



# Trends in the Prevalence of Alcohol Use

## National YRBS: 1991–2011

The national Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) monitors priority health risk behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of death, disability, and social problems among youth and adults in the United States. The national YRBS is conducted every two years during the spring semester and provides data representative of 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in public and private schools throughout the United States.

1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	Changes from 1991–2011 <sup>1</sup>	Change from 2009–2011 <sup>2</sup>
<b>Ever had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day</b> (during their life)												
81.6 (79.4–83.7) <sup>3</sup>	80.9 (79.4–82.3)	80.4 (78.3–82.2)	79.1 (77.0–81.1)	81.0 (78.8–83.0)	78.2 (76.5–79.9)	74.9 (72.0–77.7)	74.3 (71.0–77.4)	75.0 (72.4–77.4)	72.5 (70.6–74.3)	70.8 (69.0–72.5)	No change, 1991–1999, Decreased, 1999–2011	No change
<b>Drank alcohol for the first time before age 13 years</b> (other than a few sips)												
32.7 (30.2–35.3)	32.9 (31.4–34.4)	32.4 (29.9–34.9)	31.1 (29.4–32.9)	32.2 (29.8–34.8)	29.1 (27.5–30.7)	27.8 (25.7–30.0)	25.6 (23.8–27.4)	23.8 (21.9–25.7)	21.1 (19.6–22.6)	20.5 (19.2–21.8)	No change, 1991–1999, Decreased, 1999–2011	No change
<b>Had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day</b> (during the 30 days before the survey)												
50.8 (47.9–53.7)	48.0 (45.9–50.2)	51.6 (49.2–54.1)	50.8 (47.9–53.6)	50.0 (47.4–52.7)	47.1 (44.8–49.3)	44.9 (42.5–47.4)	43.3 (40.5–46.1)	44.7 (42.4–47.0)	41.8 (40.2–43.4)	38.7 (37.2–40.3)	No change, 1991–1999 Decreased, 1999–2011	Decreased
<b>Had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row within a couple of hours on at least 1 day</b> (during the 30 days before the survey)												
31.3 (28.7–34.1)	30.0 (28.2–31.9)	32.6 (29.5–35.7)	33.4 (31.2–35.6)	31.5 (29.6–33.5)	29.9 (27.8–32.0)	28.3 (26.3–30.4)	25.5 (23.3–27.9)	26.0 (24.0–28.0)	24.2 (22.6–25.9)	21.9 (21.0–22.8)	No change, 1991–1997 Decreased, 1997–2011	Decreased
<b>Had at least one drink of alcohol on school property on at least 1 day</b> (during the 30 days before the survey)												
NA <sup>4</sup>	5.2 (4.5–6.1)	6.3 (5.5–7.2)	5.6 (5.0–6.3)	4.9 (4.1–5.7)	4.9 (4.4–5.5)	5.2 (4.3–6.2)	4.3 (3.7–4.9)	4.1 (3.5–4.8)	4.5 (3.9–5.1)	5.1 (4.5–5.8)	Decreased, 1993–2011	No change
<b>Drove when drinking alcohol one or more times</b> (a car or other vehicle during the 30 days before the survey)												
16.7 (14.9–18.7)	13.5 (11.7–15.6)	15.4 (12.3–19.1)	16.9 (14.3–19.9)	13.1 (11.9–14.3)	13.3 (11.8–14.8)	12.1 (10.8–13.4)	9.9 (8.9–11.0)	10.5 (9.3–11.9)	9.7 (8.7–10.8)	8.2 (7.6–8.8)	No change, 1991–1997 Decreased, 1997–2011	Decreased

<sup>1</sup> Based on trend analyses using a logistic regression model controlling for sex, race/ethnicity, and grade.

<sup>2</sup> Based on t-test analyses,  $p < 0.05$ .

<sup>3</sup> 95% confidence interval.

<sup>4</sup> Not available.

Where can I get more information? Visit [www.cdc.gov/yrbss](http://www.cdc.gov/yrbss) or call 800–CDC–INFO (800–232–4636).



National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention  
Division of Adolescent and School Health

