

Profile of Iroquois County 12th Graders

Source: 2016 Illinois Youth Survey – Iroquois County Report

61% of Iroquois County 12th graders report drinking alcohol in the past year, a rate that has been consistent among 12th graders for the past six years. (Source: 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016 [Illinois Youth Surveys](#))

According to the 2016 Illinois Youth Survey, among Iroquois County 12th graders:

- 42% report drinking alcohol during the past 30 days.
- 21% report binge drinking (five or more alcoholic drinks in a row) during the past 2 weeks.
- The average age when they began drinking alcohol was 14.7 years of age.
- Only 26% say they have never had more than a sip or two of alcohol.
- 50% say it is very easy to get alcohol, with an additional 29% saying it is sort of easy.
- Only slightly less than half (49%) think it is wrong or very wrong for people their age to drink alcohol.
- Among those who drink, beer and hard liquor are the most popular beverages.
- Nearly one quarter (23%) report driving when they had been drinking alcohol.

The chart below indicates some reasons why teens drink alcohol and some other alarming rates of problem behavior, particularly among 12th graders:

SUBSTANCE USE CONSEQUENCES: During the past 12 months:

	10th	12th
Did you ever use alcohol or drugs to relax, feel better about yourself, or fit in	11%	28%
Did you ever use alcohol or drugs while you were by yourself, alone	12%	24%
Did you ever forget things you did while using alcohol or drugs	5%	19%
Did your family or friends ever tell you that you should cut down on your drinking or drug use	4%	6%
Have you gotten into trouble while you were using alcohol or drugs	3%	7%
Have you ever ridden in a car driven by someone (including yourself) who was "high" or had been using alcohol or drugs	18%	36%
Experienced 2 or more consequences (indicating the potential need for substance abuse assessment according to the CRAFFT Screening Test)	14%	35%

On the **positive** side, more than half (52%+) of 12th graders overestimate the percentage of their peers who had been drinking alcohol during the past 30 days. Letting them know that the number of teens drinking alcohol is much lower than they think it is will help to change perceptions that everyone is doing it.

Other positive norms among 12th graders:

- 56% think there is no to little chance they would be seen as cool if they drank alcohol.
- 74% recognize that there is moderate to great risk related to weekly binge drinking.
- The majority (53%) think it is wrong to very wrong to drink alcohol nearly every day.
- While only 32% think their parents would disapprove of them drinking alcohol once or twice a month, 96% recognize that their parents would disapprove of them drinking alcohol every day.

Parents play a very important role in preventing teen alcohol use. They have the greatest influence over their children's behavior, even greater than their peers. Yet, in the past year, only 48% of Iroquois County 12th graders say that their parents talked to them about not drinking alcohol.

Similarly, a large number of parents are not perceived to be closely monitoring their teens. Among 12th graders:

- 50% believe they will never get caught going to a party where alcohol was served.
- 44% believe they will never get caught drinking alcohol.
- 45% think they will never get caught riding in a car with a teen who had been drinking alcohol.

Other adults play an important role in communicating the attitudes of the community. Iroquois County 12th graders believe that well below half (43%) of the adults (other than their parents) in the community think it is wrong or very wrong for teens to drink alcohol.

The chart below indicates that major role parents and other adults play in knowingly and unknowingly providing alcohol to teens. It also shows that retail establishments are doing a relatively good job in not serving or selling alcohol to underage youth.

ALCOHOL SOURCE TYPE ONLY AMONG ALCOHOL USERS: During the past year, did you usually get your own beer, wine or liquor from the following sources*:

	8th Grade	10th Grade	12th Grade
Retail Purchase			
Any Retail Source	0%	4%	6%
I bought it at a bar or restaurant	0%	4%	5%
I bought it at a gas station or store	0%	2%	4%
Parent Supply			
My parents WITH their permission	26%	45%	45%
Social Access			
Any Social Source (excluding parents)	38%	63%	80%
A friend gave it to me	16%	41%	60%
I got it at a party	15%	31%	58%
I gave a stranger money to buy it for me	5%	5%	14%
My older brother or sister gave it to me	8%	24%	33%
An adult (other than my parents) WITH that adult's permission	13%	25%	39%
Accessed Without Permission			
Stole or Took Without Permission	26%	29%	36%
I took it from a store	3%	4%	2%
My parents WITHOUT their permission	25%	27%	32%
An adult (other than my parents) WITHOUT that adult's permission	10%	11%	12%
# of Alcohol Users in the Past Year	61	124	130

*If you see an 'N/R' (Not Reported) noted in this table, it means that at least 50% of students skipped the question for no known reason, making the results too biased to report