

Underage Drinking: The Facts

The #1 killer of teenagers ...	Traffic crashes. <i>www.Car-Accidents.com</i>
1/3 of teenager traffic deaths are...	Alcohol-related. <i>www.Car-Accidents.com</i>
15 and 5	Youth who drink before the age of 15 are 5 times more likely to develop alcohol problems than those who began drinking after age 21. <i>Monitoring the Future Survey, 2009</i>
Killed by alcohol	More children are killed by alcohol than all illegal drugs combined. <i>Monitoring the Future Survey, 2009</i>
\$552,000,000	552 million was spent on underage drinking in Mississippi. This includes costs related to violence, traffic crashes, crime, injuries, and treatment. <i>Underage Drinking in MS: The Facts, Pacific Institute for Research & Evaluation, Nov. 2009.</i>
3.6 billion drinks a year	Alcohol consumed by underage youth in one year. <i>Monitoring the Future Survey, 2009</i>
41% of high school students	Surveyed reported that they had at least one alcoholic drink in the past 30 days. <i>SmartTrack survey data, 2007.</i>
1 of every 4 high school seniors	reported drinking 5 or more drinks in a row (binge drinking) during the previous 2 weeks. <i>Monitoring the Future Survey, 2009</i>
1 death per week in Mississippi	Over a 10 year period in Mississippi...688 deaths were caused by underage drunk drivers. <i>Mississippi Dept. of Public Safety data, 2004</i>
185 underage drivers	In 2003 in Mississippi 185 drivers under the age of 21 were involved in fatal crashes. <i>Mississippi Dept. of Public Safety data, 2004</i>
371 deaths = 40%	In 2005, 371 people in MS died in alcohol related motor vehicle crashes = 40% of all traffic related deaths. <i>Mississippi Dept. of Public Safety data, 2005</i>

1 out of 3 high school seniors	36.5% of 12 th graders reported engaging in illicit drug use within the past year. <i>Monitoring the Future Survey, 2009</i>
Where do teenagers get the alcohol?	A large majority of youth report that they get alcohol from their homes and within their communities. This includes alcohol provided by parents and parents of their friends. <i>SmartTrack survey data, 2007.</i>
Sexual assaults occur...	When youth engage in underage drinking. <i>Monitoring the Future Survey, 2009</i>
17,000 fatal car accidents...	In the U.S. every year by drunk drivers. <i>National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings, 2008</i>
Every 31 minutes in America...	A person dies from a drunk driving accident. <i>National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings, 2008</i>
Who pays for the alcohol that underage youth drink?	8% purchased the alcohol themselves 31% paid for the alcohol the last time they drank 22% gave money to someone else to purchase <i>National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings, 2008</i>
How does the underage person get the alcohol?	37% From an unrelated person aged 21 or older 21% From other underage persons 21% From parents or other adult family member 6% They take the alcohol from home <i>National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings, 2008</i>
Where does the underage drinking occur?	56% someone else's home 30% in their own home <i>National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings, 2008</i>
Ethnicity: Who drinks alcohol ages 12-20?	30% Whites 26% American Indians or Alaska Natives 23% Hispanics 23% Those reporting 2 or more races 19% Blacks 17% Asians <i>National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings, 2008</i>

