

Youth Alcohol Consumption

Key Findings

In 2005, the health assessment results indicated that 80% of Sandusky County high school youth had drunk at least one drink of alcohol in their life increasing to 89% of high school seniors. Two-fifths (40%) took their first drink between the ages of 13 and 14. Just under one-half (45%) of all Sandusky County youth and 53% of those 17-18 years had at least one drink in the past 30 days. Three-fifths (60%) of the youth who reported drinking in the past 30 days had one episode of binge drinking. The health assessment also indicated that 24% of all Sandusky County high school youth had ridden in a car driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol at least once in the previous month.

High School Alcohol Consumption

- ◆ In 2005, the health assessment results indicate that four-fifths (80%) of all Sandusky County high school youth have had at least one drink of alcohol in their life, increasing to 89% of 17-18 year olds. Just under half (45%) of the high school youth had drunk at least one drink in the past 30 days, increasing to 53% of 17-18 year olds.
- ◆ Three-fifths (60%) of the youth who drank had drunk five or more alcoholic drinks on an occasion in the last month and would be considered binge drinkers by definition.
- ◆ 9% of Sandusky County high school youth who reported drinking in the past 30 days, drank on at least 10 or more days during the month.
- ◆ Two-fifths (40%) of high school youth who reported drinking (other than a few sips) in the past month had their first drink between the ages of 13 and 14, and 27% drank before the age of 12.
- ◆ Sandusky County high school males reported starting to drink at an earlier age than females. Just under one-fifth (19%) of males who reported drinking in the past 30 days had their first drink before age 10 compared to 10% of females.
- ◆ 1% of high school youth had a drink of alcohol on school property.
- ◆ During the past month 24% of all Sandusky County high school youth had ridden in a car driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol and 9% of all high school drivers had driven a car in the past month after they had been drinking alcohol themselves.

Middle School Alcohol Consumption

- ◆ One-third (33%) of middle school youth had a drink of alcohol (other than a few sips) at sometime in their life. Over one-quarter (27%) of those who had a drink of alcohol did so before the age of 8.
- ◆ Over one-third (34%) of middle school youth had ridden in a car driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol.

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results, 2003 Alcohol Use

- ◆ 42% of Ohio high school students drank alcohol in the past month compared with 45% of U.S. high school youth.
- ◆ 27% of Ohio high school students self-reported heavy episodic drinking in the past month compared with 28% of U.S. high school youth.
- ◆ Current drinking prevalence was higher for female (46%) U.S. high school students than for males (44%); however, binge drinking incidence was higher for males (29%) than for females (28%). (Source: CDC, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Alcohol and Public Health, Underage Drinking, 8-4-04).

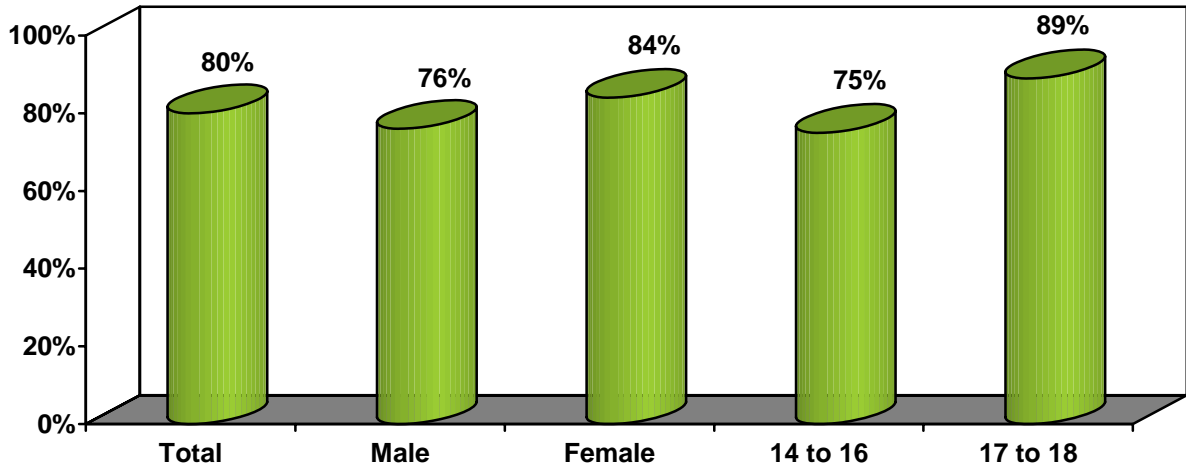
Risk Factors for Youth Alcohol Abuse:

- ◆ Smoking
- ◆ Drinking on school property
- ◆ Frequency of drinking
- ◆ Riding in car with someone who has been drinking
- ◆ Age of first drink
- ◆ Drinking before sexual intercourse
- ◆ Binge drinking
- ◆ Driving a car after drinking

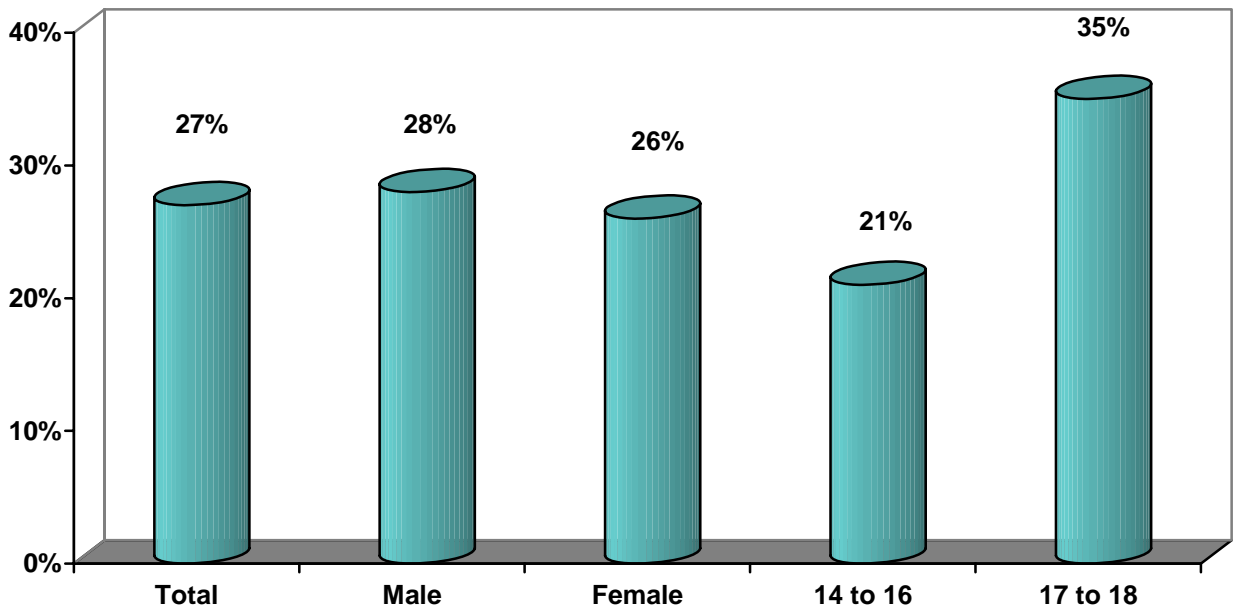
(Source: YRBS 2001 Rationale for the Questionnaire, Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse and the CDC Adolescent School Health Prevent Alcohol and

Youth Alcohol Consumption

Sandusky County High School Youth Having At Least One Drink In Their Lifetime



Sandusky County High School Youth Binge Drinking in Past Month*



**Based on all youth surveyed. Binge drinking is defined as having five or more drinks on an occasion.*