"National Survey on Drug Use and Health"

The survey information listed below comes from a recent report by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. For more information about the survey, please visit http://www.oas.samhsa.gov.

- **ALCOHOL USE**: Slightly more than half of all Americans aged 12 or older reported being current drinkers of alcohol (51.6 percent). This translates to an estimated 129.0 million people.

- **AGE**: Among older age groups, the prevalence of current alcohol use decreased with increasing age, from 67 percent among 26 to 29 year olds, to 50 percent among 60 to 64 year olds, and to 40 percent among people aged 65 or older.

- **GENDER**: 58 percent of males aged 12 or older reported being current drinkers, higher than the rate for females (46 percent). However, among youths aged 12 to 17, the percentage of males who were current drinkers (14.2 percent) was similar to the rate for females (15.0 percent).

- **RACE/ETHNICITY**: Among persons aged 12 or older, whites were more likely than other racial/ethnic groups to report current use of alcohol (56 percent). Alcohol use rates were 47 percent for persons reporting two or more races, 43 percent for American Indians or Alaska Natives, 43 percent for Hispanics, 42 percent for blacks, and 37 percent for Asians.

- **EDUCATION**: Among adults aged 18 or older, the rate of past month alcohol use increased with increasing levels of education. Among adults with less than a high school education, 37 percent were current drinkers, significantly lower than the 68 percent of college graduates who were current drinkers.

- **GEOGRAPHIC AREA**: The rate of past month alcohol use for people aged 12 or older was lower in the South (47 percent) than in the Northeast (57 percent), Midwest (54 percent), or West (52 percent).

- **ASSOCIATION WITH ILLICIT DRUG USE**: The level of alcohol use is highly associated with illicit drug use. Among the 17.3 million “heavy drinkers” aged 12 or older, 29 percent were also current illicit drug users. Persons who were not current alcohol users were much less likely to have used illicit drugs in the past month (3 percent).

- **UNDERAGE USE**: A majority of underage current drinkers reported that their last use of alcohol in the past month occurred either in someone else’s home (56 percent) or their own home (30 percent).

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TOBACCO

- **TOBACCO USE**: An estimated 70.9 million Americans aged 12 or older were current users of a tobacco product. This represents 28 percent of the population in that age range.

- **AGE**: Young adults aged 18 to 25 had the highest rate of current use of a tobacco product (41 percent) compared with youths aged 12 to 17 and adults aged 26 or older (11 and 28 percent, respectively). Between 2002 and 2008, there was a significant decrease in the rates for current use of tobacco products and cigarettes among young adults.

- **GENDER**: Current use of a tobacco product among persons aged 12 or older was reported by a higher percentage of males (34 percent) than females (22 percent).

- **RACE/ETHNICITY**: The prevalence of current use of a tobacco product among persons aged 12 or older was 14 percent for Asians, 21 percent for Hispanics, 29 percent for blacks, 30 percent for whites, 37 percent for persons who reported two or more races, and 49 percent for American Indians or Alaska Natives.

- **GEOGRAPHIC AREA**: Current cigarette smoking among persons aged 12 or older was lower in the West (21 percent) and Northeast (22 percent) than in the South (25 percent) and Midwest (26 percent). Use of smokeless tobacco was also higher in the Midwest and South.

- **FREQUENCY OF CIGARETTE USE**: Among the 59.8 million current cigarette smokers aged 12 or older, 36.9 million (62 percent) used cigarettes daily. The percentage of daily cigarette smokers increased with age. About half (49 percent) of daily smokers aged 12 or older reported smoking 16 or more cigarettes per day. The percentage of daily smokers who smoked at least one pack of cigarettes per day (20 cigarettes) increased with age.

RESOURCES

KSU Counseling Services
English/Counseling Services Bldg.
Phone: 532-6927

KSU Alcohol & Other Drug Education Service
Director: Bill Arck
214 English/Counseling Services Bldg.
Phone: 532-6927

Alcoholics Anonymous
Noon Meeting (Mon.-Sat.)
Blue Valley United Methodist Church
835 Church Ave.
Phone: 537-9260

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