

# What's the Mix Between Policy and Alcohol Damage: Massachusetts' Perspective



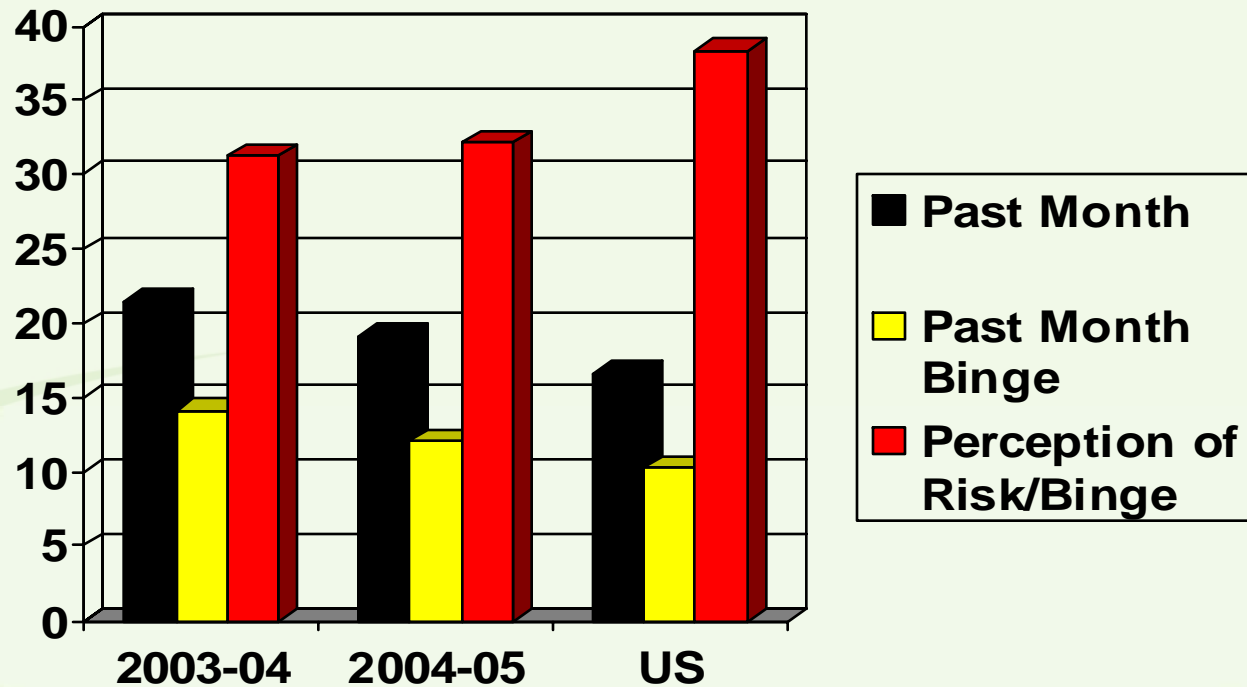
American Public Health Association  
Annual Meeting  
November, 2007

# Overview

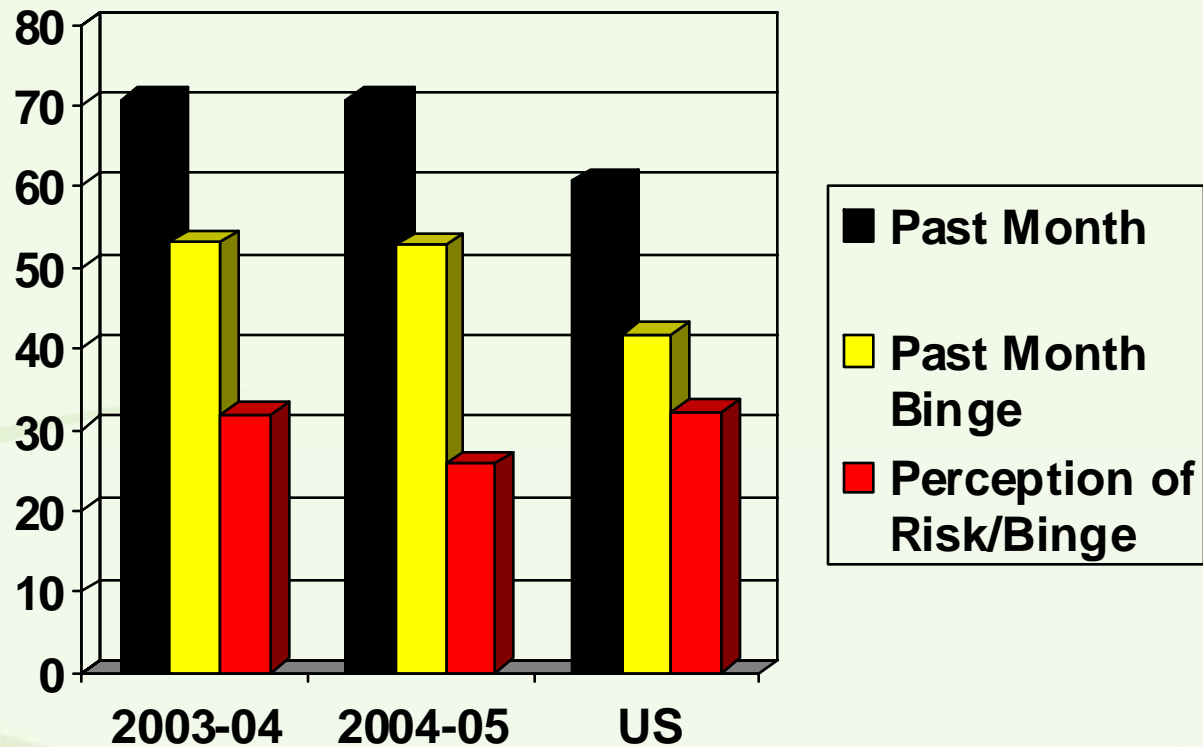


- Use and Consequence Data
- Legal and Legislative Issues
- Practice Changes
- Advocacy and Leadership

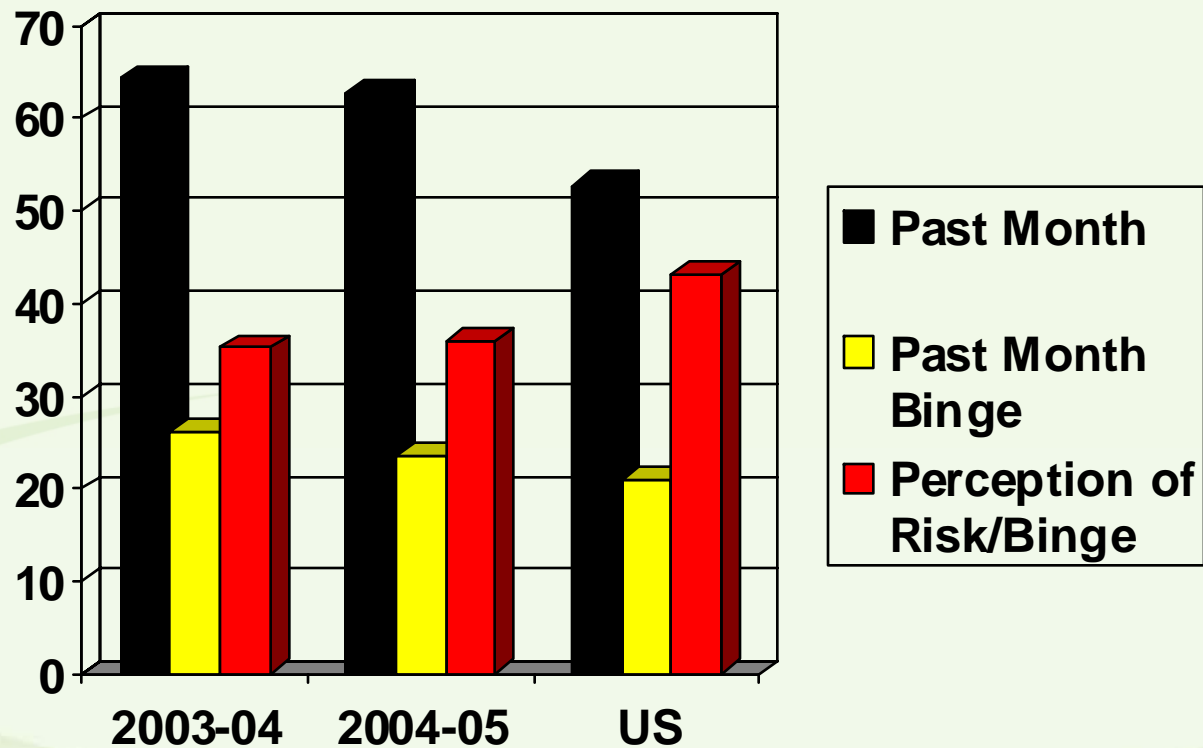
# Use in Massachusetts 12-17 year old



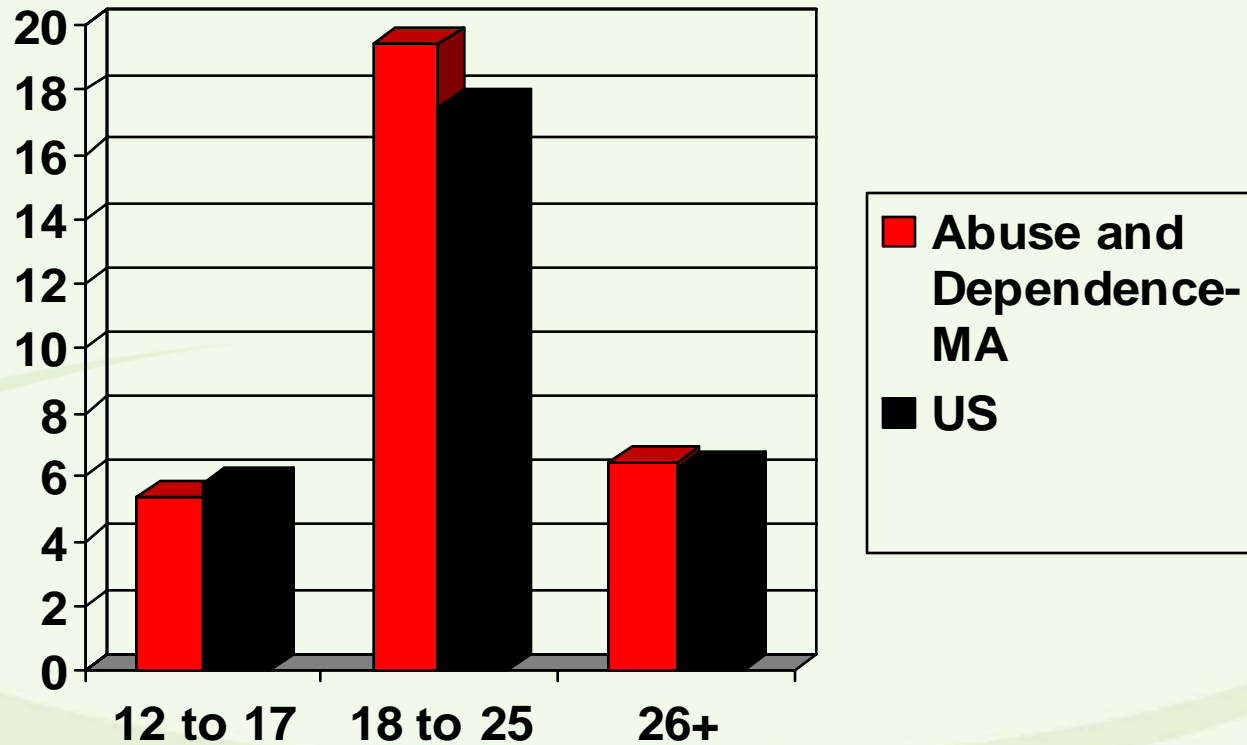
# Use in Massachusetts 18-25 year old



# Use in Massachusetts 26+ year olds



# Alcohol Abuse and Dependence



# Legal and Legislative Issues



- Recent Legal Changes
  - per se
  - enhanced sanctions for repeat offenders
  - primary seat belt
  - "Rosie D" lawsuit
- Some movement
  - alcohol taxes
  - youth possession

# Alcohol Taxes

- Massachusetts ranks among the states with the lowest alcohol taxes – 12<sup>th</sup> overall
- Not raised since 1976
- Direct correlation between youth binge drinking and alcohol taxes



## Select Consequence Data



- Alcohol still remains the primary drug reported among treatment admissions
- Alcohol-involved drivers in fatal crashes
- Alcohol-related fatal motor vehicle crashes

# Practice Changes

## Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment

- Focus of State Strategic Plan
- IOM Report
- Federal SBIRT Grant (State and 3 colleges)
- ED SBIRT
- Community Health Center SBIRT
- CMS Codes allow for billing – states need to approve

# Advocacy and Leadership



- Joint Mental Health And Substance Abuse Committee
- Governor's Interagency Council on Substance Use and Prevention
- Community Groups focusing on Alcohol Advertising
- Media, Legislative and Community focus on opioids and treatment access
- Enhanced Resources