

# Truth About Underage Drinking (under 21)

## Among current underage drinkers:

**57%** reported last use of alcohol in the past month occurred in someone else's home

**38.2%** obtained it from an unrelated person aged 21 or older

**21.4%** obtained it from parents, guardians or other adult family members



Alcohol is the **leading drug problem** among youth.



**25%** of the underage population drink. More than half are "binge" or "heavy" drinkers.



An estimated **5.2%** of 16 or 17 year olds and **13.5%** of 18 to 20 year olds reported **driving under the influence of alcohol** in the past year.

## Consequences of Underage Drinking



In 2010 there were approximately **189,000 emergency room visits** by underage persons for injuries and other conditions linked to alcohol.



In 2011, **20%** of underage drinkers were likely to use illicit drugs within two hours of alcohol use.



If alcohol is heavily consumed in adolescence, the part of the brain responsible for learning and memory can shrink by about **10%**.

Each year approximately **5,000 people under the age of 21 die** as a result of drinking including:

- 1,900 deaths from motor vehicle crashes
- 1,600 deaths from homicides
- 300 deaths from suicides

## Parents make a Difference

### Parents should:

- host safe, alcohol-free activities
- refuse to supply alcohol or allow drinking in your home
- be at home during a party
- make sure the child's friends do not bring alcohol
- talk to other parents about not providing alcohol
- report underage drinking



**Adolescents will listen** to their parents about drinking and smoking, particularly if the discussion is a balance of discipline and support.



Adolescents who are aware that their parents would be upset with them if they drank are **less** likely to do so.



When parents allow their child to attend parties where alcohol is served, the child will be **two and a half times** more likely to have tried alcohol and marijuana.



By age 17, **nearly half** of teens have been at parties where alcohol and drugs were being used and parents were present.



Drug-Free Action Alliance is a non-profit organization providing leadership to promote safe and drug free communities throughout Ohio. Don't be a party to teenage drinking.

Please visit [www.DrugFreeActionAlliance.org](http://www.DrugFreeActionAlliance.org) for more information.