Alcohol Consumption

Binge drinking:

- Eighteen percent of Pennsylvania adults reported in 2011 that they were binge drinkers.
- Pennsylvania women had a significantly lower percentage (13 percent, CI: 12-14) compared to Pennsylvania men (24 percent, CI: 22-26).
- Pennsylvania adults age 30-44 had a significantly lower percentage (25 percent, CI: 22-27) compared to Pennsylvania adults age 18-29 (32 percent, CI: 28-35).
- Pennsylvania adults age 45-64 had a significantly lower percentage (16 percent, CI: 14-17) compared to Pennsylvania adults age 18-29 (32 percent, CI: 28-35).
- Pennsylvania adults age 45-64 had a significantly lower percentage (16 percent, CI: 14-17) compared to Pennsylvania adults age 30-44 (25 percent, CI: 22-27).
- Pennsylvania adults age 65 and older had a significantly lower percentage (4 percent, CI: 3-4) compared to Pennsylvania adults age 18-29 (32 percent, CI: 28-35).
- Pennsylvania adults age 65 and older had a significantly lower percentage (4 percent, CI: 3-4) compared to Pennsylvania adults age 30-44 (25 percent, CI: 22-27).
- Pennsylvania adults age 65 and older had a significantly lower percentage (4 percent, CI: 3-4) compared to Pennsylvania adults age 45-64 (16 percent, CI: 14-17).
- Pennsylvania adults with a high school education had a significantly lower percentage (16 percent, CI: 14-18) compared to Pennsylvania adults with a college degree (22 percent, CI: 20-24).
- Pennsylvania adults with household incomes of $15,000 to $24,999 had a significantly lower percentage (14 percent, CI: 12-17) compared to Pennsylvania adults with household incomes of $75,000 or more (24 percent, CI: 21-27).

Definition: For this survey, binge drinking is defined as having five or more alcoholic drinks on one occasion for men or four or more for women.

At risk for problem drinking:

- Seven percent of Pennsylvania adults reported in 2011 that they were at risk for problem drinking.
- Pennsylvania women had a significantly lower percentage (5 percent, CI: 4-6) compared to Pennsylvania men (8 percent, CI: 7-9).
- Pennsylvania adults age 45-64 had a significantly lower percentage (6 percent, CI: 5-7) compared to Pennsylvania adults age 18-29 (10 percent, CI: 8-13).
- Pennsylvania adults age 65 and older had a significantly lower percentage (3 percent, CI: 2-4) compared to Pennsylvania adults age 18-29 (10 percent, CI: 8-13).
- Pennsylvania adults age 65 and older had a significantly lower percentage (3 percent, CI: 2-4) compared to Pennsylvania adults age 30-44 (7 percent, CI: 6-9).
- Pennsylvania adults age 65 and older had a significantly lower percentage (3 percent, CI: 2-4) compared to Pennsylvania adults age 45-64 (6 percent, CI: 5-7).

Definition: For this survey, being at risk for problem drinking is defined as having greater than two drinks per day for men and greater than one drink per day for women.

Alcohol Consumption

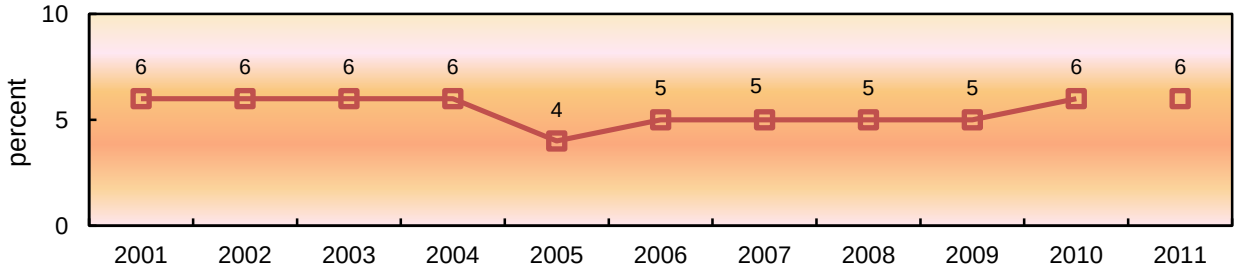
Chronic drinking:

- Six percent of Pennsylvania adults reported in 2011 that they were chronic drinkers.
- Pennsylvania women had a significantly lower percentage (2 percent, CI: 2-3) compared to Pennsylvania men (11 percent, CI: 10-12).
- Pennsylvania adults age 65 and older had a significantly lower percentage (4 percent, CI: 3-5) compared to Pennsylvania adults age 18-29 (9 percent, CI: 7-11).
- Pennsylvania adults age 65 and older had a significantly lower percentage (4 percent, CI: 3-5) compared to Pennsylvania adults age 30-44 (7 percent, CI: 6-9).

Definition: For this survey, chronic drinking is defined as having an average of two or more drinks per day for the past 30 days.

Alcohol Consumption

Figure 17A: Chronic Drinking, Pennsylvania Adults, 2001-2011*



*A change in the survey methodology creates a discontinuity for 2011. Please refer to the technical notes for more information.

Table 17: Alcohol Consumption, Pennsylvania Adults, 2011 (with 95% confidence intervals)

	Binge Drinking* **		At Risk for Problem Drinking* ***		Chronic Drinking * ****	
	%	CI	%	CI	%	CI
All Adults	18	17-20	7	6-7	6	6-7
Gender:						
Male	24	22-26	8	7-9	11	10-12
Female	13	12-14	5	4-6	2	2-3
Age:						
18-29	32	28-35	10	8-13	9	7-11
30-44	25	22-27	7	6-9	7	6-9
45-64	16	14-17	6	5-7	6	5-7
65+	4	3-4	3	2-4	4	3-5
Education:						
<High School	16	13-21	5	3-7	5	3-7
High School	16	14-18	6	5-8	7	6-8
Some College	19	17-22	7	6-9	6	5-8
College Degree	22	20-24	7	6-9	6	5-8
Household Income:						
<$15,000	17	14-21	4	3-7	5	4-8
$15,000 to $24,999	14	12-17	7	5-9	5	4-7
$25,000 to $49,999	19	16-21	7	6-9	7	5-8
$50,000 to $74,999	20	17-23	6	5-8	6	4-8
$75,000+	24	21-27	9	7-11	9	7-11
Race:						
White, non-Hispanic	18	17-19	7	6-7	6	6-7
Black, non-Hispanic	20	16-25	7	4-10	6	4-9
Hispanic	22	16-29	7	3-13	4	2-9

* Excludes missing, don't know, and refused

** Defined as having greater than five or more drinks on one occasion for men and having four or more drinks on one occasion for women

*** Defined as adult men having more than two drinks per day and adult women having more than one drink per day

**** Defined as having an average of two drinks or more every day for the past 30 days

Note: When comparing demographic estimates, confidence intervals that do not overlap indicate a significant difference.

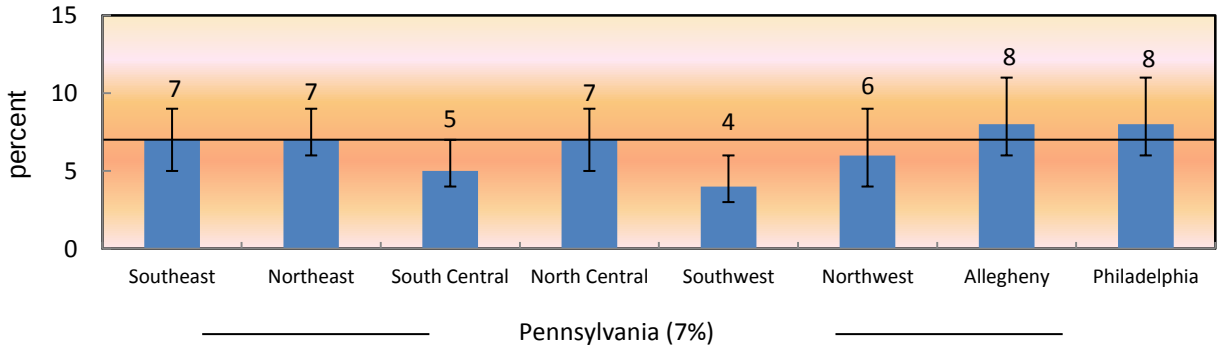



Figure 17B: At Risk for Problem Drinking, PA Health Districts vs. Pennsylvania, 2011