

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence – New Jersey
1675 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road, Suite 205, Hamilton, NJ 08619

CONTACT: Daniel Meara
609.689.0121 x 102
dmeara@ncaddnj.org

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence-New Jersey launches sobering facts website to confront youth alcohol use

TRENTON ... (April 21, 2004) – The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence-New Jersey has launched a website, www.soberingfacts.org, to educate the public about youth use of alcohol and the harm that comes of it. The site will act as a portal of information on the prevalence of youth consumption of alcohol in the state and seek to engage citizens to help curb such use.

Among the troubling facts found on the website are that 22 percent of the state's 8th graders have used alcohol in the past 30 days and that nearly half of high school students have had alcohol in that same time frame. The consequences of such use, the website shows, are cases of youth involved in sexual assault, teenage suicides and deaths in car and other accidents.

Additionally, the site has links to two research papers detailing youth alcohol use and providing a number of recommendations to combat a problem that persists with relatively little public outcry despite the many tragedies it has caused. Finally, there is an appeal to support proposals such as an increase in the alcohol tax to fund a comprehensive underage drinking program and keg registration to impose a penalty on adult purchases of beer kegs who allow youth to drink from those barrels.

NCADD-NJ has dedicated itself for more than 20 years to educating New Jersey's citizens about alcohol and drug use issues, to advocating on state policies concerning individuals addicted to alcohol or other drugs, and to reducing the stigma that frustrates a public health approach to the disease of addiction.

###