

## Underage Drinking—Facts & Statistics

### Wisconsin

#### 2007 Report “Impact of Alcohol and Illicit Drug Use in Wisconsin”

#### University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute

- 49 % rate of drinking among high school students (#1 in the nation)
- 39% rate of underage drinking (#1 in the nation)
- 28% rate of underage binge drinking (#2 in the nation)  
(This figure rose significantly between 2003 and 2005)

Note: These figures are from data collected between 2003 and 2005.

### Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, October 2006

2005 study, according to self-reports by Wisconsin students in grades 9-12

- 24% had their first drink of alcohol (other than a few sips) before age 13
- 49% had at least one drink of alcohol in the past 30 days
- 31% had five or more drinks in a row (binge drinking) during the past 30 days
- 4% had at least one drink of alcohol on school property during the past 30 days

### NIAAA (National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism)

#### National Institutes of Health

- 14 years old                      Average age of first use of alcohol in 2003
- 17.5 years old                    Average age of first use of alcohol in 1965

Those who start drinking before the age of 15 are FOUR TIMES more likely to experience alcohol dependency some time in their lifetime than those who begin drinking at as adults.

“Frequent binge drinkers are more likely to engage in risky behaviors, including other drugs such as marijuana and cocaine, having sex with six or more partners, and earning grades that are mostly Ds and Fs in school.”

“Young drinkers are able to consume much larger amounts of alcohol than adults before experiencing the negative consequences of drinking, such as drowsiness, lack of coordination and withdrawal/hangover effects. This unusual tolerance may help to explain the high rates of binge drinking.”