Alcohol Consumption

Binge drinking:

- Eighteen percent of Pennsylvania adults indicated in 2012 that they were binge drinkers.
- Pennsylvania women had a significantly lower percentage (13 percent, CI: 12-14) compared to Pennsylvania men (24 percent, CI: 22-25).
- Pennsylvania adults age 30-44 had a significantly lower percentage (22 percent, CI: 20-24) compared to Pennsylvania adults age 18-29 (32 percent, CI: 30-35).
- Pennsylvania adults age 45-64 had a significantly lower percentage (15 percent, CI: 14-16) compared to Pennsylvania adults age 18-29 (32 percent, CI: 30-35) and adults age 30-44 (22 percent, CI: 20-24).
- Pennsylvania adults age 65 and older had a significantly lower percentage (5 percent, CI: 5-6) compared to Pennsylvania adults age 18-29 (32 percent, CI: 30-35), adults age 30-44 (22 percent, CI: 20-24) and adults age 45-64 (15 percent, CI: 14-16).
- Pennsylvania adults with less than a high school education had a significantly lower percentage (14 percent, CI: 11-17) compared to Pennsylvania adults with some college education (20 percent, CI: 18-22) and adults with a college degree (20 percent, CI: 18-21).
- Pennsylvania adults with household incomes of less than $15,000 had a significantly lower percentage (15 percent, CI: 13-18) compared to Pennsylvania adults with household incomes of $75,000 or more (23 percent, CI: 21-25).
- Pennsylvania adults with household incomes of $15,000 to $24,999 had a significantly lower percentage (15 percent, CI: 13-18) compared to Pennsylvania adults with household incomes of $75,000 or more (23 percent, CI: 21-25).
- Pennsylvania adults with household incomes of $25,000 to $49,999 had a significantly lower percentage (18 percent, CI: 16-20) compared to Pennsylvania adults with household incomes of $75,000 or more (23 percent, CI: 21-25).

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:

- Six percent of Pennsylvania adults reported in 2012 that they were at risk for problem drinking.
- Pennsylvania women had a significantly lower percentage (5 percent, CI: 4-5) compared to Pennsylvania men (7 percent, CI: 6-8).
- Pennsylvania adults age 30-44 had a significantly lower percentage (6 percent, CI: 5-7) compared to Pennsylvania adults age 18-29 (9 percent, CI: 8-11).
- Pennsylvania adults age 45-64 had a significantly lower percentage (6 percent, CI: 5-6) compared to Pennsylvania adults age 18-29 (9 percent, CI: 8-11).
- Pennsylvania adults age 65 and older had a significantly lower percentage (3 percent, CI: 2-4) compared to Pennsylvania adults age 18-29 (9 percent, CI: 8-11), adults age 30-44 (6 percent, CI: 5-7) and adults age 45-64 (6 percent, CI: 5-6).

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.

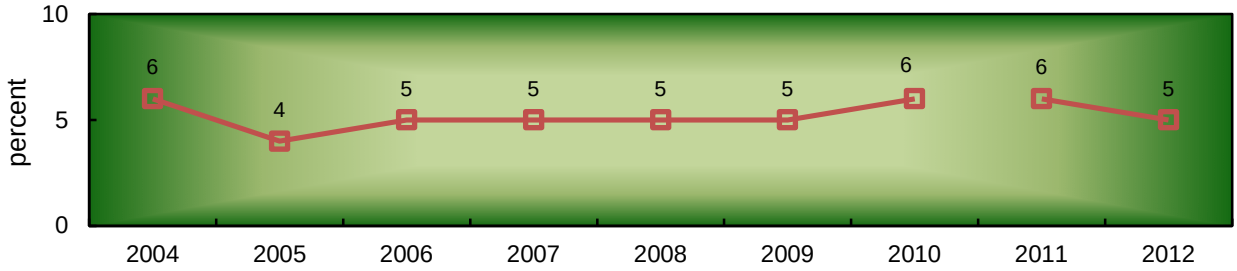
Chronic drinking:

- Five percent of Pennsylvania adults indicated in 2012 that they were chronic drinkers.
- Pennsylvania women had a significantly lower percentage (2 percent, CI: 2-3) compared to Pennsylvania men (9 percent, CI: 8-10).
- Pennsylvania adults age 65 and older had a significantly lower percentage (4 percent, CI: 3-5) compared to Pennsylvania adults age 18-29 (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 14A: Chronic Drinking, Pennsylvania Adults, 2004-2012*



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

Table 14: Alcohol Consumption, Pennsylvania Adults, 2012 (with 95% confidence intervals)

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

* 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.

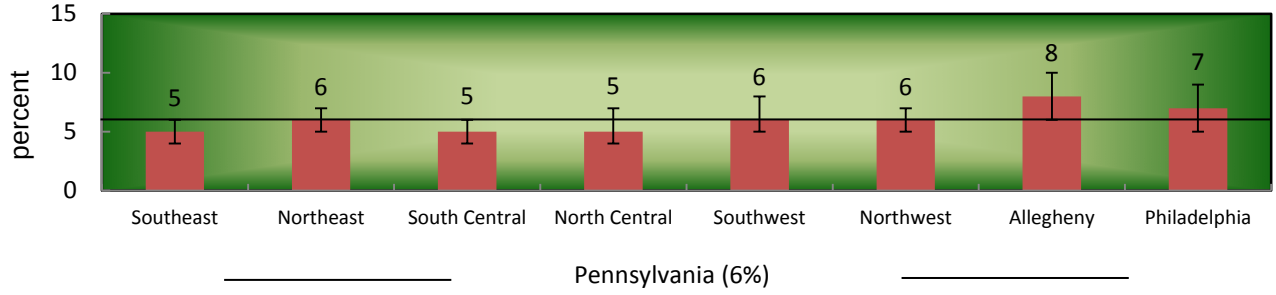



Figure 14B: At Risk for Problem Drinking, Pa. Health Districts vs. Pennsylvania, 2012