## **2011 SURVEY RESULTS REPORT**

# **ALCOHOL USE**

AND RELATED BEHAVIORS

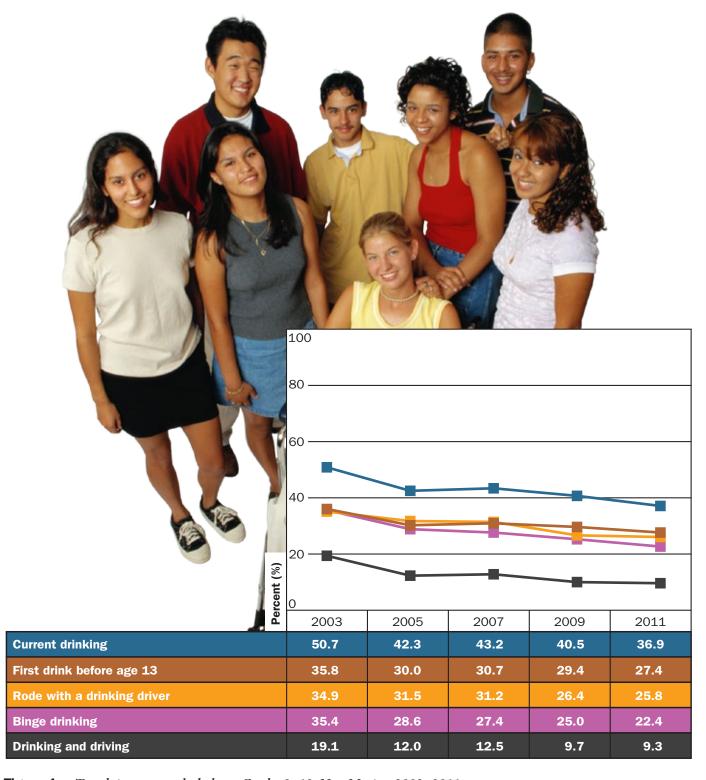


Figure 1 ■ Trends in current alcohol use, Grades 9–12, New Mexico, 2003–2011



#### Rates for all major alcohol use indicators improved among high school students from 2003 to 2011.

Current drinking decreased from **50.7**% to **36.9**%.

First drink before age 13 decreased from **35.8**% to **27.4**%.

Rode with a drinking driver decreased from **34.9%** to **25.8%**.

Binge drinking decreased from **35.4**% to **22.4**%.

Drinking and driving decreased from 19.1% to 9.3%.

#### In 2011, among NM high school students (grades 9-12):

**36.9**% were current drinkers (11 students in a class of 30).

**27.4**% drank alcohol before age 13 (8 students in a class of 30).

**25.8%** rode in a vehicle with a drinking driver (8 students in a class of 30).

**22.4**% were binge drinkers (7 students in a class of 30).

**9.3**% reported drinking and driving (3 students in a class of 30).

**6.4**% drank alcohol on school property (2 students in a class of 30).

41.5% of current drinkers usually drank liquor.

**82.6**% of current drinkers usually drank alcohol in their own home or in another home.

**41.9%** of current drinkers usually got their alcohol because "someone gave it to me."

#### In 2011, among NM middle school students (grades 6-8):

**24.8%** rode in a vehicle with a drinking driver (7 students in a class of 30).

**29.5**% ever had a drink of alcohol (9 students in a class of 30).

**14.5%** drank alcohol before age 11 (4 students in a class of 30).

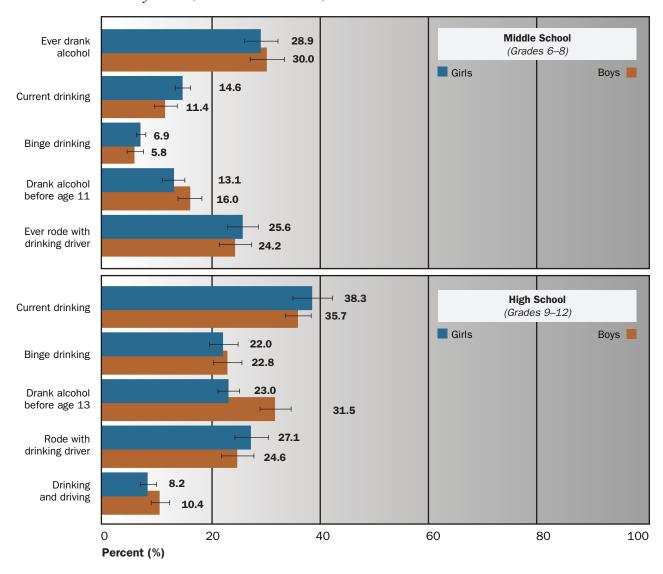
**12.9%** were current drinkers (4 students in a class of 30).

**6.3**% were binge drinkers (2 students in a class of 30).

**27.0**% said it would be "sort of easy" or "very easy" to get alcohol (8 students in a class of 30).

## **DEMOGRAPHICS OF ALCOHOL USE**

Figure 2 ■ Alcohol Indicators by Gender, Grades 6–8 and 9–12, 2011



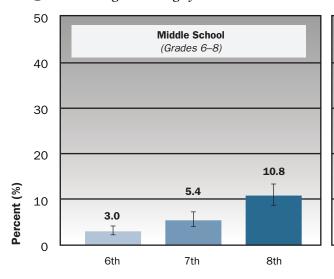


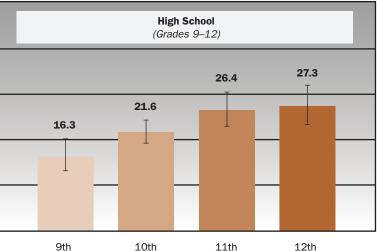
Among middle school students, there was no statistically significant difference between boys and girls for any major alcohol indicator.

Among high school students, boys had a higher prevalence than girls for drinking alcohol before age 13. There was no statistically significant difference by gender for other major alcohol indicators.

## **DEMOGRAPHICS OF ALCOHOL USE** (cont.)

Figure 3 ■ Binge Drinking by Grade Level, Grades 6–8 and 9–12, 2011







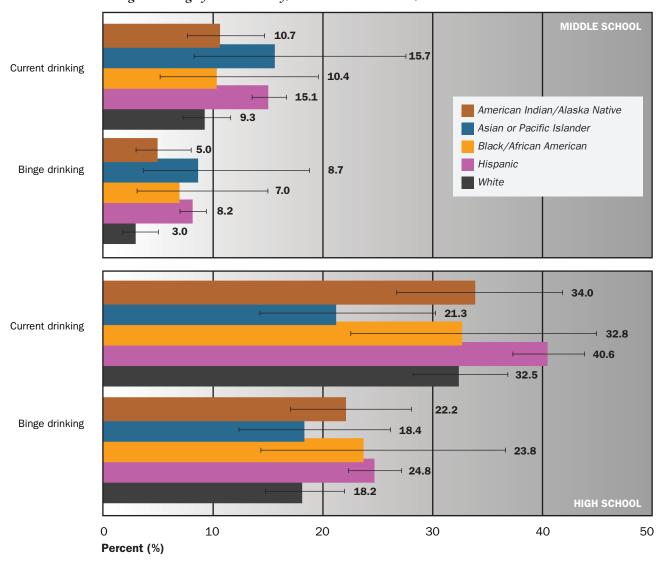
Among middle and high school students, the rate of binge drinking increased by grade level. In high school, this increase disappeared between 11th and 12th grade, and the rates for 11th and 12th grades were similar (26.4% vs. 27.3%).

Among middle school students, the current drinking rate increased from **8.0**% in 6th grade to **20.6**% in 8th grade. Among high school students, the current drinking rate increased from **28.3**% in 9th grade to **44.8**% in 12th grade.

The drinking and driving rate increased from **6.9%** for 9th graders to **12.9%** for 12th graders.

## **DEMOGRAPHICS OF ALCOHOL USE** (cont.)

Figure 4 ■ Current and binge drinking by race/ethnicity, Grades 6–8 and 9–12, 2011





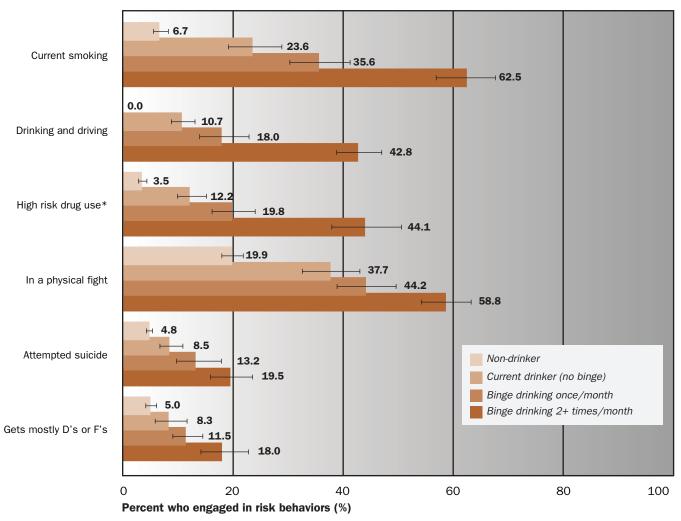
Among middle school students: Hispanic students had a higher rate than White students of current drinking (**15.1**% vs. **9.3**%) and of binge drinking (**8.2**% vs. **3.0**%).

Among high school students: Hispanic students (**40.6**%) had a higher rate of current drinking than White (**32.5**%) or Asian/Pacific Islander students (**21.3**%).

Hispanic students (**24.8**%) had a higher rate of binge drinking than White students (**18.2**%).

### **CURRENT DRINKING BEHAVIORS**

Figure 5 ■ Selected risk behaviors by alcohol use, Grades 9–12, 2011



\* Current use of cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, or painkillers to get high.

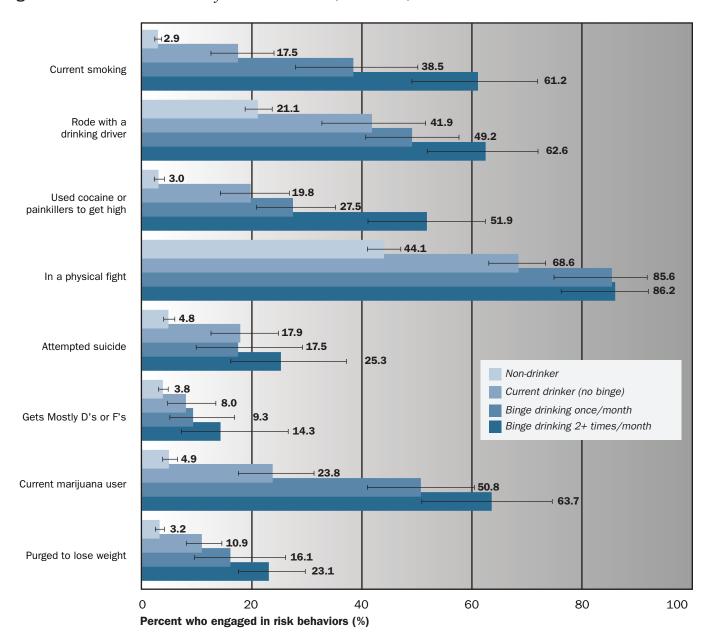
#### **HOW TO READ THIS CHART**

- Among non-drinkers, **6.7**% were current cigarette smokers.
- Among current drinkers who did not binge drink, 23.6% were current cigarette smokers.
- Among those who engaged in one and only one episode of binge drinking in the past 30 days, 35.6% were current smokers.
- Among those who engaged in two or more episodes of binge drinking in the past 30 days, 62.5% were current smokers.

Among both middle and high school students, the prevalence of poor academic achievement (getting mostly D's or F's in school) and risk behaviors associated with substance use, injury, violence, and suicide increased as levels of alcohol consumption increased. Non-drinkers had the lowest rates of these risk behaviors, followed by current drinkers who did not binge drink, those who engaged in one episode of binge drinking per month, and finally those who binged two or more times per month.

Among high school students, there was no practical difference in the prevalence of being in a physical fight between those who engaged in one binge drinking episode per month and those who engaged in two or more episodes per month.

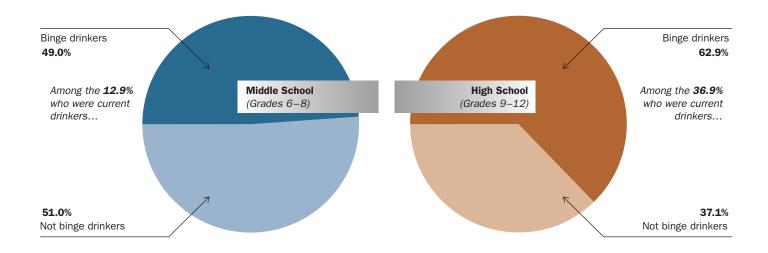
Figure 6 ■ Selected Risk Behaviors by Current Alcohol Use, Grades 6-8, 2011



#### **HOW TO READ THIS CHART**

- Among non-drinkers, **2.9**% were current cigarette smokers.
- Among current drinkers who did not binge drink, **17.5**% were current cigarette smokers.
- Among those who engaged in one and only one episode of binge drinking in the past 30 days, 38.5% were current smokers.
- Among those who engaged in two or more episodes of binge drinking in the past 30 days, 61.2% were current smokers.

Figure 7 ■ Current Alcohol Use and Binge Drinking, Grades 6–8 and 9–12, 2011



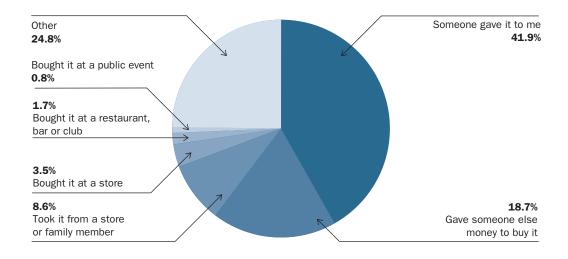


Binge drinking, or drinking 5 or more drinks of alcohol on a single occasion, was a common behavior among middle and high school students who drank alcohol. Binge drinking is an extremely risky behavior, and is associated with motor vehicle crashes and other injuries.

Among middle school current drinkers, almost half (**49.0**%) were binge drinkers.

Among high school current drinkers, almost two thirds (**62.9**%) were binge drinkers.

Figure 8 ■ Usual Source of Alcohol Among Current Drinkers, Grades 9–12, 2011



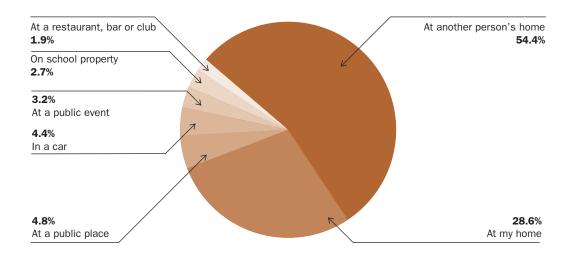


Current drinkers most commonly reported their usual source of alcohol as "Someone gave it to me" (41.9%).

18.7% reported they gave someone else money to buy it, and 8.6% said they took it from a store or family member.

6.0% reported they bought alcohol (3.5% in a store, 1.7% in a restaurant, bar, or club, and 0.8% at a public event). There was no statistically significant difference by age in being able to buy alcohol. Males were more likely to buy alcohol from any source than females (8.6% vs. 3.6%). Females were more likely than males to report "Someone gave it to me" (50.6% vs. 32.7%).

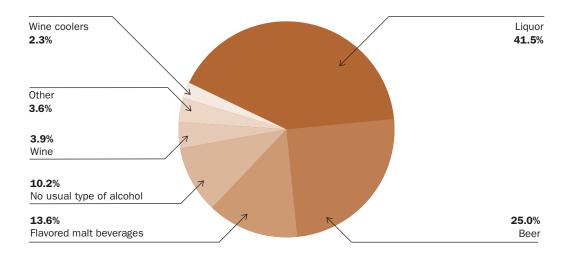
Figure 9 ■ Usual Location for Drinking Alcohol Among Current Drinkers, Grades 9-12, 2011





Most (83.0%) current drinkers usually drank alcohol in their own or another person's home (54.4% at "another person's home"; 28.6% at "my home"). 4.8% said they drank at a public place (park, beach, or parking lot), 3.2% drank at a public event such as a concert or sporting event, and 1.9% said they drank at a restaurant, bar, or club. 4.4% usually drank in a car. While only 2.7% usually drank on school property, 17.7% of current drinkers said they drank on school property on at least one occasion in the past 30 days.

Figure 10 ■ Usual Type of Alcohol Consumed Among Current Drinkers, Grades 9–12, 2011

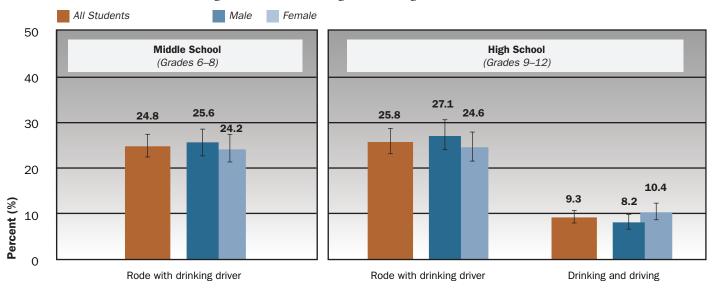




Liquor (such as vodka, rum, scotch, bourbon, or whiskey) was the most frequently reported usual type of alcohol consumed by current drinkers (41.5%). Beer was the second most frequently reported usual drink (25.0%), followed by flavored malt beverages (such as Smirnoff Ice, Bacardi Silver, or Hard Lemonade – 13.6%), wine (3.9%) and wine coolers (2.3%). Females were more likely to report flavored malt beverages as a usual drink than males (19.1% vs. 7.8%), and males were more likely than females to report beer (30.6% vs. 19.8%). Despite these differences, liquor was the most common usual drink for both females (41.0%) and males (41.8%).

## **DRINKING AND MOTOR VEHICLES**

Figure 11 ■ Rode with a Drinking Driver, and Drinking and Driving, Grades 9–12, 2011

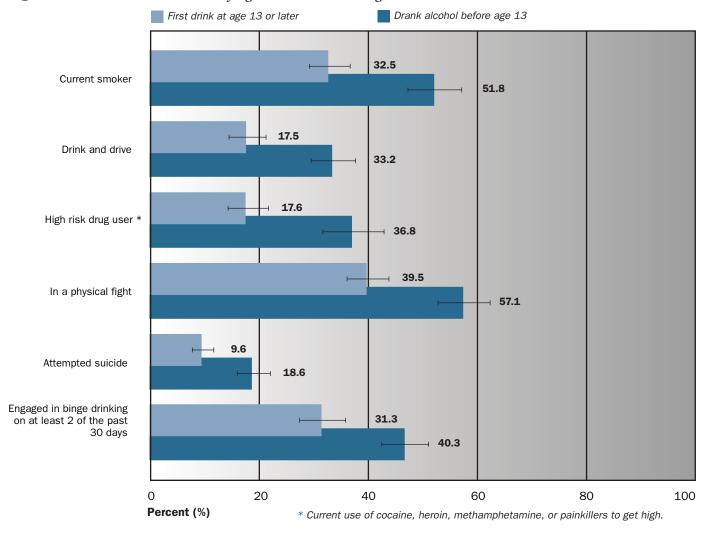




Among middle school students, **24.8%** ever rode in a car or other vehicle with a driver who had been drinking alcohol, and among high school students, **25.8%** rode in a car or other vehicle in a car with a driver who had been drinking alcohol in the past 30 days. Among high school students, **9.3%** drove a car or other vehicle when they had been drinking alcohol in the past 30 days. There were no significant differences in these behaviors by gender. Among high school students, Asian or Pacific Islander students (**18.4%**) were more likely to drink and drive than Hispanic (**9.8%**) or White students (**7.4%**). Drinking and driving was not associated with grade level.

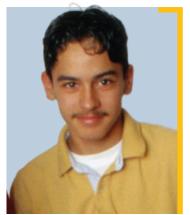
## **ALCOHOL USE AT AN EARLY AGE**

Figure 12 ■ Selected Risk Behaviors by Age at First Drink Among Current Drinkers, Grades 9–12



#### **HOW TO READ THIS CHART**

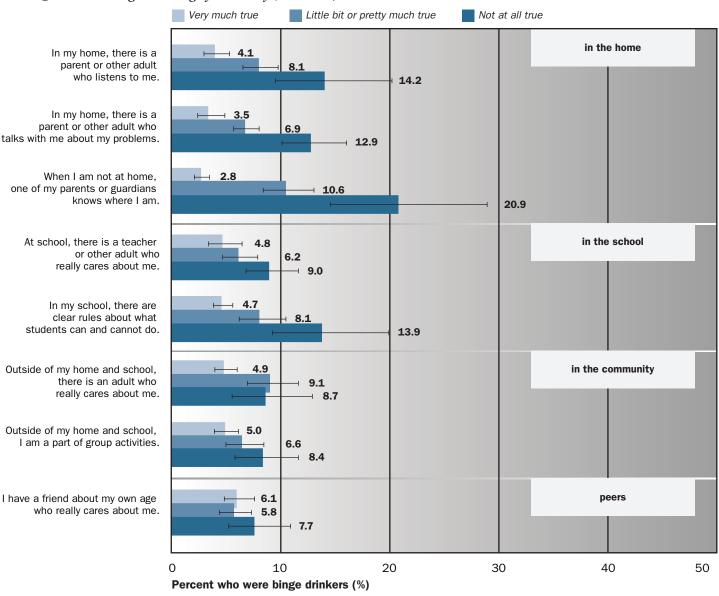
- Among current drinkers who first drank before age 13, **51.8**% were current cigarette smokers.
- Among current drinkers who first drank at age 13 or later, 32.5% were current cigarette smokers.



Among high school students who were current drinkers, those who drank before the age of 13 years were more likely than those who initiated alcohol use at a later age to be current cigarette smokers (**51.8%** vs. **32.5%**), to drink and drive (**33.2%** vs. **17.5%**), to be high risk drug users (**36.8%** vs. **17.6%**), to be in a physical fight (**57.1%** vs. **39.5%**), to attempt suicide (**18.6%** vs. **9.6%**), and to engage in at least two occasions of binge drinking in the past 30 days.

## RESILIENCY FACTORS AND BINGE DRINKING

**Figure 13** ■ Binge Drinking by Resiliency (Protective) Factors, Grades 6–8



#### **HOW TO READ THIS CHART**

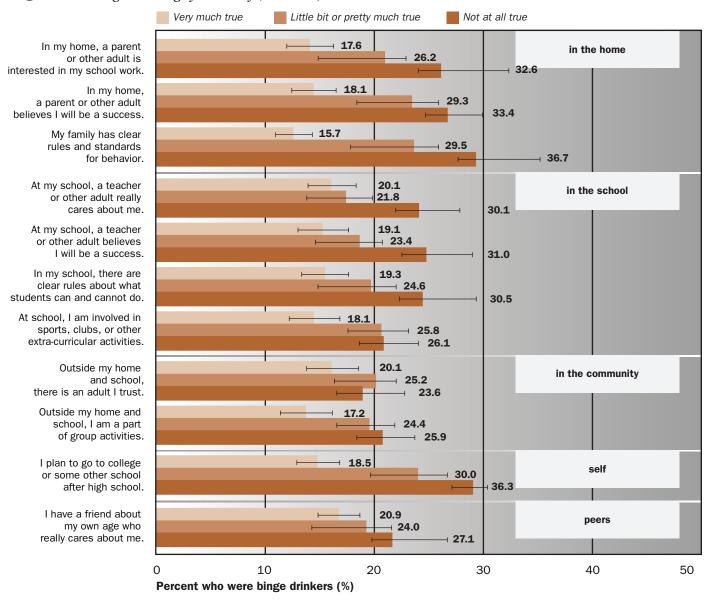
Students were asked how true it was that "In my home, there is a parent or some other adult who listens to me when I have something to say." Among those who responded:

- "Very much true," **4.1**% were binge drinkers.
- "A little true" or "Pretty much true," 8.1% were binge drinkers.
- "Not true at all," **14.2**% were binge drinkers.



## RESILIENCY FACTORS AND BINGE DRINKING (cont.)

**Figure 14** ■ Binge Drinking by Resiliency (Protective) Factors, Grades 9–12



#### **HOW TO READ THIS CHART**

Students were asked how true it was that "In my home, there is a parent or some other adult who is interested in my school work." Among those who responded:

- "Very much true," **17.6**% were binge drinkers.
- "A little true" or "Pretty much true," **26.2**% were binge drinkers.
- "Not true at all," 32.6% were binge drinkers.

Among both middle school and high school students, the prevalence of binge drinking was lower among students who indicated strong relationships with a parent or other adult in the home or with a teacher or other adult in the school, and among those who perceived clear behavioral boundaries in the home and school. This association still existed but was weaker for relationships with an adult in the community or with peers, and for involvement in group activities in the community. Among high school students, plans to go to college or other school after high school were highly associated with not binge drinking.

#### **Definitions**

**Alcohol consumption:** drinking beverages such as beer, wine, wine coolers, and liquor such as rum, gin, vodka, or whiskey. This does not include drinking a few sips of wine for religious purposes.

**Attempted suicide:** answered "yes" to the question "Have you ever tried to kill yourself?" (middle school); answered "1 time" or more to the question "During the past 12 months, how many times did you actually attempt suicide?" (high school).

**Binge drinking:** 5 or more drinks on a single occasion at least once in the past 30 days.

**Current drinking:** at least one drink of alcohol on as least one of the previous 30 days.

**Drinking and driving:** answered "1 time" or more to the question "During the past 30 days, how many times did you drive a car or other vehicle when you had been drinking alcohol?"

**Ever used cocaine or a painkiller to get high:** ever in lifetime used any form of cocaine or a pain killer such as Vicodin, OxyContin, or Percocet to get high.

**First drink before age 11:** answered "10 years old" or younger to the question "How old were you when you had your first drink of alcohol other than

a few sips?" This is the measure used to indicate early alcohol consumption among middle school students.

First drink before age 13: answered "11 or 12 years old" or younger to the question "How old were you when you had your first drink of alcohol other than a few sips?" This is the measure used to indicate early alcohol consumption among high school students.

**High risk drug user:** during the past 30 days, used any form of cocaine, heroin, methamphetamines, or pain killers to get high on at least one occasion.

**In a physical fight:** answered "yes" to the question "Have you ever been in a physical fight?" (middle school); answered "1 time" or more to the question "During the past 12 months, how many times were you in a physical fight?" (high school).

Rode with a drinking driver: answered "yes" to the question "Have you ever ridden in a car driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol?" (middle school); answered "1 time" or more to the question "During the past 30 days, how many times did you ride in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol?" (high school).

#### **TOPICS**

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For more information about the YRRS, including methodology, comprehensive state level reports, or county level reports, and more, see www.youthrisk.org.