

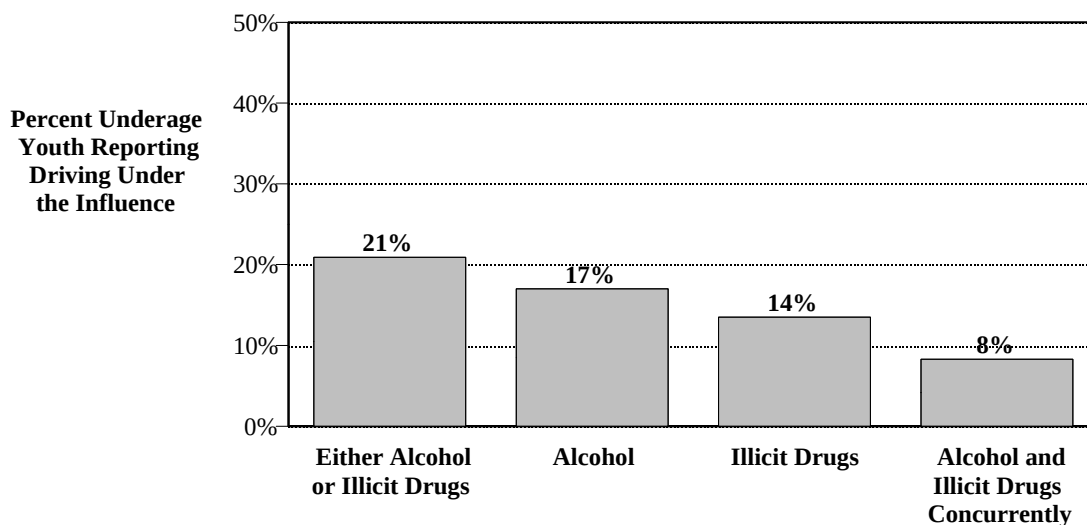
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

One-Fifth of Underage Youth Have Driven Under the Influence of Alcohol or Illicit Drugs

Slightly more than one-fifth of youths under the legal drinking age—more than 4 million persons age 16 to 20—reported driving a vehicle under the influence of alcohol and/or illicit drugs in the past year, according to data from the 2002 and 2003 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Seventeen percent reported driving under the influence of alcohol, 14% reported driving under the influence of illicit drugs, and 8% reported driving under the combined influence of alcohol and illicit drugs. Older persons were more likely than younger ones to report driving under the influence. For example, 20-year-olds were nearly three times more likely to have driven under the influence than 16-year-olds (28% vs. 10%, respectively; data not shown).

Percentage of U.S. Persons Aged 16 to 20 Who Reported Driving a Vehicle Under the Influence of Alcohol and/or Illicit Drugs in the Past Year, 2002 and 2003 Data Combined
(N=32,890)



NOTE: The “Either Alcohol or Illicit Drugs” category is not equal to the sum of the other three categories. The categories “Either Alcohol or Illicit Drugs,” “Alcohol,” and “Illicit Drugs” were created from responses to three different survey questions: if during the past 12 months the respondent had 1) driven a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol only, 2) illicit drugs only, or 3) a combination of alcohol and illicit drugs used together.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), “Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Among Young Persons,” *The NSDUH Report*, December 31, 2004. Available online at <http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k4/youthDUI/youthDUI.cfm>.

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