

2025 INDIANA COLLEGE SUBSTANCE USE SURVEY:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Twenty-six Indiana colleges participated in the 2025 Indiana College Substance Use Survey. A total of 5,402 usable responses were collected from 18- to 25-year-old students at the participating schools in spring 2025.

Past Month Substance Use

Nearly half of the students who participated in the survey reported consuming alcohol in the past month (49.8%), including 36.5% of underage students. One in five students (20.5%) reported using marijuana, and 17.2% reported using electronic vapor products in the past month.

Vaping

The most frequently used vaping products in the past month include tobacco/nicotine (15.7%), alcohol (14.0%), and marijuana/THC (11.3%). Less than five percent of students reported vaping synthetic marijuana, CBD/CBD oil, flavoring only, or other substances in the past 30 days.

Marijuana Use

Of the students who reported ever using marijuana:

- The most frequent modes of use in the past month include vaping (32.2%), smoking (28.0%), and eating it in brownies, candies, etc. (24.5%)
- Over two-thirds obtained marijuana from a friend/for free, over one-third purchased marijuana from an out-of-state retailer, and over one-fifth bought marijuana from someone.

Binge Drinking

More than one-fifth of the surveyed students (21.5%) reported binge drinking in the past two weeks, including 24.0% of men and 21.2% of women. Older students (28.6%) reported significantly higher rates of binge drinking than underage students (16.3%).

Consequences of Alcohol Use

Of students who reported ever drinking alcohol, more than half reported having had a hangover (51.4%), over one-fourth reported feeling bad or guilty about their drinking 27.3%, and over one-fifth reported doing something they later regretted or blacking out (23.0% and 20.7%, respectively).

Underage Students' Access to Alcohol

Of underage students who reported ever drinking alcohol, nearly half reported that they obtained alcohol from friends who were 21 years of age or older (47.1%), over one-fourth reported obtaining alcohol from other adults over 21 (26.6%), and approximately fifteen percent reported having purchased it directly from a retailer. Of the underage students who purchased alcohol from a retailer, 43.2% reported doing so without an ID and 34.2% indicated that they used a fake ID.

Perception of Peer Beliefs

Nearly ninety percent of the students thought their peers would disapprove if they used a prescription medication not prescribed to them (89.9%). Over half of students indicated that their peers would disapprove if they had five or more alcoholic drinks in one sitting (56.4%) or used electronic vapor products (59.4%). Less than half of students indicated perceived peer disapproval of using marijuana or THC (47.2%).

Mental Health

Approximately one-third of the students (33.5%) indicated that they had experienced a period of significant sadness/hopelessness that lasted for two or more weeks in the past year. Over ten percent of the students (10.5%) reported having seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year.