

RESOURCES

Lipperman-Kreda, S., Mair, C., Bersamin, M., Gruenewald, P. J., & Grube, J. W. (2015). Who Drinks Where: Youth Selection of Drinking Contexts. *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*, 39, 716-723. PMID: PMC4383691

CADCA's Primer Series to help coalitions understand and implement SAMHSA's Strategic Prevention Framework (<http://www.cadca.org/resources-types/primer>)

- Assessment, Capacity, Planning, Implementation, Evaluation, Cultural Competence and Sustainability

The Coalition Impact: Environmental Prevention Strategies which provides an overview of the environmental strategies approach to community problem-solving and includes examples of community efforts. (<http://www.cadca.org/resources/coalition-impact-environmental-prevention-strategies>)

CONTRIBUTORS**Researcher**

Dr. Sharon Lipperman-Kreda, Senior Research Scientist, Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE), Prevention Research Center (PRC)

Coalition

Derek Franklin, Project Director, Mercer Island Communities That Care (MICTC)

WRITING AND DESIGN TEAM

Writing—Andrea de la Flor, MA, Senior Manager of Evaluation and Research, CADCA

Writing—Robert Busch, MA, Associate of Evaluation and Research, CADCA

Design—Melanie Florencio, MA, Manager of E-Learning Technology, CADCA

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NEED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITH YOUR COALITION?

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DO YOU KNOW ENOUGH?**PEELING BACK THE LAYERS OF YOUTH DRINKING BEHAVIOR**WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

In a three-year longitudinal study, youth aged 13-16 years from 50 California cities reported on their past year alcohol use and associated drinking locations. In addition, they provided other individual-level information including past year deviant behavior. The below findings are based on an analysis of 1,163 surveys from 665 youth that reported prior year drinking.

- **Parties were by far the most common drinking location among youth and the more frequently a youth drank, the more likely he or she was to drink at a party.**
- **Drinking at parties and at someone else's home without parents present increased as youth got older while drinking at parking lots or street corners decreased with age.**
- **Drinking at school events was the least commonly reported drinking location yet girls were almost 75% more likely to drink at school events than boys.**
- **Youth who drank in parking lots or on street corners were more likely to be heavy drinkers. Deviance was associated with drinking in all contexts except bars, restaurants, or night clubs.**
- **Youth who drank at restaurants, bars, or nightclubs were more likely to be older while youth who drank in parking lots or on street corners were more likely to be younger and female. Over time, the likelihood of drinking at parking lots/street corners decreased.**




RESEARCH INTO ACTION

Your Guide to Effective Community Change

WHAT CAN COALITIONS DO?

- **Keep a pulse on underage drinking parties in your community.** Parties are the most common drinking context for youth which means that coalitions should be exploring where they occur and precisely what youth access to alcohol looks like in these settings. Talk to youth, school, staff, parents, law enforcement, and other sector members to get details. Survey data alone won't provide all of the necessary information to plan effective strategies and interventions.
- **Use your data to inform efforts for earlier prevention.** Since drinking contexts and locations change as youth age, coalitions should seriously consider age-related differences in their own communities. Do seniors drink in different locations than freshmen? Can you identify any patterns of progression? Answering these questions can provide your coalition with critical information that will help you develop strategies to influence youth choices early on.
- **Get to the bottom of the relationship between drinking and deviant behaviors.** Research available archival data sources and ask youth to tell you about other problem behaviors that occur in different drinking contexts. This information will help you identify and engage new partners whose interests overlap with yours. For example, are youth being injured at parties resulting in ER visits? Is there a link between sexual assaults and youth drinking? Gathering this information provides you with a new way to talk about youth drinking and increases your coalition's relevance to community concerns.
- **Understand the differences between male and female drinking patterns.** This study identified gender differences. Females were more likely to drink in public places than boys. Identify these differences in your community to effectively tailor your strategies. Are there differences associated with where boys and girls drink, why they prefer certain locations, and who they drink with? In addition, do boys and girls experience different negative experiences while drinking?



**DR. SHARON LIPPERMAN-KREDA, SR. RESEARCH SCIENTIST
PACIFIC INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH AND EVALUATION (PIRE)
PREVENTION RESEARCH CENTER (PRC)**

While we are just beginning to understand the complex interaction between drinking contexts and individuals, the one message we try to make with this paper is that context matters. Our research suggests that different youth drink in different places and they also change contexts over time. At the same time, we recognize that the context itself might also influence youth drinking behavior and the likelihood of different problems in these specific locations. All of this is very complex and we are just beginning to understand this process. Also, in different communities, youth might have access to different places resulting in different choices about when to drink and with whom. The most important take-away for coalitions is that we have to be thinking about context-based intervention to target specific youth and specific places in order to better prevent alcohol use and related negative outcomes.



**DEREK FRANKLIN
PROJECT DIRECTOR
MERCER ISLAND COMMUNITIES THAT CARE**

The findings from this research suggest that we ought to take a harder look at some of the grade to grade differences among youth in terms of access to alcohol. Also, the research found that drinking locations can change over time. In our community youth are drinking in homes most often so I think that a question we should answer is what does that mean for younger kids? If freshmen come to high school and get introduced to parties and by junior year they are hosting parties, we need to know this so we can tailor our message and efforts. I really think that policy work is where it's at for this stuff but at the same time to be sure you line up a comprehensive set of strategies to support that policy work. Having said that, coalitions should be asking, what is it about our community narrative that supports underage drinking in different places and in different ways? We should work to change these narratives of 'who we are as a community' that shape youth decisions about alcohol use.