



What our kids are saying about...

WHEN AND WHERE THEY DRINK ALCOHOL

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**for identification purposes only*

When worrying about teenage alcohol use, sometimes we forget that there are different patterns of alcohol use. Some kids try a sip or two but no more. Others start drinking and develop an addiction. Still others drink heavily, but slow down as they assume adult roles and responsibilities.¹ Understanding where and when young people drink alcohol can help us identify different patterns and plan prevention efforts accordingly.

This research brief looks at this issue for kids in Franklin County, using data from the 2006 PPAUS survey (see description below). Specifically, it answers questions like: Where and when are kids drinking alcohol? Which patterns of use are associated with risky behavior? What should we do?

To establish a pattern of behavior, one has to do it with some frequency. For that reason, this brief focuses on the 12,000 Franklin County 6th to 12th graders who drink alcohol at least once per month. Researchers refer to such frequency of use as "regular" alcohol use.

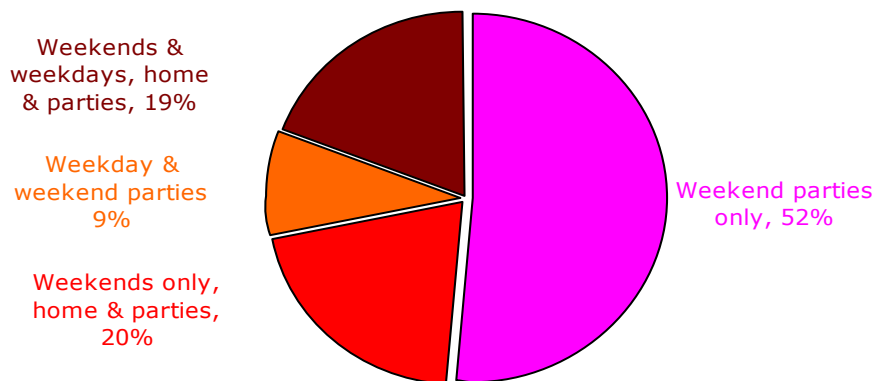
WHEN are kids drinking alcohol?

- Almost 3 in 4 youth who drink regularly only do so on weekends.
- Over 1 in 4 youth who drink regularly also do so during weekday afternoons or evenings.

WHERE are kids drinking alcohol?

- About half of the youth who drink regularly only do so at parties.
- About 1 in 3 drink at parties *and* at home.

Almost all² teenage regular drinkers fall into one of four drinking patterns:



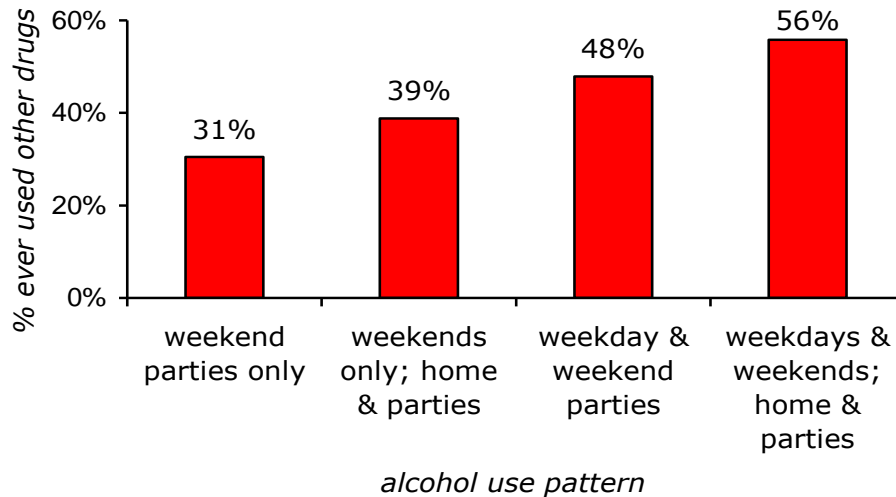
¹ Maggs JL, Schulenberg JE. Trajectories of alcohol use during the transition to adulthood. *Alcohol Research & Health*. 2004/5;28(4):195-201. Accessed December 1, 2007 at: <http://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/arh284/195-201.pdf>.

² Some teenage regular drinkers say they only drink at home (14%) or at work (2%). They are not included in the graph.

What patterns of alcohol use are most risky?

Among regular drinkers, both when kids drink (weekends only vs. weekends & weekdays) and where they drink (parties only vs. parties & home) are associated with risk. Males were somewhat more likely than females to drink both weekends *and* weekdays.

For example (see graph below), compared to kids who drink only at weekend parties, those who drink weekends *and* weekdays, both at home *and* at parties are nearly twice as likely to have used other drugs.



Overall, the fewer opportunities kids have to drink, the less likely they are to get into trouble.

So what should we do?

- Monitor your kids! Know where they are and who they are with, weekday afternoons and evenings.
- Give clear and consistent messages that alcohol use is inappropriate for teens. Never let them drink with their friends in your home.
- Contact the Safe and Drug Free Schools Consortium for more information about talking with your kids about alcohol.

About PPAAUS

The Safe and Drug-Free Schools Consortium has administered the Primary Prevention, Awareness, Attitude and Use Survey (PPAAUS) seven times since 1988. PPAAUS is designed to measure student attitudes and reported use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and provide information on violence and safety issues. Results from the latest survey (2006) are based on responses from 78,333 sixth through twelfth graders in 16 public school districts and 36 non-public schools in Franklin County. For more information, visit the PPAAUS website (http://www.edcouncil.org/programs/drugfree/ppaaus_2007/index.htm). Thank you to funders who have made this series of research briefs possible: ADAMH Board, Columbus Medical Association Foundation, United Way of Central Ohio and the US Dept of Health & Human Services/SAMHSA .