

Drinking and Driving: One Third of High School Seniors Say They Drive While Impaired

Below is an abstract taken from the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs. The findings conclude that impaired driving by youth remains a serious problem and should be taken seriously by parents of teens.

Below are statistics from a survey that was done by the Illinois Youth Survey at St. Francis in spring of 2006. Our students mirror the national statistics. Unfortunately, this is a problem that crosses all levels of socio-economic, demographic, race/ethnicity and family structure boundaries and we are not immune.

In 2006 sophomores at St. Francis were surveyed and 35% of our 10th grade students and 56% of our seniors had used alcohol at least once in the past 30 days.

“Large numbers of American adolescents are putting themselves and others at great risk by driving while under the influence of illicit drugs or alcohol, according to a study funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In 2006, 30 percent of high school seniors reported driving after drinking heavily or using drugs, or riding in a car whose driver had been drinking heavily or using drugs, at least once in the prior two weeks. These findings are based on data obtained from the Monitoring the Future study, in which nationally representative samples of high school seniors have been surveyed annually since 1975. The data analysis is published in the November issue of the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs.”.

(Source NASN, Illinois Youth Survey 2006)