

FACT SHEET: ADDICTION IN LOUISIANA



Louisiana:

- Alcohol is the leading actual cause of death for Louisiana youth.
- 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	\$ 313
Premature Death & Injury	\$ 1,053
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome	\$ 31
Total Indirect Costs	\$ 1,084

Putting Anheuser-Busch's Consumer Responsibility Campaign Into Perspective

In the November 2, 2000, Wall Street Journal article *On Many Campuses, Big Brewers Play a Role in New Alcohol Policies*, the Anheuser-Busch Company claims to have spent more than \$300 million on alcohol education and awareness efforts since 1982. That amounts to an average of some \$16 million per year. When put into perspective, the amount pales in comparison to its advertising and promotional expenditures. For the five years between 1995 and 1999, Anheuser-Busch spent more than \$1.4 billion on measured media advertising alone, and likely as much on sponsorships and promotions. In 1999,

the company spent more than \$320 million on advertising, more than 40 percent of the beer industry's total advertising expenditures for that year. In comparison, the 1999 budget of National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) was only \$243 million.(1)

Price increases on alcoholic beverages may be especially effective at reducing addictive consumption by younger, poorer, and less educated consumers, while information on the long-term health impacts of drinking may have a greater effect on addictive consumption by older, richer, and more educated consumers ([NIAAA](#), *Eighth Special Report, op. cit.*, p. 262).

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.]

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."

Let's Talk About It:

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 . . .

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.

A 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.

"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.

Alcohol is sewn into the fabric of our state. It is a long been accepted as a social norm to drink to excess. Alcohol is a drug, legal drug, but no less a drug. There is no lobby for illegal drugs. Illicit drugs make up only 17% of the drug use in this

state. Yet our liquor industry remains the only one of Gaming, Tabacco, and Liquor free from consumption tax increases in over 50years. There has long been an unspoken truth that the liquor lobby goes to all extremes, even those deemed unethical by most to remain free from accountability thru excise taxation.

The problem

✍️✍️No tax increase since 1948 while gaming and tobacco have been taxed

✍️✍️State Income tax and sales tax have been forced to increase to accommodate the social system drain that the state's budget has been forced to deal with as a result of the liquor lobbies successful efforts to curb and an all excise tax in over 50years.

✍️✍️Truth is Tobacco is at .20 (paying their fair share of excise taxes)

✍️✍️Despite claims of accountability alcohol excise tax has remained at .03 per serving while the national average is .10 per serving

✍️✍️Powerful "good ole boy" lobby

✍️✍️Well accepted fact by policy makers that liquor lobby is too powerful and most efforts to increase accountability on the liquor industry are pointless.

✍️✍️1977 leading lobbyist serves jail time for practices and, consequences with tax issues (advocate article)

Keeping in the Solution.

Now time to call on those who answer to our Governor who have a commitment to improving economic development opportunities thru the re-org of DED and investment in programs to bring industry and support growth of industry in this state.....to continue in that pursuit of Vision 20/20 by supporting legislation that will provide a reduction in the demands state systems face by providing services for treatment prevention and community improvement/support efforts which are built into this legislation, thru community based technology resources.

For Interviews, Questions, Comments, or Offers of Assistance please contact:

Paul Herring, Public Relations Director
www.HopeNetworks.org
paul@hopenetworks.org
985.966.5159

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