

College of Charleston (Online)

CORE ALCOHOL AND DRUG SURVEY LONG FORM - FORM 194

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 College of Charleston (Online)

Following are some key findings on the use of alcohol:

- 87.9% of the students consumed alcohol in the past year ("annual prevalence").
- 79.2% of the students consumed alcohol in the past 30 days ("30-day prevalence").
- 73.6% of underage students (younger than 21) consumed alcohol in the previous 30 days.
- 55.6% 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

- 42.3% of the students have used marijuana in the past year ("annual prevalence").
- 23.4% of the students are current marijuana users ("30-day prevalence").
- 18.8% of the students have used an illegal drug other than marijuana in the past year ("annual prevalence").
- 9.2% 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:

- 23.4% Marijuana (pot, hash, hash oil)
- 4.8% Amphetamines (diet pills, speed)
- 3.5% Cocaine (crack, rock, freebase)

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

44.6 % 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.

28.3 % 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:

96.0 % of students said the campus has alcohol and drug policies;
3.6 % said they "don't know"; and
0.5 % said there wasn't a policy.

66.5 % of students said the campus has an alcohol and drug prevention program;
31.9 % said they "don't know"; and
1.7 % said there wasn't a program.

85.1 % of students said the campus is concerned about the prevention of drug and alcohol use;
8.4 % said they "don't know"; and
6.4 % said the campus is not concerned.

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

95.6 % of students believe the average student on campus uses alcohol once a week or more.

66.9 % of students believe the average student on this campus uses some form of illegal drug at least once a week.

20.4 % of students indicated they would prefer not to have alcohol available at parties they attend.

76.2 % of students indicated they would prefer not to have drugs available at parties they attend.

The following percentages of survey respondents said they saw drinking as a central part of the social life of the following groups:

- 94.3 % of the respondents said they saw drinking as central in the social life of male students.
- 89.5 % of the respondents said they saw drinking as central in the social life of female students.
- 21.0 % of the respondents said they saw drinking as central in the social life of faculty/staff.
- 47.4 % of the respondents said they saw drinking as central in the social life of alumni.
- 65.3 % of the respondents said they saw drinking as central in the social life of athletes.
- 94.7 % of the respondents said they saw drinking as central in the social life of fraternities.
- 91.3 % of the respondents said they saw drinking as central in the social life of sororities.
- 65.7 % of the students said they believe the social atmosphere on campus promotes alcohol use.
- 34.9 % of the students said they believe the social atmosphere on campus promotes drug use.
- 8.7 % of the students said they do not feel safe on campus.

Compared to other campuses...

- 22.2 % feel that alcohol use is greater
- 11.3 % feel that alcohol use is less
- 66.6 % feel alcohol use is about the same

On the Core Alcohol and Drug Survey, respondents were asked to report whether students on this campus cared about a number of campus climate issues (with the response options being "not at all", "slightly", "somewhat", and "very much"). The following percentages of respondents on this campus indicated that their fellow students cared "somewhat" or "very much" about the following issues:

- 89.9 % said students cared about sexual assault
- 84.3 % said students cared about assaults that are non-sexual
- 73.3 % said students cared about harassment because of race or ethnicity
- 71.0 % said students cared about harassment because of sexual orientation
- 70.9 % said students cared about harassment because of gender
- 63.3 % said students cared about harassment because of religion
- 58.1 % said students cared about campus vandalism
- 36.0 % said students cared about alcohol and other drug use

Table 1 shows the percentage of students who reported having experienced any of the following within the last year and, if so, the percentage who reported consuming alcohol or other drugs shortly before these incidents.

Table 1 - Experiences of Harassment or Violence

<u>Experience</u>	<u>Used Alcohol or Drugs</u>	<u>Incident</u>
9.5%	16.7%	Ethnic or racial harassment
10.0%	43.2%	Threats of physical violence
5.2%	59.5%	Actual physical violence
2.7%	42.9%	Theft involving force or threat of force
4.8%	81.6%	Forced sexual touching or fondling
2.7%	95.2%	Unwanted sexual intercourse

On the Core Alcohol and Drug Survey, students were asked to rate the degree of risk people take when they act in certain ways, listed below. The response options were, "no risk", "slight risk", "moderate risk", "great risk", and "can't say". The numbers listed below indicate the percentage of respondents who felt there was "great risk" associated with the following behaviors:

- 6.8% try marijuana once or twice
- 12.5% smoke marijuana occasionally
- 36.0% smoke marijuana regularly
- 39.7% try cocaine once or twice
- 80.0% take cocaine regularly
- 49.0% try LSD once or twice
- 79.4% take LSD regularly
- 43.1% try amphetamines once or twice
- 70.9% take amphetamines regularly
- 18.0% take one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor) nearly every day
- 63.2% take four or five drinks nearly every day
- 45.1% have five or more drinks in one sitting
- 60.2% take steroids for body building or improved athletic performance
- 37.9% consume alcohol prior to being sexually active
- 46.2% regularly engage in unprotected sexual activity with a single partner
- 89.9% regularly engage in unprotected sexual activity with multiple partners

Sexual Behavior:

77.1 % of the students reported engaging in sexual intercourse within the past year. Of these, 24.1 % used alcohol the last time they had intercourse and 4.9 % used drugs.

In the last 30 days, the following percentages of students engaged in the behaviors described below:

- 71.5 % refused an offer of alcohol or other drugs
- 15.6 % bragged about alcohol or other drug use
- 77.9 % heard someone else brag about alcohol or other drug use
- 6.7 % carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, etc. (not hunting or job related)
- 38.9 % experienced peer pressure to drink or use drugs
- 15.9 % held a drink to have people stop bothering you about why you weren't drinking
- 29.2 % thought a sexual partner was not attractive because he/she was drunk
- 18.8 % told a sexual partner that he/she was not attractive because he/she was drunk

The following data describes how students say their friends would feel if they...

- Tried marijuana once or twice - 34.3 % of their friends would disapprove
- Smoked marijuana occasionally - 47.9 % of their friends would disapprove
- Smoked marijuana regularly - 70.8 % of their friends would disapprove
- Tried cocaine once or twice - 82.4 % of their friends would disapprove
- Took cocaine regularly - 96.5 % of their friends would disapprove
- Tried LSD once or twice - 82.7 % of their friends would disapprove
- Took LSD regularly - 96.0 % of their friends would disapprove
- Took one or two drinks every day - 54.0 % of their friends would disapprove
- Took four or five drinks every day - 87.1 % of their friends would disapprove
- Had five or more drinks at one sitting - 48.0 % of their friends would disapprove

The following are some key findings on the perceived effects of alcohol:

- 80.9 % say it breaks the ice
- 82.2 % say it enhances social activity
- 48.0 % say it makes it easier to deal with stress

- 71.3 % say it facilitates a connection with peers
- 75.0 % say it gives people something to talk about

- 67.8 % say it facilitates male bonding
- 60.1 % say it facilitates female bonding

- 69.1 % say it allows people to have more fun
- 77.5 % say it gives people something to do
- 24.4 % say it makes food taste better

- 30.4 % say it makes women sexier
- 26.4 % say it makes men sexier
- 26.5 % say it makes me sexier
- 61.6 % say it facilitates sexual opportunity

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 71189 students from 148 institutions from the 2006 Aggregated National Data.

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

<u>Substance</u>	<u>Lifetime Prevalence</u>		<u>Annual Prevalence</u>		<u>30-Day Prevalence</u>		<u>3X/Week or more</u>	
	<u>Coll.</u>	<u>Ref.</u>	<u>Coll.</u>	<u>Ref.</u>	<u>Coll.</u>	<u>Ref.</u>	<u>Coll.</u>	<u>Ref.</u>
Tobacco	57.8	50.4	44.1	38.6	29.1	26.3	15.0	14.8
Alcohol	90.3	87.1	87.9	84.2	79.2	71.9	29.1	23.0
Marijuana	58.5	45.3	42.3	30.1	23.4	16.8	8.7	6.4
Cocaine	15.3	9.2	9.7	5.2	3.5	2.2	0.1	0.3
Amphetamines	17.2	13.8	8.6	6.2	4.8	3.1	2.6	1.8
Sedatives	12.6	8.0	7.9	4.2	2.9	2.0	0.2	0.4
Hallucinogens	11.9	8.3	5.6	3.5	1.4	1.1	0.0	0.1
Opiates	3.7	2.8	1.1	1.3	0.6	0.7	0.0	0.2
Inhalants	5.2	4.0	1.4	1.2	0.7	0.5	0.0	0.1
Designer drugs	11.1	7.6	4.2	2.9	0.6	0.9	0.0	0.1
Steroids	1.1	1.2	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.2
Other drugs	6.8	4.6	2.6	2.1	0.7	0.8	0.0	0.2

Notes:

Coll. = College of Charleston (Online)

Ref. = Reference group of 71189 college students

The average number of drinks consumed per week at this institution is 5.9 drinks. The national average is 5.5 drinks (based on a sample of 70247). The percentage of students who report having binged in the last two weeks at this institution is 55.6% compared to the national average of 46.7%.

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>
1.4	1.4	Been arrested for DWI/DUI
12.2	13.7	Been in trouble with police, residence hall, or other college authorities
6.5	6.8	Damaged property, pulled fire alarms, etc.
37.3	27.0	Driven a car while under the influence
41.0	32.3	Got into an argument or fight
1.2	1.3	Tried to commit suicide
4.5	4.5	Seriously thought about suicide
18.9	16.2	Been hurt or injured
11.7	10.1	Been taken advantage sexually
3.2	3.2	Taken advantage of another sexually
6.2	5.2	Tried unsuccessfully to stop using
14.3	10.8	Thought I might have a drinking or other drug problem
32.4	22.1	Performed poorly on a test or important project
46.0	37.2	Done something I later regretted
41.2	30.1	Missed a class
34.2	30.9	Been criticized by someone I know
43.6	33.9	Had a memory loss
61.1	54.3	Got nauseated or vomited
71.7	62.5	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:	623	220	463	377	692	149	322	519
Currently use (in the past 30 days) alcohol	77.3	84.7	73.6	86.3	78.5	82.4	70.1	84.8
Currently use (in the past 30 days) marijuana	19.1	35.3	24.0	22.7	21.6	31.1	19.8	25.4
Currently use (in the past 30 days) illegal drugs other than marijuana	7.3	14.7	7.6	11.2	8.2	13.5	4.1	12.4
Had 6 or more binges in the past 2 weeks	6.4	11.4	6.5	9.3	7.1	10.7	4.3	9.9
Have driven a car while under the influence during past year	34.5	45.3	30.5	45.7	35.6	44.6	23.2	45.9
Have been taken advantage of sexually during past year	12.2	10.1	12.5	10.7	11.4	12.8	11.7	11.7
Have taken advantage of another sexually during past year	2.6	5.1	2.2	4.5	2.8	5.4	2.2	3.9

Sample Demographics

Following are some summary characteristics of the students who completed and returned the questionnaire.

- 25.2% were freshmen
- 16.6% were sophomores
- 24.4% were juniors
- 29.1% were seniors
- 4.0% were graduates
- 0.7% were other
- 85.6% were in the "typical" college age range of 18-22.
- 73.9% were female.
- 61.7% lived off campus.
- 56.1% worked part-time or full-time.
- 95.3% were full-time students.
- 24.9% reported spending at least 5 hours per month in volunteer work.