

2012 INDIANA COLLEGE SUBSTANCE USE SURVEY

SUMMARY FINDINGS

A total of 7,837 students from nine Indiana colleges participated in the Indiana College Substance Use Survey conducted in Spring 2012, with 6,968 cases included in the data analysis. 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

Two-thirds of the Indiana college students who participated in the survey (67%) reported using alcohol in the past month, including three-fifths of the students under 21 years of age (59%). One in five of the students (19%) reported marijuana use in the past month and 16% smoked cigarettes during the same period. Misused prescription medication was the next most commonly used substance with 5% reporting use of prescription medication in the past month that was not prescribed to them.

Male students reported higher rates of use within the past month for all of the substance investigated, except alcohol and inhalants. One-fourth of the male students (26%) used marijuana, compared to 15% of the female students. One in five male students (21%) smoked cigarettes and 15% smoked cigars.

BINGE DRINKING

Almost half of the surveyed students (46%) reported binge drinking in the past two weeks (defined as four or more drinks* in three hours or less for females and five or more drinks in three hours for males). Male students reported statistically higher rates of binge drinking than female students, with over half of the male students (52%) engaging in the behavior compared to 43% of the female students. Rates of binge drinking also differed by age, with over half of the students 21 years of age or older (52%) doing so and 42% of the underage students. One out of six of the students who completed the survey (18%) reported binge drinking more than two times in the past two weeks.

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

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION MISUSE

Adderall was the most commonly misused prescription medication, with eleven percent of the students reporting misusing it in the past six months. One in seven of the male students (14%) reported doing so compared to nine percent of the female students. Xanax was the second most commonly misused prescription medication, with four percent of the students misusing it in the past six months.

CONSEQUENCES OF ALCOHOL USE

One-third of the students who drank alcohol within the past six months (34%) reported blacking out (forgetting where they were or what they did), and one in seven (14%) had driven a car while under the influence. Twenty percent of the students missed class or an assignment as a result of their drinking. One in seven of the students (14%) reported engaging in risky sexual behavior as a result of their drinking, and a similar number (13%) had been hurt or injured because of their drinking. Almost one-third of the students who drank alcohol in the past six months (31%) felt bad or guilty about their drinking.

UNDERAGE STUDENTS' ACCESS TO ALCOHOL

Students under 21 years of age identified "older friends" as the easiest way to obtain alcohol, with almost three-fourths of the students (70%) listing it as one of the top two easiest methods. "Off-campus parties" was selected by over half of the survey respondents (56%) as one of the easiest methods. Ten percent of the students under 21 who drink alcohol reported purchasing it directly from a retailer. Two-fifths of these students (42%) reported that purchasing it without being asked for ID was the most common method they used for buying it.

