

THE **HISTORY** OF THE**ALCOHOL ADDICTION EPIDEMIC**IN THE **UNITED STATES****Alcohol has played an influential role**

throughout history and left a huge mark on the United States. From its experimentation in ancient times, to Prohibition in the United States, to the staggering alcohol addiction epidemic within the United States. Since ancient times, alcohol consumption has brought many people together and torn them apart.

1630s**Alcohol**

is brewed in the US due to harsh drinking water conditions.

1654

Massachusetts reaffirms laws against home-brewing and bans using alcohol as a form of payment.

1790s

Americans consume an **average of 5.8 million gallons** of alcohol per person each year.

Early 1800s

Due to high rates of alcohol abuse, many soldiers under the influence would commit violent war crimes and rape. This in turn led to **The Temperance Movement**

1820s

The Temperance Movement **pushes for total alcohol abstinence**, creating the Cold Water Army

1860**88 million gallons**

of liquor per year is produced in United States

1861-1865

Alcohol plays a significant role in the Civil War. Used for medication and sedation, used in ministries, and an important part in celebrating major events.

1919

The **Volstead Act of 1919**, or Prohibition, allows the production and sale of alcohol for medicinal and religious reasons, but consumption be kept at home if bought legally.

1933

21st Amendment ends Prohibition. In its wake, education and treatments for alcoholism

1935-1939**Alcoholics Anonymous**

is formed by Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith in 1935. In 1939, **Alcoholics Anonymous (the Big Book)** is published.

1948

Ant-abuse (disulfiram) is discovered and used as a drinking deterrent and aid in the treatment of alcohol addiction.

1952

American Medical Association **defines alcoholism**. Following 1952, alcoholism is considered treatable.

1967

American Medical Association **revises the definition of alcoholism** as a complex disease, and treatment through counseling and education becomes common.

TODAY

With new knowledge and an extensive understanding on the harm of alcohol abuse, **drinking in excess is still an issue**. Today, there are several treatment options for people who struggle with alcoholism.

Sources:

<https://academics.lmu.edu/headsup/forstudents/historyofalcoholuse/>
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If you or a loved one believe that long-term addiction treatment will be beneficial, contact GateHouse today at **(855) 448-3588**. You can **heal**, and we can **help** you achieve long-term sobriety through long-term treatment.