

Table 3.98

Alcohol use and underage alcohol use in the last 30 days

By age group, level of use, and demographic characteristics, United States, 2002 and 2003

(Percent reporting use in last 30 days)

| | Total | | | | | | Under 21 years | | | | | |
|---|---------|-------|--------------------------|-------|------------------------|------|----------------|-------|--------------------------|-------|------------------------|------|
| | Any use | | "Binge" use ^a | | Heavy use ^a | | Any use | | "Binge" use ^a | | Heavy use ^a | |
| | 2002 | 2003 | 2002 | 2003 | 2002 | 2003 | 2002 | 2003 | 2002 | 2003 | 2002 | 2003 |
| Total | 51.0% | 50.1% | 22.9% | 22.6% | 6.7% | 6.8% | 28.8% | 29.0% | 19.3% | 19.2% | 6.2% | 6.1% |
| Sex | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 57.4 | 57.3 | 31.2 | 30.9 | 10.8 | 10.4 | 29.6 | 29.9 | 21.8 | 21.7 | 8.1 | 7.9 |
| Female | 44.9 | 43.2 | 15.1 | 14.8 | 3.0 | 3.4 | 28.0 | 28.1 | 16.7 | 16.5 | 4.2 | 4.3 |
| Age group | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 to 17 years | 17.6 | 17.7 | 10.7 | 10.6 | 2.5 | 2.6 | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 18 to 25 years | 60.5 | 61.4 | 40.9 | 41.6 | 14.9 | 15.1 | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 26 years and older | 53.9 | 52.5 | 21.4 | 21.0 | 5.9 | 5.9 | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Race, ethnicity | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White, non-Hispanic | 55.0 | 54.4 | 23.4 | 23.6 | 7.5 | 7.7 | 32.8 | 33.2 | 22.7 | 22.8 | 7.9 | 8.0 |
| Black, non-Hispanic | 39.9 | 37.9 | 21.0 | 19.0 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 19.3 | 18.2 | 9.8 | 9.1 | 2.0 | 1.6 |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | 44.7 | 42.0 | 27.9 | 29.6 | 8.7 | 10.0 | 32.4 | 26.0 | 22.6 | 20.8 | 3.1 | 4.0 |
| Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander | B | 43.3 | 25.2 | 29.8 | 8.3 | 10.4 | B | B | B | B | 1.5 | 5.7 |
| Asian | 37.1 | 39.8 | 12.4 | 11.0 | 2.6 | 2.3 | 15.5 | 18.2 | 8.6 | 9.6 | 1.8 | 3.1 |
| More than one race | 49.9 | 44.4 | 19.8 | 21.8 | 7.5 | 6.1 | 28.1 | 27.7 | 19.8 | 16.5 | 8.2 | 2.9 |
| Hispanic | 42.8 | 41.5 | 24.8 | 24.2 | 5.9 | 5.2 | 25.0 | 25.6 | 16.8 | 16.9 | 4.3 | 4.1 |

Note: See Note, table 3.86. For information on survey methodology, see Appendix 7.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Results from the 2003 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings* (Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2004), pp. 208, 212. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

^a"Binge" alcohol use is defined as drinking five or more drinks on the same occasion on at least 1 day in the past 30 days. "Occasion" means at the same time or within a couple hours of each other. Heavy alcohol use is defined as drinking five or more drinks on the same occasion on each of 5 or more days in the past 30 days; all heavy alcohol users are also "binge" alcohol users.