

Frederick County, MD

Underage Alcohol Use FACT SHEET

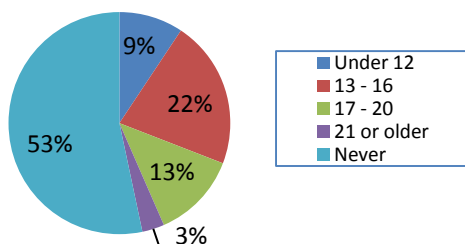


This fact sheet highlights recent survey¹ findings on the consumption of alcohol by youth and young people in Frederick City. The Frederick County - Alcohol Prevention Initiative Coalition is focused on reducing underage alcohol use by youth ages 12 to 20. In the summer of 2012 the Coalition surveyed 932 persons and convened focus groups with 35 persons between the ages of 10 and 25 years.

The priority outcomes to be improved by the efforts of the Coalition include one of the following three priority areas.

Priority #1: Youth ages 12 – 20 who use alcohol

How old were you when you had your first drink of an alcoholic beverage? (10 - 25 year olds)



- 22% of youth and young adults ages 10-25 indicated that they had their first drink of alcohol between the ages of 13 and 16 years old.

The age of first use of alcohol is significant because youth who start drinking before age 15 years are five times more likely to develop alcohol dependence or abuse later in life than those who begin drinking at or after age 21 years, according to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention.

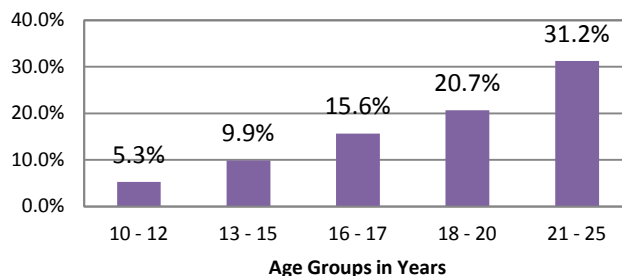
The source of the alcohol provided to youth is important as it identified potential intervention points.

- 20% of respondents reported that underage youth are allowed to have alcohol drinks at family events or at home in their families.
- When asked about the source of the alcohol the most frequent responses were - older friends, private youth parties, home, and friend's home.

723 youths ages 18 - 25 from Frederick City were admitted to alcohol treatment programs between 2006-2010.²

Priority #2: Young people ages 18-25 who binge drink

During the past 30-days, Respondents reported drinking 1-5 alcohol beverages

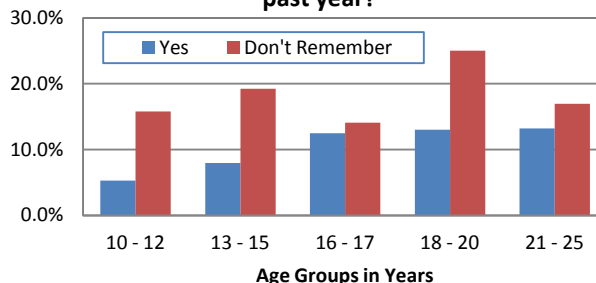


- 9.2% of youth 10-16 and 18.7% of youth 16-20 reported having 1 to 5 alcoholic beverages in the last 30 days.
- 46.6% of youths 10-16 years reported that there is great risk to people who binge drink twice a week.

Binge drinking is important to track because approximately 90% of alcohol consumed by youth under 21 years in the United States is in the form of binge drinks. Binge drinkers are 14 times more likely to report alcohol-impaired driving than non-binge drinkers.

Priority #3: Youth ages 16-25 who are involved in alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes

Have you driven under alcohol influence in the past year?



- 13% of 18 - 20 year old youths surveyed reported having driven under the influence of alcohol in the past year.
- 8.7% of youth ages 16 - 20 and 9.5% of young adults ages 21 - 25 reported having driven a car while under the influence of alcohol in the past year.
- 6% of youth surveyed (ages 10-20) reported driving under alcohol influence **more than one time** in the past year.

According to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, "young drivers (ages 16-20) are 17 times more likely to die in a crash when they have a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08% than when they have not been drinking."

1. Frederick County – Alcohol Prevention Initiative: Maryland State Prevention Framework Model. Community Health Assessment Report, 2012

2. Maryland Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene-Alcohol & Drug Abuse Administration