

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Arizona Youth Survey 2010 Fact Sheet



Our mission is to sustain and enhance the coordination, cohesiveness, productivity and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in Arizona

February 2011

The Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) in collaboration with the Governor's Office for Children, Youth, and Families, the Department of Health Services, and the Office of Problem Gambling conducted a statewide survey to estimate the prevalence of drug use and other risky behavior among Arizona 8th, 10th, and 12th graders and the circumstances under which they live. The Arizona Youth Survey (AYS) is conducted every two years with technical assistance from Bach Harrison, LLC.

Table 1: Percentage of Arizona Students Who Have Used Drugs in Their Lifetime

	8th Grade	10th Grade	12th Grade	Total
Alcohol	45.1	64.1	72.8	58.2
Cigarettes	23.8	37.2	46.9	34.0
Smokeless Tobacco	7.1	12.5	18.1	11.7
Marijuana	17.8	34.3	44.7	29.9
Inhalants	14.5	11.8	9.4	12.3
Hallucinogens	2.2	5.9	9.0	5.1
Cocaine	2.3	5.3	8.8	5.0
Sedatives	8.7	11.5	13.4	10.8
Methamphetamines	0.7	1.6	2.5	1.5
Stimulants	3.0	7.0	8.5	5.7
Ecstasy	3.9	8.2	10.6	7.0
Heroin	0.9	2.6	3.4	2.1
Steroids	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.7
Prescription Pain Relievers	11.5	18.9	23.1	16.8
Prescription Drugs	16.5	23.7	27.3	21.5
Over-the-Counter Drugs	9.5	13.2	14.1	11.8

Substance Use Among Arizona Youth

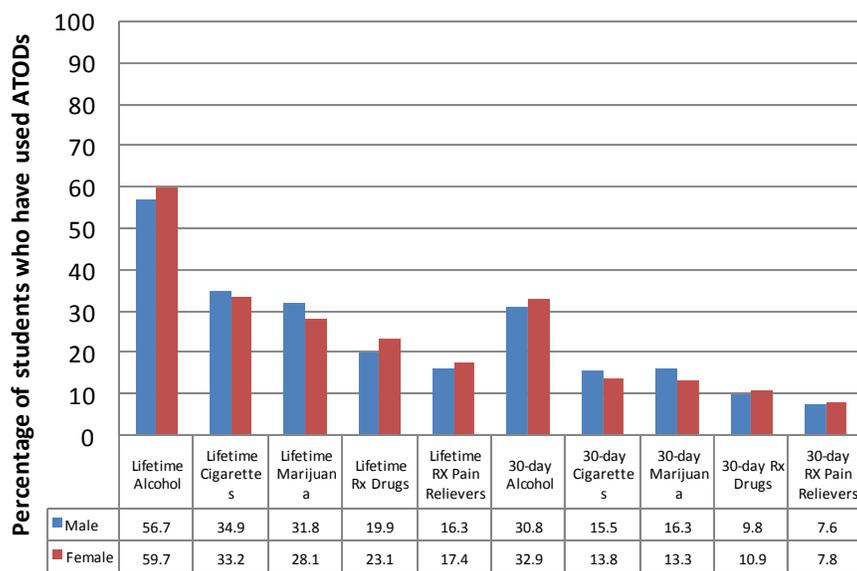
Alcohol continues to be the most used substance among youth in Arizona across all grades, with 45.1% of 8th graders, 64.1% of 10th graders, and 72.8% of 12th graders reporting having drunk alcohol at least once in their lifetime. For substance use in the 30-days prior to taking the survey, alcohol was again the most widely used, with 21.9% of 8th graders, 34.7% of 10th graders, and 45.0% of 12th graders reporting usage. As is evident with alcohol, rates of substance use among youth tends to increase as a youth's age increases (Tables 1 and 2). An exception to this pattern can be seen in rates of inhalant use, which decreases as youth get older.

Table 2: Percentage of Arizona Students Who Have Used Drugs in the Past 30-Days

	8th Grade	10th Grade	12th Grade	Total
Alcohol	21.9	34.7	45.0	31.9
Cigarettes	8.9	15.6	22.9	14.7
Smokeless Tobacco	2.8	5.7	8.1	5.1
Marijuana	8.9	17.4	21.3	14.8
Inhalants	5.6	3.0	1.5	3.7
Hallucinogens	0.9	2.0	2.4	1.6
Cocaine	0.8	1.6	2.2	1.4
Sedatives	3.6	4.7	4.7	4.2
Methamphetamines	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.4
Stimulants	1.4	2.8	2.5	2.1
Ecstasy	1.7	2.9	3.4	2.5
Heroin	0.3	1.1	1.2	0.8
Steroids	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.6
Prescription Pain Relievers	5.7	8.9	9.7	7.7
Prescription Drugs	8.2	11.8	12.4	10.4
Over-the-Counter Drugs	5.4	6.3	6.3	5.9

The five substances that have the highest percentages of lifetime and 30-day use among Arizona youth are alcohol, cigarettes, marijuana, any prescription drug, and prescription pain relievers. Chart 1 shows the usage rates of the five highest used drugs by gender. The rates of substance use for males and females are generally similar to one another. Surprisingly, for some drugs females report slightly higher rates of use than males; cigarettes and marijuana are the only exceptions for the drugs shown in Chart 1.

Chart 1: Lifetime and 30-day ATOD use by Gender



Methodology

The 2010 AYS collected information from 63,784 youth attending 372 schools across all 15 counties in Arizona. Information was collected on self-reported substance use, delinquency, other anti-social behaviors, and the circumstances under which these youth live.

Antisocial Behavior

The 2010 Arizona Youth Survey also asked students if they participated in several types of anti-social and delinquent behavior during the 12 months prior to taking the survey (Table 3). Nearly one out of every five youth in 2010 reported engaging in binge drinking (i.e., five or more alcoholic drinks in a row) and more than one of six reported going to school while drunk or high. Added to the survey in 2010 was a question that captures the prevalence of teen-dating violence. Approximately one of six 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students reported being hit, slapped, pushed, shoved, kicked or physically assaulted in another way by a teen dating partner.

Table 3: Percentage of Youth Engaged in Heavy Substance Use and Antisocial Behavior

	8th Grade				10th Grade				12th Grade				Total			
	2004	2006	2008	2010	2004	2006	2008	2010	2004	2006	2008	2010	2004	2006	2008	2010
Binge Drinking	16.0	13.4	13.1	12.4	25.1	22.4	22.4	21.0	32.5	28.2	30.2	29.2	22.7	19.9	19.9	19.5
Suspended From School	17.7	19.8	20.2	18.5	12.3	15.5	14.6	14.4	9.3	9.4	10.2	9.9	14.1	16.0	16.2	15.0
Drunk or High at School	13.2	13.0	12.0	12.8	20.8	21.1	20.5	21.8	22.2	21.4	22.2	22.1	17.7	17.6	16.9	18.0
Sold Illegal Drugs	5.0	4.9	4.6	5.0	8.9	9.1	9.8	10.6	9.8	9.8	10.4	10.8	7.3	7.4	7.5	8.2
Stolen a Vehicle	4.8	4.6	3.6	3.7	4.4	4.7	3.7	4.6	2.6	3.1	2.7	3.1	4.2	4.3	3.4	3.8
Been Arrested	8.7	8.3	7.5	7.1	9.1	9.3	9.2	9.9	9.1	7.8	8.7	8.7	8.9	8.5	8.3	8.4
Carried a Handgun	6.5	7.6	7.7	6.7	5.9	7.5	7.2	7.6	5.5	7.0	8.1	7.2	6.1	7.7	7.7	7.1
Dating Violence	N/A	N/A	N/A	17.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	18.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	16.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	17.3

Gang Activity

Youth respondents were also asked about current or past gang affiliation. Like previous years, the majority of Arizona youth, 81.9% in 2010, report never belonging to a gang. Only 2.3% of respondents reported belonging to a gang, although 1.3% of youth reported wanting to join a gang. Of the youth who reported being gang involved, 32.5% joined for protection and 27.0% joined for friendship.

Table 4: Students' Responses to School Safety Questions

School Safety

The 2010 AYS asked several questions that capture students experiences related to school safety (Table 4). For example, nearly one of every three youth reported being bullied at least once in the 12 months prior to taking the survey. Similarly, nearly one in six youth reported not feeling safe at their school. In addition, nearly 15% of youth reported being in a fight at school at least once in the previous 12 months and 7% reported being threatened with a weapon (e.g., gun, knife, or club). Smaller percentages of youth reported taking a weapon to school in the previous 30 days (4.8%) and taking a handgun to school in the previous 12 months.

	8th Grade				10th Grade				12th Grade				Total			
	2004	2006	2008	2010	2004	2006	2008	2010	2004	2006	2008	2010	2004	2006	2008	2010
Taken a Handgun to School in Past 12 Months	1.5	1.6	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.3	2.1	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.8	1.3	1.6	1.3	1.7
In a Fight at School at Least Once in the Past 12 Months	27.6	25.6	23.5	20.5	17.1	15.7	14.8	13.0	9.9	8.9	8.5	7.4	14.0	18.0	17.4	14.8
I Do Not Feel Safe at My School	25.6	25.3	23.5	20.0	22.2	23.5	22.6	18.2	16.3	17.1	18.2	13.3	14.6	22.8	22.0	17.6
Did Not go to School at Least One Day in the Past Month Because Felt Unsafe At School or On the Way to School	11.3	10.7	10.1	9.5	7.8	7.8	8.9	6.7	5.6	5.0	6.2	4.3	3.5	8.4	8.8	7.3
Carried a Weapon to School at Least Once in the Past 30 Days	6.3	6.9	6.1	4.8	5.6	7.3	6.2	5.0	5.2	6.0	5.6	4.6	5.9	6.8	6.0	4.8
Been Threatened or Injured With a Weapon on School Property in the Past	16.1	15.5	12.9	8.3	13.5	13.9	11.6	7.3	10.1	9.5	7.6	4.7	8.4	13.6	11.3	7.0
Been Bullied at Least Once in the Past Year	N/A	38.2	40.6	39.5	N/A	24.5	30.9	26.9	N/A	14.3	17.7	14.6	N/A	28.2	32.3	29.1

Risk and Protective Risk Protective Factors

At the core of the Arizona Youth Survey is a set of questions that captures factors that place youth at risk for, or protect youth from, involvement in delinquent and other anti-social behavior. The risk and protective factors captured by the survey are categorized in four important areas of a youth's life: 1) community; 2) family; 3) school; and 4) individual and peer associations. A risk and protective factor approach to prevention has shown to be an effective strategy to keep youth from engaging in behaviors that are harmful to themselves and others.

This fact sheet was prepared by:
Phillip Stevenson and Teri Barnes
Arizona Criminal Justice Commission
1110 W. Washington, Suite 230
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
(P) 602.364.1146
(F) 602.364.1175
Review full report at: www.azcjc.gov