

# Arizona Criminal Justice Commission



## Arizona Youth Survey 2008 Underage Drinking Fact Sheet

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

January 2009

The Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC), in collaboration with the Governor's Office, the Department of Health Services, and the Office of Problem Gambling, conducted the 2008 Arizona Youth Survey (AYS) to assess the frequency of risky behavior among 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders in Arizona. The 2008 survey consists of data from 319 schools and 54,734 students representing all 15 counties.

Preventing underage drinking is a priority of the state of Arizona. In 2004, Arizona received a Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant to provide funding to communities to identify and address the impact of substance abuse. Underage drinking was identified as a problem area to which the state would focus its efforts. The State Agency Underage Drinking Prevention Committee was developed to coordinate state and local efforts to reduce underage drinking in Arizona. This fact sheet provides an overview of Arizona Youth Survey data related to alcohol use.

### Frequency of 8th, 10th, and 12th Graders' Alcohol Use

Alcohol continues to be the most commonly used substance among 8th, 10th, and 12th graders in Arizona. The AYS captures three measures of alcohol use: lifetime use, past 30 day use, and binge drinking (drinking five or more drinks within a couple of hours in the past two weeks). Table 1 describes the frequency of alcohol use reported by 8th, 10th, and 12th graders in 2002, 2004, 2006, and 2008. As can be seen in this table, gradual declines are found in both lifetime and 30-day use. The percentage of students reporting binge drinking has remain unchanged from 2006 to 2008. The percentage of 12th graders reporting binge drinking has increased slightly over the two-year period.

Table 2 shows the frequency of the three types of alcohol use for each county in Arizona. Many rural counties show higher rates of use in all three categories. For example, Santa Cruz, Gila, and Greenlee counties have the highest rates of youth alcohol use in the state.

Chart 1 below shows the differences in alcohol use by males and females in 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2008. While males and females have very similar rates of alcohol use, the aggregate data shows that females are slightly more likely to use alcohol in their lifetime, within the past 30 days, and for the first time, the data suggests that in 2008 females were slightly more likely to participate in binge drinking.

**Table 1: Percentage of Arizona Students Reporting Using Alcohol**

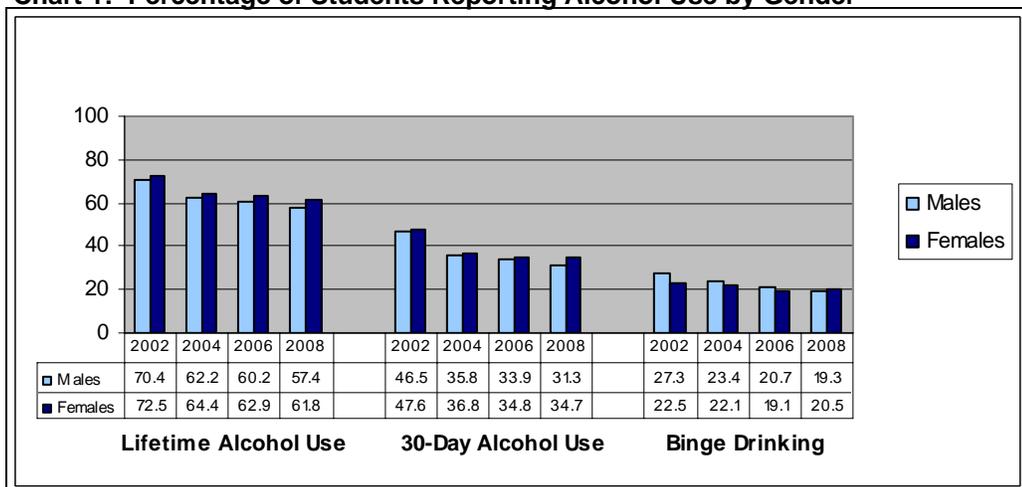
	2002	2004	2006	2008
<b>Lifetime Use</b>				
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	56.5	51.9	50.4	47.8
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	74.3	69.3	67.6	66.2
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	81.3	77.9	74.5	74.8
Total	71.5	63.3	61.7	59.6
<b>30-Day Use</b>				
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	33.8	25.3	24.1	23.2
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	47.9	41.3	39.2	37.7
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	57.2	51.1	47	46.8
Total	47.0	36.3	34.4	33.1
<b>Binge Drinking</b>				
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	14.3	16.0	13.4	13.1
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	26.2	25.1	22.4	22.4
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	31.9	32.5	28.2	30.2
Total	24.7	22.7	19.9	19.9

**Table 2: Percentage of Students Using Alcohol by County**

County	Lifetime Use	30-Day Use	Binge Drinking
Apache*	40.7	16.0	12.7
Cochise	65.8	35.2	19.7
Coconino	62.1	31.6	19.2
Gila	65.7	37.2	24.7
Graham	53.7	30.2	18.5
Greenlee	75.2	43.3	24.5
La Paz	61.2	33.5	20.2
Maricopa	57.4	31.8	19.0
Mohave	68.7	36.4	22.7
Navajo	60.5	32.1	21.7
Pima	63.1	36.1	21.1
Pinal	64.2	36.2	21.8
Santa Cruz	72.7	45.8	30.6
Yavapai	63.4	35.0	20.9
Yuma	55.2	29.9	17.5

\* In Apache County only 8th graders participated in the 2008 Arizona Youth Survey.

**Chart 1: Percentage of Students Reporting Alcohol Use by Gender**



**Table 3: Percentage of Students Who Believe There Is a Moderate or Great Risk from Drinking 1-2 Alcoholic Drinks Nearly Every Day**

	2002	2004	2006	2008
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	65.5	59.1	59.4	59.8
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	68.6	63.5	65.2	62.1
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	71.2	65.3	67.7	63.6
Total	68.6	61.9	63.3	61.4

The data presented in Table 3 shows that more than half of the youth surveyed in 2002, 2004, 2006, and 2008 believe that there is a moderate to great risk in drinking alcohol every day. In all four administrations, the percentage of students who believed there was a risk increased as grade increased. While perception of risk increases with grade in all administrations, a decrease in perception of risk can be seen from 2002 to 2008.

## Youth Access to Alcohol

An area of concern regarding underage drinking is how youth are getting access to alcohol. The Arizona Youth Survey asks youth how easy it would be to obtain alcohol, if they wanted to get it. In 2002, nearly 70% of the respondents felt that alcohol would be very easy or sort of easy to get. This number has since decreased to 64% of youth reporting that it would be very easy or sort of easy to get alcohol in 2008. Across the four administrations, the percentage of respondents who felt it would be very easy or sort of easy to get increases as grade increases.

**Table 5: Percentage of Alcohol-Drinking Students Indicating Their Sources of Obtaining Alcohol**

	8th	10th	12th	Total
<i>Sample Size</i>	4,418	4,872	5,065	14,355
	%	%	%	%
Bought it in a store	5.0	6.9	12.3	8.2
Bought it at a restaurant, bar, or club	3.0	3.0	7.0	4.4
Bought it at a public event	2.9	2.9	3.9	3.3
Gave someone money to buy it	21.4	34.4	43.7	33.7
Parent or Guardian gave it to me	18.7	14.8	13.0	15.4
Another family member over 21 gave it to me	19.7	18.7	18.2	18.9
Someone not related over 21 gave it to me	19.2	28.7	39.5	29.6
Someone under 21 gave it to me	23.8	24.8	22.0	23.5
Got it at a party	41.5	53.1	57.6	51.1
Took it from home	31.4	23.2	13.8	22.4
Took it from a store or someone else's home	11.7	11.3	8.0	10.3
Got it some other way	28.7	23.6	17.9	23.1

**Table 4: Percentage of Youth Reporting Alcohol is Very Easy or Sort of Easy to Get**

	2002	2004	2006	2008
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	42.9	51.6	51.4	52.4
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	67.4	73.4	70.5	71.8
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	81.1	80.9	77.9	78.4
Total	69.6	65.4	64.2	64.4

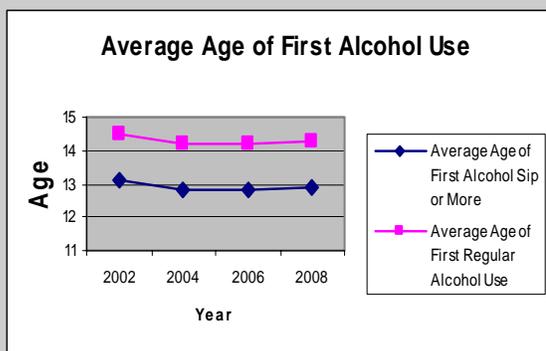
In 2008 youth were asked for the first time (if they had drank in the past 30 days), where they had gotten alcohol. Students were given 12 choices and could mark multiple responses. As can be seen in Table 5 the number one place where youth in all grades reported obtaining alcohol was at a party. For 10th and 12th graders this is followed by giving someone money to buy it for them, and someone over 21 but not related to them giving it to them. For 8th graders the responses differed slightly—most popular response being got it at a part, followed by taking it from home and getting it in another way not listed.

## Drinking and Driving

In the 2006 Arizona Youth Survey, two questions were added regarding drinking and driving. The first question asked was, "During the past 30 days, how many times did you RIDE in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol?" Of all respondents, 29.2% reported having done so one or more times in the past 30 days. This is a slight decrease from 31.9% in 2006. The second question asked was, "During the past 30 days, how many times did you DRIVE a car or other vehicle when you had been drinking?" Of the respondents 16 years or older, 13.1% reported that they had driven a vehicle after drinking. This is again a decrease from 14.6% who reported they had driven a vehicle after drinking in 2006.

## Age of Initiation

Chart 2: Average Age of Initiation



The average age of initiation for both the first alcohol sip or more and the first regular use have shown the same trend over the past four administrations of the Arizona Youth Survey. From 2002 to 2004, the age of initiation decreased while the data shows a very small increase from 2006 to 2008.

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