

## Prevention is Cost Effective

- ⇒ Every dollar invested in research-based prevention has the potential to save from \$2.00 to \$20.00 in areas such as drug abuse treatment, overall health care, educational system and criminal justice system costs. [Swisher]
- ⇒ For every dollar invested in research based prevention programs, a savings of \$10.00 in treatment costs alone can be realized. [Levy]
- ⇒ The cost savings from helping just one high-risk youth graduate from high school, avoid heavy drugs and not engage in crime would range between \$1.7 and \$2.3 MILLION dollars. [Levy]
- ⇒ \$2.88 saved for every dollar spent on environmental strategies. [Holder]
- ⇒ No matter what part of the continuum of care was evaluated, there are SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS when prevention strategies are implemented.

## Substance Abuse is Expensive

The total overall costs of substance abuse in the U.S., including productivity, health and crime related costs, exceed \$600 BILLION annually. [CSAP]

Breakdown by substance:

- \$235 BILLION for alcohol
- \$193 BILLION for tobacco
- \$193 BILLION for illicit drugs

## Cost of Adolescent Alcohol Use

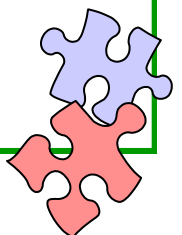
- ⇒ The younger the youth is when drinking begins, the more likely addiction will occur.
  - 1 of 10 who begin drinking as adults, 21 or older, will suffer addiction.
  - 1 in 4 who begin drinking around age 17 will suffer addiction.
  - 1 in 3 who begin drinking around age 16 will suffer addiction.

[Hingson, NIDA]
- ⇒ Early drinkers are the least likely to seek help for alcohol disorders and addiction.
- ⇒ Those who do seek help suffer from chronic relapse, and are prone to longer episodes of relapse with more severe symptoms.
  - Higher and repeated treatment and medical costs associated with addiction in individuals who begin using before age 21.

[Hingson, NIDA]
- ⇒ Young drinkers are more likely to injure self and others after drinking.
- ⇒ 46% of ALL patients on life support in trauma centers across the US are there as a result of drinking.
  - Higher costs associated with trauma and medical expenses, pain and suffering, property damage, lost productivity, lost quality of life and lost wages.

[Hingson, NIDA]
- ⇒ Youth using alcohol are 3 times more likely to commit a violent offense.
  - Higher costs associated with police services, school security and discipline, litigation and the judicial system, family services.

[Hingson, NIDA]
- ⇒ Youth drinkers are more likely to die as a result of their drinking.
- ⇒ Injuries are the leading cause of death among youth and alcohol is the leading contributor to these accidents.



# KENTUCKY ALCOHOL POLICY ALLIANCE

## *Alcohol is Kentucky's No. 1 Youth Drug Problem*



### Underage Drinking Risks

- Death — 5,000 youth die every year from alcohol-related incidents
- Brain Development — Damage to the developing brain, heart and liver
- Alcohol Dependence — The younger teens drink, the more likely they are to become alcohol dependent and drinking drivers
- Memory Loss — 1 in 5 KY 12th graders have reported blacking out from drinking or drug use

*2012 KIP Survey and 2013 National Institutes of Health*

### Youth Tell Us

- 73% of 12th graders say it is easy to get beer, wine or hard liquor
- 34% of 12th graders say they have used alcohol in the past 30-days
- 28% of 12th graders report they have been drunk in the past 30-days
- 21% of 12th graders have reported binge drinking in the past two-weeks

*2012 KIP Survey*



### **Kentucky Alcohol Policy Alliance**

KAPA is a statewide partnership established to identify current statutory issues, increase public support for effective and necessary policies, and formulate solutions to reduce underage and high-risk drinking.



Learn more at [www.kyprevention.com/projects/kapa](http://www.kyprevention.com/projects/kapa)

