



“Greater self-restraint by the alcohol industry in its marketing practices is an essential component of a sound national strategy for reducing underage drinking.”

— National Research Council / Institute of Medicine, *Reducing Underage Drinking: A Collective Responsibility*

The Center on  
**Alcohol Marketing** and *Youth*



The average age at which young people, ages 12 to 17, begin to drink is 13 years old.

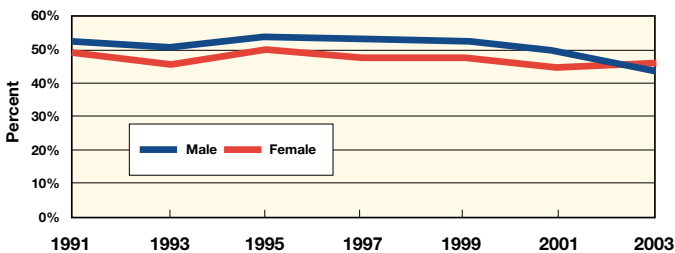
## Alcohol: Our Kids' Drug of Choice

**Alcohol is the most commonly used drug among America's youth. More young people drink alcohol than smoke tobacco or use marijuana.**

— National Research Council / Institute of Medicine, 2004

- Each day, more than 7,000 kids in the United States under age 16 take their first drink.
- 1 in 5 eighth-graders is a current drinker.
- 1 in 5 youth, ages 12 to 20, binge drinks (5 or more drinks on one occasion).
- Most kids drink to get drunk: more than 90% of the alcohol consumed by 12- to 20-year-olds is drunk when they are bingeing.

### Girls Catch Up to Boys: 9th- to 12th-Graders Who Drank in Last 30 Days



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System

## Underage Drinking Harms and Kills Our Children

**Alcohol use by children, adolescents, and young adults under the legal drinking age of 21 produces human tragedies with alarming regularity.**

— National Research Council / Institute of Medicine, 2004

- Each day, three teens in the United States die from drinking and driving, and at least six more die from other alcohol-related causes.
- Teenage girls who binge drink are up to 63% more likely to become teen mothers.
- Underage drinking costs the United States \$53 billion a year in medical care, lost productivity, and the pain and suffering of young drinkers.

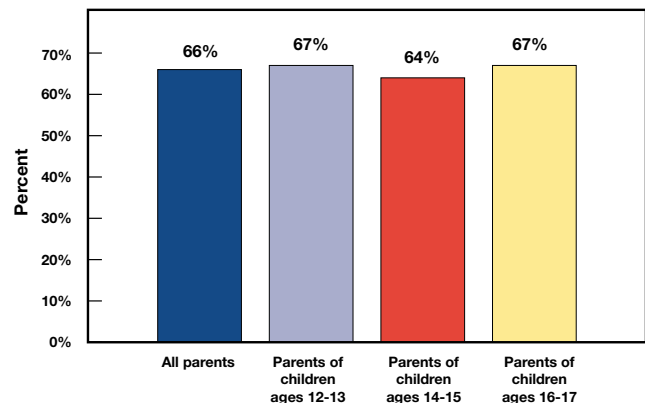
## Alcohol Advertising: Reaching Kids Where They Live

**While many factors may influence an underage person's drinking decisions, including among other things parents, peers and the media, there is reason to believe that advertising also plays a role.**

— Federal Trade Commission, 1999

- A *USA Today* survey found that teens say alcohol ads have greater influence on the desire to drink in general than the desire to buy a particular brand.
- A study published in *The Journal of the American Medical Association* found that the number of beer and distilled spirits ads tended to increase with a magazine's youth readership. For every 1 million underage readers ages 12 to 19 in a magazine, researchers generally found 1.6 times more beer advertisements and 1.3 times more distilled spirits advertisements.
- A study of children ages nine to 11 found that children were more familiar with Budweiser's television frogs than Kellogg's Tony the Tiger, the Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers, or Smokey the Bear.

### Parents Believe Seeing/Hearing Alcohol Ads Makes Teens More Likely to Drink Alcohol



Source: Peter D. Hart Research Associates / American Viewpoint, 2003

Every day, 7,000 kids under age 16 take their first drink.

## Institute of Medicine Calls for Industry Reforms and a Public Health Watchdog

*In the committee's opinion, alcohol companies should refrain from displaying commercial messages encouraging alcohol use to audiences known to include a significant number of children or teens when these messages are known to be highly attractive to young people. It is not enough for the company to say: "Because these messages also appeal to adults, who will predominate in the expected audience, we are within our legal rights."*

—National Research Council / Institute of Medicine, 2004

- IOM called on the industry to move to a standard of not placing ads where underage youth are more than 15% of the audience—the proportion of youth in the population.
- IOM called on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to monitor alcohol advertising and report its findings to Congress and the public.

## Why the Alcohol Industry's 30% Threshold Fails to Protect Youth

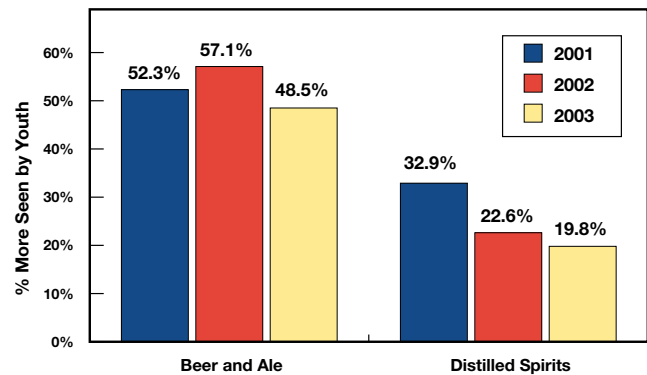
- Because youth, ages 12 to 20, are only 13.3% of the national TV viewing audience, the alcohol industry's current threshold of not placing ads where underage youth are more than 30% of the audience allows alcohol ads to be placed on programs where there are more than twice as many youth as in the viewing population.



## CAMY Documents Youth Exposure to Alcohol Ads

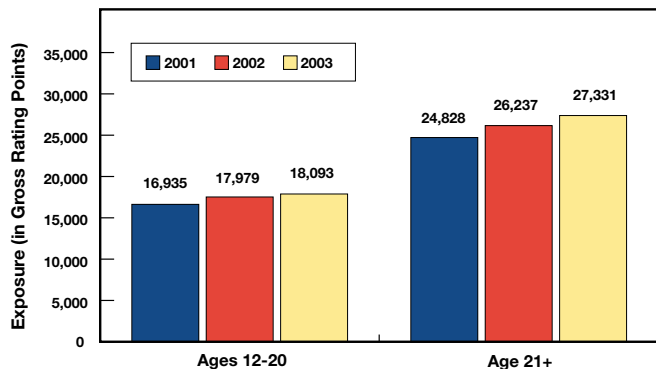
Using standard advertising industry databases and methods, the Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth (CAMY) at Georgetown University has documented widespread exposure of underage youth to alcohol ads and marketing on television, radio, and the Web and in magazines.

### Underage Youth Saw More Alcohol Ads Than Adults in Magazines, 2001 to 2003\*



\* See [www.camy.org](http://www.camy.org) for details; per capita comparison based on gross rating points. Sources: TNS Media Intelligence, Mediamark Research Inc.

### Underage Youth Saw More Than 3 Beer Ads for Every 5 Seen by Adults on TV, 2001 to 2003\*



\*See [www.camy.org](http://www.camy.org) for details; per capita comparison based on gross rating points. Sources: TNS Media Intelligence, Nielsen Media Research

## Television: A Vast Adland for Alcohol

- More than 750,000 alcohol ads aired on television from 2001 to 2003.
- Underage youth saw 3 alcohol ads on TV for every 5 ads seen by adults.
- More than 180,000 of the 750,000 alcohol ads were more likely to be seen by underage youth than adults on a per capita basis on programs such as Comedy Central's *Crank Yankers*, Fox's *MADtv*, and Comedy Central's *South Park*.

	2001	2002	2003
<b>Number of televised alcohol ads</b>	192,423	282,273	286,651
<b>Ads more likely to be seen by youth</b>	48,624	66,924	66,384
<b>Total spending</b>	\$773,735,471	\$927,915,571	\$813,181,159

Sources: TNS Media Intelligence, Nielsen Media Research

### Top 15 Teen Programs Have Alcohol Advertising

In 1999, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) reported that alcohol ads had appeared on "at least three of the 15 television shows reported to have the largest teen audiences." According to the FTC, "These shows may be among the best ways to reach teens, although they often have a majority legal-age audience."

The alcohol industry placed ads on all 15 of the 15 television shows most popular with teens in 2003, according to a CAMY analysis: 2,583 ads at a cost of more than \$28.4 million. The programs included *Smallville*, *Fear Factor* and *My Wife and Kids*.

**Alcohol ads are among teens' favorites. Teens have ranked ads for Budweiser among their top 10 favorite TV advertisements in studies done in 2000, 2002 and 2004.**

Source: Teenage Research Unlimited

#### CAMY TV Reports:

*Television: Alcohol's Vast Adland Youth Exposure to Alcohol Ads on Television, 2002 Alcohol Advertising on Television, 2001 to 2003*  
Available at [www.camy.org](http://www.camy.org).



## Out of Balance: Alcohol Ads Outnumber Responsibility Ads 32 to 1

- Underage youth were 96 times more likely per capita to see a TV commercial promoting alcohol from 2001 to 2003 than an industry-funded responsibility ad regarding underage drinking.
- Responsibility advertising on television continues to be drowned out by the sheer volume of product advertising.

	2001	2002	2003
<b>Number of responsibility ads</b>	9,306	6,217	8,641
<b>Number of alcohol product ads</b>	192,423	282,273	286,651
<b>Spending on responsibility ads</b>	\$36,532,918	\$24,686,013	\$30,534,007
<b>Spending on alcohol product ads</b>	\$773,735,471	\$927,915,571	\$813,181,159

Sources: TNS Media Intelligence, Nielsen Media Research

"Responsibility" ads have as their primary focus a clear, unambiguous message warning against driving after drinking, encouraging use of a designated driver, advising viewers to drink responsibly, or informing them about the legal drinking age of 21.

#### CAMY Responsibility Reports:

*Drops in the Bucket: Alcohol Industry "Responsibility" Advertising on Television in 2001*

*Fewer Drops in the Bucket: Alcohol Industry "Responsibility" Advertising Declined on Television in 2002*

Available at [www.camy.org](http://www.camy.org).





## Alcohol Radio Ads: Tuning in to Kids

In 14 of the 15 largest media markets CAMY studied in the summer of 2003, young people ages 12 to 20 heard more radio alcohol advertising per capita than adults over age 21. In five of these top 15 markets, underage youth also heard more radio alcohol advertising than young adults ages 21 to 34 on a per capita basis.

In its study, CAMY analyzed more than 50,000 radio ads airing in 104 markets across the nation. CAMY's analysis shows that 28% of these airings occurred when underage youth were more than 30% of the listening audience. According to revised industry marketing codes announced in September 2003, underage youth should not constitute more than 30%—a change from 50%—of the audience for alcohol ads.

### CAMY Radio Reports:

*Radio Daze: Alcohol Ads Tune in Underage Youth Youth Exposure to Radio Advertising for Alcohol – United States, Summer 2003*  
Available at [www.camy.org](http://www.camy.org).

## Alcohol Web Sites: Cyber Playgrounds for Kids

### Alcohol Web Sites Attract Large Numbers of Underage Youth

Alcohol company Web sites received nearly 700,000 in-depth visits—visits that went beyond the age-verification page on the site—from young people under the legal drinking age in the last six months of 2003 alone. In fact, 13.1% of all in-depth visits to 55 alcohol Web sites were initiated by underage youth.

### Games, Cartoons, Music and High-Tech Downloads Fill Alcohol Web Sites

Video games such as a water-balloon toss, pinball, car races, shooting aliens and air hockey, as well as customized music downloads and IM (instant messaging) accessories were found throughout alcohol company Web sites, especially beer and distilled spirits Web sites.

### No Effective “Carding” on the Internet

Alcohol industry marketing codes hold out the promise of limiting access to only legal-age adults by working with the computer industry. However, underage youth have easy access to alcohol Web sites since the majority of parental control software programs are largely ineffective at preventing youth from visiting these sites. A CAMY report for 2003 showed that as many as 76% of the alcohol brands eluded parental controls half the time or more.

### CAMY Alcohol on the Web Report:

*Clicking with Kids: Alcohol Marketing and Youth on the Internet*  
Available at [www.camy.org](http://www.camy.org).



## Magazines: Alcohol Marketing Reaches Youth

- America's youth saw far more alcoholic beverage advertising in magazines than did people of legal drinking age from 2001 to 2003 on a per capita basis.
- Alcohol companies placed their ads in magazines with high youth readership, including *Rolling Stone*, *Vibe*, *Maxim*, *InStyle* and *Sports Illustrated*.



### Magazines with High Youth Readership and Alcohol Advertising, 2001 to 2003

	Rolling Stone*	Vibe*	Maxim	InStyle	Sports Illustrated*
<b>Average % youth readership</b>	31.8%	39.2%	24.5%	21.7%	24.0%
<b>Total alcohol ad spending</b>	\$45,919,010	\$15,100,412	\$67,667,310	\$24,028,300	\$123,949,321

\*Composition and spending based on national editions.  
Sources: TNS Media Intelligence, Mediamark Research Inc.

- Between 2001 and 2003, alcohol companies spent \$990.3 million to place ads in magazines. Distilled spirits advertising is especially prevalent in magazines because of the broadcast television networks' voluntary ban on distilled spirits ads. During that time, distilled spirits advertisers accounted for 75% of the dollars spent on alcohol advertising in magazines.

Beverage type	2001		2002		2003	
	Ads	Dollars	Ads	Dollars	Ads	Dollars
<b>Beer and ale</b>	292	\$30,524,944	291	\$33,991,692	465	\$54,893,009
<b>Distilled spirits</b>	2,840	\$254,375,577	2,697	\$260,802,078	2,330	\$228,207,697
<b>Alcopops</b>	73	\$6,944,474	96	\$10,294,433	29	\$3,009,913
<b>Wine</b>	411	\$28,534,584	514	\$38,857,593	417	\$39,947,891
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,616</b>	<b>\$320,379,579</b>	<b>3,598</b>	<b>\$343,945,795</b>	<b>3,241</b>	<b>\$326,058,509</b>

Sources: TNS Media Intelligence, Mediamark Research Inc.

### CAMY Magazine Reports:

*Overexposed: Youth a Target of Alcohol Advertising in Magazines*  
Available at [www.camy.org](http://www.camy.org).

*Sex Differences in Adolescent Exposure to Alcohol Advertising in Magazines*

Summary available at [www.camy.org](http://www.camy.org).



## Girls & Alcohol Advertising: Exposure to Alcohol Ads is a Girl Thing Too

**Given the latest public health data on the closing of the gender gap in underage drinking, parents have even more reason to worry. Their daughters are being overwhelmed with alcohol ads portraying drinking as glamorous and fashionable.**

— David H. Jernigan, Ph.D., Research Director, Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth

A study conducted by CAMY and published in the *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine* found that in 2002, underage girls were even more overexposed to alcohol advertising in magazines than boys, and that girls saw more alcohol advertising in magazines than women age 21 and over.

CAMY's study found that underage girls saw 68% more beer advertising than women, age 21 and over, on a per capita basis. The difference in overexposure was most striking for ads for alcopops: girls saw 95% more advertising than legal-age women on a per capita basis.



## African-American & Hispanic Youth: No One Left Behind When It Comes to Kids & Alcohol Advertising

### African-American Kids & Alcohol Advertising

African-American youth have historically had lower rates of alcohol use and abuse than other youth, and African-American communities have been proud of that. That is what makes the Center's report striking and upsetting. African-American parents, teachers, health professionals and clergy do not need to have their hard work and success in protecting their children undermined by the alcohol industry's advertising and marketing.

—Dr. David Satcher, M.D., Director of the National Center for Primary Care, Morehouse School of Medicine, and former U.S. Surgeon General

- **Alcohol advertising was placed on television programs most popular with African-American youth.** Alcohol advertisers spent \$9.9 million in 2002 to place ads on all 15 of the programs most popular with African-American youth, including *Bernie Mac*, *The Simpsons*, *King of the Hill*, and *My Wife and Kids*.
- **Alcohol advertising in magazines and on the radio overexposed African-American youth.** Compared to non-African-American youth, African-American youth saw 66% more beer and ale advertising and 81% more distilled spirits advertising in magazines in 2002. On radio, they heard 12% more beer advertising and 56% more ads for distilled spirits than non-African-American youth on a per capita basis.



### Hispanic Youth & Alcohol Advertising

The Center found that Latino children were even more likely than other youth to see alcohol ads in English-language magazines, and more likely to hear distilled spirits and alcopop ads on the radio. ... The alcohol companies need to do a better job of self-regulating and stop inappropriate advertising. The Institute of Medicine recommends that the industry move its ads to better ensure that adults are more likely to see, hear and read them than young people—an obvious solution that is long overdue.

—U.S. Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard and David H. Jernigan, *La Opinión*

- **Alcohol advertising was placed on a majority of the TV programs most popular with Hispanic youth.** Alcohol advertisers spent \$18.3 million to place ads on 12 of the 15 programs in English and Spanish that were most popular with Hispanic youth in 2002, including *Las Vias del Amor*, *Ver para Creer*, *That '70s Show*, and *MADtv*.
- **Hispanic youth saw and heard even more alcohol advertising in magazines and on the radio than non-Hispanic youth.** Hispanic youth saw 24% more beer and ale and 24% more distilled spirits advertising than non-Hispanic youth in English-language magazines in 2002. Hispanic youth heard 11% more distilled spirits advertising and 14% more advertising for alcopops on English-language radio than non-Hispanic youth on a per capita basis.



**We consider the entire advertisement both racist and sexist. It strongly perpetuates derogatory stereotypes of Latinas.**

—Congressional Hispanic Caucus

**CAMY Reports on African-American and Hispanic Youth Exposure:**  
*Exposure of African-American Youth to Alcohol Advertising*  
*Exposure of Hispanic Youth to Alcohol Advertising*  
Available at [www.camy.org](http://www.camy.org).

## Taking Action to Protect Our Kids

Growing concern about the continued high rates of underage drinking in the United States and the role played by alcohol industry advertising practices has pushed policymakers and communities to take action. Efforts to reduce the exposure of underage youth to alcohol advertising range from the introduction of legislation in Congress to the passage of local ordinances to the adoption of new state rules to the creation of task forces by state attorneys general. Here are examples of how policymakers and communities are trying to protect our youth:

- The “Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act,” or “STOP Underage Drinking Act,” first introduced in July 2004, was re-introduced on February 16, 2005 by a bipartisan group of U.S. senators and representatives. The STOP Underage Drinking Act employs many of the well-tested policies and programs recommended in the Institute of Medicine’s September 2003 report to Congress. It funds measures that will reduce alcohol’s availability to teens, better enforce drinking laws, and provide more resources for local community efforts. It also funds a small pilot media campaign that could serve as a model for a national adult-oriented campaign to educate parents about this issue. It provides for public health monitoring of the amount of alcohol advertising reaching our youth.
- Philadelphia’s City Council unanimously passed in December 2003 an ordinance banning future alcohol advertising on city-owned property. By adopting this ordinance, the City Council banned alcohol advertising from the public transit bus shelters used by many schoolchildren when traveling between school and home each day. The City of Philadelphia owns all public transit bus shelters and administers the seventh-largest public school system in the United States.
- The State of Ohio adopted in May 2004 an administrative rule prohibiting alcohol billboards within 500 feet of schools, parks and churches. Previously, billboards could have been within 500 feet of a school, park or church as long as they were not visible from them. Ohio Parents for Drug Free Youth

championed this reform and was supported by many other groups. While alcohol industry trade associations call for the 500-foot limit in their marketing codes, the Ohio rule is more specific, and makes the industry’s voluntary ban enforceable.

- The National Association of Attorneys General created in the summer of 2004 the Youth Access to Alcohol Task Force to reduce underage drinking. The mission statement for the task force states: “The Task Force studies youth exposure to alcohol advertising and access to alcohol, educates state Attorneys General on ways to reduce access and change social norms about underage drinking, and partners with national and state entities to augment and enhance on-going efforts to stop underage drinking. The Task Force examines the alcohol industry’s marketing practices, including television, radio, Internet and print advertising, and the effectiveness of the industry’s self-monitoring programs, and works with the industry to reduce access. The Task Force compiles data on best practices related to liquor enforcement, legislative initiatives, parental education, and campus enforcement and education programs, and exchanges information among states regarding these programs and initiatives. The Task Force tracks Congressional and federal agency efforts to respond to the problem of underage drinking.”

To learn more about these initiatives and other actions being taken to reduce underage youth exposure to alcohol advertising, visit: [www.camy.org/action/](http://www.camy.org/action/).

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