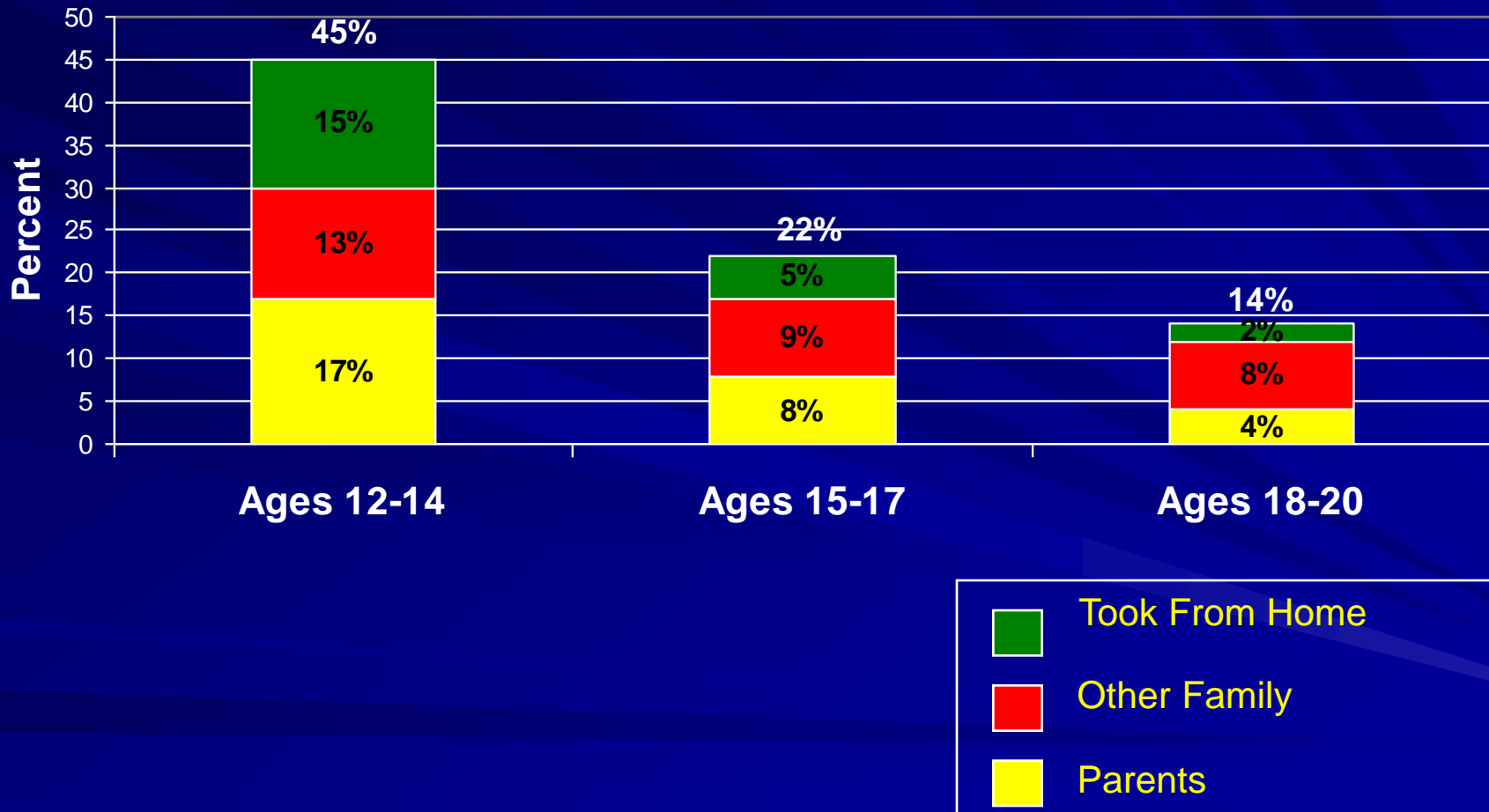


# Where do Young Teens Obtain Alcohol? U.S. Drinkers, Ages 12-20, Source of Alcohol Used in Past Month, by Age, 2006





# Why Are These Findings Important?

Injuries are the leading cause of death among youth 1-44

- Unintentional injuries #1 1-44
- Intentional injuries #2 8-34

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

# Why Are These Findings Important?

**Alcohol is involved in over 50,000 injury deaths annually\* (Nearly 44,000 attributable to alcohol)**

- 40% unintended injury deaths 39,000
- 47% Homicides 8,000
- 29% Suicides 8,500

**Alcohol is the leading contributor to injuries, the leading cause of death among young people in the United States**

**Sources: G. Smith et. al 1999;  
CDC, 2009**

\* Over half under age 44



# Key Unanswered

## Legal Drinking Age Questions

- In all 50 states and the District of Columbia it is illegal:
  - For a person under 21 to **possess** alcohol.
  - To **furnish** alcohol to a person under 21.
  - To use a false ID to **obtain** alcohol.
  - For a person under age 21 to **drive** with a BAC  $\geq$  0.02 g/dl.



# Key Unanswered Legal Drinking Age Questions

- But, it's more complicated. For example, depending on the state it **CAN** be legal:
  - For persons under 21 to **possess** alcohol with parental/guardian consent and/or presence (24 States)
  - For a parent or guardian to **furnish** alcohol to a person under 21 (31 states)
  - In fact, only 31 States and DC **explicitly** prohibit **consumption** of alcohol by a person under age 21
  - In 47 states, people under 21 **can serve** alcohol
- Source: NIAAA Alcohol Policy Information System at <http://www.alcoholpolicy.niaaa.nih.gov/stateprofiles//index.asp>

# Key Unanswered Questions

## Explore Effects of:

- 1) Removing loopholes and exceptions in age 21 MLDA laws
- 2) Keg registration laws
- 3) Social host liability laws
- 4) Minimum legal age children can be provided alcohol by parents
- 5) Raising age youth can serve alcohol

# Is Passing Laws Enough?

## STATUS

INSURANCE  
INSTITUTE  
FOR  
HIGHWAY  
SAFETY

## REPORT

Vol. 25, No. 3

March 25, 1992

### Underage Youths Easily Buy Beer and Their Traffic Deaths Go Up

Clerks in liquor stores and other markets in Washington, D.C., rarely seek identification from 18- and 20-year-old youths who try to purchase beer, a new study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety reveals.

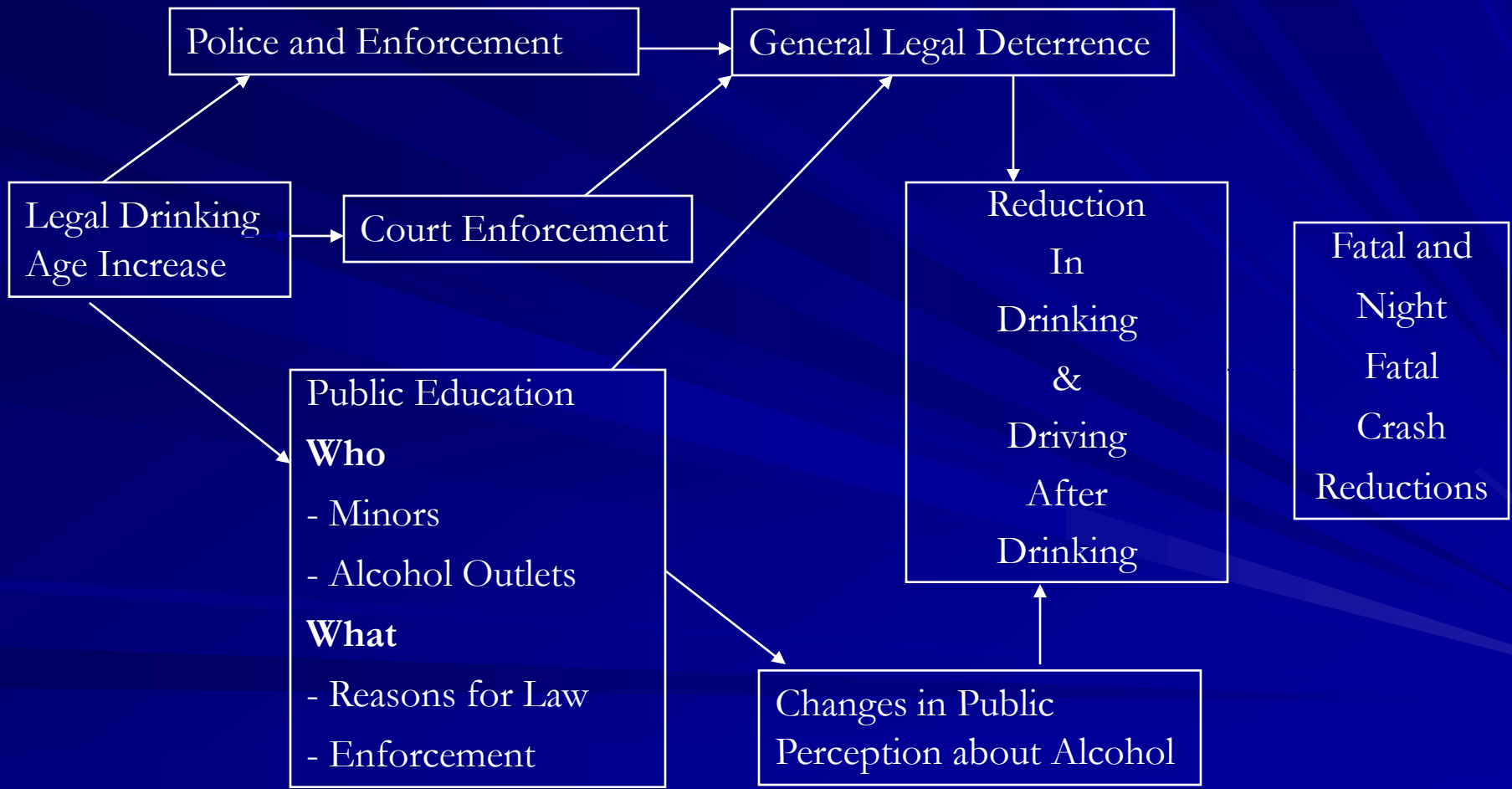
In 57 out of 100 attempts to buy a six-pack, young men 18 and 20 years of age were successful, although the legal alcohol purchase age is 21 throughout the nation.

"This is not an isolated problem," says Brian O'Neil, Institute president. "It's time to crack down and enforce the 21 drinking age laws." Alcohol-related fatalities among underage drivers are now at the five-year high following years of decline.



In previous attempts, two underage youths successfully purchase six packs in Washington, D.C.

# Potential Process of Change After a Drinking Age Increase





# How can you further reduce drinking and related injuries and deaths in your community?

## Comprehensive Community Interventions

- Involve multiple departments of city government and private citizens
- Use multiple program strategies
  - Education
  - Media advocacy
  - Community organizing
  - Environmental policy change
  - Heightened enforcement
  - Expand alcohol treatment



# Successful Comprehensive Community Interventions

- Saving Lives Program, Hingson (1996)
- Communities Mobilizing for Change, Wagenaar (2000)
- Community Trials, Holder (2000)
- A Matter of Degree, Weitzman (2004)
- Fighting Back, Hingson (2005)
- Sacramento Neighborhood Alcohol Prevention Project, Treno (2007)
- State Coalitions to Reduce Underage Drinking, Wagenaar (2006)

# Communities Mobilizing for Change

- Interventions to Reduce Availability:
  - Merchants record underage buy attempts
  - Beer kegs prohibited at University Homecoming
  - Policies to discourage motels from permitting underage drinking parties
  - Security at high school dances
  - Model local ordinances to restrict underage access to alcohol
  - Compliance checks

Source: Wagenaar et al., *J. Studies on Alcohol*, 2000

# Communities Mobilizing for Change

## Results:

- 17% increase in outlets checking age ID
- 24% decline in bar and restaurant sales
- 25% decrease in the proportion of 18-20 year olds attempting alcohol purchase
- 17% decline in the proportion of older teens providing alcohol to younger teens
- 7% decrease in the percent under 21 who drank
- 14% decline in alcohol traffic injuries, drivers 18-20

Source: Wagenaar et al., *J. Studies on Alcohol*, 2000



# A Matter of Degree (AMOD)

Weitzman et al. American Journal of Preventive Medicine. 2004

- College/ Community Partnerships
- Environmental strategies to reduce drinking problems:
  - Keg registration
  - Mandatory responsible beverage service
  - Police wild party enforcement
  - Substance free residence halls
  - Advertising bans



# A Matter of Degree (AMOD)

Weitzman et al. American Journal of Preventive Medicine. 2004

- AMOD achieved reductions among college students in
  - Binge drinking
  - Driving after drinking
  - Alcohol related injuries
  - Being assaulted by other drinking college students



# Fighting Back Program Selected Interventions

## Limit Alcohol Availability

- Youth access compliance check surveys
- Responsible beverage service training
- Monitoring and closing problem liquor outlets
- Bill board restrictions

## Expand Treatment

- Sales tax increase for expanded treatment
- New treatment programs- courts, jails, health care agencies, public housing
- Emergency department screening/brief interventions
- New inpatient, outpatient and recovery programs

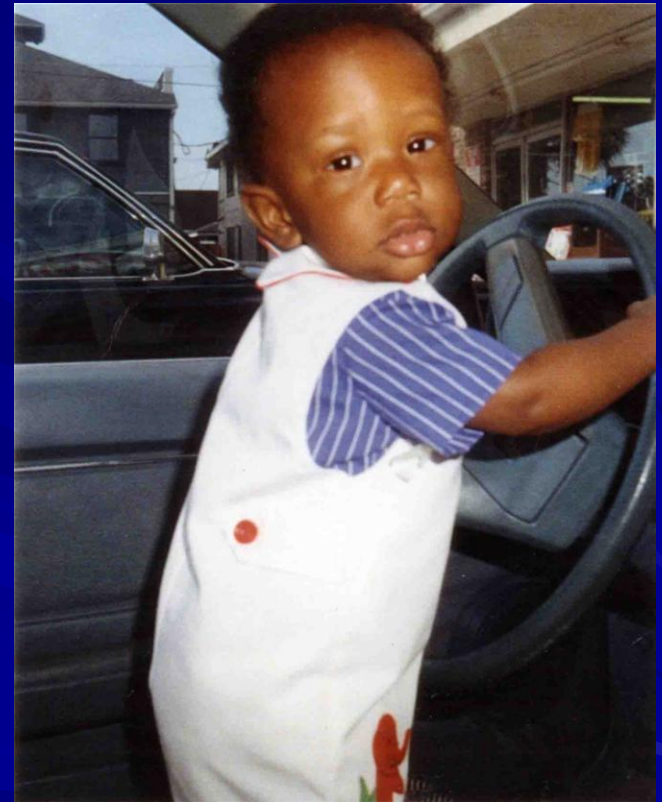
**Source: Hingson et al., Injury Prevention, 2005**

# Greater Relative Reduction in Alcohol-Related Fatal Crashes VS Fatal Crashes with Zero BAC

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

|                        |                       |                   |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Pooled Effects         | BAC .01%+ VS Zero BAC |                   |
| Drivers                | All Ages              | 16-20             |
| 5 FB sites VS controls | 22%<br>↓<br>P=.01     | 26%<br>↓<br>P=.08 |

**Communities: Kansas City, MO, \*Milwaukee, WI, San Antonio, TX, \*Santa Barbara, CA, and \*Vallejo, CA**



Courtney Birch

Source: Hingson et al., Injury Prevention, 2005

# Conclusions

- Research indicates reductions in underage and college age drinking and related problems can be achieved with interventions that focus on
  - Individuals
  - Families
  - Schools
  - Environmental Changes/Legislation
- Interventions targeting multiple levels are more effective

# Conclusions

- Comprehensive community interventions address college age and underage drinking at multiple levels
  - Coordinate multiple city departments
  - Clear measurable Objectives and Strategic Plans
  - Combine Education and Law Enforcement
  - Include screening and early interventions
  - Use Data to Plan and Evaluate
  - Involve Private Citizens – Be Inclusive
  - Involve Youth

# Key Unanswered Questions: Comprehensive Community Interventions to Reduce Youth Alcohol Problems

- 1) Will a combination of
  - environmental interventions to reduce alcohol availability and enforce alcohol policy, e.g. DWI and drinking age laws
  - increased alcohol screening and early intervention achieve greater problem reduction than either alone?
- 2) Are programs that target both underage youth and young adults more effective in reducing youth alcohol problems than underage oriented programs only?

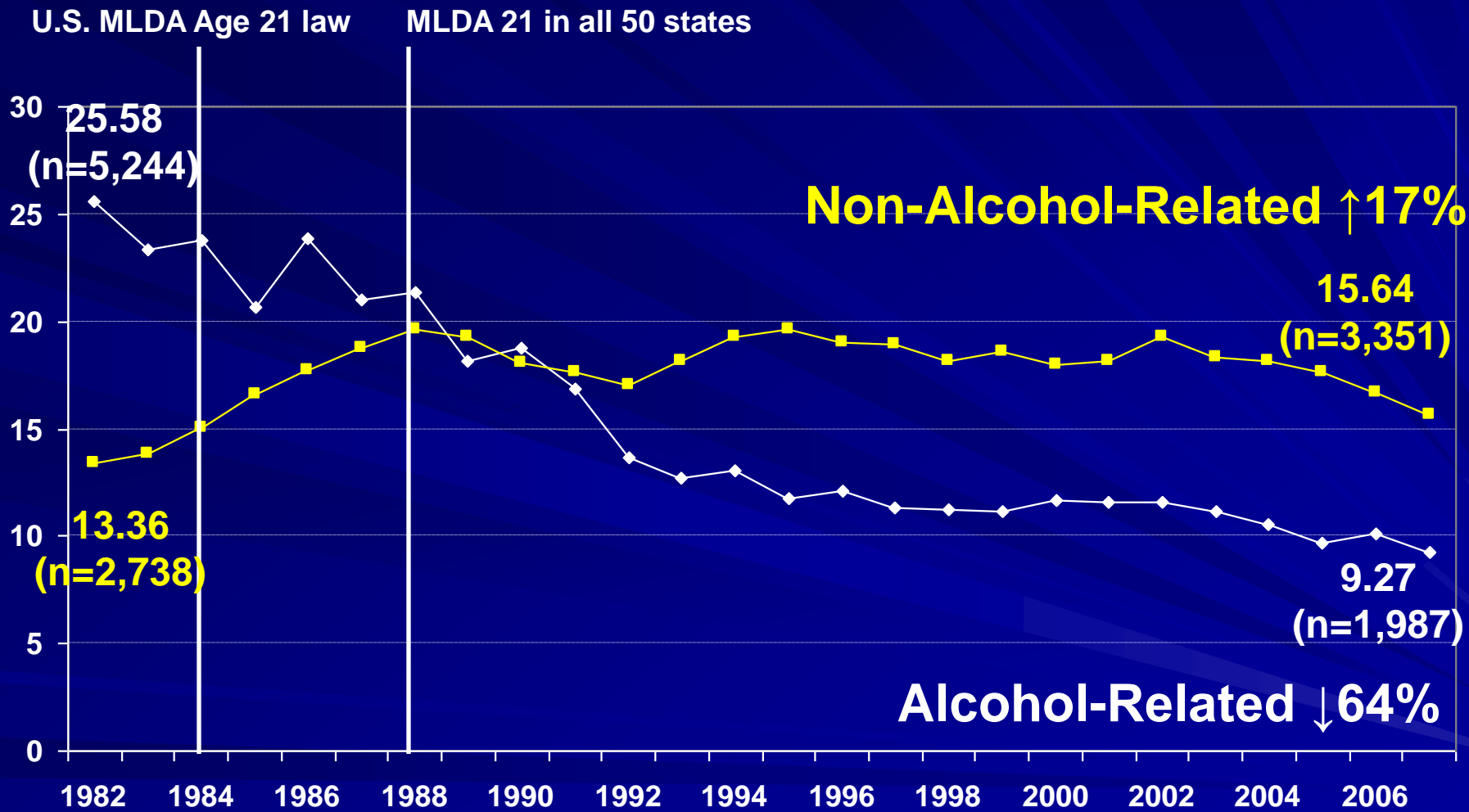
## Key Unanswered Questions: Comprehensive Community Interventions to Reduce Youth Alcohol Problems

- 3) Will programs that reduce youth consumption produce carry over alcohol problem reduction in adult life?
- 4) How can effective comprehensive community interventions be sustained over time?
- 5) What types of community interventions are most effective in reducing youth alcohol problems with the least cost?



# Alcohol- vs. Non-Alcohol-Related Traffic Fatalities Per 100,000 Population, Ages 16-20, United States, 1982-2007

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism



Sources: U.S. Fatality Analysis Reporting System, 2008; U.S. Census Bureau, 2009



National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

