In one sense, this is good news: across the US, the young are turning away from hard drugs. In another sense, this could not be worse news: “The switch is on,” says Dr. Morris Chafetz, director of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare’s National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA). “Youths are moving from a wide range of other drugs to the most devastating drug – the one most widely misused of all – alcohol.”

The upsurge of problem drinking among the young is only part of a more disturbing nationwide and even worldwide problem. In the past few years alcoholism – among youths and adults alike – has at last been recognised as a plague. From 2000 to 2010 the consumption of alcohol in the US increased by 26% - to the equivalent of 2.6 gal. of straight alcohol per adult per year. It is now at an all-time high, probably surpassing the levels during such notoriously wet periods as the pre-Civil War and pre-Prohibition eras. Moreover, according to the NIAAA, about one in ten of the 145 million Americans who drink is now either a fully-fledged alcoholic or at least a problem drinker (defined by the NIAAA as those whose drinking causes problems to themselves or society). Uncounted thousands of problem drinkers are under 21 and, in fact, the approximately 14 million problem drinkers are representatives of – and affect – all of American society.

the young are moving away from hard drugs.

But this is not as good as it seems, due to the fact that they are increasing the consumerism of alcohol.

Está en un máximo histórico, PROBABLEMENTE superando notoriously wet periods (pre-Civil War and pre-Prohibition eras)

Uncounted thousands of problem drinkers are under 21

The consumerism of alcohol among youths and adults is in an historic maximum, probably