



# ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

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## Alcohol Alert - July 21, 2022



### **Alcohol is the most commonly used substance among young people in the U.S.**

Data from several national surveys document the use of alcohol among young people.

The 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey<sup>4,5</sup> found that among high school students, during the past 30 days

- 29% drank alcohol.
- 14% **binge drank**.
- 5% of drivers drove after drinking alcohol.
- 17% rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol.

in 2019, female high school students were more likely to drink alcohol and binge drink than male high school students.

Other national surveys find that

- 16% of young people aged 12 to 20 years **reported**
- **external icon**
- drinking alcohol and 9% reported binge drinking in the past 30 days.<sup>3</sup>
- 7% of 8th-grade students and 26% of 12th-grade students **reported**
- **external icon**
- drinking alcohol during the past 30 days, and 3% of 8th-grade students and 12% of 12th-grade students reported

binge drinking during the past two weeks.<sup>6</sup>

### **Underage Drinking is Dangerous**

Youth who drink alcohol are more likely to experience

- School problems, such as higher rates of absences or lower grades.
- Social problems, such as fighting or lack of participation in youth activities.
- Legal problems, such as arrest for driving or physically hurting someone while drunk.
- Physical problems, such as hangovers or illnesses.
- Unwanted, unplanned, and unprotected sexual activity.
- Disruption of normal growth or sexual development.
- Physical and sexual violence.
- Increased risk of suicide and homicide.
- Alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes and other unintentional injuries, such as burns, falls, or drowning.
- Memory problems.
- Misuse of other substances.
- Changes in brain development that may have life-long effects.
- Alcohol poisoning.

In general, the risk of youth experiencing these problems is greater for those who binge drink than for those who do not binge drink.

Early initiation of drinking is associated with the development of an alcohol use disorder later in life. [READ](#)

#### **For Immediate Action**

Click here to donate to Illinois Churches in Action (tax deductible)

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