

2-15-1995

02/15/1995 - Alcohol Issues to be Addressed at 1995 CATS Conference

University Marketing and Communications

Follow this and additional works at: https://thekeep.eiu.edu/press_releases_1995

Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "02/15/1995 - Alcohol Issues to be Addressed at 1995 CATS Conference" (1995). 1995. 55.
https://thekeep.eiu.edu/press_releases_1995/55

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Press Releases at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in 1995 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.

95-49

February 15, 1995

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ALCOHOL ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED AT 1995 CATS CONFERENCE

CHARLESTON -- For the more than 12 million college students in the U.S., the annual consumption of alcoholic beverages totals well over 430 million gallons. Imagine each student body in the country (3,500 campuses) drinking the equivalent of one Olympic-sized swimming pool filled with beer, wine and distilled spirits every year. This and other startling statistics indicate the role of alcohol use and abuse as well as other drugs in posing serious threats to the health, safety and future of college students nationwide and in Illinois.

Promoting safer and healthier lifestyles for college students and college communities has become a priority focus for the participants and sponsors of the 1995 Campus Alcohol and Traffic Safety Conference (CATS) to be held March 6-7 at the Springfield Hilton.

The two-day CATS Conference will emphasize how colleges and communities can become effective partners in responding to and preventing the problems often linked with college drinking: vehicle crashes, injuries and fatalities, acquaintance rape and AIDS.

-more-

FILE COPY

According to a recent federal survey of students, 95 percent of violent crimes and 53 percent of injuries on campus are alcohol-related; in 90 percent of all campus rapes, the assailant, the victim, or both had been drinking; 60 percent of college women who acquire sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS, were drunk at the time of infection. In addition to endangering health and safety, alcohol misuse carries a high price tag -- alcohol-related crashes, illnesses, abuse, criminal activity and violent acts cost our society an estimated \$86 billion each year.

The 1995 CATS Conference is being hosted by Eastern Illinois University's Office of Safety Programs, through funding from the Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Traffic Safety.

The conference is one component of EIU's Policies and Programs for the 1990s: A Team Approach to the Prevention of Alcohol, Other Drug and Traffic Safety Problems in Higher Education project.

Additional funding for the conference has been provided by the Department of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, the Lieutenant Governor's Office, the Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Network of Colleges and Universities Committed to the Elimination of Drug and Alcohol Abuse.

For further information on the CATS Conference or related topics, call Judy Hartleroad, EIU contact, (618) 684-3936, or Janet Hill Getz at the Illinois Community College Board, (217) 785-0123.