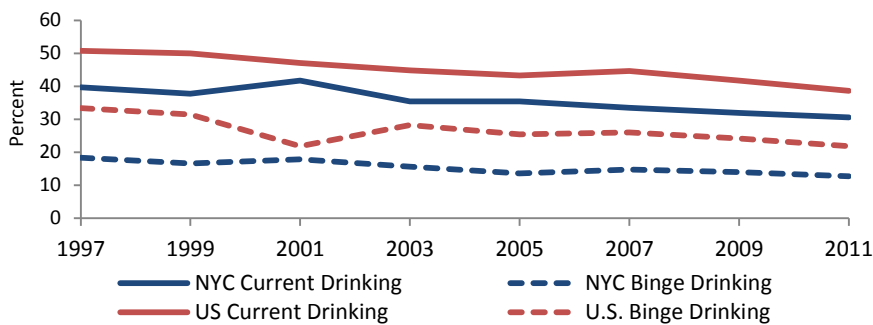




Alcohol Use and Health Risk Behaviors among New York City Youth

- In 2011, current alcohol use (drinking) among youth was lower in New York City (NYC) than in the US (31% vs. 39%), and 13% of NYC youth reported binge drinking compared with 22% nationally.^{1,2}
- From 2007 to 2011, current drinking fell nearly 10% among NYC youth, from 34% to 31%.¹
- From 2007 to 2011, the largest decreases in both current drinking (24% decrease) and binge drinking (30% decrease) by borough were in Staten Island.¹

Youth drinking patterns: US vs. New York City, 1997-2011



Sources: NYC Youth Risk Behavior Survey and National Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, 1997-2011

Definitions

Youth: NYC public high school students in grades nine through 12.

Current drinking: Consuming at least one alcoholic drink during the past 30 days.

Binge drinking: Consuming five or more alcoholic drinks in a row (within a couple of hours) at least once during the past 30 days.

Non-binge drinking: Consuming at least one alcoholic drink during the past 30 days (current drinking), but *not* binge drinking.

Non-drinking: Did not consume any alcohol in the past 30 days.

Alcopops: Flavored malt beverages or wine coolers.

Electronic bullying: Was bullied through e-mail, chat-rooms, instant messaging, Web sites, or texting in the past year.

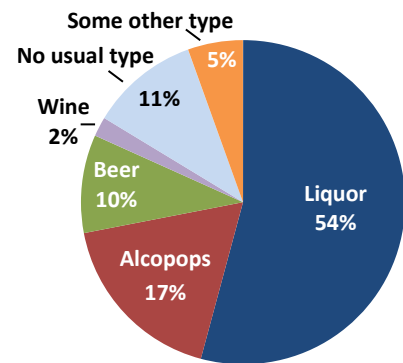
Sexually active: Having sexual intercourse with one or more people in the past three months.

Authored by: Brigid Staley, Denise Paone, Daniella Bradley O'Brien, Brian Yim

Characteristics of NYC youth who drink¹

- More than four in ten (44%) current youth drinkers binge drink.
- Nearly one quarter (23%) of all youth reported drinking alcohol for the first time before age 13.
- Liquor was the most common type of alcohol usually consumed by both non-binge (42%) and binge (53%) drinkers.
- Nearly one in five (17%) binge and non-binge drinkers usually drank alcopops, while beer was usually consumed by only 11% of youth non-binge drinkers and 10% of binge drinkers.
- Current drinking was more common among female youth (33%) than males (28%), and binge drinking was more common among male drinkers (47%) than female drinkers (41%).
- Current drinking (41%) and binge drinking among drinkers (50%) were most common among 12th graders.

Type of alcohol usually consumed by NYC youth who binge drink, 2011



Source: NYC Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2011

Data Sources

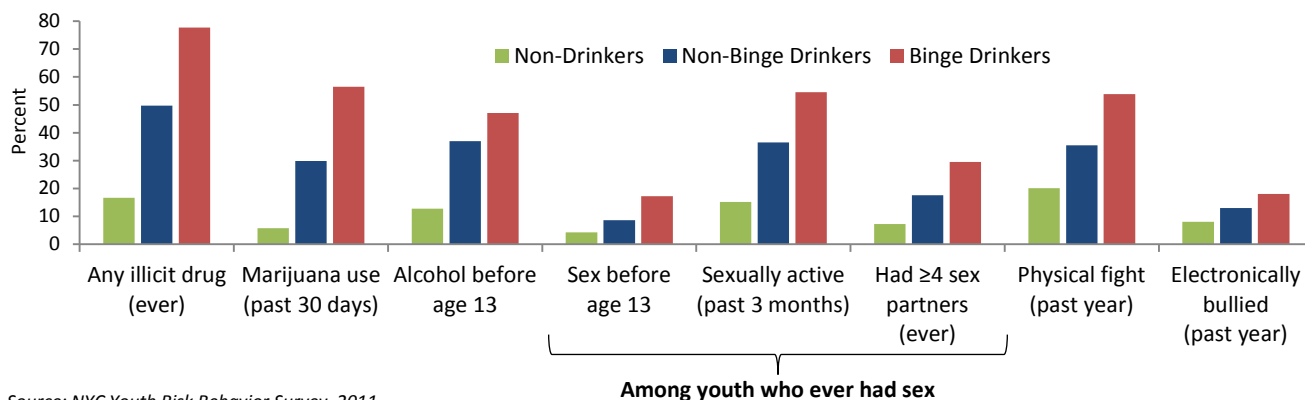
¹**NYC YRBS:** The Youth Risk Behavior Survey is a self-administered, anonymous survey conducted in NYC public high schools in odd years by the Department of Education and the Department of Health. For more survey details, visit:

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/episrv/episrv-youthriskbehavior.shtml>

²**National YRBSS:** The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System 2011 is a national self-administered survey of public and private high school students, conducted in odd years by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For more survey details, visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/yrbss/index.htm>

Health risk behaviors by drinking status among New York City youth, 2011



Alcohol and drugs¹

- More than three quarters (78%) of NYC youth who reported binge drinking had tried an illicit drug in their lifetime, compared with half (50%) of non-binge drinkers and 17% of non-drinkers.
- More than half of binge drinkers (57%) reported smoking marijuana in the past 30 days, compared with 30% of non-binge drinkers and 6% of non-drinkers.
- Nearly half (47%) of binge drinkers tried alcohol before age 13.

Binge drinking and sexual risk behavior among youth who have ever had sex¹

- Sexual intercourse before age 13 was more likely among youth binge drinkers (17%), compared with non-binge drinkers (9%) and non-drinkers (4%).
- More than half (55%) of binge drinkers reported being currently sexually active (past three months), compared with more than one third (37%) of non-binge drinkers and 15% of non-drinkers.
- Almost one third (29%) of currently sexually active youth reported using alcohol or drugs before the last time they had sex.
- Condom use at last sexual intercourse was lowest among binge drinkers (56%), compared with non-binge drinkers (65%) and non-drinkers (70%).
- Binge drinkers (10%) were twice as likely as both non-binge drinkers (5%) and non-drinkers (4%) to ever have been pregnant or impregnated someone.

Binge drinking, violence and e-bullying¹

- More than half (54%) of binge drinkers reported being in a physical fight in the past year, compared with one third (36%) of non-binge and 20% of non-drinkers.
- Binge drinkers were more likely to have been bullied electronically (18%) than non-binge drinkers (13%) and non-drinkers (8%).

MORE New York City Health Data and Publications

- For complete tables of data presented in this Brief, visit nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/epi/datatable21.pdf
- For more information on alcohol use, see the following Health Department resources:
 - [Excessive Drinking Is Dangerous](#)
 - [Vital Signs: Health Consequences of Alcohol Use in NYC](#)
 - [CHI: Brief Intervention for Excessive Drinking](#)
- Visit EpiQuery – the Health Department’s online, interactive health data system at www.nyc.gov/health/EpiQuery

My Community’s Health: Data and Statistics at
www.nyc.gov/health/mycommunityhealth