

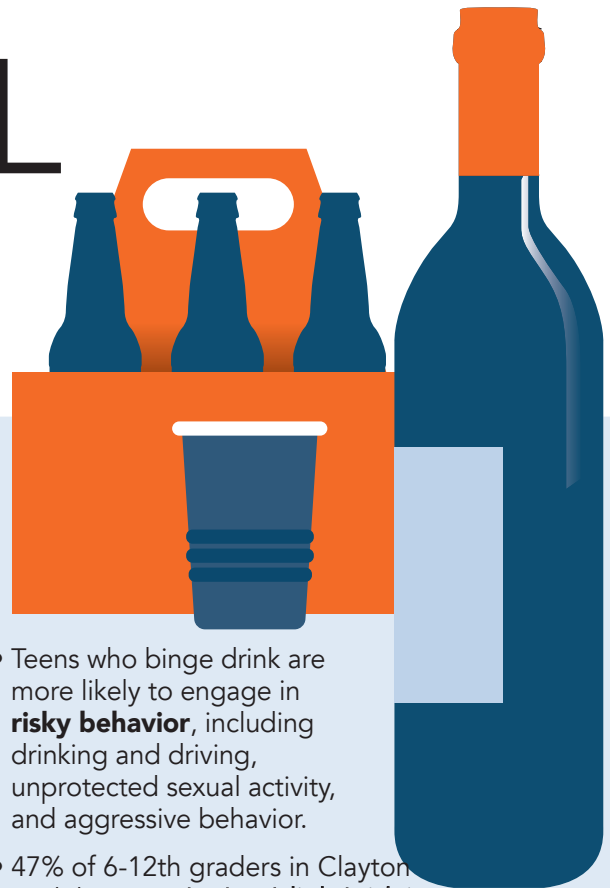
Keeping Kids Safe

ALCOHOL

Perceived as a rite of passage by some adults, teen alcohol use can have **lasting harmful impacts** on brain development and increase risk for addiction.

Important Facts:

- Alcohol is an **intoxicating drug** that is a depressant which slows down the central nervous system.
 - **24%** of Clayton high schoolers have used alcohol in the past 30 days and **71%** said it is **easy to get alcohol**.-Missouri Student Survey 2022
 - People who start drinking before the age of 15 are **4 times more likely to develop an alcohol use disorder** at some point in their lives.-NIDA
 - Youth alcohol use can **stunt brain development**, specifically the developing pre-frontal cortex, which guides decision-making.
- Teens who binge drink are more likely to engage in **risky behavior**, including drinking and driving, unprotected sexual activity, and aggressive behavior.
 - 47% of 6-12th graders in Clayton said there is a 'no' or 'slight' risk in **drinking alcohol**. -Missouri Student Survey 2022



Social Host Ordinance

According to the City of Clayton's Social Host Ordinance, adults are liable for underage drinking and substance use that occurs in their home, regardless of whether they have knowledge of it. This ordinance holds adults accountable not just for providing alcohol to minors, but also supplying the venue where underage drinking occurs.

Know what is happening in your home. Lock up alcohol. And be sure to establish clear rules and consequences on the use of alcohol and substances.

Parents have Power!

How can parents help prevent alcohol use with their own kids?

- **Talk early, talk often!** Talking to your kids about drugs can cut their risk for future use in half. For more info, visit talkaboutitmo.com
- **Be aware of your child's risk factors for alcohol use**, including times of transition, family history and mental health challenges.
- **Set clear expectations** for your kids surrounding drug use.
- **Reflect on your own alcohol use** and the messages that it might send to your kids.

