

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission



Arizona Youth Survey Reported Underage Drinking, 2012 Data Brief

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

December 2013

Underage drinking continues to be a significant concern for stakeholders and the general public across the State of Arizona. According to data available in the Arizona Youth Survey (AYS), administered by the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission's Statistical Analysis Center, more than 50 percent of youth across Arizona reported having used alcohol in their lifetime. The AYS is an anonymous school-based survey designed to collect information on the prevalence of drug use and other risky behaviors among Arizona 8th, 10th, and 12th grade youth and inquire about the circumstances in which they live. In 2012, the survey was successfully implemented in 349 schools from all 15 Arizona counties resulting in a final sample size of 62,817 youth. Among the data collected were reported self-measures of lifetime and past 30-day substance use. This research brief summarizes the results from the 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2012 AYS for self-reported underage drinking relative to county, respondent demographics, age of initiation of alcohol use, and other selected measures.

Table 1. Percentage of Arizona Students Reporting Alcohol Use, 2004-2012

	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
Lifetime Use					
8th Grade	51.9%	50.4%	47.8%	45.1%	37.3%
10th Grade	69.3%	67.6%	66.2%	64.1%	59.1%
12th Grade	77.9%	74.5%	74.8%	72.8%	69.2%
Total	63.3%	61.7%	59.6%	58.2%	51.7%
30-Day Use					
8th Grade	25.3%	24.1%	23.2%	21.9%	17.1%
10th Grade	41.3%	39.2%	37.7%	34.7%	32.1%
12th Grade	51.1%	47.0%	46.8%	45.0%	43.5%
Total	36.3%	34.4%	33.1%	31.9%	28.1%
Binge Drinking					
8th Grade	16.0%	13.4%	13.1%	12.4%	8.7%
10th Grade	25.1%	22.4%	22.4%	21.0%	17.5%
12th Grade	32.5%	28.2%	30.2%	29.2%	26.5%
Total	22.7%	19.9%	19.9%	19.5%	15.7%

Youth Alcohol Use

The tables and charts in this section examine lifetime, prior 30-day youth alcohol use, and youth binge drinking (five or more drinks within a couple of hours over the past two weeks). In 2012, over 51 percent of youth respondents used alcohol in their lifetime (Table 1). This percentage has been decreasing consistently since 2004 (63.3 percent) and 12th graders were more likely to have used alcohol in their lifetime than 8th and 10th graders. Similarly, reported 30-day alcohol use and binge drinking have been falling since 2004 to 28.1 percent and 15.7 percent of youth in 2012, respectively. Youth in 12th grade were again more likely than youth in the 8th and 10th grades to have used alcohol in the past 30 days or binge drink.

Greenlee, Mohave, and Gila Counties showed the highest percentages of lifetime and 30-day alcohol use in 2012 and Gila and Greenlee counties had the highest reported levels of binge drinking (Table 2). Navajo and Yuma Counties reported the lowest alcohol use while Yuma and Coconino Counties reported the lowest binge drinking percentages.

While males and females generally had similar rates of lifetime and 30-day alcohol use, females reported consistently higher rates of alcohol use in their lifetimes and within the past 30 days from 2004 to 2012 (Chart 1). With the exception of 2008, males were more likely to binge drink over the most recent five administrations of the AYS.

Chart 1. Percentage of Students Reporting Alcohol Use by Gender, 2004-2012

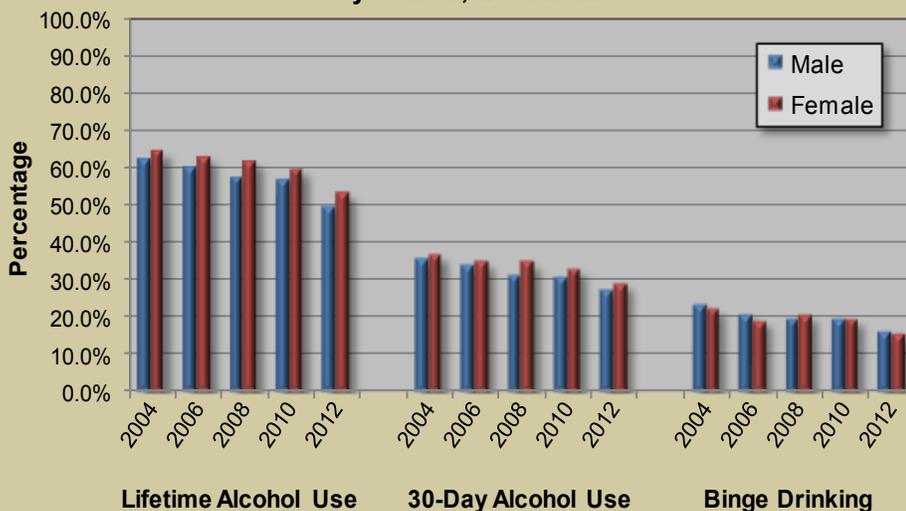
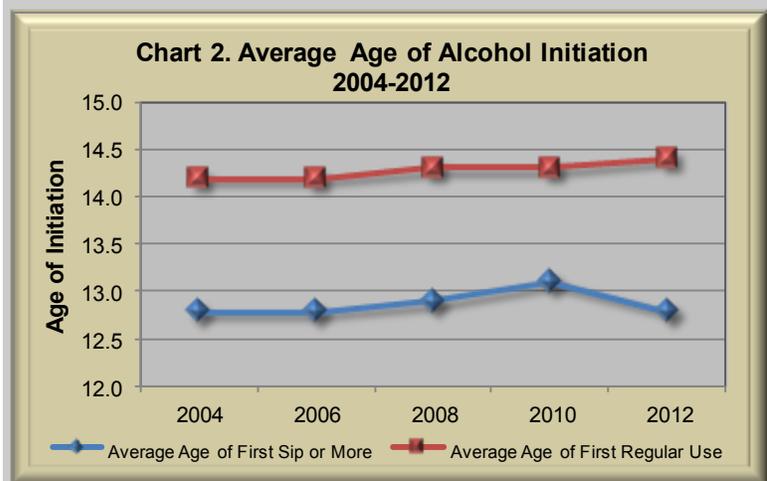


Table 2. Percentage of Youth Reporting Alcohol Use by County, 2012

County	Lifetime Use	30-Day Use	Binge Drinking
Apache	44.9%	21.7%	13.5%
Cochise	57.2%	30.8%	18.7%
Coconino	44.8%	22.7%	11.1%
Gila	57.1%	33.8%	19.1%
Graham	44.5%	24.1%	13.9%
Greenlee	67.7%	34.4%	18.8%
La Paz	52.2%	22.4%	13.4%
Maricopa	50.6%	27.9%	15.4%
Mohave	61.8%	33.4%	18.3%
Navajo	41.6%	21.6%	13.1%
Pima	55.6%	30.7%	17.3%
Pinal	53.2%	26.3%	15.0%
Santa Cruz	43.7%	23.4%	13.7%
Yavapai	59.5%	32.4%	18.7%
Yuma	40.7%	18.3%	10.3%

Age of Initiation

The average reported age of the first sip or more of alcohol among youth increased from 12.8 years of age in 2004 to 13.1 in 2010 before dropping to 12.8 in 2012 (Chart 2). The average reported age of first regular alcohol use among youth has risen from 14.2 in 2004 to 14.4 in 2012.



Perceived Risk of Alcohol Use

More than sixty percent of the youth across all five AYS administration years believed that there is a “moderate” to “great” risk in drinking alcohol nearly every day. This percentage increased from 61.9 percent in 2004 to 63.7 in 2012 (Table 3). Youth in the 12th grade were more likely to perceive moderate to great risk than other grades, except in 2012 when 10th graders were more likely to perceive such risk. From 2004 to 2012, perceived risk grew among 8th and 10th graders, but not among 12th graders.

Table 3. Percentage of Youth Who Believe There Is Moderate or Great Risk in Drinking 1 to 2 Alcoholic Drinks Nearly Every Day, 2004-2012

	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
8th Grade	59.1%	59.4%	59.8%	61.1%	63.0%
10th Grade	63.5%	65.2%	62.1%	63.4%	64.4%
12th Grade	65.3%	67.7%	63.6%	65.1%	64.1%
Total	61.9%	63.3%	61.4%	62.8%	63.7%

Youth Access to Alcohol

One AYS question addresses the perceived alcohol accessibility among youth respondents. In 2004, 65.4 percent of respondents felt that alcohol would be “very easy” or “sort of easy” to obtain alcohol (Table 4). This dropped to 61.2 percent of youth in 2012. Across all administrations, the percentage of respondents who felt it would be “very easy” or “sort of easy” to get alcohol increased as grade level increased. Within all three grades, the percentage of youth reporting “very easy” or “sort of easy” accessibility of alcohol dropped from 2004 to 2012.

Table 4. Percentage of Youth Reporting that Alcohol Is Very Easy or Sort of Easy to Get, 2004-2012

	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
8th Grade	51.6%	51.4%	52.4%	48.8%	47.9%
10th Grade	73.4%	70.5%	71.8%	64.2%	68.3%
12th Grade	80.9%	77.9%	78.4%	70.2%	74.9%
Total	65.4%	64.2%	64.4%	59.3%	61.2%

access to alcohol. Respondents were given twelve options to report how they obtained alcohol and they were able to select all that applied. Nearly fifty percent (47.9 percent) of respondents who reported alcohol use over the past 30 days obtained alcohol at a party (Table 5). More than 30 percent gave money to another individual to purchase alcohol, followed by 25.2 percent receiving alcohol from a non-related individual over 21 years of age. Within each grade level, more youth reported obtaining alcohol at a party than any other source.

Table 5. Percentage of Youth Reporting Alcohol Use by the Alcohol Sources, 2012

How was Alcohol Obtained?	8th Grade	10th Grade	12th Grade	Total
Bought in a Store	5.6%	6.2%	10.4%	7.7%
Bought at a Restaurant, Bar, or Club	3.4%	2.7%	4.7%	3.7%
Bought at a Public Event	3.7%	2.9%	2.7%	3.0%
Gave Someone Money to Purchase	17.3%	29.8%	39.3%	30.3%
Parent/Guardian Gave to Me	19.5%	16.0%	15.3%	16.6%
Other Family Member (Over 21) Gave to Me	19.2%	17.1%	16.3%	17.3%
Non-Related Individual (Over 21) Gave to Me	17.2%	24.5%	31.1%	25.2%
Individual (Under 21) Gave to Me	22.9%	25.8%	22.7%	23.8%
Obtained at a Party	37.2%	49.4%	53.5%	47.9%
Took from Home	26.8%	22.2%	14.0%	20.2%
Took from a Store or Someone Else's Home	8.8%	9.2%	5.6%	7.7%
Obtained Some Other Way	25.4%	17.8%	13.2%	17.9%

Drinking and Driving

In the AYS, the following questions were asked regarding drinking and driving: the number of times in the past 30 days the respondent was a passenger in a vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol and the number of times in the past 30 days the respondent drove a vehicle after drinking. The percentage of youth who reported being a passenger within the past 30 days in a vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking fell steadily from 31.9 percent in 2004 to 24.7 percent in 2012 (Table 6). The percentage of youth (age 16 and older) who reported driving a vehicle within the past 30 days after drinking also fell from 14.6 percent in 2006 to 10.1 percent in 2012. As these questions were not part of the AYS survey until the 2006 administration, 2004 data is not available.

Table 6. Percentage of Youth Reporting Having Driven After Drinking or Riding with a Driver Who had been Drinking 2004-2012

	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
Passenger in the Car or Other Vehicle After the Driver Was Drinking	No Data	31.9%	29.2%	28.5%	24.7%
Driving the Car or Other Vehicle After Drinking (16 Years of Age and Older)	No Data	14.6%	13.1%	11.8%	10.1%

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