

## Profile of Iroquois County 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

### Source: 2016 Illinois Youth Survey – Iroquois County Report

**22% of Iroquois County 8<sup>th</sup> graders report drinking alcohol in the past year**, a rate that has been consistently decreasing among 8<sup>th</sup> graders for the past six years, from a high of 42% in 2010. (Source: 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016 [Illinois Youth Surveys](#))

According to the 2016 Illinois Youth Survey, among Iroquois County 8<sup>th</sup> graders:

- 8% report drinking alcohol during the past 30 days.
- 4% report binge drinking (five or more alcoholic drinks in a row) during the past 2 weeks.
- 11% say it is very easy to get alcohol, with an additional 17% saying it is sort of easy.
- Among those who drink, beer from bottles or cans, followed by alcopops (wine coolers, hard lemonade, hard cider), wine, and hard liquor are all popular beverages.

On the positive side, 8<sup>th</sup> graders report that:

- 72% have never had more than a sip or two of alcohol.
- Almost all 8<sup>th</sup> graders (90%) think it is wrong or very wrong for people their age to drink alcohol.
- 87% think there is no to little chance they would be seen as cool if they drank alcohol.
- 81% recognize that there is moderate to great risk related to weekly binge drinking.

**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. While 94% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders think their parents would disapprove of them drinking alcohol once or twice a month, almost all of them (99%) recognize that their parents would disapprove of them drinking alcohol every day.

Yet, in the past year, only 52% of Iroquois County 8<sup>th</sup> graders say that their parents talked to them about not drinking alcohol. Additionally, a number of parents are not perceived to be closely monitoring their teens. Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders:

- 13% believe they will never get caught going to a party where alcohol was served.
- 15% believe they will never get caught drinking alcohol.

**Other adults** play an important role in communicating the attitudes of the community. Iroquois County 8<sup>th</sup> graders believe that the vast majority (87%) 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
<b>Retail Purchase</b>			
<b>Any Retail Source</b>	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%
<b>Parent Supply</b>			
My parents WITH their permission	26%	45%	45%
<b>Social Access</b>			
<b>Any Social Source (excluding parents)</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>80%</b>
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%
<b>Accessed Without Permission</b>			
<b>Stole or Took Without Permission</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>36%</b>
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%
<b># of Alcohol Users in the Past Year</b>	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