



Study Finds Drugs and Alcohol Use Pervasive on Internet

Most parents are aware of the dangers posed by online pedophiles and other sexual predators, but a new analysis by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) found that parents should also be concerned about the number of online videos promoting dangerous behaviors such as drug use. The ONDCP-sponsored Neilson study found that teens are exposed to a vast amount of explicit content online—ranging from videos that promote extreme drug and alcohol use to videos depicting self-mutilation. The study finds that in any given month, nearly one million teens are exposed to one or more drug-related video and more than a third of those viewing drug-related content are under the age of 16. In addition almost 40 percent of drug related videos contain explicit use of drugs and/or intoxication. **To read the full article go to:** <http://www.cadca.org/coalitiononline/article.asp?id=2004>



For more information on HCTC, Youth Development and for the latest on upcoming HCTC Meetings and Activities

Go To: <http://www.gvhp.org/Home/OurProjects/HealthyCommunities/tabid/102/Default.aspx>

NSDUH Report Examines Patterns in Where Underage Alcohol Users Drink

A recent report from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) examines patterns of underage drinking and changes in where young drinkers consume alcohol. According to the report based on 2006 statistics, more than a quarter of 12- to 20-year-old Americans were current drinkers. Of those drinkers, more than half used alcohol at someone else's home the last time they drank, and nearly a third did so in their own home. The report also examines alcohol use in motor vehicles and in restaurants, bars, and clubs. **To read the full article go to:** <http://download.ncadi.samhsa.gov/prevline/pdfs/NSDUH08-0828.pdf>



FOCUS ON ALCOHOL, CULTURE AND TRADITIONS

Most American communities are a mosaic of diversity and include a broad range of cultures and traditions. These traditions shape how people see the world and can influence their attitudes toward alcohol use. For example, some cultures believe that it is masculine for men to drink, but place sanctions on women for the same behavior. In other cultures, use of alcohol by teenagers may be viewed as a relatively harmless rite of passage and not as an illegal and sometimes dangerous practice. Community groups need to be sensitive to cultural differences and recognize that effective prevention programs not "one size fits all".

Facts

- Acculturation has an enormous impact on drinking patterns. Research shows that while many new immigrants have low alcohol use rates, drinking rates rise among those who become assimilated into the mainstream U.S. culture (NIAAA)
- Although highly variable among tribes, alcohol abuse is a factor in the five leading causes of death for American Indians, including motor vehicle crashes, cirrhosis, suicide, and homicide
- Alcohol is the main substance used by Hispanic/Latino youth. Approximately 2 out of every 10 Hispanic/Latino teens report using alcohol recently (SAMHSA)
- Many stereotypes of racial/ethnic groups are highly inaccurate. For example, use of alcohol and other drugs is low among urban African Americans under age 16 who stay in school (CSAP)

What to Do:

- Implement a campaign that will encourage parents to talk to their kids about the traditions behind alcohol and their own family, educate parents and youth about how underage drinking has affected other countries with lower minimum drinking age laws
- This campaign could consist of a community forum and/or distribution of educational materials

For assistance with any of these ideas, contact Rachel Pena at 748-5146