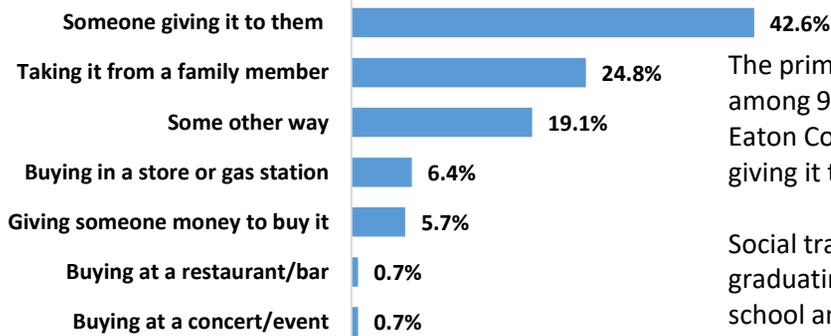


# YOUTH ALCOHOL USE IN EATON COUNTY

Data in Action Report  
Published September 2022



Sources of Alcohol for Eaton County 9th and 11th Graders Who Drank in the Past 30 Days, 2022<sup>3</sup>



The primary source of alcohol among 9th and 11th graders in Eaton County is by someone giving it to them.<sup>3</sup>

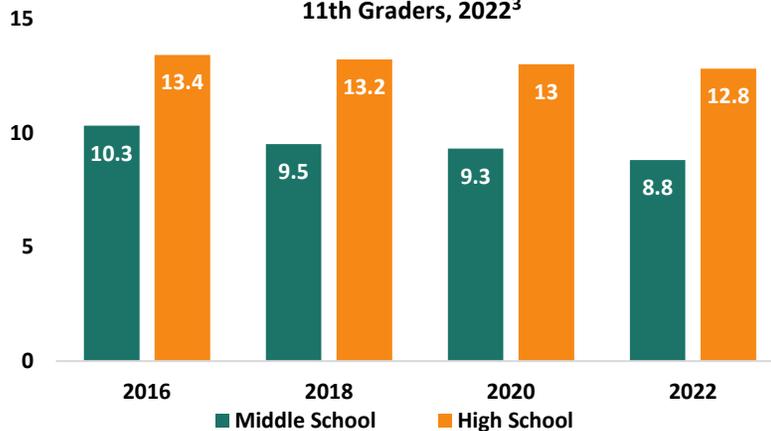
Social transitions such as graduating middle school, high school and getting a driver's licence increases the risk of alcohol use among youth.<sup>5</sup>

Binge drinking is a harmful risk behavior associated with serious injuries, multiple diseases, and is associated with an increased risk of alcohol use disorder.

**2016 definition:** Consuming 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row, that is, within a couple of hours.

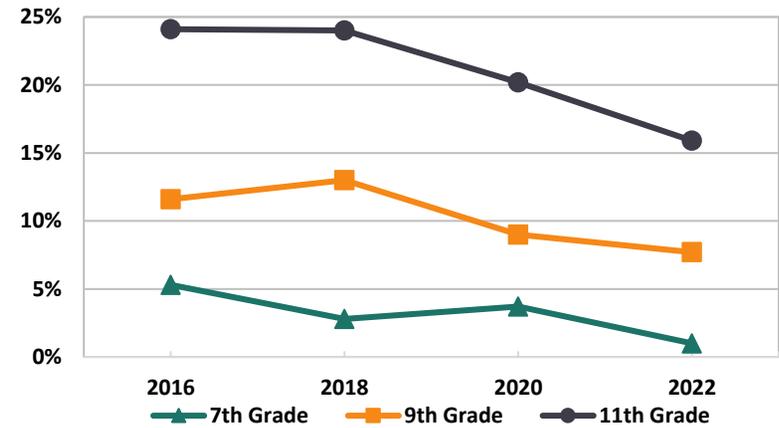
**2018+ definition:** Consuming 5 or more drinks on an occasion for men or 4 or more drinks on an occasion for women.

Average Age of First Alcohol Use for Eaton County 7th, 9th, and 11th Graders, 2022<sup>3</sup>



The average age of first alcohol use among Eaton County Middle and High schoolers has been decreasing since 2016. From 2016 to 2018, the average age has decreased from 13.4 to 12.8 years among high schoolers and from 10.3 to 8.8 years old among middle schoolers.

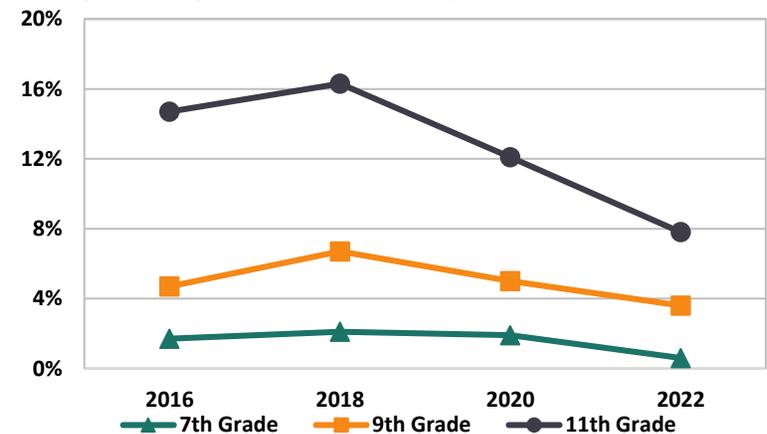
Any Alcohol Use within the Past 30 Days, Eaton County, 2016-2022<sup>3</sup>



In 2022, 1% of 7th graders, 8% of 9th graders, and 16% of 11th graders have had any alcohol in the past 30 days.<sup>3</sup> Rates of alcohol use has steadily declined from 2020 to 2022 for 7th, 8th, and 11th graders in Eaton County.

The percent of alcohol use among highschoolers in Eaton County between 2016 and 2022 have remained lower than the 2019 National (29.2%) and the State of Michigan (25.4%) levels.<sup>1</sup>

Binge Drinking within the Past 30 Days, Eaton County, 2016-2022<sup>3</sup>

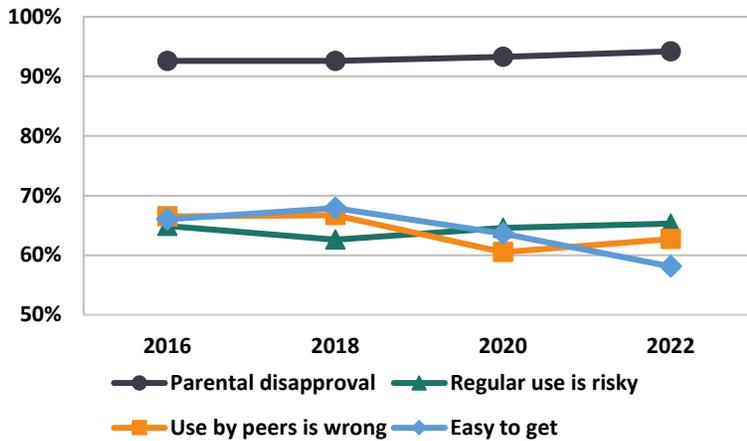


# Alcohol Perceptions



Over the past 6 years, on average, 64% of 11th graders in Eaton County reported it was "sort of" or "very" easy to get alcohol.<sup>3</sup> The percentage of students thinking it was "sort of" or "very" easy to get alcohol has been decreasing since 2018.

Alcohol Perceptions, 11th Graders, Eaton County, 2016-2022<sup>3</sup>



## 2022 Alcohol Perceptions of Eaton County 11th Graders<sup>3</sup>

- 94.2% of students reported their parents felt having one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day to be wrong.
- 62.7% of students reported that they "somewhat" disapprove or "strongly" disapprove of peers having one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day.

### References

- <sup>1</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, August 20). *Youth risk behavior surveillance system*. <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/results.htm>
- <sup>2</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022, April 14). *Alcohol and public health*. <https://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/fact-sheets/underage-drinking.htm>
- <sup>3</sup>Michigan Department of Education. (2022). *Michigan school health survey system*. <https://mdoe.state.mi.us/schoolhealthsurveys/ExternalReports/CountyReportGeneration.aspx>
- <sup>4</sup>Michigan Traffic Crash Facts. (2021). *Data query tool*. <https://www.michigantrafficcrashfacts.org/querytool#q1;0;2021;>
- <sup>5</sup>Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2022, April 14). *What you can do to prevent your child from drinking*. <https://www.samhsa.gov/talk-they-hear-you/parent-resources/what-you-can-do-prevent-your-child-drinking>

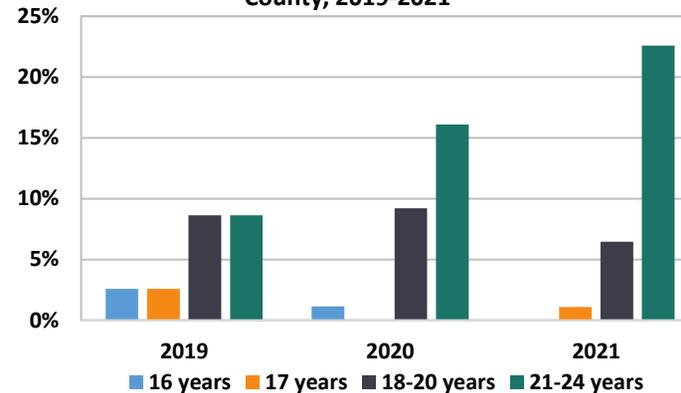
# Underage Drinking Risks



Out of all car crashes involving drinking in Eaton County, MI in 2021, 1% were among 17 year-olds, 7% were 18-20 year-olds, and 22.6% were 21 to 24 year-olds.<sup>4</sup> The percent of 21 to 24 year-olds in car crashes that involve drinking has been increasing from 2019 to 2021 in Eaton County.

Teen drivers are 3 times more likely than more experienced drivers to be in a fatal crash. Drinking any alcohol greatly increases this risk for teens.

Percent of Crashes Involving Drinking in Young Adults, Eaton County, 2019-2021<sup>4</sup>



Youth who drink alcohol are more likely to experience:

- Higher rates of absences or lower grades
- Legal problems
- Unwanted, unplanned, and unprotected sexual activity
- Increased risk of suicide and homicide
- Misuse of other substances<sup>2</sup>

## INCREASED RISK

Underage drinking increases the risk of unwanted, unplanned, and unprotected sexual activity.<sup>2</sup> There is also an increase in risk of physical and sexual violence.<sup>2</sup>

Percentage of Eaton County Students Who Drank Alcohol or Used Drugs before Last Sexual Intercourse, 2016-2020<sup>3</sup>

	2016	2018	2020	2022
7th Grade	11.8%	12.9%	20.6%	30.8%
9th Grade	24.6%	27.4%	31.3%	16%
11th Grade	23.3%	19.7%	21.9%	12.9%



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