Youth Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use in California

Students Who Used Alcohol or Drugs in the Previous Month, by Gender and Grade Level: 2017-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Some</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 7</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 9</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 11</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>23.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Traditional</td>
<td>36.6%</td>
<td>27.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Definition: Estimated percentage of public school students in grades 7, 9, 11, and non-traditional programs who have used alcohol or drugs (excluding tobacco) in the previous 30 days, by gender and grade level (e.g., in 2017-2019, an estimated 17.4% of female 9th graders in California had used alcohol or drugs in the previous month).


Students Who Have Driven When They Had Been Using Alcohol or Drugs, or Ridden with a Driver Who Had Been Using, on Seven or More Occasions in Their Lifetimes, by Race/Ethnicity: 2017-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>African American/Black</th>
<th>American Indian/Alaska Native</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Hispanic/Latino</th>
<th>Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Multiracial</th>
<th>Another Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Definition: Estimated percentage of public school students in grades 9, 11, and non-traditional programs who have ever driven a car when they had been using alcohol or drugs, or ridden in a car driven by someone who had been using, by race/ethnicity and number of occasions (e.g., in 2017-2019, an estimated 3.2% of Hispanic/Latino students in grades 9, 11, and non-traditional programs in California had either driven when they had been using alcohol or drugs, or ridden with a driver who had been using, on seven or more occasions in their lifetimes).


What It Is

On kidsdata.org, indicators of youth alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use come from:

- Student reports of alcohol or drug use (excluding tobacco) in the previous month overall and on school property
- Student reports of the number of days they used alcohol, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and marijuana in the previous month
- Student reports of the number of days they binge drank in the previous month
- Student reports of the number times they have used alcohol, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and marijuana in their lifetimes
- Student reports of the number times they have driven when they had been using alcohol or drugs or ridden with a driver who had been using in their lifetimes
- Staff reports of the extent to which, at their school, student alcohol and drug use is a problem, substance abuse prevention is an important goal, and substance use prevention education is provided

Why This Topic Is Important

Youth alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use is a significant public health concern linked to a wide range of academic, social, and health problems. Alcohol is the most widely used substance among the nation's young people and initiation peaks in the years between Grades 7 and 11. Underage drinking is associated with risky health behaviors (e.g., unsafe sexual practices), injuries, motor vehicle accidents, impaired cognitive functioning, poor academic performance, physical violence, and suicide attempt. Binge drinking places youth and those around them at even higher risk for negative outcomes. Drinking during adolescence increases the likelihood of alcohol dependence in adulthood, and excessive alcohol consumption can have long-term health consequences, including liver disease, cancer, and cardiovascular disease.

Cigarette smoking is the leading cause of preventable and premature death in the U.S., resulting in more than 480,000 deaths annually. Smoking causes cumulative, irreversible harm, and most long-term smokers...
Students Who Used Alcohol or Drugs in the Previous Month, by Sexual Orientation: 2017-2019

Definition: Estimated percentage of public school students in grades 7, 9, 11, and non-traditional programs who have used alcohol or drugs (excluding tobacco) in the previous 30 days, by sexual orientation (e.g., in 2017-2019, an estimated 27.9% of gay, lesbian, and bisexual students in grades 7, 9, 11, and non-traditional programs in California had used alcohol or drugs in the previous month).


Students Who Have Used Marijuana on Seven or More Occasions in Their Lifetimes, by Level of School Connectedness

California

Definition: Estimated percentage of public school students in grades 7, 9, 11, and non-traditional programs who have ever used marijuana, by level of school connectedness and number of occasions (e.g., in 2017-2019, an estimated 16.8% of California students in grades 7, 9, 11, and non-traditional programs with low levels of school connectedness had used marijuana on seven or more occasions in their lifetimes).


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