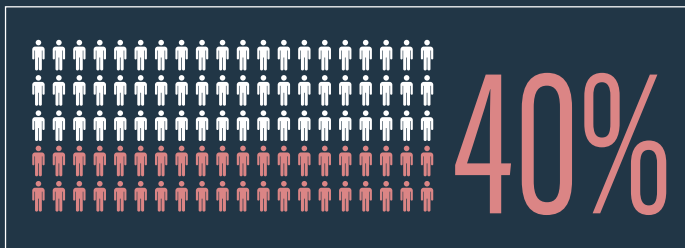


# GETTING AHEAD OF A PROBLEM

Underage alcohol use can start early—even as young as age 9. Prevention efforts need to start just as early. Here's why:



In 2021, 1.8 million 12- to 17-year-olds used alcohol for the first time, making up almost 40% of youths who used alcohol in the past year.\*

Despite what parents may think, children really hear their concerns when it comes to using substances, and it's important to discuss the risks of using alcohol and other drugs with them at every opportunity.

Informed, prepared parents/guardians and communities have the best chance of getting ahead of alcohol and other drug misuse.

**SAMHSA**  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administration

LEARN MORE AT  
[StopAlcoholAbuse.gov/CommunitiesTalk](https://www.stopalcoholabuse.gov/communities-talk)



\*Numbers from the Detailed Tables have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousands or nearest whole percent.

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2022). *Results from the 2021 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Detailed tables*. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/2021-nsduh-detailed-tables>