Archival and Survey Data Sources for Underage Drinking: A Community Data Checklist

Possible data sources related to underage drinking are listed below. The more information you can gather, the more comprehensive your needs assessment will be. However, if the data are unavailable or difficult to obtain, indicate that fact and move on to other questions or sources.

**Note:** This checklist is not intended to be comprehensive or all-inclusive. It is a suggested plan of action, not a requirement. The data you gather should be based on your own priorities and customized to your local situation.

Distribute this checklist to members of your group and/or key members of the community, and request their assistance. Incorporate the data you collect into your strategic plan.

**A. Demographics**

*1. Population*

Total population of city / town (circle one)

**Note:** If these (or any other) data are unavailable, note “n/a.”

*2. Race breakdown (by %)*

White

African American

Asian

Native American

Other (please indicate)

*3. Ethnic breakdown (by %)*

Hispanic/Latino

Other relevant cultural groups (e.g., Cape Verdean)

Other (please indicate)

*4. Under 21 youth*

Number of youth ages 0–14

% of the total population

Number of youth ages 15–20

% of the total population

*Potential sources:* U.S. Census Bureau, [State & County QuickFacts](http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/44000.html) (select a “fact” [topic], then a state, county, city, or town for demographic data on that topic)

**B. Highway Safety Data—Past Year**

**Note:** If trend data are available, it might also be helpful to know if the numbers are going up or down.

Number of underage DWI/DUI arrests

% of total DWI/DUI arrests

Number of underage DWI/DUI convictions % of total DWI/DUI convictions

*Potential sources:* Police department, local or municipal court

Number of students saying that they rode in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol one or more times

Number of students saying that they drove a car or other vehicle when they had been drinking alcohol in the past 30 days

*Potential source:* Youth risk behavior survey

**C. Alcohol Sales and Liquor Law Violations—Past Year**

Number of retail outlets in the community that sell alcohol (i.e., retail liquor establishments, restaurants, bars, and any other licensed alcohol venue)

Number of retail outlets that have been cited for selling alcohol to a minor

Number of license suspensions for sales to minors

Number of license revocations for sales to minors

Number of citations for underage possession of alcohol or use of a fake ID

Number of citations for underage consumption of alcohol

Number of citations for adult purchase of alcohol for and/or provision of alcohol to a minor

*Potential sources:* Police department, town/city clerk, local liquor licensing board, state Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission, local alcohol purchase survey

**D. School Data—Past Year**

*Middle school (grades – ):*

Number of alcohol-related suspensions, expulsions, and other events

Number of alcohol-related incidents of vandalism and campus disruptions

*High school (grades – ):*

Number of alcohol-related suspensions, expulsions, and other events

Number of alcohol-related incidents of vandalism and campus disruptions

*Potential sources:* Superintendent of schools, police department

**E. Other Criminal Justice Data—Past Year**

Number of parties to which police were called because of underage drinking

Number of cases of vandalism, property damage, rape, robbery, assault, murder, etc. that also involved underage alcohol use

*Potential sources:* Local or municipal court, juvenile justice services, police department, local hospitals

**F. Injuries and Deaths Involving Alcohol (except those involving motor vehicles)—Past Year**

Number of underage youth alcohol-related emergency room admissions/EMS data

*Potential sources:* Local hospital emergency rooms, local fire department

**G. Alcohol Treatment—Past Year**

Number of beds for underage youth

Number of beds filled by underage youth

Number of alcohol-related admissions

Number of underage youth on waiting list for admission or other indication of need

*Potential sources:* Local hospitals, local alcohol treatment centers

**H. Prevention Initiatives**

Number of alcohol education and prevention programs for parents

Number of alcohol-free programs and activities for youth

Number of local substance abuse prevention organizations

Number of youth substance abuse prevention organizations (SADD, etc.)

*Potential sources:* School health and wellness coordinators, state and community substance abuse prevention agencies

**I. Youth Risk Behaviors and Attitudes**

Youth risk behavior survey is administered

(If yes) Results of this survey are available

Survey on youth behaviors and attitudes regarding alcohol use is administered

(If yes) Results of this survey are available

*Potential sources:* School health and wellness coordinators, state and community substance abuse prevention agencies

**J. Alcohol Use**

*Middle school (grades – ):*

Number of students who report skipping class due to being drunk or high in the past year (local)

Number of students who report skipping class due to being drunk or high in the past year (statewide)

Number of students who report past-30-day alcohol use (local)

Number of students who report past-30-day alcohol use (statewide)

Number of students who report being under the influence of alcohol at school in the past year (local)

Number of students who report being under the influence of alcohol at school in the past year (statewide)

Number of students who had more than five drinks in a row in the past year (local)

Number of students who had more than five drinks in a row in the past year (statewide)

*High school (grades – ):*

Number of students who report skipping class due to being drunk or high in the past year (local)

Number of students who report skipping class due to being drunk or high in the past year (statewide)

Number of students who report past-30-day alcohol use (local)

Number of students who report past-30-day alcohol use (statewide)

Number of students who report being under the influence of alcohol at school in the past year (local)

Number of students who report being under the influence of alcohol at school in the past year (statewide)

Number of students who had more than five drinks in a row in the past year (local)

Number of students who had more than five drinks in a row in the past year (statewide)

*College:*

Number of students who report skipping class due to being drunk or high in the past year (local)

Number of students who report skipping class due to being drunk or high in the past year (statewide)

Number of students who report past-30-day alcohol use (local)

Number of students who report past-30-day alcohol use (statewide)

Number of students who report being under the influence of alcohol at school in the past year (local)

Number of students who report being under the influence of alcohol at school in the past year (statewide)

Number of students who had more than five drinks in a row in the past year (local)

Number of students who had more than five drinks in a row in the past year (statewide)

*Potential sources:* Youth risk behavior and use surveys, state and community substance abuse prevention agencies, campus health and wellness center

**K. Parental Monitoring and Involvement—Past Year**

*Middle school (grades – ):*

Number of students who report that parents care about their grades (local)

Number of students who report that parents care about their grades (statewide)

Number of students who report that parents ask about what they are studying (local)

Number of students who report that parents ask about what they are studying (statewide)

Number of parents who report that they talk with their child about school (local)

Number of parents who report that they talk with their child about school (statewide)

*High school (grades – ):*

Number of students who report that parents care about their grades (local)

Number of students who report that parents care about their grades (statewide)

Number of students who report that parents ask about what they are studying (local)

Number of students who report that parents ask about what they are studying (statewide)

Number of parents who report that they talk with their child about school (local)

Number of parents who report that they talk with their child about school (statewide)

*Potential sources:* Youth risk behavior surveys, parent surveys

**Note:** These data may be readily available in some states. For example,Rhode Island’s [InfoWorks!](http://infoworks.ride.ri.gov/search/schools-and-districts), the state’s education data reporting system, has these data for the academic year 2013–2014.

**L. School Climate and Norms**

*Middle school (grades – ):*

Number of teachers who teach life and social skills

Number of teachers who report use of guidance counselor as a resource for students

Number of teachers who work with counseling and/or health staff to help students obtain health and social services

*High school (grades – ):*

Number of teachers who teach life and social skills

Number of teachers who report use of guidance counselor as a resource for students

Number of teachers who work with counseling and/or health staff to help students obtain health and social services

*Potential sources:* Teacher surveys, school health and wellness coordinators, school guidance department