

**Adolescent Alcohol Use Statistics:  
Key Findings from 2000 National Surveys**

**2000 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA):**

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2001). *Summary of Findings from the 2000 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse*. DHHS Publication Number (SMA) 01-3549. Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Online at: [www.samhsa.gov/oas/nhsda.htm](http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/nhsda.htm)

*Overview:* Conducted since 1971, NHSDA is an annual survey of the United States population age 12 and older. The survey measures the prevalence of illicit drug, alcohol, and tobacco use in America. In 2000, more than 70,000 people were interviewed, including residents of households, noninstitutional groups (i.e., individuals residing in shelters, rooming houses, dormitories), and civilians living on military bases.

*Key Findings:*

- 41.7% of youth age 12 to 17 report using alcohol in their lifetime, 33% reported past year use and more than 16% report using alcohol in the past month.
- For current alcohol use, binge drinking, and heavy alcohol use, 21 is the age of peak prevalence.
- The prevalence of current alcohol use escalates as youth grow older, from 2.4% at age 12 to a peak of 65.2% for persons 21 years old.
- About 9.7 million persons age 12 to 20 report drinking alcohol in the month prior to the survey. Of these, 6.6 million were binge drinkers and 2.1 million were heavy drinkers.

**Any Alcohol Use, “Binge” Alcohol Use, and Heavy Alcohol Use in the Past Month by Young People Age 12-20\***

Age	Any Alcohol Use	“Binge” Alcohol Use	Heavy Alcohol Use
12	2.4%	1.0%	0.1%
13	6.7	3.0	0.3
14	11.1	6.0	1.0
15	20.4	12.6	2.5
16	26.4	17.9	4.9
17	32.1	22.9	7.3
18	42.1	30.9	10.3
19	50.0	34.8	13.6
20	55.6	38.5	14.2

\* The National Household Survey of Drug Use defines “binge” use as five or more drinks on the same occasion at least once in the 30 days prior to the survey and heavy use as five or more drinks on the same occasion on at least five different days in the past 30 days.

## 2000 Monitoring the Future Survey:

Online: <http://monitoringthefuture.org/data/00data.html>

On December 14, the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research released results of the most recent Monitoring the Future Study. According to the 2000 survey, alcohol continues to be the most widely abused drug among adolescents in the United States. Donna Shalala, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, stated that binge drinking among adolescents remained at “unacceptably high” levels. General Barry McCaffrey, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, noted that “the biggest problem we've got among adolescents is binge drinking beer and wine coolers.”

**Percentage of Alcohol Use by 8th, 10th, and 12th Grade Students, 2000**

Alcohol Use		8th Grade	10th Grade	12th Grade
Lifetime Use	Any Use	51.7	71.4	80.3
	Been Drunk	25.1	49.3	62.3
Annual Use	Any Use	43.1	65.3	73.2
	Been Drunk	18.5	41.6	51.8
30-Day Use	Any Use	22.4	41.0	50.0
	Been Drunk	8.3	23.5	32.3
5+ Drinks in a Row in the Last 2 Weeks		14.1	26.2	30.0

## 2000-2001 Parents' Resource Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE) Survey:

Parents' Resource Institute for Drug Education. (July 2001). *PRIDE Questionnaire Report: 2000-01 National Summary, Grades 6 Through 12*. Bowling Green, KY.

Online: [www.pridesurveys.com](http://www.pridesurveys.com)

*Overview:* PRIDE measures the prevalence of alcohol, tobacco, and drug use by young people in the United States. More than 75,000 students, grades 6-12, participated in the 2000-2001 survey.

### Key Findings:

- 75.1% of students who report carrying a gun to school use liquor.
- 64% of students who report taking part in gang activities use liquor.
- 61.5% of students who report thinking about committing suicide use liquor.
- 62.9% of students who report getting into trouble with police use liquor.
- More students who report alcohol use first drank between the ages 12-13. 12.9% of students who report drinking beer, 13.1% of students who report drinking wine, and 11.4% of students who report drinking liquor, first drank between the ages of 12-13.
- Students report that it is “fairly easy” to “very easy” to get alcohol. 55.3% of students report that it is “fairly easy” or “very easy” to get beer. 52.2% of students report that it is “fairly easy” or “very easy” to get wine coolers, and 47.6% of students report that it is “fairly easy” or “very easy” to get liquor.

**Percentage of Students who Report Using Alcohol, by Beverage Type**

Grade		Beer	Wine Coolers	Liquor	Any Alcohol
Junior High	Annual Use	24.5	27.4	17.3	36.5
	Monthly Use	7.9	7.7	6.0	11.0
Senior High	Annual Use	54.5	50.6	52.8	67.5
	Monthly Use	30.9	22.3	28.7	37.0
12th Grade	Annual Use	62.4	54.4	62.5	74.6
	Monthly Use	40.1	25.3	37.0	46.4
Total	Annual Use	39.7	39.1	35.2	52.1
	Monthly Use	19.5	15.0	17.4	24.1