

# ALCOHOL & DRUGS

(Josh McDowell research 2006-Present)

## “National survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse XI: Teens and Parents”

“Teens who say parents are not present at the parties they attend are 16 times likelier to say alcohol is available, 15 times likelier to say illegal drugs (including marijuana, cocaine, Ecstasy, prescription drugs) are available, and 29 times likelier to say marijuana is available, compared to teens who say parents are always present at the parties they attend.”

“Eighty percent of parents believe that neither marijuana nor alcohol is usually available at parties their teens attend. BUT 50 percent of teen partygoers attend parties where alcohol, drugs (including marijuana), or both are available”

“Ninety-eight percent of parents say they are normally present during parties they allow their teens to have at home. BUT a third of teen partygoers (33 percent) report that parents are rarely or never present at parties they attend.”

“Ninety-nine percent of parents say they would not be willing to serve alcohol at their teen’s party. BUT 28 percent of teen partygoers have been at parties at home where parents were present and teens were drinking alcohol.”

“Only 12 percent of parents see drugs as their teen’s greatest concern. BUT more than twice as many teens (27 percent) say drugs are their greatest concern.”

“There is a special alert in this year’s survey for parents of young teenagers. The transition from age 13 to age 14, often when the shift from middle to high school occurs, is a time of dramatically escalating substance abuse risk.”

### “Compared to 13-year olds, 14-year olds are:

- “Four times likelier to be offered prescription drugs;”
- “Three times likelier to be offered Ecstasy;”
- “Three times likelier to be offered marijuana;”
- “Two times likelier to be offered cocaine.”

“Fourteen-year olds are also likelier than 13-year olds to attend parties at which parents are present and teens are using drugs or alcohol.”

### “Compared to 13-year olds, 14-year olds are:”

- “Almost three times likelier to attend parties where teens are drinking alcohol and parents are present;”
- “Two times likelier to attend parties where teens are smoking pot and parents are present; and”
- “Four times likelier to attend parties where teens are using other drugs and parents are present.”

“The move from 13 to 14 is the biggest drug divide of all the teens years.”

“Risk continues to escalate throughout the teen years such that by the time a teen reaches age 17:”

- “One in four (26 percent) will know someone their age that was a victim of gun violence;”
- “Twenty-seven percent will have witnessed drug sales in their neighborhood;”
- “More than two-thirds (70 percent) will have been offered an illegal drug; and”
- “Almost half (46 percent) will have attended a party at which teens were drinking alcohol, smoking pot, or using cocaine, Ecstasy or prescription drugs while a parent was at home.”

(“National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse XI: Teens and Parents,” The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, August 2006, [www.casacolumbia.org](http://www.casacolumbia.org))

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**“NEW REPORT ON ALARMING TRENDS IN GIRLS’ USE OF DRUGS, ALCOHOL, CIGARETTES, AND PRESCRIPTION DRUGS”**

“Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) John P. Walters, Seventeen magazine, and teen medical experts today released a new analysis of recent findings on drug and alcohol use trends among girls. Despite commonly held beliefs that boys are at higher risk for using illegal substances, data indicate that girls have caught up with boys in illicit drug and alcohol use and have actually surpassed boys in cigarette and prescription drug use. There are also more girls who are new users of substances than boys.”

(“New Report on Alarming Trends in Girls’ Use of Drugs, Alcohol, Cigarettes, and Prescription Drugs,” Media Campaign, February 2006, [www.mediacampaign.org/newsroom/press06/020906.html](http://www.mediacampaign.org/newsroom/press06/020906.html))

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**“TEEN DRUG USE CONTINUES DOWN IN 2006, PARTICULARLY AMONG OLDER TEENS; BUT USE OF PRESCRIPTION-TYPE DRUGS REMAINS HIGH”**

“The percentage of U.S. adolescents who use illicit drugs or drink alcohol continued a decade-long drop in 2006, according to the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Monitoring the Future survey of 50,000 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders in more than 400 schools nationwide.”

“This year’s survey reveals that a fifth (21 percent) of today’s 8<sup>th</sup> graders, over a third (36 percent) of 10<sup>th</sup> grade, and about half (48 percent) of all 12th graders have ever taken *any illicit drug* during their lifetime.”

“However, the declines since last year are relatively small – only 0.7, 1.0, and 1.9 percentage points, respectively. (The 2005-2006 decline is statistically significant for the three grades combine, but not for any one grade taken individually.)”

(“Teen drug use continues down in 2006, particularly among older teens; but use of prescription-type drugs remains high,” from University of Michigan News Service, December 21, 2006, [http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/pressreleases/06drugpr\\_complete.pdf](http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/pressreleases/06drugpr_complete.pdf))

**“50% - percentage of 12-to-17-year-olds surveyed who said drugs, alcohol or both are available at teen parties.”**

- “50% - percentage of 12-to-17-year-olds surveyed who said drugs, alcohol or both are available at teen parties.”
- “80% - percentage of parents who do not think alcohol or marijuana is available at teen parties.”

(“Notebook: Numbers” *Time Magazine*, August 28, 2006).

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### **“A PORTRAIT OF THE TYPICAL SCHOOL-AGE METH USER”**

“The typical student user of methamphetamines is a 17-year old white male who lives with both parents, first tried meth at age 12.6 years, under performs in the classroom, and does not view the drug as harmful to the health, according to data collected by Pride Surveys from more than 3,000 self-reported users of meth in grades 6-12.”

“More than half (51.1%) find meth to be ‘very easy’ to obtain. Another 12.5% said ‘fairly easy.’ Nearly a third said their parents would not find it wrong if they used marijuana (33.4%) or other illicit drugs (30.4%).”

“Both parents of the meth user are likely to be fully employed; most graduated from high school and attended or graduated from college.”

“Three-fourths of the student meth users (77.3%) said their friends use marijuana sometimes, or more frequently, with more than half (51.9%) smoking pot ‘a lot.’”

“Before the 2005-06 school year, Pride Surveys added a specific ‘meth’ category to its anonymous student questionnaire. The question asks: ‘Within the past year how often have you used meth (crystal, ice, crank, etc.)?’”

“Among all 101,141 student responses contained in the Pride Survey for Grades 6-12 National Summary 2006, 3.1% reported that they used meth at least once in the past year, while 2% reported monthly use. Data describing the typical meth user in this article represent a subset of 3,019 students in the National Summary who self-reported at least annual use of meth on the revised questionnaire.”

“In the meth users’ subset, 51.9% stated their ethnicity as white; 61.1% checked their gender as male; 18.1% gave their age as 17; and 42.2% said they live with both parents.”

(“A Portrait of the Typical School-Age Meth User,” Pride Surveys, January 24, 2007, <http://www.pridesurveys.com/newsletters/archive/012407.htm>)

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### **“ALCOHOL ABUSE”**

“The *Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine* surveyed more than 43,000 adults and found that 47 percent of those who began drinking before age 14 had alcohol problems later in life, compared with just 9 percent of those who started drinking at age 21. ‘The younger they are when they begin to drink, the more likely they are to develop heavy drinking problems’ said lead author Ralph Hingson, director of epidemiology and prevention at the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.”

“The question is an urgent one, with two thirds of ninth graders saying they had tried alcohol at least once, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.”

(“New Science Shows Teen Drinking Threatens Brain Development,” *U.S. News and World Report*, September 4, 2006)

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### “GEN NEXT”

“75% of Gen Next Americans (ages 18-25) say today’s youth are more likely to have casual sex than were young people 20 years ago. Only 7% say their generation has less casual sex, and 17% say it’s about the same. 70% of Nexters resort to violence to solve conflicts more often than the previous generation, and 69% engage more often in binge drinking and illegal drug use (63%) when compared with their predecessors.”

(Pew Research Center, 2/23/07)

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### “PARENTS CAN MAKE REAL DIFFERENCE IN PROTECTING TEENS FROM ALCOHOL UNDERSTANDING WHAT TO KNOW, SAY, DO VITAL”

“Unfortunately, that nightmare is all too real of a possibility, even if the teenager is the perfect kid in so many ways. Indeed, about 80 percent of high school seniors say they’ve used alcohol, the Institute for Social Research notes. And it’s a problem that often starts just as the teen years begin. About 52 percent of all eighth-graders have used alcohol.”

(“Parents can make real difference in protecting teens from alcohol Understanding what to know, say, do vital,” *The Desert Sun*, July 2006, [www.thedesertsun.com](http://www.thedesertsun.com))

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### “THE DANGERS OF YOUTH DRINKING”

“Yearly college campus deaths to which drinking contributed: 1,700”

- “Yearly college campus injuries to which drinking contributed: 600,000”
- “Eighth graders who drink at least one alcoholic beverage a month: 20%”
- “13-year-olds who have experimented with alcohol: 30%”

- “Underage drinkers who binge (five or more drinks in two hours) at least once a month: 7.4 million”
- “Ninth-grade boys who binge drink once a month: 19%”
- “Ninth-grade girls who binge drink once a month: 21%”

Source: Ladies’ Home Journal, January 2006

(“The Dangers of Youth Drinking,” [www.journalofstudentministries.com](http://www.journalofstudentministries.com), p19 August 21st, 2007)

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### “WOMEN UNDER THE INFLUENCE”

“Compared to boys and men, girls and women get addicted to alcohol, nicotine, and illegal and prescription drugs and develop substance-related disease at lower levels of use and in shorter periods of time. They develop substance-related lung cancer and cirrhosis, and suffer brain damage from alcohol and drugs like Ecstasy, more swiftly.”

“*Women Under the Influence* finds that some 15 million girls and women use illicit drugs and misuse prescription drugs, 32 million smoke cigarettes, and six million abuse or are addicted to alcohol. Millions die of heart disease, stroke, cancer and respiratory ailments like emphysema that are caused or exacerbated by their substance abuse.”

“High school girls in their teens have closed the gender gap and smoke, drink and use illegal drugs as much as their male classmates. Girls and young women are likelier to abuse substances to control weight, reduce sexual inhibitions and self-medicate depression. The book also shows how girls and women exhibit different risks for and signs of abuse compared to boys and men.”

(Book Review, “Women Under the Influence,” *Casa Inside*, The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, Winter, 2006: 1.)

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