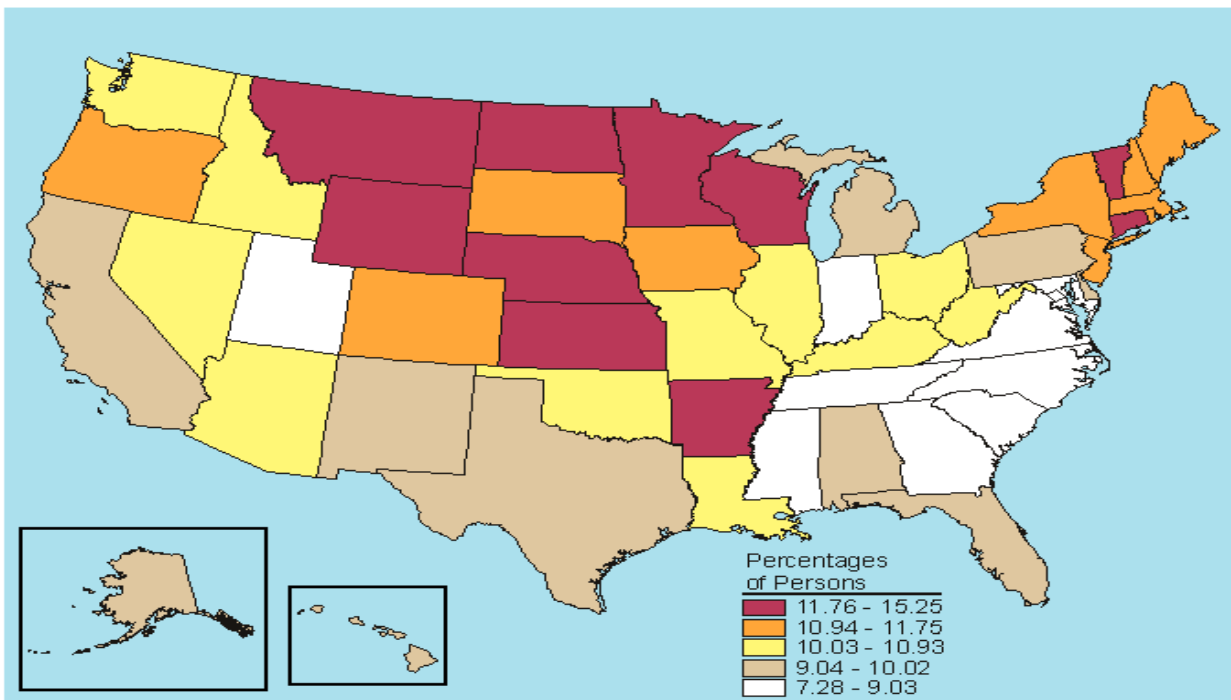


- **Underage alcohol use poses important public health and public safety risks.**
- This should be of concern to professionals, policymakers, parents, and others who are attempting to reduce the negative consequences of underage alcohol use.
- Knowing the locations where this behavior is most likely to occur can help alert parents to times when they need to exercise greater monitoring and supervision, and support the adoption of effective policies to protect children.
- The National Survey on Drug Use and Health is an annual survey conducted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The data in this report are based on information obtained from 62,495 persons aged 12 to 20.
- **A majority (53.4 percent) of current alcohol users aged 12 to 20 drank at someone else's home the last time they used alcohol, and another 30.3 percent drank in their own home.**

Location of the most recent alcohol use in the past month among past month alcohol users aged 13 to 20, by age:								
Location	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Own Home	36.1%	37.4%	30.9%	24.9%	23.8%	25.2%	32.0%	36.5%
Someone Else's Home	45.3%	47.6%	57.0%	63.6%	61.0%	56.3%	49.9%	46.2%
Car or Vehicle	6.9%	5.1%	6.6%	10.1%	6.3%	5.7%	4.6%	3.2%
Park, Beach, or Parking Lot	10.0%	7.9%	8.0%	8.1%	7.1%	3.4%	3.4%	1.9%
Restaurant, Bar, or Club	6.1%	3.7%	2.8%	4.2%	3.7%	9.3%	14.1%	15.0%

Binge Alcohol Use in Past Month Among Youths Aged 12 to 17 by State:

Based on 2005 and 2006 National Surveys conducted by SAMHSA, an agency in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



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Underage Drinking Facts

Where and with whom do young people drink?

Among 9th and 12th graders:

- The most common place to drink is in someone else's home.
- Those who drink usually drink with friends and in groups of 3 or more.
- 9th graders are more likely than 12th graders to drink with their parents.
- Those who drink in large groups are more likely to have 5 or more drinks at one time.

Source: <http://www.epi.umn.edu/alcohol/policy/hostliab.shtm>

Underage Drinking Myths

Myth: “Alcohol is a relatively harmless drug compared to illegal drugs.”

Fact: Compared to youth who wait until they are 21, youth who drink before age fifteen are 12-times more likely to be unintentionally injured while under the influence of alcohol, 7-times more likely to be in a motor vehicle crash after drinking, and 10-times more likely to get in a physical fight after drinking.

There is a strong correlation between youth alcohol use and violence, risky sexual behavior, poor school performance, and suicide.

Evidence shows that adolescent drinking can inflict permanent damage on the developing brain. Early onset drinking is associated with greater levels of alcohol problems in adulthood.

Myth: “Alcohol use is rite of passage to adulthood.”

Fact: Not all adolescents drink, and many who do drink in high school or college choose to drink less as they enter young adulthood, suggesting that both developmental and contextual factors contribute to alcohol consumption during adolescence.

Myth: “Underage drinking is inevitable, and it is safer if it occurs in a controlled, residential setting.”

Fact: Underage drinking parties represent an unusually high-risk setting for youth alcohol problems, including alcohol-related traffic crashes, other forms of injury, sexual assaults, and other forms of violence.

Providing alcohol to adolescents explicitly indicates approval of underage alcohol use, while disregarding underage drinking may lead to future substance use or abuse.

When parents provide alcohol to teenagers at parties, there is a significantly greater likelihood of regular and binge drinking by youth. These behaviors are also strong predictors of alcohol use and misuse in later life.

Sources: 1) Reducing Underage Drinking: A Collective Responsibility, Schulenberg, J., O'Malley, P., Bachman, J., Wadsworth, K., and Johnston, L. (1996).

2) Getting Drunk & Growing Up: Trajectories of frequent binge drinking during the transition to young adulthood. Journal of Studies on Alcohol.

According to a 2003 report by the National Research Council's Institute of Medicine, underage drinking costs the nation at least \$53 billion a year, mostly because of traffic deaths and violent crime. The report, which urged communities to hold adults accountable for teen drinking parties, was a catalyst for many recent ordinances.

Source: USA Today: January, 2007
