



# Country Boys

A film by  
David Sutherland

## Fact Sheet: Teen and Family Substance Abuse

- Teenagers whose parents talk to them regularly about the dangers of drugs are 42% less likely to use drugs than those whose parents don't, yet only 1 in 4 teens reports having these conversations. <sup>1</sup>
- Alcohol is the most commonly used drug among young people. <sup>2</sup>
- 40% of those who started drinking at age 14 or younger later developed alcohol dependence, compared with 10% of those who began drinking at age 20 or older. <sup>2</sup>
- 65% of the youth who drink alcohol report that they get the alcohol they drink from family and friends. <sup>2</sup>
- By the 8th grade, 52% of adolescents have consumed alcohol, 41% have smoked cigarettes, and 20% have used marijuana. <sup>2</sup>
- In 2000, more than 60% of teens said drugs were used, kept, or sold at their school. <sup>3</sup>
- 50% of high school seniors report drinking alcohol in the past 30 days with 32% report being drunk at least once in the same period. <sup>2</sup>
- Most people begin smoking as adolescents. Among youths who smoke, the average age of initiation is 12.5 years of age. <sup>2</sup>
- Children of alcoholics (COAs) are four times more likely than non-COAs to develop alcoholism. <sup>4</sup>
- Almost 1 in 5 adult Americans (18%) lived with an alcoholic while growing up. <sup>4</sup>
- One in 4 children under 18 years old in the United States lives with a chemically dependent parent. <sup>5</sup>
- Children of substance abusers are the highest risk group for alcohol and illicit drug dependence and are exposed to a variety of ills such as depression, anxiety, problems with cognitive and verbal skills, parent abuse or neglect, and school failure. <sup>5</sup>
- 14 million Americans are considered problem drinkers (including 8 million who have alcoholism) and 76 million people who are exposed to alcoholism in family settings. <sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Partnership For A Drug-Free America

<sup>2</sup> Substance Abuse: The Nation's Number One Health Problem

<sup>3</sup> National Survey of Substance Abuse Attitudes, Feb. 2001

<sup>4</sup> National Association for Children of Alcoholics <http://www.nacoa.net/impfacts.htm>

<sup>5</sup> US Department of Health and Human Services and SAMSHA's National Clearing House for Alcohol and Drug information.  
<http://www.health.org/features/kidsarea/harrypotter/>

<sup>6</sup> National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence NCADD  
[http://kidshealth.org/teen/your\\_mind/families/coping\\_alcoholic.html](http://kidshealth.org/teen/your_mind/families/coping_alcoholic.html)