



### Usage Summary



While rates of teen alcohol use in Illinois continued to decline through 2018, they were much higher than nationwide rates. Illinois Youth Survey data suggests that alcohol is almost always obtained and used socially among teens. Therefore, teen perceptions of peer use are very important. Unfortunately, nearly 70% of teens in Illinois believe that alcohol use at their school is higher than it really is.

### Drinking and Driving

#### High School Seniors



■ Did not drink and drive (75%) ■ Rode with drunk driver (15%)  
■ Drove drunk (10%)

Drinking and driving is the most deadly and pervasive consequence of alcohol use. It can injure or kill not only those responsible but others in the car and innocent drivers as well. While rates of drinking and driving among Illinois youth have been declining, a quarter of high school seniors reported riding with a drunk driver or driving drunk in 2018. This means that **one in four high school seniors is at direct risk of a drunk driving accident.**

### How Can Parents Help?

- Enforce clear rules about not using alcohol and drugs and make sure your teen understands them.
- Talk with children and young adults about the dangers of alcohol and consequences for underage drinking, including school, social, legal, and health problems.
- Be less reactive and more proactive in handling your teen's behaviors regarding alcohol.
- Model responsible drinking behavior and inform your teens about how to use alcohol responsibly when they are of legal drinking age.

For more information, visit [iys.cprd.illinois.edu](http://iys.cprd.illinois.edu) or at [facebook.com/CPRDIYS](https://facebook.com/CPRDIYS)

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