

# Fast Facts: Underage Drinking in Kansas

## Breaking Down the Costs<sup>1</sup>

Problem	Cost
Youth Violence	\$365,000,000
Youth Traffic Crashes	\$129,200,000
High-Risk Sex, Ages 14-20	\$50,800,000
Youth Property Crime	\$48,900,000
Youth Alcohol Treatment	\$36,600,000
Youth Injury	\$20,900,000
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome in Mothers, Ages 15-20	\$12,200,000
Poisonings and Psychoses	\$6,400,000

**Total Cost: \$670 Million**

## Problems That Occur<sup>1</sup>

Unnecessary and tragic health, social and economic problems result from the use of alcohol by youth. Underage drinking is often the underlying cause of:

- Homicide
- Suicide
- Traumatic Injury
- Drownings
- Burns
- Violent and Property Crime
- High-Risk Sex
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
- Alcohol Poisonings
- Alcohol Abuse and Dependence

**Other Costs:** The costs of a DUI may include fines, penalties, court costs, attorney fees, supervision and a potential increase in car insurance.

**Youth who drink before age 15 are 5 times more likely to have alcohol problems when they are adults.<sup>2</sup>**

## How Do Youth Get Alcohol?

### Easy to Get

13% of Kansas 8<sup>th</sup> graders and 40% of Kansas 12<sup>th</sup> graders say alcohol is easy to get.<sup>3</sup>

### Use Increases with Age

5% of Kansas 6<sup>th</sup> graders and 42% of Kansas 12<sup>th</sup> graders report drinking alcohol at least once in the last 30 days.<sup>3</sup>

### Obtain at Home

43% of Kansas youth say they drank at home and 60.7% report they drank at a friend's home.<sup>3</sup> Sometimes, the parents provide it.

## Parents, Did You Know?

- On average, Kansas youth say they drank alcohol for the first time by age 13 (more than a few sips) and report that they began drinking regularly (more than 1-2 times per month) by age 14.<sup>3</sup>
- 24% of Kansas high school students report that in the last 30 days, they had ridden at least one or more times with a driver who had been drinking.<sup>4</sup>
- Fewer than 50% of Kansas youth report that their parents have talked to them even once in the last year about the dangers of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs.<sup>3</sup>

## How Alcohol Harms Youth

### The Brain

Alcohol can alter the development of the brain, potentially affecting both brain structure and function.

### Risk Taking

When youth drink, they are more likely to engage in risky behaviors, including drinking and driving, sexual activity and aggressive or violent behavior.

### Fatal Crashes

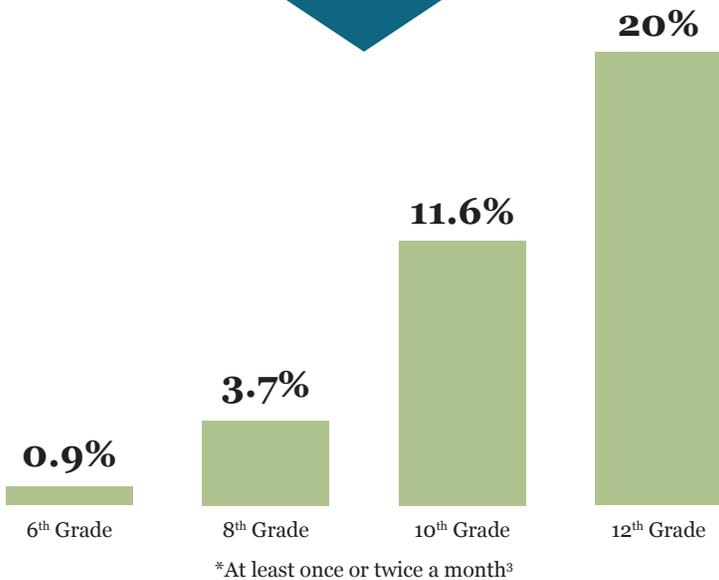
In 2012, 67 fatal crashes in Kansas involved drivers between the ages of 15 and 20, with one out of four being cited as alcohol-impaired.<sup>5</sup>



Kansas Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free is a program of Kansas Family Partnership



**Percentage of Kansas youth who think it is “OK” for someone their age to drink wine or hard liquor REGULARLY.\***



Parents play a crucial role in discouraging their children from using alcohol. But fewer than

**50%**

of Kansas youth report that their parents have talked to them about the dangers of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs at least once in the last year.<sup>3</sup>

**Have YOU had that conversation?**

## Binge Drinking

### Definition

Binge drinking is defined as having four or more drinks for females and five or more drinks for males on a single occasion.

### Why Drink?

When teens drink, it is often done to get drunk.

### How Often?

15% of Kansas 10<sup>th</sup> graders and 24.5% of Kansas 12<sup>th</sup> graders report they have engaged in binge drinking at least once in the last month.<sup>3</sup>

## Parents, What Can You Do to Reduce Underage Drinking?

- **Talk Early and Often** – It’s never too early to talk to your child about the dangers of underage drinking. Make time for conversations about this issue.
- **Get Involved** – Talk with your child about their activities and interests. Keep your child involved in positive activities and show them that you care about reducing risky behaviors.
- **Be a Role Model** – Think about what you say and how you act in front of your child. Show them what is appropriate and acceptable in your family. Teach your child to choose friends wisely. Youth whose friends don’t use alcohol, tobacco or other drugs are less likely to engage in risky behaviors.
- **Monitor Your Child’s Activities** – Trust but verify the information your child is telling you. Know where your child is and get to know friends and friends’ parents.
- **Set Clear Rules** – Tell your child what your household rules are and what behavior you expect. Be consistent and be specific. Don’t assume they know what you are thinking.

## References

<sup>1</sup>Underage Drinking Enforcement Center - A Project of Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, 2010. [www.udetc.org/factsheets/kansas.pdf](http://www.udetc.org/factsheets/kansas.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>Stop Underage Drinking. [www.stopalcoholabuse.gov](http://www.stopalcoholabuse.gov)

<sup>3</sup>KCTC Survey Data 2013. [www.ctcdata.org](http://www.ctcdata.org)

<sup>4</sup>2011 High School Youth Behavioral Risk Survey. [www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/states/ks.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/states/ks.htm)

<sup>5</sup>Kansas Department of Transportation.