

# Get the Facts: Teen Alcohol Use in Schuyler County

## Why is alcohol dangerous for teens?

Rewires the brain  
Memory problems



Physical & mental health problems  
Addiction



Academic problems  
Legal problems



Violence  
Death

### Did you know

Teens who use alcohol before they are 15 years old are **7 times** more likely to develop alcohol abuse or dependence than those who wait until the legal drinking age of 21

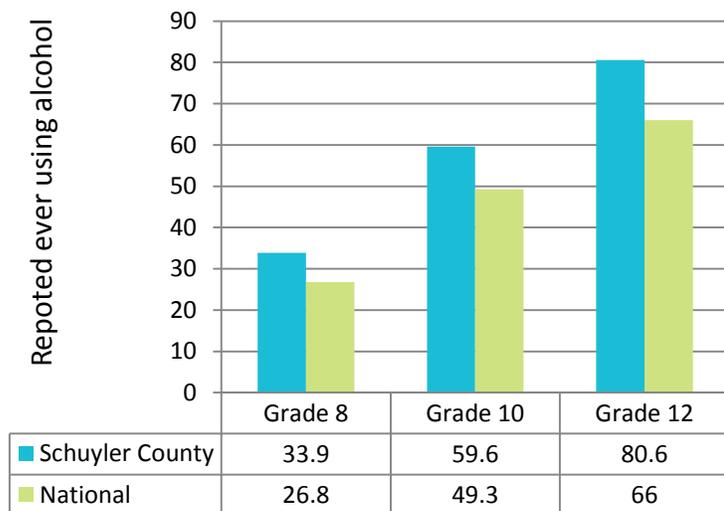
## How many teens in Schuyler County use alcohol?

**1/2**  
of 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in Schuyler County have used alcohol

Teen alcohol use in **Schuyler County** is *more common* than use **Nationally**

**1 in 4**  
7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in Schuyler County currently uses alcohol

### Lifetime Alcohol Use (%)



### Did you know

Schuyler County teens use alcohol before they are **13** years old on average

# What factors may be influencing teens' decision to drink alcohol or not?

If alcohol is easy to get

If parents disapprove of teen drinking

If parents provide teens with alcohol

If adults in the neighborhood disapprove of teens drinking

If friends disapprove of alcohol use

If they see teen alcohol use as dangerous

If they think teens who drink will be caught by the police

If they think they would be caught by their parents if they used alcohol

If there is a lot of alcohol advertising

**Additional information:** Local information based on the 2015 Schuyler County Communities That Care Youth Survey. Seventh through twelfth grade students from Odessa-Montour and Watkins Glen school districts were surveyed. In Schuyler County:

- 46.4% of students reported that alcohol was sort of easy or very easy to get
- 9.8% of students felt that their parents would not disapprove of them drinking
- 22.3% of students who used alcohol in the past year got it from home with their parents' permission
- 34.2% of students felt that neighborhood adults would not disapprove of them using alcohol
- 66.5% of students felt that their friends would disapprove of them using alcohol
- 72.4% of students felt that regular alcohol use is risky
- 22.6% of students felt that a teen using alcohol would be caught by the police
- 40.2% of students felt they would not be caught by their parents if they used alcohol

## How can we reduce underage drinking in Schuyler County?

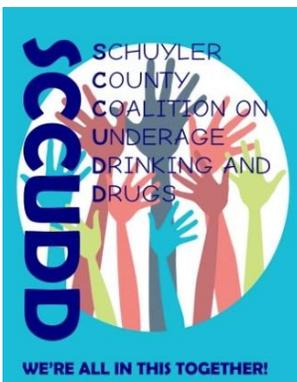
If you have kids, talk to them about alcohol. Teens say parents are their #1 reason for deciding to drink or not. Here are some tips:

1. Show you disapprove of teen drinking
2. Let them know you don't want them to drink because you want them to be safe and happy
3. Show that you are a trustworthy source of information about alcohol
4. Let your child know you will notice if they drink
5. Teach them how to resist peer pressure. Help them learn ways to refuse alcohol if they are offered it.

Remember, it doesn't need to be one big talk. It's better to do multiple small talks.

Get involved in the Schuyler County Coalition on Underage Drinking and Drugs (SCCUDD)! Work with a diverse group of community members to combat underage drinking in the county using strategies that have worked to reduce underage drinking in other parts of the country.

Learn more online at [www.schuylercounty.us/sccudd](http://www.schuylercounty.us/sccudd), or follow SCCUDD on Facebook and Twitter.



Sources:

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