



# RDMC DATA SHEET

**SARG Data Category: 3. CONTRIBUTING**  
*intervening variables that contribute to problems*

**Title: Parent Views on Underage Drinking**

## Parent Views on Underage Drinking

**Indicator:**

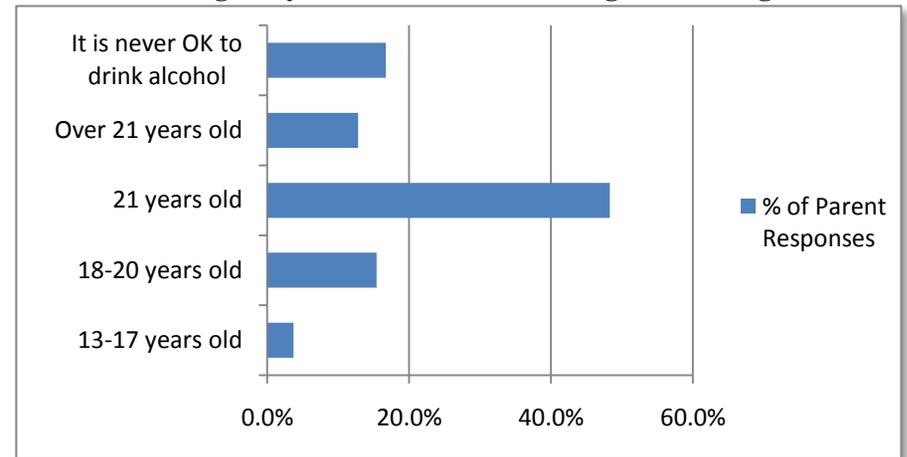
Parent views on underage drinking taken from close to 300 survey responses, or nearly a 20% response rate. Surveys were mailed in the Fall of 2009 to over 1,500 parents of Leon County middle school youth in grades 6-8.

**Commentary:**

Parents of Leon County middle school youth were surveyed to determine parent: (1) attitudes, perceptions and behaviors related to underage drinking, (2) knowledge of Florida’s underage alcohol consumption laws, and (3) knowledge of the impact of alcohol use on youth behavior and brain development. Significant findings include: close to 100% of parents believing their child has not used any alcohol within the past 30 days, over two-thirds of parents believing that their child has never drunk any kind of alcoholic beverage and does not attend any parties where alcohol is available. Close to half or 48.3% of parents believe that youth should wait for the legal drinking age of 21 to begin drinking alcohol, but significantly 19.1% believe it is ok to begin drinking at younger ages. Most respondents are knowledgeable about Florida’s underage drinking laws but were not as certain about the impact of alcohol on youth behavior and brain development. As for parents own alcohol consumption habits, over 25% say they never drink alcohol, 22.7% drink one to four times per month, and over 20% drink more than once per week or daily.

**Source(s):** Dr. Karen Randolph, Jaelyn Williams and Judith Hefren, FSU College of Social Work, *Pilot Study to Measure Parent Views on Underage Drinking*. January 2010. For more information, <http://ssw.fsu.edu/>.

**At what age to you think it is OK to begin drinking alcohol?**



**Has your child ever drunk any type of alcohol, even once?**

