

Media Statement

For Immediate Release
November 17, 2016

Contact:

Alicia Samuels
914-720-4635

**CAMY Statement on the Surgeon General's Report on
Alcohol, Drugs and Health**

*"Statement from David H. Jernigan PhD, Director of the Center on Alcohol Marketing (CAMY)
and Youth at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health"*

Baltimore, MD – "The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs and Health offers a comprehensive examination of one of the greatest public health problems affecting our society. The information in the report dispels the notion that alcohol is a "right of passage" for youth, and provides readers with a sobering reminder of the consequences of underage alcohol consumption: If a person has their first drink before the age of 15, their likelihood of developing an alcohol problem is four times greater than if the first drink is taken after the age of 21. In this context, prevention is critical. To this end, the report addresses both access to and appeal of alcohol to young people, educating its readers on risk factors for adolescent substance misuse such as the low cost of alcohol, high numbers of alcohol outlets, and media portrayals of alcohol use.

Alcohol is the number one drug problem among America's youth, and excessive alcohol use is responsible for an average of 4,350 deaths among persons under the legal drinking age of 21 each year. The Surgeon General's report is a reminder that a comprehensive, evidence-based public health approach is needed to protect our nation's youth from the devastating effects of alcohol misuse."

[Facing Addiction in America – The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health](#)