



Epi Data Brief

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

August 2011, No. 9

Alcohol Use among New York City Adolescents in 2009

Characteristics of NYC Adolescents who Drink²

- In 2009, 32% of adolescents reported drinking in the past month. Of those, 44% reported binge drinking or drinking an excess of 5 or more drinks at one time in the past 30 days.
- Older adolescents (ages 17 and older) were more likely to be current and binge drinkers compared with younger adolescents (ages 14 to 16).
- White and Hispanic adolescents were more likely to be current and binge drinkers than black and Asian adolescents.
- Queens has the lowest rate of current drinking (28%) and binge drinking (12%) among adolescents, while Staten Island has the highest rate of current drinking (37%) and binge drinking (21%) among adolescents.

National Prevalence vs. New York City Prevalence^{1,2}

- In 2009, the prevalence of drinking among adolescents was higher in the U.S. than in NYC (42% vs. 32%).
- Similarly, binge drinking was higher among adolescents nationally compared with those in NYC (24% vs. 14%).
- The rate of current drinking by NYC adolescents decreased by 20% (from 40% in 1997 to 32% in 2009).
- The rate of binge drinking also decreased by 24% (from 18% in 1997 to 14% in 2009) in NYC.

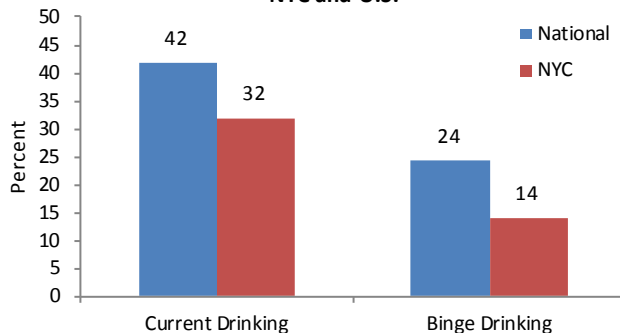
2009 Adolescent Drinking Patterns in NYC		
Characteristic	% Currently Drinking	% Binge Drinking
Overall	32.0	14.0
Sex		
Female	33.4	13.4
Male	30.5	14.6
Age Group		
≤ 14 Years	24.1	9.1
15 Years	30.7	12.5
16 Years	32.6	14.0
17 Years	42.4	21.6
≥ 18 Years	43.0	21.5
Race/Ethnicity		
Hispanic	39.9	18.7
White Non-Hispanic	42.1	20.7
Black Non-Hispanic	28.6	9.8
Asian	14.3	6.7
Other	29.8	12.9
Borough		
Bronx	33.8	14.2
Brooklyn	30.0	12.5
Manhattan	36.4	15.8
Queens	28.3	12.3
Staten Island	37.3	20.7

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2009

Definitions

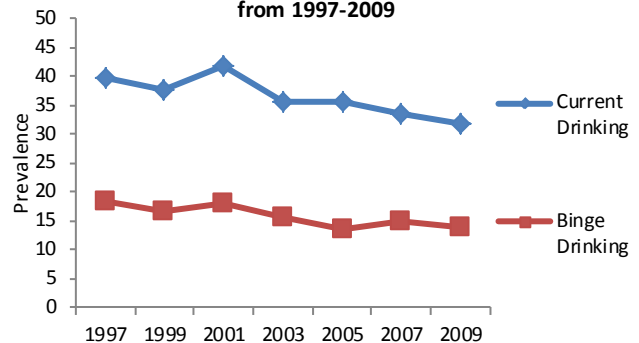
- **Current Drinking:** Having at least 1 alcoholic drink during the past 30 days.
- **Binge Drinking:** Having 5 or more alcoholic drinks in a row (within a couple of hours) at least once during the past 30 days.

Adolescent Self-Reported Alcohol Consumption, NYC and U.S.



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2009, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System 2009

Drinking Trends in NYC Adolescents from 1997-2009



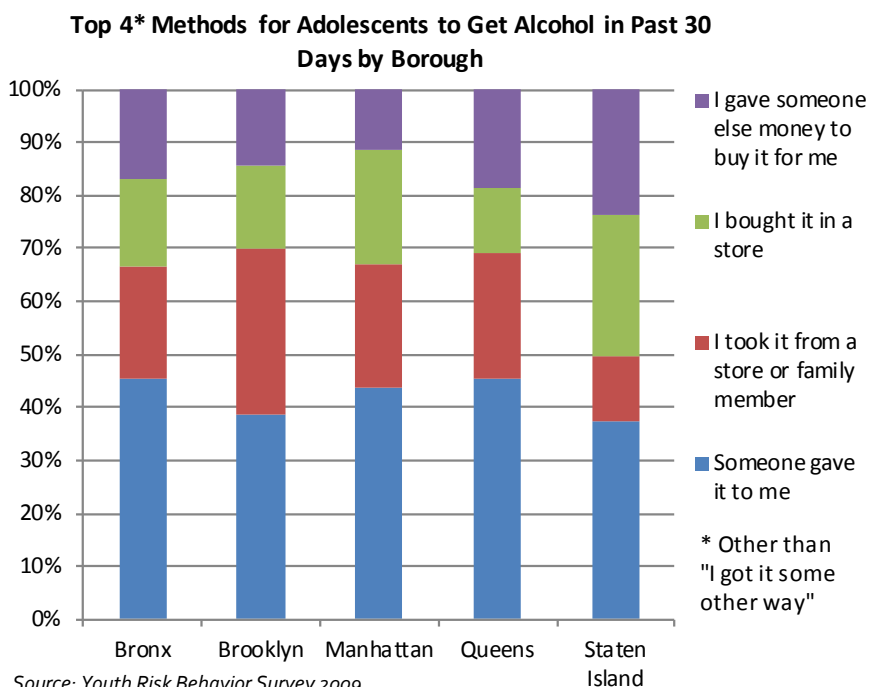
Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2009

Alcohol, Drugs, and Sex²

- NYC adolescents classified as current drinkers were more likely (47%) to be sexually active than non-current drinkers (18%). Current drinkers were also more likely (26%) to have used drugs or alcohol before their last sexual intercourse compared with those who were not current drinkers (9%).
- Current drinkers were more likely (12%) than non-drinkers (4%) to have been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to.
- Current drinkers were also more likely to have used illicit drugs compared with those who did not drink. In the previous 30 days, 35% of current drinkers had used marijuana, compared with 5% of non-drinkers.
- Current drinkers were also much more likely to have tried cocaine (9%), ecstasy (11%), and methamphetamines (6%) at some point in their lives compared with those not currently drinking (less than 1% for each substance).

How Adolescents Get Alcohol²

- NYC adolescents report obtaining alcohol from a variety of sources. Among current drinkers in NYC, the four most commonly reported sources were **getting alcohol from someone else (43%)**, **taking it from a store or family member (24%)**, **buying it in a store (17%)**, and **giving someone else money to buy it for them (16%)**.
- Adolescents in the *Bronx* (21%), *Brooklyn* (31%), *Manhattan* (23%), and *Queens* (24%) were much more likely to **take alcohol from a store or a family member** compared with those in *Staten Island* (12%).
- *Staten Island* adolescents (24%) were more likely to **give someone else money to buy them alcohol** compared with those in *Brooklyn* (14%), *Manhattan* (12%), and the *Bronx* (17%).
- Adolescents in *Staten Island* (27%) were much more likely to **buy alcohol in a store** compared with those in the *Bronx* (16%), *Brooklyn* (16%), and *Queens* (13%).



Data Sources

¹**Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System 2009:** The YRBSS is a national self-administered survey of approximately 17,000 public and private school students in grades 9 through 12, conducted in odd years by the CDC. For more survey details, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/yrbs/data/index.htm#2009>.

²**Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2009:** The YRBS 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 www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/epi/epi-srv/youthriskbehavior.shtml

Authored by:

Kacie Seil, Denise Paone

Acknowledgments:

Christa Myers, Cari Olson, Alejandro Cajigal, Daliah Heller, Jennifer Norton, Carolyn Greene, Bonnie Kerker, Adam Karpati

MORE New York City Health Data and Publications

- For complete tables of data presented in this Brief, visit www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/epi/datatable9.pdf
 - 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/nycommunityhealth.**