

2015 INDIANA COLLEGE SUBSTANCE USE SURVEY

SUMMARY FINDINGS

A total of 1,689 students from eight Indiana colleges participated in the Indiana College Substance Use Survey conducted in Spring 2015. 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

Over three-fifths of the Indiana college students who participated in the survey (62%) reported using alcohol in the past month, including over half of the students under 21 years of age (53%). One in eight of the students (13%) reported using marijuana in the past month and eleven percent smoked cigarettes during the same period. Almost one in ten of the students (9%) reported smoking tobacco with a hookah in the past month. Misused prescription medication was the next most commonly used substance, with four percent reporting use in the past month of prescription medication that was not prescribed to them.

The only substances for which a statistical difference was found between genders were tobacco products and marijuana. Sixteen percent of the male students used marijuana, compared to eleven percent of the female students. Eleven percent of the male students smoked tobacco with a hookah, and ten percent smoked cigars and used smokeless tobacco (vs. 8%, 3%, and 1% for females, respectively).

BINGE DRINKING

Almost half of the surveyed students (46%) reported binge drinking in the past month, and over a third (36%) reported binge drinking in the past two weeks (defined as four or more drinks* for females, and five or more drinks for males in three hours or less). Male students reported a statistically higher rate of binge drinking than female students, with two in five of the male students (42%) engaging in the behavior in the past two weeks compared to 33% of the female students. One in nine of the students who completed the survey (11%) 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 seven percent of the students reporting misusing it in the past six months. One in eleven of the male students (9%) reported doing so compared to six percent of the female students. Vicodin was the second most commonly misused prescription medication, with three percent of the students misusing it in the past six months.

CONSEQUENCES OF ALCOHOL USE

Almost one in four of the students who drank alcohol within the past six months (23%) reported blacking out (forgetting where they were or what they did), and twelve percent had missed class or an assignment as a result of their drinking. Thirteen percent of the students had driven a car while under the influence. Approximately one in nine of the students reported engaging in risky sexual behavior as a result of their drinking, and experiencing unwanted sexual attention (11% each). Almost one-fourth of the students who drank alcohol in the past six months (24%) 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 over three-fourths (77%) listing it as one of the top two easiest methods. "Someone else on campus" was the most common response for both the second and third easiest method for obtaining alcohol. Nine percent of the students under 21 who drink alcohol reported having purchased it directly from a retailer. Almost three-fifths of these students (59%) reported that purchasing it without being asked for ID was the most common method they used for buying it.