



# ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

**December 23, 2015**

## **Alcohol Alert**

**Alcohol deaths reach 35 year high - more than heroin**



Today, the *Chicago Tribune* published an article, "**Hopefuls hear how heroin hit New Hampshire hard**".

While politicians try to address the growing problem of heroin, many obstacles remain: There is a bed shortage in residential programs, resulting in waiting lists that are weeks long. And drug dealers are increasingly cutting heroin with a synthetic version of the analgesic fentanyl, which is much more powerful and is leading to more overdoses. [Read more](#)

Politicians, however, do little to address the growing alcohol problem. The *Washington Post* reported that "**Americans are drinking themselves to death at record rates**".

**In 2014**, there were **9.6 deaths from these alcohol-induced causes per 100,000** people, **an increase of 37 percent since 2002**.

This tally of alcohol-induced fatalities--including alcohol poisoning and cirrhosis--excludes deaths from drunk driving, other accidents, and homicides committed under the influence of alcohol. If those numbers were included **the annual toll of deaths directly or indirectly caused by alcohol would be closer to 90,000**, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. ([View this chart](#) showing the risks of alcohol use.)

In recent years, public health experts have focused extensively on overdose deaths from heroin and prescription painkillers, which have risen rapidly since the early 2000s. But **in 2014, more people died from alcohol-induced causes (30,722) than from overdoses of prescription painkillers and heroin combined (28,647)**, according to the CDC.

[Read more](#)

**FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION**

- Share this information with your State Representative and State Senator. Ask them to OPPOSE legislation making alcohol more accessible, and to Vote NO on bills that make exemptions to the Liquor Control Act to allow the sale of alcohol closer than 100 feet from a church or school.
- Share this Alert with your faith community and ask them to PRAY and CALL.
- Forward to 10 others.

***Thank you for your help this year. We really appreciate working with you to prevent alcohol and other drug problems. Merry Christmas!***

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