

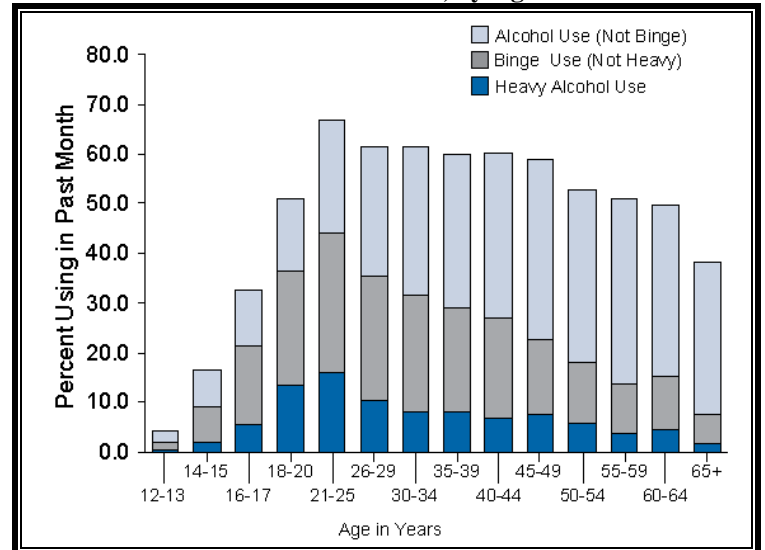


Youth and Alcohol

Underage drinking is widespread in the U.S. ...

- During 2005-2006, 31.3 percent of 6th-, 7th-, and 8th-graders reported drinking all types of alcohol.¹
- Underage drinkers consume as much as 19.7 percent of all alcohol consumed in the United States.²
- In a 2007 survey of 12th graders, 72% have consumed alcohol and 55% report having been drunk at least once in their life.³
- 18 to 25 year olds have the highest rate of binge drinking among all U.S. adults. The rate of binge drinking episodes for underage drinkers increased by 56 percent from 1993 to 2001.⁴
- Binge drinking peaks at ages 21-23 (49.9 percent at age 21, 46.6 percent at age 22, and 47.7 percent at age 23).⁵

Past Month Alcohol Use, by Age: 2005



SAMHSA, Results from the 2005 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings, 2006.

And the consequences are devastating.

Social Costs

- Alcohol is a significant factor in the four leading causes of death among persons ages 10 to 24: (1) motor-vehicle crashes, (2) unintentional injuries, (3) homicide, and (4) suicide.⁶
- Young people who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who begin drinking at age 21.⁷
- 69.3 percent of 9th- through 12th-graders who consumed liquor in 2005-2006 reported having trouble with police.⁸
- 11.7 percent of male high school students reported driving a car after drinking alcohol, compared to 8.1 percent of female students, within the 30 days prior to responding to the survey. Out of all high school students, 9.9 percent drove after drinking.⁹
- Of youth (aged 15 to 20) involved in fatal traffic crashes in 2000, 30.1 percent died in crashes with alcohol-impaired young drivers. Of those alcohol-related traffic fatalities, more than twice as many youth had BAC levels of 0.10 or greater, compared to youth with BAC levels of 0.01-0.09.¹⁰
- College students who experienced being drunk for the first time before age 13 were twice as likely to have unplanned sex and 2.2 times as likely to have unprotected sex due to drinking.¹¹
- High alcohol consumption is associated with lower GPAs, lower academic achievement, and lower wage potential.¹²

Economic Costs

- The cost to Americans of underage drinking totals nearly \$62 billion annually.¹³
- The cost of alcohol-related teen violence and delinquency totals an estimated \$29.4 billion annually.¹⁴

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