Anchorage Underage Drinking Survey

Assessing Attitudes, Values, and Beliefs about the Underage Drinking Problem and Responses to It

Town Hall Meeting
Sponsored by CMCA
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Today’s Topics

• Underage alcohol problem: Trends in Alaska and United States
• Survey Overview
• Survey Results:
  – Underage Drinking Problem
  – Adult Influences on Underage Drinking
  – Responses to the Underage Drinking Problem
Alcohol Problem

Underage

Alaska and U.S Underage Alcohol Use

- Ever used
- Recent use
- Binge drinking

Year
1995 2003 2005 2007 2009 2011

Percentage of Population

Source: CDC, YRBSS (2011)

Adult

Alaska and U.S. Adult Alcohol Use
2001-2010

- Regular drinkers
- Heavy drinkers
- Binge drinkers

Year
2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010

Percentage of Population

Source: CDC, BRFSS (2011)
Survey Overview

Survey Topics

- Problem of underage drinking
- Adult influences
- Consumption
- Responses
- Media exposure
- Background

- 113 questions
- Conducted 2010 - 2011
- Scientific survey of adult perceptions of underage drinking
- Random sample of adult Anchorage residents
- 1,516 completed surveys
UNDERAGE DRINKING PROBLEM
Underage Drinking is a Serious Problem in this Community

- Yes: 64.5%
- No: 10.7%
- Don't know: 24.8%
Acceptability of Drinking by People in Various Age Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 to 14 years</td>
<td>91.24</td>
<td>8.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 17 years</td>
<td>79.19</td>
<td>20.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 to 20 years</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>58</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Ease of Alcohol Access

- Get at a party: 72.5%
- Family celebration: 65.1%
- Sneak from home: 64.1%
- Older person buys: 35.7%
- Parents provide: 47.1%
- Steal from retailer: 55.6%
- Purchase from retailer: 33.4%
- Don't know: 68.8%

1. Sort of or very easy
2. Sort of or very hard
3. Don't know

UAA Justice Center
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE
How Teens Report Obtaining Alcohol

(YRBS, 2011)
ADULT INFLUENCES
Parents should have specific rules about youth alcohol use and specific consequences for youth who break family rules about alcohol use.

- **Agree or strongly agree**: 96.6% for rules, 96.4% for consequences.
- **Disagree or strongly disagree**: 3.4% for rules, 3.6% for consequences.
Parental Influence on Underage Drinking

- Having 5 or more drinks: 93.9%
- Relieve stress or anxiety: 90.5%
- Pressure other adults: 89.2%
- Tell a funny story: 87%
- Have at youth-centered: 84.3%
- Ask youth to get it: 76.1%

Colors:
- Red: Very or somewhat influential
- Light pink: Not very or not at all influential
Risks of Underage Drinking

- Drink and drive: 98.6%
- Become addicted: 94.2%
- Impact brain development: 91.1%
- Trouble with police: 87.1%
- Move on to other drugs: 13.1%
- Depression or suicide: 13.1%

Legend:
- Very or somewhat concerned
- Not very or not at all concerned
Knowledge of parents or adults who permit anyone under age 21 to consume alcohol under their supervision

- No: 89.9%
- Yes: 10.1%

Knowledge of parents or adults who permit their own children under the age of 21 to consume alcohol under their supervision

- No: 58.2%
- Yes: 41.8%
RESPONSES TO UNDERAGE DRINKING
Focus on people who sell alcohol to youth

Focus on people who give alcohol to youth under 21 not on youth under 21

Focus on youth under 21 with stiffer punishments

- Strongly agree or agree
- Disagree or strongly disagree

- 70.07%
- 63.92%
- 59.3%
- 29.93%
- 36.08%
- 40.7%
Actual Punishment For Adults who Furnish

• 1 year in jail
• $10,000 fine
• Second offense:
  – 5 years in jail
  – $50,000 fine
Appropriate Punishment for Underage Drinking

- Community service: 43.3%
- Suspend license: 23%
- Other: 17.3%
- $500 fine: 9.3%
- None: 4.2%
- No scholarships or loans: 2.9%

Punishments
Actual Punishment for Underage Drinking

• **First offense**: Suspended sentence with one year of probation or probation until 21 years, whichever is later
  – Can be combined with: Counseling, education, treatment, or community service

• **Second offense**: Fine of $200 to $600, attendance of alcohol information school, probation sentence
Conclusions

• We see underage drinking as a serious problem only for youth 17 and under
• Our perceptions of youth access to alcohol generally match their reports: Adults (often knowingly) provide alcohol to youth in social situations
• Parents need to have specific rules and consequences associated with alcohol use
  – Starting talking to youth early
Conclusions

• We recognize adult alcohol use influences underage drinking
• Most concerning consequences: Driving, sex, addiction, and brain development
• Most of us know someone who allows supervised alcohol consumption by their child
Conclusions

• We favor lenient sanctions focused on adults who provide social and/or retail access to alcohol by underage youth
  – Over serious sanctions and those directed at underage youth
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