

2010 INDIANA COLLEGE SUBSTANCE USE SURVEY

SUMMARY FINDINGS

A total of 6,524 students from thirteen Indiana colleges participated in the Indiana College Substance Use Survey conducted in Spring 2010. The survey had a 10.3% response rate, with twelve schools administering the survey online and one school utilizing a paper version. Funding 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 was conducted by the Indiana Prevention Resource Center. A complete report may be found at www.drugs.indiana.edu/data-survey_icsus.html.

CURRENT USE

Two-thirds of the Indiana college students (66%) reported using alcohol in the past month, including over half of the students under 21 years of age (57%). One in five of the students (20%) smoked cigarettes in the past month and 15% reported marijuana use over the same period. Misused prescription medication was the next most widely used substance with 6% reporting taking prescription medication not prescribed to them.

Male students reported higher rates of use within the past month for nearly every substance investigated. Eighteen percent of the male students used marijuana compared to 13% of the females. They also reported higher rates of use of all forms of tobacco (cigarettes, cigars, smokeless tobacco and water pipe), and misuse of prescription medication. Rates of alcohol use were not significantly different between the genders.

Students were asked the type of alcohol they usually drink. Liquor was the most commonly selected type of alcohol reported by the students (28%), followed by beer (24%).

BINGE DRINKING

Over one-third of the students surveyed (37%) reported binge drinking in the past two weeks (defined as four or more drinks in one sitting for females and five or more drinks in one sitting for males). Male students reported statistically higher rates of binge drinking than females, with over two-fifths of the male students (43%) engaging in the behavior compared to one-third (33%) of the female students. There was no significant difference in the rates of binge drinking between students 21 years of age or older and underage students. One out of six of the students who completed the survey (16%) reported binge drinking more than two times in the past two weeks.

CONSEQUENCES OF USE

Students who drank alcohol within the past six months were asked about negative consequences they have experienced as a result of their drinking. Over one-fourth of the students (26%) reported blacking out (forgetting where they were or what they did) and one in five (20%) had driven a car while under the influence. Sixteen percent of the students missed classes or assignments as a result of their drinking and over one-fourth (27%) reported feeling bad about their drinking. One in seven of the students (14%) reported engaging in risky sexual behavior as a result of their drinking, and one in nine (11%) had experienced unwanted sexual attention.

UNDERAGE STUDENTS' ACCESS TO ALCOHOL

Students under 21 years of age identified the three easiest ways they obtain alcohol. "Older friends" was the most often cited response, with almost three-fourths of the students (74%) listing it as one of the top three easiest methods. "Off-campus parties" was selected by over half of the survey respondents (56%) as one of the easiest methods, followed by "on-campus parties", with 28% of the students listing it as one of the three easiest sources.

Eleven percent of the students under 21 reported purchasing alcohol directly from a retailer. Of those, over half (58%) were able to purchase it without an ID, while 22% reported using someone else's ID and 16% used a fake ID. Over one-fourth of the underage students who purchased alcohol (28%) reported liquor stores as the easiest place for them to purchase it, and 24% reported bars.

