

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

What does the Bible say?

God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them. **(Genesis 1:27)**

I came that you might have life and have it abundantly. **(John 10:10)**

Do not be among winebibbers or among gluttonous eaters of meat; for the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and drowsiness will clothe them in rags ... Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger late over wine, those who keep trying mixed wines. Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly. At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like an adder. **(Proverbs 23:20-21; 29-32)**



What does the United Methodist Church say?

Regarding the consumption of alcohol, we acknowledge the historic United Methodist stance on abstinence as a safeguard against mental, physical, and spiritual harms caused by excessive drinking. Consequently, we urge those who choose to consume alcoholic beverages, including wine and beer, to do so wisely and in moderation. Another important consideration is the impact of such actions on those struggling to recover from alcohol use and abuse. **(Social Principles 162.A)**

The alcohol and other drug crisis has reached global proportions. More alcohol and other drugs are produced and consumed than ever before. In consuming countries, with their attendant problems of poverty, racism, domestic violence, hopelessness, and material despair, alcohol and other drug abuse is a part of a continuing cycle of economic and spiritual turmoil. **(Book of Resolutions #3200 Alcohol and Other Drugs)**



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

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What do the facts say?

- Alcohol is the world's third largest risk factor for disease; it is the leading risk factor in the Western Pacific and the Americas and the second largest in Europe.¹
- An estimated 95,000 people die from alcohol-related deaths annually, making alcohol the third-leading preventable cause of death in the United States.²
- In 2019, 25.8 percent of people ages 18 and older reported that they engaged in binge drinking in the course of one month.³
- Prescription drugs are the drugs most commonly abused by teenagers. 70 percent of teens who use prescription drugs non-medically get pills from their family or friends.



¹ World Health Organization, ^{2,3,4} National Institutes of Health

What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- **Remind** your member of Congress and state legislators that alcohol is a leading cause of addiction. Encourage your state to invest in strongly enforcing your state's criminal laws regarding alcohol and to update regulations for alcohol advertising directed at youths to best practices standards (see the Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health). Actively discourage members of Congress from taking contributions from the alcohol industry and raise awareness of the prevalence and dangers of drug abuse, including prescription drugs.
- **Learn** more about alcohol and other drugs by visiting the following web sites: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (www.samhsa.gov), the Centers for Disease Control (www.cdc.org), the National Institute on Drug Abuse (www.drugabuse.gov), and the World Health Organization (www.who.int).
- **Make a commitment** to value health for others and for yourself equally.



For more information contact:
advocacy@umcjustice.org

www.umcjustice.org

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General Board of Church and Society

100 Maryland Ave, NE Washington, DC 20002

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