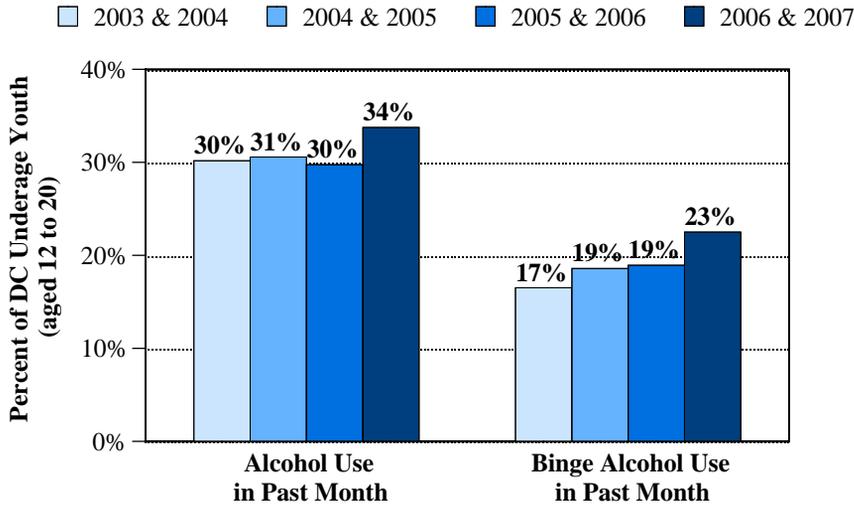


What Percentage of DC Underage Youth Drink?¹



- Approximately one-third of DC youth aged 12 to 20 drank and 23% binge drank (drank five or more drinks on any one occasion) in the past month in 2006 & 2007. This is a statistically significant increase from the previous year.
- The percentage of DC underage youth drinking and binge drinking surpasses national averages—34% of DC underage youth drank in the past month, compared to 28% nationally. While 23% of DC underage youth binge drank in the past month, only 19% of youths did so nationally.
- Combined data from 2002 to 2006 show that 8.1% of underage youth in the District met the criteria for alcohol dependence or abuse in the past year, compared to 9.4% in the total U.S.

Early Use=Greater Risk²

- Approximately one-fourth of all DC high school students began drinking before age 13.
- Early alcohol use among DC high school students is associated with other risky behaviors, such as drinking and driving, marijuana use, sexual activity, and violence.

See *District Youth In Brief*, Vol. 1, Iss. 3 for more information on this topic.

Did You Know . . . ?

- 13% of DC high school students who drink report that they usually get their alcohol by buying it from a store—despite the fact that it's illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to purchase alcohol.²
- In 2007, underage drinking cost the District of Columbia an estimated \$227 million.³

Data Notes & Sources: ¹Adapted by CESAR from data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

²Percentages are from a weighted sample of public charter and public high school students. Early drinkers unweighted n=959. Non-early drinkers unweighted n=2,719. Adapted by CESAR from data from the DC Youth Risk Behavior Survey, DC Public Schools, 2007.

³Produced by the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE) in November 2009, available from the Underage Drinking Enforcement Training Center at www.udetc.org/factsheets/District-of-Columbia.pdf.