

2011 INDIANA COLLEGE SUBSTANCE USE SURVEY

SUMMARY FINDINGS

A total of 5,788 students from nine Indiana colleges participated in the Indiana College Substance Use Survey conducted in Spring 2011, with 5,304 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 www.drugs.indiana.edu/data-survey_icsus.html.

PAST MONTH SUBSTANCE USE

Over two-thirds of the Indiana college students who participated in the survey (70%) reported using alcohol in the past month, including over three-fifths of the students under 21 years of age (63%). One in five of the students (20%) smoked cigarettes in the past month and 19% reported marijuana use over the same period. Misused prescription medication was the next most commonly used substance with 6% 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 most of the substance investigated. One-fourth of the male students (26%) used marijuana, compared to 16% of the female students. Male students also reported higher rates of use of all forms of tobacco (cigarettes, cigars, smokeless tobacco and water pipe), and misuse of prescription medication. Rates of alcohol use were not significantly different between genders.

BINGE DRINKING

Two-fifths of the surveyed students (40%) 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 almost half of the male students (48%) engaging in the behavior compared to slightly more than one-third (36%) of the female students. There was no significant difference in the rates of binge drinking between students 21 years of age or older and underage students. One out of six of the students who completed the survey (16%) 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 ten 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 eight percent of the female students. Vicodin 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

Over one-fourth of the students who drank alcohol within the past six months (29%) reported blacking out (forgetting where they were or what they did), and one in seven (14%) had driven a car while under the influence. Eighteen percent of the students missed classes or assignments as a result of their drinking. One in eight of the students (13%) reported engaging in risky sexual behavior as a result of their drinking, and a similar number (12%) had been hurt or injured because of their drinking. Over one-quarter of the students who drank alcohol in the past six months (29%) 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 (73%) listing it as one of the top two easiest methods. "Off-campus parties" was selected by over half of the survey respondents (54%) as one of the easiest methods. Seven percent of the students under 21 reported purchasing alcohol directly from a retailer. Over one-third of the underage students who purchased alcohol (36%) reported bars as the easiest place for them to purchase it, and 17% reported liquor stores.

