

CESAR FAX: May 7, 2007 (Vol. 16, Issue 18)

Chicago Study Finds Parents Are Primary Source of Alcohol for Middle School Youth, Other Sources Become More Prevalent by 8th Grade

Parents or guardians are a predominant source of alcohol for young teens, according to a longitudinal study that followed Chicago public school students from 6th to 8th grade. More than one-third of alcohol-using youths entering 6th grade reported that they were given alcohol by parents or guardians the last time they drank alcohol, while 16% reported receiving it from another adult older than age 21. Very few reported obtaining alcohol from home (6%) or retail sources, such as a grocery or liquor store (2%). While decreasing over time, parents or guardians continued to remain the most common source of alcohol until the end of 8th grade, when youths who used alcohol were as likely to report that another adult older than age 21 was their most recent source as they were to report parents or guardians (23%). The authors suggest “parents who provide their children with alcohol on special occasions or religious events may want to consider all the subsequent effects” and that “parental education about the need to eliminate, lock up and/or monitor alcohol in the home may be necessary” (p. 5). Studies have found that early initiation of alcohol use is associated with an increased risk of alcohol abuse and dependence at a later age (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 13, Issue 45).

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from the Office of Applied Studies, SAMHSA, *Treatment Episode Dataset (TEDS) Highlights—2005, National Admissions to Substance Abuse Treatment Services, 2007*. Available online at <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/dasis.htm#teds2>.