

## Alcohol

Alcohol is one of the most commonly used substances during adolescence.

Though underage drinking is against the law, alcohol may be easily accessible to many teens. Binge drinking (defined by the Youth Risk Behavior Survey as drinking five or more drinks within a couple of hours on at least one day in the past 30 days) can be especially dangerous as it may lead to other risky behaviors.

- Heavy drinking among youth has also been linked conclusively to physical fights, destroyed property, academic and job problems and trouble with law enforcement authorities.<sup>2</sup>
- Alcohol use has been identified as a major contributing factor in approximately half of all homicides, suicides and motor vehicle crashes which are the leading causes of death and disability among young people.<sup>15</sup>
- Underage persons who reported binge drinking were seven times more likely to report illicit drug use during the past month than underage persons who did not binge drink.<sup>19</sup>
- Binge drinking has been linked to multiple sexual partners, use of marijuana and poor academic performance.<sup>20</sup>

### HP 2010 Objectives:

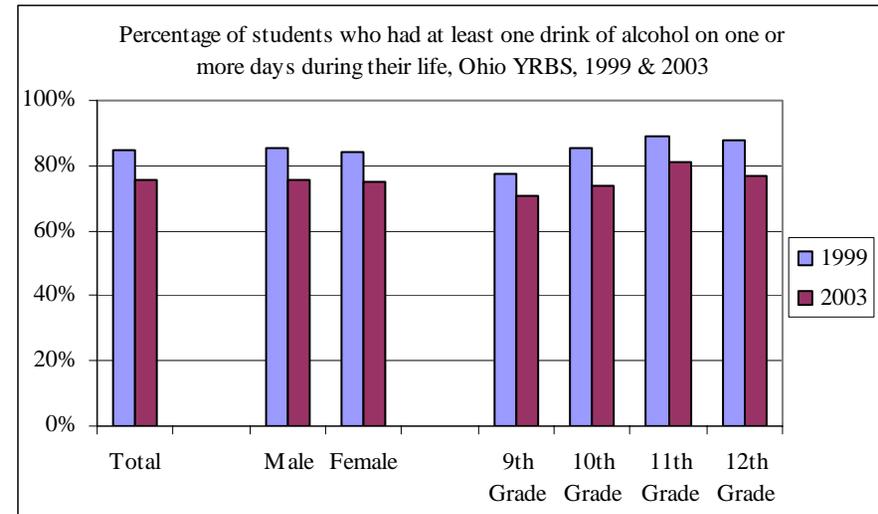
26-11d: Reduce the proportion of persons engaging in binge drinking of alcoholic beverages to no more than 2 percent for teens aged 12-17 years.

26-10a: Increase proportion of adolescents not using alcohol or any illicit drugs during the past 30 days to 89 percent.

## • Alcohol

### Q45 During your life, on how many days have you had at least one drink of alcohol?

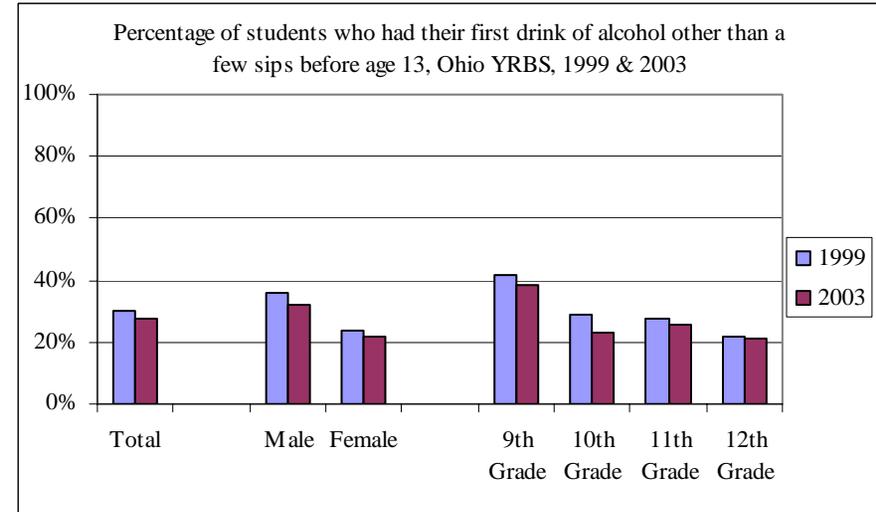
- **Most students have had at least one drink of alcohol.**
  - In 2003, 76 percent of students report having had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more days during their life.
  - There are no significant differences in drinking alcohol between males and females or by grade level.
- **Significantly fewer students report having had at least one drink of alcohol in 2003 (76 percent) than in 1999 (85 percent).**
  - This difference is significant for males, females and 10<sup>th</sup> graders.



## • Alcohol--Age at First Use

### Q46 How old were you when you had your first drink of alcohol other than a few sips?

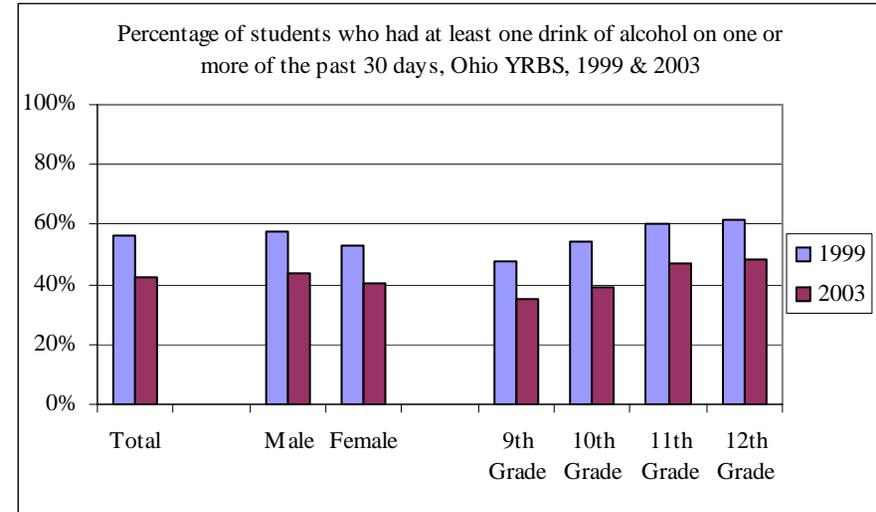
- **Approximately one-fourth of students have their first drink of alcohol before age 13.**
  - In 2003, 27 percent of students report having had their first drink of alcohol before age 13.
  - There are no significant differences in having had a first drink of alcohol before age 13 between males and females or by grade level.
- **There are no significant differences in having had a first drink of alcohol before age 13 between 1999 and 2003.**



## • Alcohol--Use in Past Month

### Q47 During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have at least one drink of alcohol?

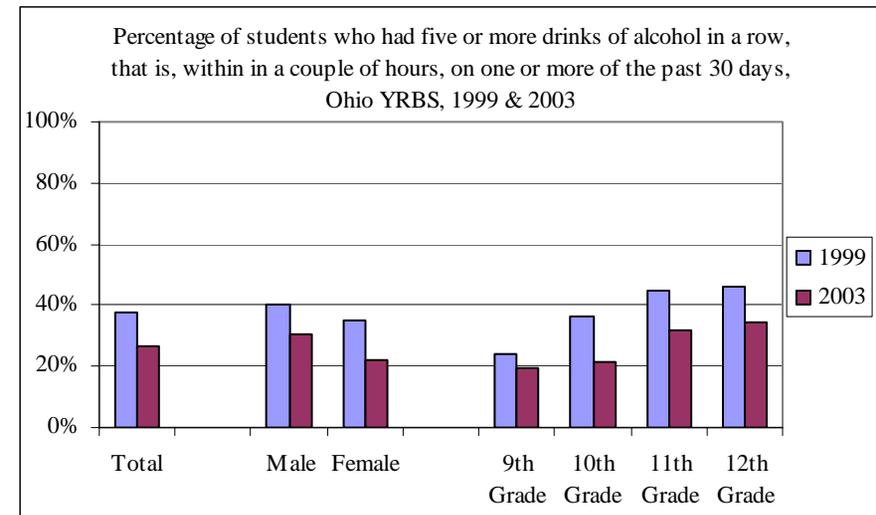
- **Almost one-half of students had a drink of alcohol in the past 30 days.**
  - In 2003, 42 percent of students report having had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more of the past 30 days.
  - There are no significant differences in having had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more of the past 30 days between males and females or by grade level.
- **Significantly fewer students report having had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more of the past 30 days in 2003 (42 percent) than in 1999 (56 percent).**
  - This difference is significant for males, females, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders.



## • Alcohol: Binge Drinking

**Q48 During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have five or more drinks of alcohol in a row, that is, within a couple of hours?**

- **Approximately one-fourth of students have five or more drinks of alcohol in a row.**
  - In 2003, 27 percent of students report having had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row within a couple of hours, on one or more of the past 30 days.
  - There are no significant differences in having had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row between males and females or by grade level.
- **Significantly fewer students report having had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row in 2003 (27 percent) than in 1999 (37 percent).**
  - This difference is significant for females and 10<sup>th</sup> graders.



## • Alcohol--Use on School Property

**Q49 During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have at least one drink of alcohol on school property?**

- **Most students do not drink alcohol on school property.**
  - In 2003, 3.9 percent of students report having had at least one drink of alcohol on school property on one or more of the past 30 days.
  - There are no significant differences in having had at least one drink of alcohol on school property between males and females or by grade level.
- **There are no significant differences in having had at least one drink of alcohol on school property between 1999 and 2003.**

