

## **FACT SHEET: ALCOHOL AND HEALTH IN WISCONSIN**

### **How common is problem drinking and risky drinking in Wisconsin and Dane County?**

10% of individuals of ages 12 and up have alcohol problems – either abuse or dependence (State Treatment Needs Assessment Program, 1999).

22.1% of adults in Wisconsin engage in risky drinking – having 5 or more drinks in an occasion – the highest rate in the US (CDC, Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2005).

7.5% of adults in Wisconsin engage in heavy drinking – having 60 drinks in a month – the highest rate in the US (CDC, Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2005).

21.6% of Wisconsin women of ages 18 to 44 engage in risky drinking, which puts their fetuses at risk for mental retardation and other birth defects – the highest rate in the US (Tsai & Floyd, MMWR, 2004).

Dane County is in the top 25% of Wisconsin counties with regard to risky drinking (2006 Wisconsin County Health Rankings, UW-Madison Population Health Institute, 2006).

### **What are the health and social effects of such drinking in Wisconsin?**

Every year, unhealthy drinking is directly responsible for (DHFS, *Healthiest Wisconsin 2010*, 2000):

- 1,300 deaths
- 8,500 motor vehicle crashes
- 6,800 motor vehicle crash injuries
- 2,400 known cases of child abuse
- 90,000 arrests

Drinking is the fourth most common cause of death in Wisconsin.

Drinking is the fourth most common cause of hospitalization in Wisconsin.

### **What is the annual economic impact of alcohol-related health and social problems in Wisconsin?**

Nearly \$5 billion (DHFS, 2000)

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