

2017 INDIANA COLLEGE SUBSTANCE USE SURVEY

SUMMARY FINDINGS

A total of 4,814 students 18-25 years of age from 31 Indiana colleges participated in the Indiana College Substance Use Survey conducted in Spring 2017. Funding for the survey was provided by the Indiana Collegiate Action Network through a contract with the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Mental Health and Addiction. The survey administration and data analysis were conducted by the Indiana Prevention Resource Center. A detailed report of the findings may be accessed at <http://www.drugs.indiana.edu/indiana-college-survey/substance-use-survey>.

PAST MONTH SUBSTANCE USE

Three-fifths of the Indiana college students who participated in the survey (61%) reported using alcohol in the past month, including over half of the students under 21 years of age (51%). One in five of the students (22%) reported using marijuana in the past month and 16% smoked cigarettes during the same period. One in eight of the students (12%) reported using an electronic vapor device in the past month. Misused prescription medication was the next most commonly used substance, with 5% reporting misuse of prescription stimulants in the past month.

Male students reported statistically higher rates of use within the past month for most substances investigated on the survey. One-quarter of the male students (25%) used marijuana, compared to 19% of the female students. Almost two-thirds of male students (64%) drank alcohol, compared to 59% of female students.

BINGE DRINKING

One-third of the surveyed students (34%) reported binge drinking in the past two weeks (defined as four or more drinks* for females, and five or more drinks for males in a row). Male students reported a statistically higher rate of binge drinking than female students, with nearly two in five of the male students (37%) engaging in the behavior in the past two weeks compared to 32% of the female students. One in eight of the students who completed the survey (13%) reported binge drinking more than two times in the past two weeks.

*A drink was defined as a 12-ounce bottle of beer, a five-ounce glass of wine, or one shot of liquor (straight or in a mixed drink).

CONSEQUENCES OF ALCOHOL USE

Over one-fourth of the students who drank alcohol within the past year (27%) reported blacking out (forgetting where they were or what they did), and 18% reported engaging in unprotected sexual intercourse as a result of drinking alcohol. One in seven of the students (14%) had missed class or an assignment as a result of their drinking, and 10% had driven a car while under the influence. Over one-fourth of the students who drank alcohol in the past year (27%) felt bad or guilty about their drinking.

UNDERAGE STUDENTS' ACCESS TO ALCOHOL

Three-fifths of the students under 21 years of age who have used alcohol (59%) reported that they obtain it from friends over 21 years old, and approximately three in ten reported getting alcohol from on-campus parties (30%), fraternities or sororities (30%) and off-campus parties (28%). Twelve percent of the students under 21 reported having purchased it directly from a retailer. Almost two-thirds of these students (63%) reported that they were able to purchase it without being asked for ID.

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