



PRC COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Welcome to our first newsletter!

First I want to thank you for joining our group. As you know, we are working with communities in the San Francisco Bay Area. We hope to provide you with useful information, but most of all, we are hoping to learn from *you* about the kinds of information that can be useful to you in your efforts to create healthier environments in your communities with respect to alcohol.

In each newsletter, we plan to feature particular research topics, including a study from our www.resource.prev.org site. We will also include other pertinent information we find in local news or research.

You are welcome to make suggestions and ask questions. In fact, we encourage it! To make that easier, we have included a section where you can express your research needs and interests. We will also alert you to new articles added on our resource page website.

Spring, 2010



BRINGING RESEARCH TO LIFE

What questions about alcohol sales, service, and promotion would you like to have answered by research? We will pass these on to our researchers and answers to some of your questions which will be posted here.

Focus on Research

Local Research: Oakland Youth

-In Oakland, underage drinkers reported access to alcohol from a liquor store or supermarket (46%).

-Over half of the youth participants stated reasons for drinking alcohol related to peer pressure, stress, and/or that it just felt good.

-Half of the youth surveyed reported having had their first drink by age 13, 22% by age 11!

-nearly 40% indicated that awareness of the consequences of drinking would prevent excess or any drinking

Taken from the report: Oakland on the Rocks: Surveying teens about alcohol 'n Oakland.

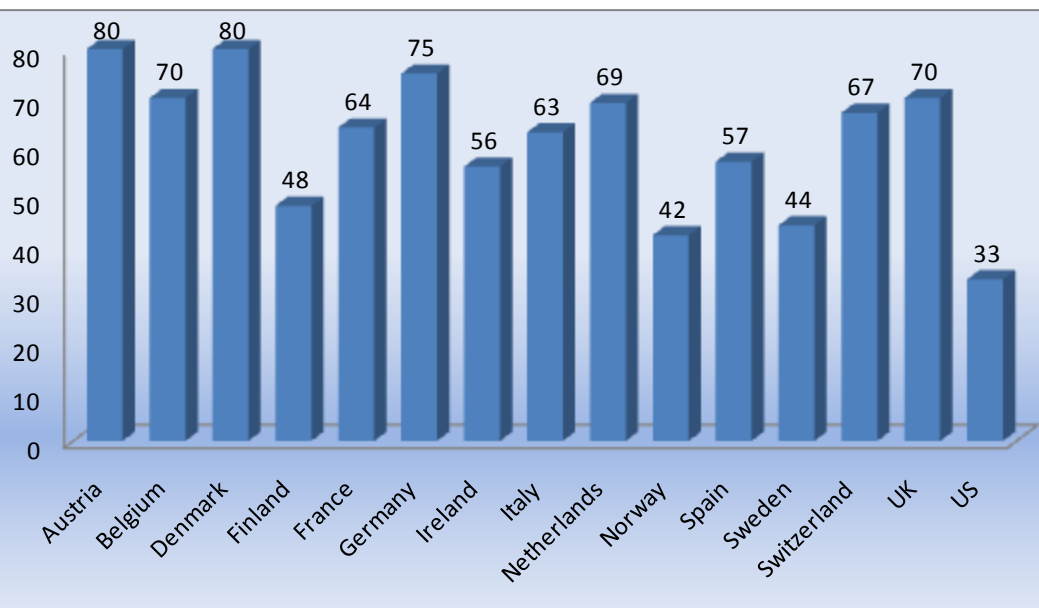
http://www.acgov.org/ems/Injury_Prevention/Oakland_on_the_rocks_report.pdf

Drinking Age Debate

Many advocates for lowering the drinking age believe that American young people have more alcohol related problems, and that countries that have lower drinking age teach young people to drink more responsibly and in moderation. Further, there is the belief that American's suffer from the "forbidden fruit syndrome" and would be less likely to drink at dangerous levels if they were introduced to alcohol more gradually and at a younger age.

A recent study examined drinking by young people in European countries. The results show that these young people actually drink more and drink at dangerous levels more than young people in the U.S. Below is a chart from the study.

Percent of 15-16 Year Olds Reporting Drinking in the Past 30 Days



International News

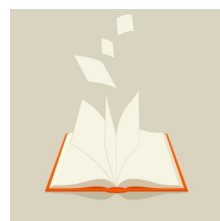
In Italy, where alcohol use in moderation is perceived as healthy, authorities are experiencing increasing problems with a heavy drinking youth culture. *October 5, 2009.*

Mental health leaders in Sydney, Australia are pushing for the age limit to a minimum of 19 in order to separate drinking from leaving school, and hope to eventually raise the age to 21. They report the seriousness of binge drinking among youth in their country. Recent reports show that 96% under 17 had tried alcohol, and that one-third of 12-17 years olds consume alcohol at dangerous levels. *November 17, 2009*

In England, alcohol problems among youth have led to an increase in alcohol dependency in the population as a whole and some children as young as 11 have reported drinking either more than 6 pints of lager or more than 8 alcopops within a week. For adults, the number of secret home drinking and binge drinking has increased, as have hospital admissions and risk of liver disease. *May 22, 2009*

A recent report in Ireland has found that youth are accountable for nearly one-fifth of all alcohol related offences. Young adults ages 18-24 account for two-fifths of these offences. The report also found an increase of 74% in alcohol driving offences, most by young adults 18-24.

The International Institute for Alcohol Awareness (iaaonline.org) gives daily news articles alcohol related news.



This area will be used primarily for ideas, resources, and information gathering. You can submit your own thoughts on research, share resources you found useful and/or informative, and so much more! If you would like to share any successful steps in your community, please let us know so that we can share them with others through our newsletter.

ShareBoard

Your voice matters!

What are the areas you feel needs to be addressed by research?

What type of research best addresses the services or functions of your organization?

How can we help build the bridge between researchers and practitioners?

E-mail your thoughts to Imiramontes@prev.org

From a friend in Redwood City, here is the citation of an article on youth disconnectedness: **Youth who are "disconnected" and those who then reconnect:** Assessing the influence of family, programs, peers and communities. Hair et al. (2009), *Child Trends Research Brief*.

The article focuses on the large number of young people (more than 5 million; between ages of 16 and 24) that are not in school or in the work place. A review of risk factors and the positive influence of programs are presented in the article. Most importantly, the article supports the idea that alternative programs for youth should be strengthened, explored, and developed, as I have found evidence and discussed in my own research in outdoor education and informal education..