



Fact Sheet



A Few Facts about Underage Use of Alcohol

- 31% of 1,115 parents surveyed and 40% of 655 teens surveyed indicated that they know of parents who host teen alcohol parties.
(Source: "Parents Who Host, Lose The Most: Don't be a party to teenage drinking" Evaluation Report, December 2005)
- 26% of 655 teens surveyed indicated that they have attended a party where alcohol is served to underage youth in the past two months, while parents thought the number was closer to 18%; 14% of the youth maintained that they drank alcohol at the party or they would have drunk if they had attended a party.
(Source: "Parents Who Host, Lose The Most: Don't be a party to teenage drinking" Evaluation Report, December 2005)
- 65% of 1,115 parents surveyed and 53% of 655 teens surveyed said that it is generally easy for underage youth to get alcohol.
(Source: "Parents Who Host, Lose The Most: Don't be a party to teenage drinking" Evaluation Report, December 2005)
- 7,000 young people under 16 have their first drink of alcohol every day.
(Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2000)
- Studies reveal that alcohol consumption by adolescents results in brain damage - possibly permanent - and impairs intellectual development. *(Source: Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research (Volume 24, Number 2 National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, February 2000)*
- Underage drinking costs Wisconsin approximately \$1.6 billion each year.
(Source: Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, 2006)
- It is estimated that 94,465 youth in Wisconsin have a serious alcohol problem and only 15% receive treatment.
- Alcohol dependence and abuse among Wisconsin youth results in an estimated 17,092 additional visits by young people to emergency rooms at an average cost of \$985 each.
- If drinking is delayed until age 21, a child's risk of serious alcohol problems is decreased by 70 percent.
(Source: Calculated from information contained in: Grant BF, Dawson DA. 1997, Age at onset of alcohol use and its association with DSM-IV alcohol abuse and dependence. Results from the National Longitudinal Alcohol Epidemiologic Survey. Journal of Substance Abuse 9:103-110.)

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