EXHIBIT 16
DATE 2/16/05
HB 637

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THE CHILD

The following are statistics relating to children and their drinking behaviors. References appear at the end of the section.

Because we are constantly updating our Web pages to incorporate the most recent statistics, there may be some differences between the statistics on this Web site and those in our published documents. Please note that the Web site statistics are always our most current.

See also Information For You, Youth for additional resources.

Alcohol is the #1 drug of choice for children and adolescents. [1]

- Persons who first drank alcohol before age 15 were more than five times as likely to report alcohol dependence or abuse in the past year than were persons who first drank at age 21 or older. Specifically, 16% of those who began drinking alcohol before age 12 reported alcohol dependence or abuse in the past year, as did 15.5% of those who began between ages 12 and 14. In contrast, 2.6% of persons who reported alcohol dependence or abuse started drinking at 21 or older. [2]
- Almost 74% of persons age 21 or older reported that they started drinking alcohol before age 21. Of these, 4% reported first drinking before age 12, 14% between ages 12 and 14, 33% between ages 15 and 17, and 22% between ages 18 and 20.[2]
- 65% of 8th-graders and 84% of 10th-graders believe that alcohol is readily available to them for consumption.[3]
- Almost 20% of 8th-graders, and 42% of 10th-graders have been drunk at least once.[3]
- Ninth-grade girls now report consuming more alcohol than do ninth-grade boys:

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38.5% of girls and 33.9% of boys reported drinking in the past month, and 20.9% of girls and 18.8% of boys reported binge drinking.[4] In 2001, girls reported consuming alcohol at rates less than or nearly equal to boys.[5]

- 36.4% of ninth-grade students reported having consumed alcohol before they were age 13. In contrast, only 19.3% of ninth-graders reported having smoked cigarettes, and 11.7% reported having used marijuana before they were age 13.[4]
- Rates of drinking differ among racial and ethnic minority groups. Among students in grades 9 to 12, 32% of non-Hispanic white students, 15% of African American students, and 29% of Hispanic students reported binge drinking.[4]
- A study of 5th-through 11th-grade students found that those who are exposed to and enjoy alcohol advertisements have more favorable beliefs about drinking and say they are more likely to drink in the future and consume more alcohol.[6]

References

[1] Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. 2004. Results from the 2003 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings. Rockville, MD: Office of Applied Studies.

[2] Office of Applied Studies. 2004. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. NSDUH Report: Alcohol Dependence or Abuse and Age at First Use. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

[3] Johnston LD, O'Malley PM, Bachman JG, and Schulenberg JE. Data tables from the 2004 Monitoring the Future Survey. Ann Arbor MI: University of Michigan News and Information Services. [On-line]. Available: www.monitoringthefuture.org; accessed 12/21/04.

[4] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2004. Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance United States, 2003. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report: CDC Surveillance Summaries 53(SS-2):1-96.

[5] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2002. Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance United States, 2001. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report: CDC Surveillance Summaries 51(SS-4):1-64.

[6] Chen MJ, Grube JW. 2001. TV beer and soft drink advertising: What young people like and what effects? Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Research Society on Alcoholism, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

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Updated 01/07/05