



NAPAFASA National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse

Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drugs Fact Sheet: Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI)

Alcohol

- Alcohol use is increasing significantly among AAPIs, who constitute one of the fastest growing U.S. minority populations (*Alcohol Alert*, No. 55, January 2002).
- On the whole, AAPIs who drink habitually drink more per day than any other racial/ethnic group (*Prevention Alert*, Vol. 5, No. 7, May 2001).
- Immigrants from Japan (62.1%) and Korea (53.2%) had a higher prevalence of past month alcohol use than immigrants from the Philippines (24.1%), China (28.4%), Vietnam (26.4%), and India (26.6%). Korean and Japanese prevalence rates were similar to the rates of U.S.-born individuals (SAMHSA, 2005).
- Heavy drinking (more than 5 binges in one month), although low amongst AAPI youth, rose from 0.5% to 0.9% in 2000 (*Prevention Alert*, Vol. 5, No. 7, May 2001).

Tobacco

- AAPIs who smoke habitually, smoke more cigarettes per day than any other group, i.e. 16.8 cigarettes per day (*Prevention Alert*, Vol. 5, No. 7, May 2001).
- Among AAPI high school seniors, 4.4% of male students and 4.5% of female students reported smoking a half a pack or more per day. (American Lung Association, 2000).
- For past year tobacco use, foreign-born persons from Japan (26.1%), Korea (33.4%) and Vietnam (27.3%) had higher rates than persons from China (13.5%) and the Philippines (16.7%) (SAMHSA, 2005)
- The number of AAPI smokers increases seven fold from junior high to high school ("National Youth Tobacco Survey", 2000).
- It is estimated that about 15,000-20,000 AAPIs will die every year because of tobacco related illnesses (Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment and Leadership, 2001).

Illicit Drugs

- The current illicit drug use rate amongst Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders is 9.1%, higher than other ethnic/racial groups, whereas Japanese and Chinese have the lowest rates out of all ethnic/racial groups, at 2.3% and 2.5% respectively (SAMHSA, 2005).
- AAPI substance abuse treatment admissions were more likely than all other admission to go into treatment for either marijuana or methamphetamine/amphetamine (The DASIS Report, 2005).
- AAPI stimulant admissions are nearly four times higher than for total admissions (The DASIS Report, 2002).
- Although AAPIs have consistently lower use rates than other racial groups, persons of mixed race have the second highest rates, 12.0%, which obscure correct readings for Hispanics and Asians (SAMHSA, 2005).

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