Delaware 11th graders who had their first alcoholic drink before age 14 had higher past-month alcohol consumption rates than youth who had their first drink when older.

According to the 2014 Delaware School Survey, 65% of 11th graders have had alcohol. Among those 11th graders who had tried alcohol, those who had their first alcoholic drink at age 13 or younger reported higher rates of alcohol consumption within the past 30 days than youth who had their first drink at age 14 or older. In addition, 11th graders who had their first drink at age 13 or younger were more likely to have reported binge drinking (5 or more drinks in one sitting) in the last two 2 weeks than youth who had their first drink after age 13. These findings indicate that early-onset drinking is related to higher current alcohol consumption patterns.