

# 2021 INDIANA COLLEGE SUBSTANCE USE SURVEY

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A total of 8,059 students 18-25 years of age from 23 Indiana colleges participated in the Indiana College Substance Use Survey conducted in spring 2021. Funding for the survey was provided by the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Mental Health and Addiction. The survey administration and data analysis were conducted by the Institute for Research on Addictive Behavior at the School of Public Health, Indiana University-Bloomington. A full report of the findings is at <https://iprc.iu.edu/indiana-college-survey/substance-use-survey>.

## PAST MONTH SUBSTANCE USE

Half of the students who participated in the survey (56%), including two-fifths of the students under 21 years of age (40%), reported consuming alcohol in the past month. One in five of the students (22%) reported using electronic vapor products, and 21% reported using marijuana. Eight percent of the students smoked cigarettes in the past month. Misuse of prescription stimulants was the next most common form of substance use, with 3% reporting use without a doctor's prescription in the past month.

Female students reported statistically lower rates of past-month use for most substances. Students who identified as other than male or female reported higher rates of use for marijuana, prescription sedatives, and inhalants. There were no statistically significant differences among genders for past-month use of alcohol or electronic vapor products (vaping).

Students 21 years of age or older reported statistically higher rates of use for most substances measured on the survey, including vapor products, marijuana, tobacco (all forms), and prescription stimulants.

## BINGE DRINKING

One-fourth of the students (27%) reported binge drinking in the past two weeks, with 29% of male students, 27% of female students, and 19% of students who identified as other than male or female reporting the behavior. Nine percent of the students reported binge drinking more than two times in the past two weeks.

Students over 21 were much more likely to report binge drinking than underage students (37% vs. 20%).

## CONSEQUENCES OF ALCOHOL USE

More than half of the students who drank alcohol in the past year (53%) reported having had a hangover, and 21% reported blacking out (forgetting where they were or what they did). Sixteen percent of the students reported engaging in unprotected sexual intercourse, and one in nine (11%) reported missing class or an assignment as a result of their drinking. Nine percent of the students reported that they had been hurt or injured in the past year as a result of drinking.

## UNDERAGE STUDENTS' ACCESS TO ALCOHOL

Half of the students under 21 years of age who have used alcohol (51%) reported that they obtain it from friends over 21 years old, and one-fourth reported getting it from parents (23%) or other adults over 21 (24%). One in five (21%) reported obtaining it at off-campus parties.

Ten percent of the students under 21 who have used alcohol reported having purchased it directly from a retailer. Three-fifths of the students who purchased alcohol from a retailer (60%) reported doing so without being asked for ID and 58% reported using a fake ID. Less than one-fourth of the underage students (21%) think it is likely for someone under 21 to be ticketed if drinking at off-campus housing.

## PERCEPTION OF PEER BELIEFS

Less than half of the students thought their close friends would disapprove if they had five or more alcoholic drinks in one sitting (43%), or if they used marijuana (42%).