

## Links to Reliable Data Sources on Alcohol Harm and Analysis

The following websites are reliable data sources to help you find alcohol-related statistics for the U.S. and your state:

- The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has a database that tracks motor vehicle fatalities by state called the Fatality Analysis Reporting System, or FARS. FARS tracks the time, location, and circumstances of traffic fatalities, and if alcohol-impaired driving was a factor in the crash. For access to an alcohol-related crash report, click here.

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Statistics (SAMHSA), a division of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, tracks alcohol use, binge drinking, and alcohol dependence at the national and state level. SAMHSA houses a wealth of reliable reports and statistics.

- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offer the following excellent resources:

The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey (YRBSS) is a bi-annual, national, school-based survey. It monitors six categories of priority health-risk behaviors among youth and young adults, including alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use. The site houses a number of searchable databases and reports.

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is an interactive database that houses information from the world's largest, ongoing telephone health survey system. BRFSS has tracked health conditions and risk behaviors, including alcohol use, in the United States annually since 1984.

The Alcohol-Related Disease Impact (ARDI) software allows states to estimate alcohol-attributable deaths, years of potential life lost, direct health-care costs, indirect costs, and non-health-sector costs associated with alcohol use.  
www.cdc.gov/alcohol/ARDI.htm

The Brewer's Almanac. For more than 60 years, beer industry data has been collected and maintained by the Beer Institute and predecessor organizations such as the U.S. Brewer's Association and Brewer's Foundation. The Almanac has a wide range of statistical information on alcohol, including production, tax collections, consumption (total, state-by-state, and per capita), agricultural statistics, imports, exports, financial statistics, employment, excise tax rates and methods of collection, and draught/package trends.  
www.beerinstitute.org/statistics.asp?bid=200

- Follow The Money is a database that tracks campaign donations on state-level elections and public policy in all 50 states, run by the National Institute on Money in State Politics. Here you can search by alcohol company or trade association. (www.followthemoney.org)

- Maplight.org tracks connections between campaign donations and legislative votes in the U.S. Congress. Maplight has also just launched a newly updated California page that provides information on campaign contributions to state legislators.

## Young Drinkers Influenced More by Alcohol Ads than by Athletes' Drinking Behavior

April 26, 2010

News Summary

Reports of heavy drinking by sports stars appear to have little influence on young people's own drinking behavior, but use of athletes in alcohol advertising carries considerably more weight, results of a study in Australia suggest.

BBC News reported April 21 that in a questionnaire completed by 1,028 students at two Australian universities, the young people thought professional athletes on average drank 12 percent less than they themselves did. These students at the same time tended to overestimate their peers' level of drinking, a factor that appeared to influence their own behavior more strongly.

The researchers added that while athletes' actual behavior seemed to have little influence on youths, the strong presence of alcohol marketing in the sporting world carried greater significance.

"We are not suggesting that sports stars should not be encouraged to drink responsibly, but it's disingenuous to place the blame on them for setting the bad example," said Kerry O'Brien, co-author of a report based on the Australian study. "It is time that sport administrators consider their own social responsibilities when weighing up the costs and benefits of using their sports and sport stars to market alcohol on behalf of the alcohol industry."



### About Us

**DWI Resource Center, Inc.**

The DWI Resource Center is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 New Mexico organization formed to reduce the social and economic impact of DWI through public awareness, education, prevention programs and research. The Center also provides assistance to victims and serves as a central clearinghouse of information on DWI and victims' rights.

**Research and Statistics**  
**Public Policy & Law**  
**Victims' Rights Legal Assistance Project**  
**Court Monitoring**  
**Drug-Free Workplace Programs**  
**Retailers For Responsibility**  
**Victim Impact Panels**

For more information about the Center or to make a contribution, please call us at **(505) 881-1084**, or visit our website at [www.dwiresourcecenter.org](http://www.dwiresourcecenter.org).

## From the Executive Director

Dear Readers,

I regret to inform you that the funding at the DWI Resource Center is extremely diminished and we will no longer be able to provide you with the monthly newsletter.

The City of Albuquerque, under which we were able to provide this newsletter as part of our Drug Free Workplace services to local companies, has decided to fund yet another treatment program in the City rather than continue the services provided by the Center.

I am confident we have provided invaluable drug free workplace services to over 3,000 Albuquerque companies, all the while reducing DWI death and injury in our community. I would invite you to stay in touch with us and continue to be informed on critical DWI issues through our blog, twitter and facebook.

And, if you support our work, please help us with a tax-deductible donation today. I want to thank our volunteers, contributors and supporters. I wish everyone Happy Summer and please stay safe.

I hope to hear from you when you have questions, comments or suggestions on how to keep reducing DWI, here and across the state.

Yours for Safer Streets,  
Linda Atkinson

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## WHO to Tackle Alcohol Misuse, Binge Drinking

Health ministers adopt global strategy at WHO meeting  
Recommend higher taxes and marketing regulations  
Alcohol producers say they'll help curb harmful misuse

GENEVA, May 20 (Reuters) - Health ministers agreed on Thursday to try to curb binge drinking and other growing forms of excessive alcohol use through higher taxes on alcoholic drinks and tighter marketing regulations.

The global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol was adopted by consensus at the annual assembly of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Its 10 main policy recommendations, drawn up after two years of negotiation, are not binding but serve as guidance to WHO's 193 member states.

"Alcohol contributes to accidents, mental health problems, social problems and harms third parties," said Bernt Bull, a senior advisor in Norway's health ministry. Nordic countries, many of which already have tight restrictions on alcohol sales, spearheaded the initiative at the United Nations agency.

A relatively high excise tax on alcoholic beverages and regulations limiting their availability was helping to reduce alcohol-related diseases in Norway, he said.

The WHO estimates that risks linked to alcohol cause 2.5 million deaths a year from heart and liver disease, road accidents, suicides and various cancers -- 3.8 percent of all deaths. It is the third leading risk factor for premature deaths and disabilities worldwide.

"Alcohol is usually not perceived as a killer, though it is," Shekhar Saxena, director of WHO's department of mental health and substance abuse, told a news briefing.

Despite growing abuse and youth drinking at an earlier age in many countries, half of WHO members do not have a national alcohol policy, according to WHO expert Vladimir Poznyak.

"The biggest changes might happen in those countries which have no alcohol control institutions or regulatory framework for alcohol consumption," he told reporters.

### SELF-REGULATION

The Global Alcohol Producers Group noted the strategy recognized the importance of self-regulation by industry in helping to address alcohol abuse.

Its members recognized "the harmful effects of irresponsible drinking patterns" and would continue efforts to promote self-regulation of advertising as well as curbs on drink driving and illegal underage and excessive drinking, a statement said.

Britain's Diageo, the world's largest alcoholic drinks group, and Anheuser-Busch InBev, the world's largest brewer and maker of Budweiser, are among its members.

In a separate statement, brewing giant SABMiller <SAB.L> gave a cautious welcome to the plan, but warned:

"SABMiller is unconvinced there is sufficient evidence to support policy options such as minimum pricing and high excise taxes that may result in unintended, negative public health consequences which stem from the growth of the illicit alcohol market."

The WTO strategy document says the harmful use of alcohol has a serious effect on public health and is one of the main risk factors for poor health globally.

There is strong evidence that a low limit for blood alcohol concentration (0.02 to 0.05 percent) is effective in reducing drink-driving casualties, it says.

It underlined the importance of a legal framework for restricting the sale and serving of alcohol, a minimum age for buying drinks and "mandated health warnings" on alcohol labels.

Setting a minimum price per unit gram of alcohol has been shown to reduce consumption and alcohol-related harm, it said.

But overly tight restrictions on alcohol availability may promote the development of a parallel illicit market, it warned.

The Global Alcohol Policy Alliance -- a coalition of medical professionals, researchers and non-governmental organizations -- welcomed the WHO decision as historic and "long overdue".

"The strategy highlights the effectiveness of focusing on policies regarding pricing, availability and marketing of alcohol," it said in statement.

## Treatment Update: Uninsured Workers, Free Treatment

Households across America are talking about health insurance coverage these days. According to SAMHSA's 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), the most common reason why people with substance use problems do not seek treatment is the financial burden resulting from a lack of health insurance, insurance without a behavioral health benefit, or insufficient means to pay for treatment.

Two reports from SAMHSA's Office of Applied Studies examined data dealing with substance abuse treatment need among uninsured workers as well as free substance abuse treatment.

### Uninsured Workers

More than 18.4 million full-time employees age 18 to 64 (15.5 percent of the full-time adult workers in that age range) had no health insurance coverage, according to data averaged for 2007 and 2008.

An estimated 3.0 million uninsured full-time workers (16.3 percent) needed substance use treatment in the past year. Specifically, 13.3 percent needed alcohol use treatment, 5.6 percent needed illicit drug use treatment, and 2.7 percent needed both alcohol and illicit drug use treatment.

But of the uninsured workers who needed substance use treatment in the past year, only 12.6 percent (378,000 persons) received treatment at a specialty facility.

For more, download Substance Use Treatment Need among Uninsured Workers at <http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k10/177/177EmpNoInsHTML.pdf>.

### Finding Free Treatment

Individuals seeking free treatment and those making referrals for some clients may use SAMHSA's Substance Abuse Treatment Facility Locator at <http://findtreatment.samhsa.gov>. To locate facilities offering free or reduced cost services, select from the "Payment Assistance" options when designing your search.

## Teen Drivers: Safe to and from Prom... and Beyond!

Learning to drive is one of life's milestones. Parents can serve an important role by encouraging teen driver safety during prom season—and throughout the year.

Learn more about teens' risks on the roads and how to help keep them safer. [www.cdc.gov/features/teendivers/](http://www.cdc.gov/features/teendivers/)

## Stay Safe on the Water

### KNOW THE FACTS

Recreational boating—enjoyed by over 70,000,000 Americans each year—can be a wonderful way to spend time with family and friends. And making boating safety a priority can ensure that it stays fun.

Consider that:

- In 2008, 3,330 people were injured, and more than 700 died, in boating incidents. Of those who drowned, 9 out of 10 were not wearing life jackets.
- More than 7 out of every 10 (72%) of fatal boating incident victims drowned in 2008.
- Alcohol use was the leading contributing factor in fatal boating incidents.

### REDUCE YOUR RISK

Whenever you are headed out on the water, keep these tips from the U.S. Coast Guard in mind:

**Wear it.** Properly fitted life jackets can prevent drownings and should be worn by everyone on any boat, at all times. Coast Guard-approved life jackets are now better looking and more comfortable.

**Don't Drink.** Alcohol use affects judgment, vision, balance, and coordination. Reports suggest that alcohol was a contributing factor in about one in five boating fatalities.

**Take a Course.** People operating boats can help keep their passengers safe. Boating education courses teach the regulatory and statutory rules ("Rules of the Road") for safe operation and navigation of recreational boats.

**Get a Vessel Safety Check.** The Vessel Safety Check (VSC) is a free public service provided by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and U.S. Power Squadron volunteer organizations. For more information on the VSC Program, visit their web site: [www.vesselsafetycheck.org](http://www.vesselsafetycheck.org).

**Know about carbon monoxide (CO).** All internal combustion engines, such as boat engines and onboard motor generators, emit CO, an odorless, colorless, poisonous gas. In the early stages, the symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to seasickness, but CO can kill in a matter of minutes. To avoid CO poisoning, be aware of the risk, ensure sufficient ventilation, properly install and maintain equipment, and use CO detectors, especially in living and sleeping areas. See "Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning on Your Boat."

Also, be sure to check state and local requirements, available at the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Web site