



ALCOHOL *fact sheet*

FOR LEGISLATORS

Alcohol

/'alkə,hôl, 'alkə,häl/ • noun

drink containing alcohol.



17.5% of high school students in Georgia report drinking alcohol and 6.2% reported binge drinking in past 30-days.

Most recent data show that 18% Georgia high schoolers had their first drink “other than a few sips” before the age of 13.

In 2018, 149 Georgia youth died and an estimate 9,041 years of potential life were lost due to alcohol consumption by those under the age of 21.

Youth who begin drinking before 15 are 5x more likely to abuse or become dependent on alcohol than those who begin drinking after 21.

More Americans die every year (104,000) due to alcohol than die from the opioid epidemic. 2,900 of these deaths are Georgians. 3,500 of these deaths are youth under the age of 21.



Most alcoholics in America began drinking before age 18.



Of adults ages 18 to 69, those who are 18-20 have the highest rate of alcohol abuse or dependence.

Excessive alcohol increases the risk of memory and school performance issues while increasing the risk of depression, social problems, suicidal thoughts, and violence.

Youth who consume alcohol are at an increased risk of experiencing physical and sexual assault. They are more likely to use tobacco and other drugs.

Not only does alcohol slow down brain activity, it can also slow critical brain development that happens through adolescence and early adulthood.

- Young people who drink frequently may never be able to developmentally catch up.



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SOURCES

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2018. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2019. National Institutes of Health, 2020. Community Preventive Services Task Force, 2013. U.S. Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, 2003.



Twenty twenty-one
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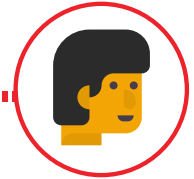
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Georgia ranks 37th among the 50 states regarding its distilled spirits tax, while having the 4th highest beer tax and the 8th highest wine tax.



Higher distilled spirits taxes are associated with reducing their availability to youth.



Social Host: "An adult allowing underage drinking on property they own, rent, or lease."



Current Georgia Law: There is no state-imposed liability for hosting parties at which there will be underage drinking. A person can only be held legally responsible for serving alcohol to an underage person if they know that person will be driving.



More than 30% of high school students obtained the alcohol they drank by someone giving it to them.



11.4% of Georgia high school students reported they have used alcohol at home.



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Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2018. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2019. National Institutes of Health, 2020. Community Preventive Services Task Force, 2013. U.S. Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, 2003.