



## Put In Your 2¢ Worth...

About 2¢ a drink yields \$44 million annually  
to reduce the impact of  
alcohol problems in Missouri.

### **Question:**

*Considering the current legislative emphasis on education, isn't it sad that the damaging effects of alcohol on academic performance by high school and college students is given so little attention?*

### **Answer:**

Yes, it certainly is, especially since the impact of alcohol on academic performance, school climate, safety and health are so well-documented. If we are going to compete successfully in the global marketplace, reducing alcohol-related problems should be a priority in planning for a quality education for our future leaders.

## **MISSOURI ALCOHOL IMPACT FACT #33**

- Drinking rates of Missouri high school seniors are considerably higher than national rates. Nationally, 47.5% of high school seniors were current drinkers in 2003. In Missouri, 57.3% of high school seniors used alcohol -- up from 52.2% in 2001 – according to the most recent Youth Risk Behavior Survey. (a)
- Past-month binge drinking rates dropped in the 2003 survey by 1% from the 2001 level, but was still high, at 38.9%. About two-thirds of high school students who drank had engaged in binge drinking in the month prior to the survey. (a)
- Patterns of alcohol consumption by high school students carry over into their college careers. About 25% of college students report academic consequences of their drinking, including missing classes, falling behind, doing poorly on tests or projects and receiving lower grades overall. (b)
- Not just students who use alcohol are affected by that use. According to one national study, 68% of non-binge drinkers reported that, since the beginning of their academic year, their studying or sleep was interrupted because of other students' use of alcohol. (c)

(a) MO Dept. of Mental Health, Division of Alcohol & Drug Abuse, 2004 Status Report, based on findings from the 2003 DESE-administered biennial survey and the national Monitoring the Future survey.

(b) Engs, R; Diebold, BA; and Hansen, DJ. "The drinking patterns and problems of a national sample of college students," *Journal of Alcohol and Drug Education*, 41:13-33, 1996; Presley, CA; Meilman, PW; and Cashin, JR. "Alcohol and Drugs on American College Campuses," Carbondale, IL: Core Institute, Southern Illinois University, 1996; Wechsler, H; Dowdall, GW; Davenport, AE; and Castillo, S. "Correlates of college student binge drinking." *American Journal of Public Health*, 85:982-985, 1995.

(c) Wechsler, H. *Binge Drinking on American College Campuses: A New Look at an Old Problem*. Boston: Harvard School of Public Health, 1995.

**For more information call one of the  
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