



Fact Sheet: Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Alcohol Use

- Alcohol use is increasing significantly among Asian Americans, who constitute one of the fastest growing U.S. minority populations (*Alcohol Alert*, No. 55, January 2002).
- While drinking, many Asian sub-populations experience negative reactions from the inactivity of aldehyde dehydrogenase-2 (ALDH2) an enzyme important to alcohol metabolism. These symptoms include a flushing of the skin, nausea, headache and discomfort (*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).
- Filipino youths were more likely to have used alcohol during the past year than Chinese or Asian Indian youth (SAMHSA, 2001)
- The Student Substance Use Survey found that there was a 6-month drinking rate of 50% for Pacific Islanders, 13.2% for Filipinos and 5.8% for Chinese (*Prevention Alert*, Vol.5, No.7, May 2001).
- Binge drinking, past month drinking and current drinking were least likely to be reported by AAPIs than by any other racial/ethnic group (SAMHSA, 2001).
- Immigrants from Japan (62.1 percent) and Korea (53.2 percent) had a higher prevalence of past month alcohol use than immigrants from the Philippines (24.1 percent), China (28.4 percent), Vietnam (26.4 percent), and India (26.6 percent). Korean and Japanese prevalence rates were similar to the rates of U.S.-born individuals (SAMHSA, 2005).
- Korean immigrants had the highest level of weekly alcohol consumption, consuming on average 7.5 drinks per week; immigrants from Vietnam had the second highest past month weekly consumption rate of 5.1 drinks per week, followed closely by Filipino and Japanese immigrants at 4.6 and 3.5 drinks per week (SAMHSA, 2005).
- For most Asian immigrant groups, past month weekly alcohol consumption was higher with longer time spent in the United States (SAMHSA, 2005).

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