

s.u.d.n.

Spartanburg Underage Drinking Newsletter



A NEWSLETTER TO INFORM YOU ON THE NEWS, STATISTICS, AND TRENDS OF ALCOHOL AND ITS IMPACT ON YOUTH.

TEENS FROM WEALTHIER FAMILIES MAY DRINK MORE

*Courtesy of Fox News
Published: March 14, 2011*

While poverty is usually associated with greater health risks, a study published Monday suggests that young teens from middle- to higher-income families may be somewhat more likely than their less affluent peers to use alcohol.

UK researchers found that among 5,837 thirteen-year-olds, those from the poorest families were the least likely to have tried liquor.



When the researchers divided the teens into five income groups, those in the lowest bracket were 22 percent less likely than the middle bracket to have had a drink in the past 6 months. They were similarly less likely to admit to binge-drinking.

The study also found, the higher a mother's education level, the less likely her child was to drink.

The results, published in the journal *Pediatrics*, point to a complex relationship between socioeconomics and teen drinking, the researchers say.

They speculate that teenagers from wealthier families may have easier access to alcohol. But when mothers have more education, they may be more likely to emphasize the importance of a healthy lifestyle to their kids.

Whatever the reasons for the findings, the researchers say they reinforce the fact that all parents should be aware of the problem of early drinking.

"More advantaged families tend to have healthier behavior," lead author Roberto Melotti, of the University of Bristol, said in an e-mail. "Our results indicate an example where this is not the case."

"Drinking at an early age," he said, "has been related to a series of adverse outcomes, including the risk of developing alcohol-use disorders in later life."

PROM AND DRINKING

*By Tari Marshall
Published: March 23, 2011*

I'm issuing a challenge to parents this prom and graduation season: Tell your teenagers not to drink. Before you shake your heads and tell the computer screen that I'm delusional, hear me out.

When parents tell teens to drink responsibly, what they hear is, "It's okay to drink. My parents said so!"



Aside from the fact that it's illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to drink alcohol, turning a blind eye to teen drinking at any time is an invitation to binge drinking.

Those who believe the myth that European teens don't have problems with binge drinking because they "learn" to drink at home with their parents should know that many studies over the years show that European teens have a HIGHER rate of binge drinking than American teens.

There is no reason young adults can't learn to drink responsibly when they turn 21. They don't need to start by getting conditioned to the taste of alcohol and the feel of getting buzzed as teens. Rather than give them wine with dinner, adults can model responsible drinking by sticking to one glass themselves, and reinforcing the message that alcohol is unhealthy for teens.

One of the top reasons teens say they don't drink is that they don't want to disappoint their parents. We can use our powerful influence to prevent our kids from drinking, set rules and do whatever we can to keep our teens healthy and safe.

COMMUNITIES THAT CARE SURVEY DATA

In September 2010, the Spartanburg Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (SADAC) conducted the Communities That Care (CTC) Survey. The survey was sponsored by SADAC, the Mary Black Foundation, the Spartanburg Regional Foundation, the Spartanburg County Foundation, and the JM Smith Corporation. The Spartanburg School Districts deserve an extra special thank you for allowing these surveys to be administered in their high schools.

Because of this cooperative effort, 5,415 youth; primarily in 9th and 11th grades completed the survey giving the county of Spartanburg invaluable data. Because this information is now available, SADAC can more accurately and appropriately focus on the needs of youth demonstrating risky or potentially risky behaviors.

The CTC Survey shows that in almost every category, Spartanburg statistically fared better than the State in: youth drug use, age of first use, past 30 day drug use, and other drug and risky behavior issues. However, one statistic that stood out was Spartanburg youths' affinity for alcoholic energy drinks. Compared to the state, Spartanburg youth

were 1.6 times more likely to use alcoholic energy drinks. The combination of stimulant and depressant makes it difficult for the user to determine how drunk he/she may be.

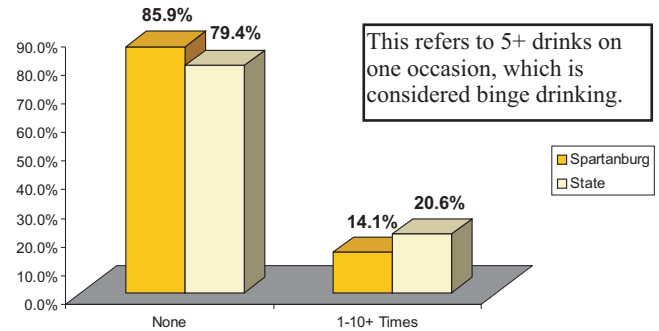
A ban on alcohol-laced energy drinks is moving forward. The South Carolina House voted to outlaw drinks such as Joose and Four Loko, which has been nicknamed blackout in a can.

The bill heads to the Senate. State Rep. Thad Viers said the beverages are dangerous because people are more likely to get drunk but feel sober enough to drive.

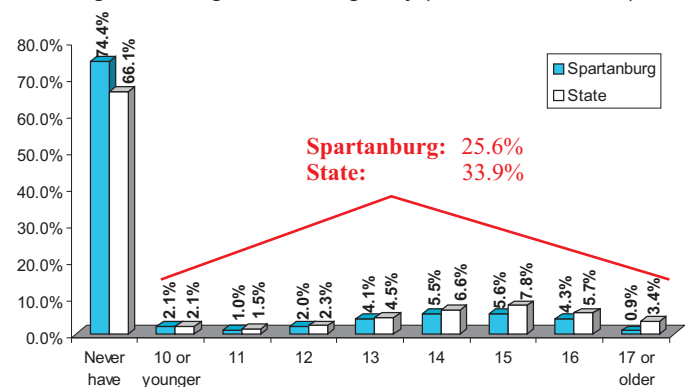
While Spartanburg's numbers were more encouraging than the State's, it is important to keep up our efforts in order to lower the numbers even more. For every percentage point lowered, hundreds of youth are benefitted.

Data from the CTC Survey

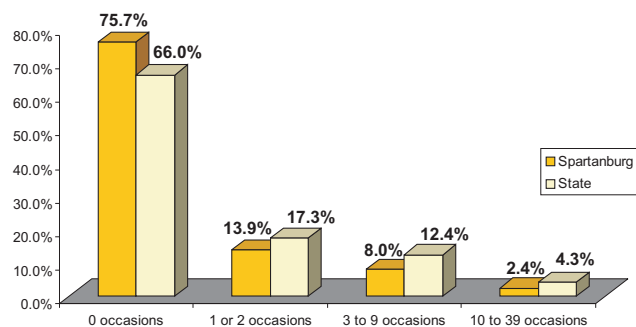
In the Past 2 Weeks, Number of Times Drank 5+ Drinks



Began Drinking Alcohol Regularly (1-2 Times a Month)



Alcoholic Beverages in the Past 30 Days



If you are interested in joining the Spartanburg Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking call (864) 582-7588, ext. 334 or email Phillip Hudson at phillip@sadac.org.



IF YOU KNOW OF AN UNDERAGE PARTY OR A STORE/RESTAURANT THAT SELLS ALCOHOL TO ANYONE UNDER 21 CALL
1-866-515-SUDS (7837)
ANONYMOUSLY TO HELP US STOP UNDERAGE DRINKING AND SALES (SUDS)

This newsletter is produced by SADAC's Center of Integrated Prevention Practices

For more information on underage drinking or to learn more about our services call (864) 582-7588, ext. 335 or visit www.sadac.org.

For more information on the Tobacco Alcohol Compliance Team or to volunteer call (864) 582-7588, ext. 333.