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Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

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Alcohol Alert - May 31, 2022



Pregnant Women's Alcohol Use is Linked to Partners' Drinking

Newswise — Pregnant women's alcohol use is correlated with their partners' drinking, according to a large European study — and partners are unlikely to meaningfully reduce or halt their alcohol consumption while expecting a baby. The findings may offer a new way of identifying women at risk of drinking in pregnancy and potentially intervening to prevent or reduce harm. Alcohol consumption during pregnancy can seriously impair fetal health and development, causing stillbirth and lifelong disabilities. These include fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASDs), the primary cause of non-genetic cognitive disability worldwide. Although the drinking patterns of women and their partners are known to be correlated, little attention has been given to partners' alcohol use during pregnancy and how this may affect women's drinking and pregnancy outcomes. For the study in *Alcoholism: Clinical & Experimental Research*, investigators searched for associations between pregnant women's and their partners' alcohol use before and during pregnancy. [Read](#)

Four-year college students drink more, use marijuana less than community college peers

Students at four-year colleges and universities drink nearly twice

as much alcohol as their peers in two-year colleges, according to a survey of college students in the Seattle area. On the other hand, students in community colleges and other two-year institutions use marijuana nearly twice as often as four-year students. [Read](#)

Deaths related to alcohol use disorder surged during the pandemic, with young adults seeing an especially sharp increase, according to a recent study.

The team found that actual mortality rates related to alcohol use disorder were far higher than expected in both 2020 and 2021. The observed rates were 25 percent higher than predicted in 2020 and 22 percent greater in 2021. Researchers acknowledged that while the older adult group experienced the highest mortality rate, younger adults aged 25-44 showed the greatest uptick. “In publishing this article, we want everyone, especially policymakers and physicians on the front lines, to know that during the pandemic, there is really a significant surge in alcohol use disorder-related deaths,” Yeo said. [Read](#)

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