

Too Many Teen Drinkers Get Alcohol From Family



At a recent news conference, the nonprofit Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) shared a report from the U.S. Public Health Service's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) that shows how underage drinkers obtain alcohol.

According to the most recent SAMHSA National Survey on Drug Use and Health, the following is a ranking of the top five ways teen drinkers get their alcohol:

1. From a parent, guardian or family member who is 21 or older (26 percent)
2. From someone 21 or older who is not related to the teen (25 percent)
3. From someone under 21 who is not related to the teen (22 percent)
4. Took it from home (10 percent)
5. Took it from someone else's home (5 percent)

According to a GfK Roper Youth Report, 74 percent of kids ages 8-17 say parents are the leading influence on their decisions about drinking, so a dialogue is important. And although PowerTalk 21 day is an opportunity start the conversation, following up on the talk could be life-saving.

Teen alcohol use kills 6,000 people each year, and one of the most important things a parent can do to keep their kids safe is to start an open dialogue about the dangers of underage drinking," said MADD National President Jan Withers, whose 15-year-old daughter was killed by an underage drunk driver 20 years ago.

For more information about Alcohol, Drugs and Youth, [click here.](#)