



# Youth and Drugs in Washington, D.C., 1999–2006

## Abuse or Dependence

- ◆ An estimated 1,000 youth aged 12 to 17 and 6,000 young adults aged 18 to 25 reported abuse or dependence of illicit drugs between the 2003 and 2004 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH).
- ◆ An estimated 1,000 youth aged 12 to 17 and 11,000 young adults aged 18 to 25 reported abuse or dependence of alcohol between the 2003 and 2004 NSDUHs.
- ◆ Each year between 2002 and 2005, an average of 3,000 youth aged 12 to 17 and 27,000 young adults aged 18 to 25 reported tobacco use in the past month.

*Source: Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2003 and 2004 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)*

## Drug and Alcohol-Related Crime

- ◆ In 2005, more than 8,000 drug-related arrests occurred in DC for possession or sales and manufacturing of drugs; juveniles accounted for less than 4 percent of these arrests.
- ◆ Although the number of juvenile drug-related arrests decreased nearly 14 percent between 2004 and 2005, the proportion of total arrests of juveniles remained steady during this time.
- ◆ Juveniles were most often arrested for sales- and manufacturing-related violations and more arrests occurred for marijuana than any other drug.
- ◆ Drugs were listed as the motive in 17 percent of homicides involving juvenile victims from 2001 to 2005 which is second to retaliation at 19 percent.
- ◆ More than half (52.3%) of the juvenile arrestees who agreed to be drug tested in 2006 (n=2379) were positive for at least one drug substance with 51.2% testing positive for marijuana.
- ◆ Drug testing for use of amphetamines in the juvenile arrestee population first occurred in August 2006; since that time, between 0.5 and 3.5 percent have tested positive each month.

*Sources: Crime and arrest data are from the Metropolitan Police Department reported in December 2006; Urinalysis results are from DC Office of Forensic Research, Pretrial Services Agency, January 2007*

## Underage Drinking

- ◆ An average of 25,000 males and 27,000 females aged 12 to 25 reported drinking alcohol in the past month based on estimates for each year between 2002 and 2005.
- ◆ An average of 18,000 males and 14,000 females aged 12 to 25 reported binge alcohol use (5 or more drinks on the same occasion) in the past month based on estimates for each year between 2002 and 2005.
- ◆ As of 2005, the percentage of high school students reporting past month alcohol use and binge alcohol use steadily decreased since 1999.
- ◆ In 2005, nearly one in four students reported past month alcohol use and one in ten reported binge alcohol use in the past month.
- ◆ In 2005, about 18 percent of youth reported taking their first drink prior to age 13, which was a substantial decrease from nearly 28 percent during the 1999 and 2003 survey years.

*Source: Averages are from the NSDUH 2002-2005 surveys; Data on high school students is from the Youth Risk Behavior Surveys 1999–2005, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Center for Disease Control (CDC)*

## Drinking and Driving

- ◆ The majority (45.8%) of drinking drivers who were involved in fatal crashes in 2004 (n=41) were young adults aged 21 to 29.
- ◆ The percentage of students riding with a drunk driver or driving under the influence steadily decreased since 1999; in 2005, nearly 1 in 4 reported riding in a car in the past month with someone who had been drinking while 4 percent reported driving under the influence in the past 30 days.

*Sources: Fatal crash data is from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation; Drinking and driving data is from the Youth Risk Behavior Surveys 1999–2005, NCCDPHP, DHHS, CDC*