
<u>Ethnicity</u>		
Hispanic	29.9%	32.4%
Not Hispanic	70.1%	67.6%

Source: CA Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, CY 2002 CADDs data. CA Department of Finance, *Census 2000 California Profile*

**Primary Substance Used**

Heroin.....	23.9%
Methamphetamine.....	27.0%
Alcohol.....	22.2%
Marijuana/Hashish.....	12.3%
Cocaine/Crack.....	11.1%
Other.....	3.5%

*Heroin is over-represented as the primary drug used due to California Alcohol and Drug Data System (CADDs) reporting requirements. Both private and publicly-funded providers that dispense methadone must report to CADDs. However, only publicly funded providers must report treatment for other drug types.*

Source: CA Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, CY 2002 CADDs data