

Commission

Arizona Youth Survey 2002 High Level Overview/Fact Sheet

Our mission is to sustain and enhance the coordination, cohesiveness, productivity and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in Arizona

The Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) in cooperation with the Arizona Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Governor's Office conducted a statewide survey to assess risk behaviors — such as the use of alcohol, tobacco and other dangerous drugs — among Arizona 8th, 10th and 12th graders in 2002. The study is legislatively mandated to biennially measure attitudes, prevalence and frequency of substance abuse among children in the state.



Understanding youth behaviors, attitudes, conditions or events — known as risk and protective factors — provides a basis on which to bring about positive change among Arizona's juvenile population.

Methodology:

The ACJC Youth Survey was randomly administered in Arizona's 15 counties representing 59 schools for a total sample of 12,203 students statewide.

Risk factors are powerful tools for identifying and locating populations and individuals with a high potential for becoming violent and/or using drugs.

Age of Initiation

Substance Use	2002
First Drink (More Than a Sip or Two) of Alcohol	13.05
First Regular Alcohol Consumption	14.41
First Cigarette Use	12.38
First Marijuana Use	13.52

Arizona Youth Survey: 2002 Participation and Demographics

	Grade 8	Grade 10	Grade 12	Total
Gender				
Male	49.1%	49.0%	50.0%	49.3%
Female	50.9%	51.0%	50.0%	50.7%
Ethnicity				
White	40.9%	55.1%	57.2%	51.8%
African-American	3.8%	1.9%	1.9%	2.4%
Hispanic	35.8%	30.1%	25.7%	30.3%
Asian/Pac. Islander	1.5%	2.0%	2.9%	2.2%
Native American	15.2%	8.0%	9.1%	10.3%
Other	2.8%	2.9%	3.3%	3.0%
Language Spoken at Home				
English	79.6%	81.5%	85.0%	82.1%
Spanish	17.8%	15.6%	11.8%	15.0%
Other	2.6%	2.8%	3.2%	2.9%
Home Structure				
Both Parents	55.8%	57.0%	57.4%	56.8%
Step-family	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
Mother Only	31.9%	30.9%	28.7%	30.5%
Father Only	6.0%	6.5%	6.7%	6.4%
Other	6.1%	5.4%	7.0%	6.1%

Risk and protective factors have been organized into four important areas of a young person's life: 1) community; 2) family; 3) school; and 4) within individuals themselves and their peer interactions.

Antisocial Behavior Frequency

The Arizona Youth Survey also asked students how often they participated in delinquent behavior in the past year. Antisocial behaviors most often participated in by students were being suspended from school and being drunk or high at school. Antisocial behavior rates peaked in the 8th grade for five out of the eight behaviors. For the 8th grade, the greatest antisocial behavior participated in was being suspended from school. The antisocial behavior participated in by the most 10th and 12th graders was being drunk or high at school. The antisocial behavior with the highest rate of participation by all Arizona students was being drunk or high at school (19.6%). When students were asked if they had taken a gun to school, 1.2 percent (147) indicated that they had at least once in the past year. Rates of taking a handgun to school peaked in the 8th grade at 1.4 percent.

The Prevalence of Delinquent Behavior, By Grade

	8th		10th		12th		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Suspended from School	765	18.1%	495	11.6%	276	8.1%	1536	12.9%
Drunk or High At School	646	15.4%	871	20.5%	801	23.8%	2318	19.6%
Sold Illegal Drugs	239	5.7%	423	9.9%	336	10.0%	998	8.4%
Vehicle Theft	137	3.3%	153	3.6%	70	2.1%	360	3.0%
Arrested	382	9.1%	341	8.0%	277	8.2%	1000	8.5%
Attacked Someone with Intention of Hurting	483	11.6%	457	10.8%	305	9.1%	1245	10.6%
Carried a Handgun in Neighborhood	283	6.7%	214	5.0%	166	4.9%	663	5.6%
Has Taken a Gun to School	59	1.4%	57	1.3%	31	1.0%	147	1.2%

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission
1110 West Washington, Suite 230
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
Toll Free 877.668.2252
(P) 602.364.1146
(F) 602.364.1175

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Review full report at: www.acjc.state.az.us

30-Day and Lifetime Use of ...

Alcohol

Alcohol is still the most commonly used substance by Arizona students. In the past month 46.4 percent of students have used alcohol, and 69.2 percent of students have used alcohol in their lifetime. Of the students included in the Arizona Youth Survey sample, 23.7 percent indicated they had binge drank in the past two weeks. Use of alcohol increases with increased grade level; while 58.9 percent of 12th graders indicated 30-day alcohol usage in 2002, only 34.4 percent of 8th graders indicated usage. The Arizona Youth Survey results, when compared to the national Monitoring the Future (MTF) results continue to show that Arizona students, in the past 30 days, have used more alcohol than students in the national sample. However, in looking at the lifetime results, Arizona rates and national rates are more comparable.

Marijuana

In the past 30 days, 20.5 percent of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders have used marijuana at least one time. While cigarette use is usually higher than marijuana use, results from the survey indicate that more Arizona youth have used marijuana in the past month than have used cigarettes (20.5 percent compared to 16.5 percent). In each grade, Arizona 30-day and lifetime use rates of marijuana were higher than national Monitoring the Future use rates.

Other Illicit Drugs

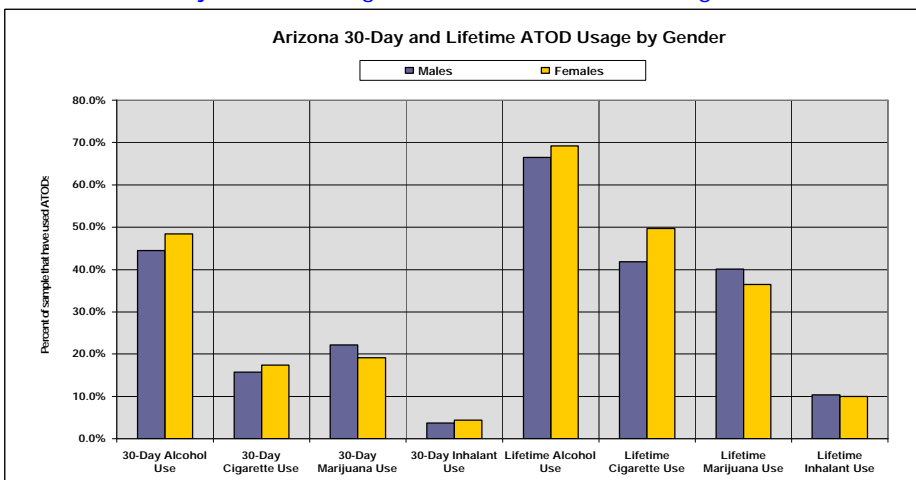
A majority of students never try illicit drugs such as hallucinogens, methamphetamines, cocaine, steroids, heroin, barbiturates, and ecstasy. Total past month use was 2.6 percent for hallucinogens, 3.3 percent for cocaine, 2.0 percent for methamphetamines, 1.2 percent for steroids, 1.3 percent for heroin, 2.3 percent for barbiturates and 3.1 percent for ecstasy. Arizona 8th graders have experimented with ecstasy more than the other seven drugs—5.5 percent of 8th graders have tried ecstasy at least once. For 10th graders, 8.2 percent have tried ecstasy at least once in their lifetime. Further, lifetime use of ecstasy is above the national average for all grades and more than double in the 30 day use of 8th grade students. Hallucinogens were the drug most often experimented with by 12th graders—12.6 percent have tried hallucinogens at least once in their lifetime.

Arizona and National Lifetime Use

	8th Grade		10th Grade		12th Grade	
	Arizona	National	Arizona	National	Arizona	National
Alcohol	56.9%	50.5%	72.3%	70.1%	80.8%	79.7%
Cigarettes	39.6%	36.6%	49.8%	52.8%	61.1%	61.0%
Smokeless Tobacco	25.9%	11.7%	23.2%	19.5%	24.1%	19.7%
Marijuana	26.6%	20.4%	41.6%	40.1%	50.8%	49.0%
Inhalants	11.9%	17.1%	10.4%	15.2%	10.1%	13.0%
Hallucinogens	2.4%	4.0%	8.3%	7.8%	12.6%	12.8%
Cocaine	4.5%	4.3%	8.2%	5.7%	12.0%	8.2%
Methamphetamines	2.9%	4.4%	6.8%	6.4%	8.6%	6.9%
Steroids	2.2%	2.8%	2.7%	3.5%	2.7%	3.7%
Heroin	1.9%	1.7%	3.2%	1.7%	3.8%	1.8%
Sedatives	2.1%	--	5.7%	--	7.4%	8.7%
Ecstasy	5.5%	5.2%	8.2%	8.0%	12.0%	11.7%

Arizona and National 30-Day Use

	8th Grade		10th Grade		12th Grade	
	Arizona	National	Arizona	National	Arizona	National
Alcohol	34.4%	21.5%	47.9%	39.0%	58.9%	49.8%
Cigarettes	9.1%	12.2%	18.1%	21.3%	23.2%	29.5%
Smokeless Tobacco	4.0%	4.0%	4.7%	6.9%	5.9%	7.8%
Marijuana	14.3%	9.2%	22.4%	19.8%	25.4%	22.4%
Inhalants	6.5%	4.0%	3.4%	2.4%	2.0%	1.7%
Hallucinogens	1.5%	1.2%	3.2%	2.1%	3.1%	3.2%
Cocaine	2.6%	1.2%	3.5%	1.3%	4.0%	2.1%
Methamphetamines	1.0%	1.3%	2.6%	1.5%	2.2%	1.5%
Steroids	1.2%	0.7%	1.5%	0.9%	0.9%	1.3%
Heroin	1.2%	0.6%	1.4%	0.3%	1.3%	0.4%
Sedatives	1.0%	--	2.6%	--	3.4%	2.8%
Ecstasy	3.6%	1.8%	2.5%	2.6%	3.2%	2.8%



Total Arizona ATOD Use - 30-Day and Lifetime

30-Day Usage	
Alcohol	46.4%
Smokeless Tobacco	4.8%
Cigarettes	16.5%
Marijuana	20.5%
Inhalants	4.1%
Hallucinogens	2.6%
Cocaine	3.3%
Methamphetamines	2.0%
Steroids	1.2%
Heroin	1.3%
Sedatives/Barbituates	2.3%
Ecstasy	3.1%
Lifetime Usage	
Alcohol	69.2%
Smokeless Tobacco	24.4%
Cigarettes	49.3%
Marijuana	38.8%
Inhalants	10.9%
Hallucinogens	7.4%
Cocaine	8.0%
Methamphetamines	5.9%
Steroids	2.5%
Heroin	2.9%
Sedatives/Barbituates	4.9%
Ecstasy	8.3%

ATOD= Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs

Perceived Availability of ATODs and Handguns

According to survey participants, cigarettes are perceived to be the easiest substance to get—65.4% of students indicated that it was "Sort of easy" or "Very easy" to get cigarettes. The survey also found that 64.1% of students indicated that alcohol (beer, wine, or hard liquor) was easy to get, and 64.0% indicated that marijuana was easy to get. The substance perceived as being least available was cocaine and other drugs—only 32.8% of students perceived these drugs to be "Sort of easy" or "Very easy" to get. Also, 25.8% indicated that handguns were easy to get.