

FACT Sheet



Louisiana:

- Alcohol is the leading actual cause of death for Louisiana youth.
- 2nd highest rate of highway fatalities (alcohol related) in the nation.
- Alcohol is involved in roughly 50% of all homicides, suicides and fatal traffic crashes.
- Louisiana has the lowest alcohol taxes in Southeast and the lowest wine tax in the country.
- The alcohol taxes on beer and wine in Louisiana are about three pennies a drink.
- Excise taxes on Alcohol have not been increased since 1948.

Cost of Alcohol in Louisiana

Direct Costs (in Millions)

Medical	\$ 157
Crime	\$ 87
Motor Vehicle Crashes	\$ 58
Fire Destruction	\$ 9
Social Administration	\$ 2
Total Direct Costs	<u>\$ 313</u>
Premature Death & Injury	\$ 1,053
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome	\$ 31
Total Indirect Costs	<u>\$ 1,084</u>

Costs to Employers:

- **Up to 40% of industrial fatalities and 47% of industrial injuries can be linked to alcohol consumption and alcoholism**

(M Bernstein & JJ Mahoney, "Management Perspectives on Alcoholism: The Employer's Stake in Alcoholism Treatment," Occupational Medicine, Vol. 4, No. 2, 1989, pp. 223-232). [For more information, see NCADD's "Alcohol and Other Drugs in the Workplace" facts.]

Youth & Alcohol

- **Alcohol is the drug most frequently used by American teenagers.** It is consumed more frequently than all other illicit drugs combined and

contributes to an estimated 1,400 student deaths, 500,000 injuries, and 70,000 cases of sexual assault or date rape each year on college campuses across the nation, according to a report issued by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

- Unfortunately, as many as **360,000 of the nation's 12 million undergraduates will ultimately die from alcohol-related causes.** This is more than the total number who will be awarded advanced degrees."

Family & Community-Reality

More than half of all adults have a family history of alcoholism or problem drinking. (Source: *Position Paper on Drug Policy, Physician Leadership on National Drug Policy, Brown University Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies, 2000*)

More than 9 million children live with a parent dependent on alcohol and/or illicit drugs. (Source: *Position Paper on Drug Policy, Physician Leadership on National Drug Policy, Brown University Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies, 2000*)

23 million Americans suffer from substance abuse addiction. (Source: *Substance Abuse: The Nation's Number One Health Problem, Brandeis University, Schneider Institute for Health Policy, 2001*)

Nearly 4 million American women ages 18 and older can be classified as alcoholic or problem drinkers. (Source: *B. Grant, et.al., "Prevalence of DSM-IV Alcohol Abuse and Dependence," AHRW, Vol. 18, No. 3, 1994, pp.243, 245*)

Alcohol is present in more than one-half of all incidents of domestic violence, with women most likely to be battered when both partners have been drinking. (Source: *J. Collins and P. Messerschmidt, "Epidemiology of Alcohol-Related Violence," AHRW Vol. 17, No. 2, 1993, p.96*)

6.6% of Americans employed in full-time jobs report heavy drinking, defined as drinking five or more drinks per occasion on five or more days in the past 30 days. (Source: *National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse: Main Findings 1997, 4/99, p.111*)

Use of alcohol or other drugs at an early age is an indicator of future alcohol or drug problems. (Source: *J. Hawkins, R. Catalano, "Risk and Protective Factors for Alcohol and Other Drug Problems in Adolescence and Early Adulthood: Implications for Substance Abuse Prevention," 1989, p. 78*)

AND HERE ARE SOME FACTS WE NEED TO CONSIDER . . . Denial doesn't work.

- **82% of doctors admit that MDs avoid addressing alcoholism in their patients.**

72% of families whose doctor has not intervened to arrest addiction

say they would want the doctor to do so.

- **58% majority of employers acknowledged that managers avoid addressing alcoholism in their employees.**

58% of clergy acknowledge that they avoid addressing alcoholism among the individuals and families they counsel. (Source: *The Road to Recovery: A Landmark National Study on Public Perceptions of Alcoholism and Barriers to Treatment*. Peter D. Hart Research Associates, Inc., 1998)

According to CASA's director Joseph Califano, Jr.

Legislator Education should include the following: "There is a direct correlation between the states ability to curb spending on social problems and offering treatment for addictive disorders. The return is not simply in reduced state spending. It also comes in reduced crime—and Most importantly in reduced human suffering not only for the addict and abuser, but for parents and children, classmates, friends and neighbors, and, it can be counted in positive economic benefits to states from productive law-abiding, taxpaying citizens."

The Elephant in Louisiana's living room.*everyone knows it's a problem.*

Public support for treatment is soaring, 1 in 4 Americans knows addiction.

Alcohol is sewn into the fabric of our state. It is a long been accepted as a social norm to drink to excess.

Alcohol Dependence/**Alcoholism is a primary disease** according to the AMA-1957

Alcohol is a drug. There is no lobby for illegal drugs. Can you imagine if there were lobbyist for Crack?

Illicit drugs make up only 17% of the drug use in this state.

Gaming, Tobacco, are taxed and mandated to provide adequate funding for treatment and intervention services while

Alcohol, the states most widely abused drug, has remained free from "fee for use" taxes for more than 50 years (Beer).

The problem

Monies to cover the costs of alcohol problems to Louisiana.

No tax increase in decades.

1948 for beer 1970 for liquor 1956 for wine

85% of the Alcohol is consumed by 20% of the population,

20% of the populations in Louisiana are Problem Drinkers, Heavy Drinkers

Funding to provide screening, treatment, monitoring for the 20% in need, excise tax from 1948 does not pay for 2003 fiscal costs Louisiana tax payers must pay.

Tobacco, and Gaming are taxed to cover their costs to Louisiana, Alcohol must be increased as well (at least to the National Standard)

❖ Solution

Raise the alcohol excise tax from .03 per serving to the . National average of .10 per serving to fund Treatment & Prevention Dollars to OAD.

Louisiana only provides treatment for 8% of those in need.

21% is the national average.

For Need:

Questions, Comments, or Offers of Assistance please contact:

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