State of the State on Underage Drinking Numbers

Underage drinking can...

...interfere with school attendance

...damage relationships with parents and peers

...potentially alter brain functions and other aspects of development

Research indicates that the human brain is not fully developed until the mid 20s.

Introducing alcohol to the developing brain puts youth at greater risk for

unintentional death
suicide
injury
risk sexual behavior

Young people who begin drinking before age 15:

4x more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who begin drinking at age 21.

greater at a risk of having other substance abuse problems during adolescence.

These effects can impact the success of youth in future physical, social, emotional, intellectual and professional situations.

#1
The rank of alcohol among drugs frequently used by Kansas youth

13 years old
The age at which Kansas youth begin drinking alcohol (6th grade)

47%
The percent of Kansas 12th graders who binge on alcohol at least once in the last 30 days

1 in 4
The number of alcohol abuse treatment admissions in Kansas that are attributed to youth under age 21

15%
The percent of Kansas 10th graders who binge on alcohol at least once in the last 30 days

1 in 5
The number of Kansas 12th graders who think it’s “OK” for someone their age to drink alcohol regularly

24%
The percent of Kansas high school students who, at least once in the last 30 days, have ridden with a driver who had been drinking

68
The number of fatal crashes in Kansas involving drivers between ages 15 and 20, with 25 drivers cited as being alcohol-impaired.
Percent of 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th grade students who report drinking alcohol at least once in the past 30 days

0.00 – 8.89
8.90 – 20.87
20.88 – 27.50
27.51 – 42.59

327,342 The number of Kansas youth under age 18 who reside in counties where 30-day alcohol use is above the state average of 20.88%

Underage Drinking Costs to Kansans

$670 million
$582.38 per household

55%, $365,000,000 Youth Violence
19%, $129,200,000 Youth Traffic Crashes
8%, $50,800,000 High-Risk Youth Sex, Ages 14–20
7%, $48,900,000 Youth Property Crime
5%, $36,600,000 Youth Alcohol Treatment
3%, $20,900,000 Youth Injury
2%, $12,200,000 Children Born with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome to Mothers, Ages 15–20
1%, $6,400,000 Poisonings and Psychoses

Kansas spends 17.4% of its total state budget on the burdens of substance abuse and addiction, but only .27% of its total state budget on substance abuse and addiction prevention, treatment and research.

For references, visit www.kansassfamily.com/kaleadership/kansas-underage-drinking-documents