

Towson University

CORE ALCOHOL AND DRUG SURVEY - FORM 191

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Core Alcohol and Drug Survey was developed to measure alcohol and other drug usage, attitudes, and perceptions among college students at two and four-year institutions. Development of this survey was funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The survey includes several types of items about drugs and alcohol. One type deals with the students' attitudes, perceptions, and opinions about alcohol and other drugs, and the other deals with the students' own use and consequences of use. There are also several items on students' demographic and background characteristics as well as perception of campus climate issues and policy.

Key Findings from students at Towson University

Following are some key findings on the use of alcohol:

- 59.6% of the students consumed alcohol in the past year ("annual prevalence").
- 42.8% of the students consumed alcohol in the past 30 days ("30-day prevalence").
- 42.8% of underage students (younger than 21) consumed alcohol in the previous 30 days.
- 23.5% of students reported binge drinking in the previous two weeks. A binge is defined as consuming 5 or more drinks in one sitting.

Following are some key findings on the use of illegal drugs:

- 42.6% of the students have used marijuana in the past year ("annual prevalence").
- 28.9% of the students are current marijuana users ("30-day prevalence").
- 5.5% of the students have used an illegal drug other than marijuana in the past year ("annual prevalence").
- 2.4% of the students are current users of illegal drugs other than marijuana ("30-day prevalence").

The most frequently reported illegal drugs used in the past 30 days were:

- 28.9% Marijuana (pot, hash, hash oil)
- 1.7% Hallucinogens (LSD, PCP)
- 0.6% Amphetamines (diet pills, speed)

Following are some key findings on the consequences of alcohol and drug use:

- 18.9% reported some form of public misconduct (such as trouble with police, fighting/argument, DWI/DUI, vandalism) at least once during the past year as a result of drinking or drug use.
- 14.3% reported experiencing some kind of serious personal problems (such as suicidality, being hurt or injured, trying unsuccessfully to stop using, sexual assault) at least once during the past year as a result of drinking or drug use.

Following are some key findings on opinions about the campus environment:

- 94.3% of students said the campus has alcohol and drug policies;
5.0% said they "don't know"; and
0.7% said there wasn't a policy.

- 64.4% of students said the campus has an alcohol and drug prevention program;
35.1% said they "don't know"; and
0.5% said there wasn't a program.

- 87.6% of students said the campus is concerned about the prevention of drug and alcohol use;
10.6% said they "don't know"; and
1.8% said the campus is not concerned.

With regard to students' perceptions of other students' use:

- 68.9% of students believe the average student on campus uses alcohol once a week or more.
- 63.2% of students believe the average student on this campus uses some form of illegal drug at least once a week.
- 50.5% of students indicated they would prefer not to have alcohol available at parties they attend.
- 74.0% of students indicated they would prefer not to have drugs available at parties they attend.

Use of Drugs

The following tables provide additional details about students' reported use of drugs at this institution. Unless otherwise indicated, percentages are based on the total number of students responding validly to a given item.

For comparison purposes some figures are included from a reference group of 90119 students from 233 institutions who completed the Core Alcohol and Drug Survey Long Form in 2013 to 2015 National Data.

More detailed analyses can be found by contacting the Core Institute.

In general, substantial proportions of students report having used alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana in response to the question, "At what age did you first use _____?" whereas comparatively few report having used each of the other substances. This question examines "lifetime prevalence" as opposed to annual prevalence and 30-day prevalence.

Table 2 describes lifetime prevalence, annual prevalence, 30-day prevalence, and high frequency use (3 times a week or more).

Table 2 - Substance Use

Substance	Lifetime Prevalence		Annual Prevalence		30-Day Prevalence		3X/Week or more	
	Coll.	Ref.	Coll.	Ref.	Coll.	Ref.	Coll.	Ref.
Tobacco	19.9	40.6	17.3	31.2	12.4	19.9	6.5	9.7
Alcohol	63.0	84.3	59.6	81.5	42.8	68.7	5.7	20.0
Marijuana	47.2	46.0	42.6	33.9	28.9	19.8	11.6	8.2
Cocaine	1.6	7.6	1.4	4.7	0.5	2.0	0.0	0.2
Amphetamines	2.0	9.7	1.4	5.4	0.6	3.0	0.3	1.4
Sedatives	1.2	6.0	0.9	3.1	0.3	1.5	0.0	0.4
Hallucinogens	4.5	7.5	4.1	4.5	1.7	1.3	0.0	0.2
Opiates	0.8	2.3	0.6	1.3	0.2	0.7	0.0	0.3
Inhalants	1.0	2.5	0.6	1.0	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.2
Designer drugs	1.6	9.0	1.2	5.4	0.4	1.5	0.1	0.2
Steroids	0.0	1.0	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.2
Other drugs	0.9	3.6	0.7	1.8	0.2	0.7	0.0	0.2

Notes:

Coll. = Towson University

Ref. = Reference group of 90119 college students

The average number of drinks consumed per week at this institution is 1.4 drinks. The national average is 4.1 drinks (based on a sample of 90119). The percentage of students who report having binged in the last two weeks at this institution is 23.5% compared to the national average of 43.2%.

Consequences of Alcohol and Drug Use

The proportion of students who report having had problems as a result of drinking or drug use is another indicator of the level of substance abuse. The percentages of students who reported that within the past year they had various problematic experiences are given in Table 3. The top group of items represents public misconduct or behaviors that involve actual or potential harm to others. The second group represents possibly serious personal problems. The last group may consist of less serious (and more common) experiences which nevertheless may indicate excessive use.

Table 3 - Problematic Experiences

<u>This Institution</u>	<u>Reference Group</u>	<u>Experience</u>
0.4	1.0	Been arrested for DWI/DUI
4.4	10.3	Been in trouble with police, residence hall, or other college authorities
2.3	4.3	Damaged property, pulled fire alarms, etc.
8.6	16.5	Driven a car while under the influence
16.2	25.6	Got into an argument or fight
1.3	1.4	Tried to commit suicide
3.9	4.8	Seriously thought about suicide
9.6	13.6	Been hurt or injured
4.2	7.7	Been taken advantage sexually
0.5	1.7	Taken advantage of another sexually
2.6	4.3	Tried unsuccessfully to stop using
5.1	9.4	Thought I might have a drinking or other drug problem
13.6	19.2	Performed poorly on a test or important project
19.7	33.0	Done something I later regretted
7.4	24.1	Missed a class
20.7	27.1	Been criticized by someone I know
18.6	32.1	Had a memory loss
32.3	49.8	Got nauseated or vomited
36.8	58.9	Had a hangover

Differences among Student Groups

Table 4 compares substance use patterns and consequences of several campus groups: males and females, younger and older, academically more and less successful, and on and off-campus residents.

Table 4 - Differences among Student Groups

	<u>Gender</u>		<u>Age</u>		<u>Average Grades</u>		<u>Campus Residence</u>	
	Female	Male	16-20	21+	A-B	C-F	On	Off
Sample Sizes:	1526	887	2500	5	2337	45	1946	311
Currently use (in the past 30 days) alcohol	43.5	41.8	42.8	100.0	42.9	48.8	44.9	30.1
Currently use (in the past 30 days) marijuana	25.8	34.1	28.9	60.0	28.5	54.8	29.9	18.5
Currently use (in the past 30 days) illegal drugs other than marijuana	1.5	4.3	2.3	16.7	2.4	2.4	2.3	3.0
Had 6 or more binges in the past 2 weeks	1.3	1.9	1.5	0.0	1.6	0.0	1.8	0.0
Have driven a car while under the influence during past year	7.6	10.6	8.6	40.0	8.6	11.9	8.8	7.4
Have been taken advantage of sexually during past year	5.7	1.9	4.3	0.0	4.1	14.3	4.1	4.4
Have taken advantage of another sexually during past year	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.3

Sample Demographics

99.4% were freshmen

0.4% were sophomores

0.2% were juniors

0.0% were seniors

0.0% were graduates

0.0% were other

90.1% were in the "typical" college age range of 18-22.

63.2% were female.

13.8% lived off campus.

20.5% worked part-time or full-time.

99.5% were full-time students.

13.3% reported spending at least 5 hours per month in volunteer work.