

OKLAHOMA YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY 2007

Alcohol

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports that every year approximately 75,000 deaths are associated with excessive alcohol consumption.¹ Among 15-20 year-olds involved in fatal crashes nationally, 22% of drivers had been drinking alcohol. Twenty-four percent of fatalities among those aged 15 and younger are associated with alcohol use.² Alcohol consumption also increases the possibility an adolescent will engage in risky behaviors. It has been linked to increased injuries, fights, academic problems, and illegal behaviors. Drinking heavily among youth is associated not only with risky sexual behaviors, but also the use of cigarettes, marijuana, cocaine, and other illegal drugs.³ Alcohol is also dangerous to the developing adolescent brain. Research shows that as the period of adolescence is entered, the brain undergoes tremendous changes. These changes affect decision making, sleep patterns, impulse control, etc. Studies have shown that alcohol affects a maturing brain differently than it does a fully matured brain. Adolescents are at a greater risk than adults for memory impairment due to alcohol. Alcohol also impedes an adolescent's ability to produce new memories. These studies also show that repeated exposure to alcohol by an adolescent leads to deficits in cognitive abilities, including both learning and memory. These deficits are long-lasting. Alcohol use among adolescents significantly interferes with the maturing brain, changing the course of its development.⁴

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2007 YRBS Findings:

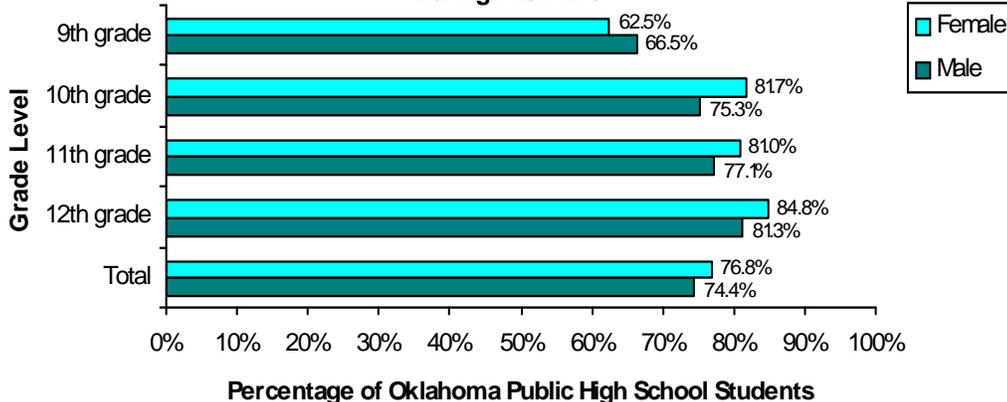
Three-fourths of students have had at least one drink of alcohol.

Over one-fifth of students had driven a car while drinking alcohol.

Over one-fourth of students had ridden in a car with someone who had been drinking alcohol.

Over 40% of students had alcohol in the past 30 days.

Oklahoma YRBS 2007: Students Who Had At Least One Drink of Alcohol During Their Life



◆ Twelfth grade females reported a higher percentage of ever drinking alcohol than any other grade of females or males of any grade.

◆ Almost two-thirds of students have tried alcohol by the time they are in the ninth grade.

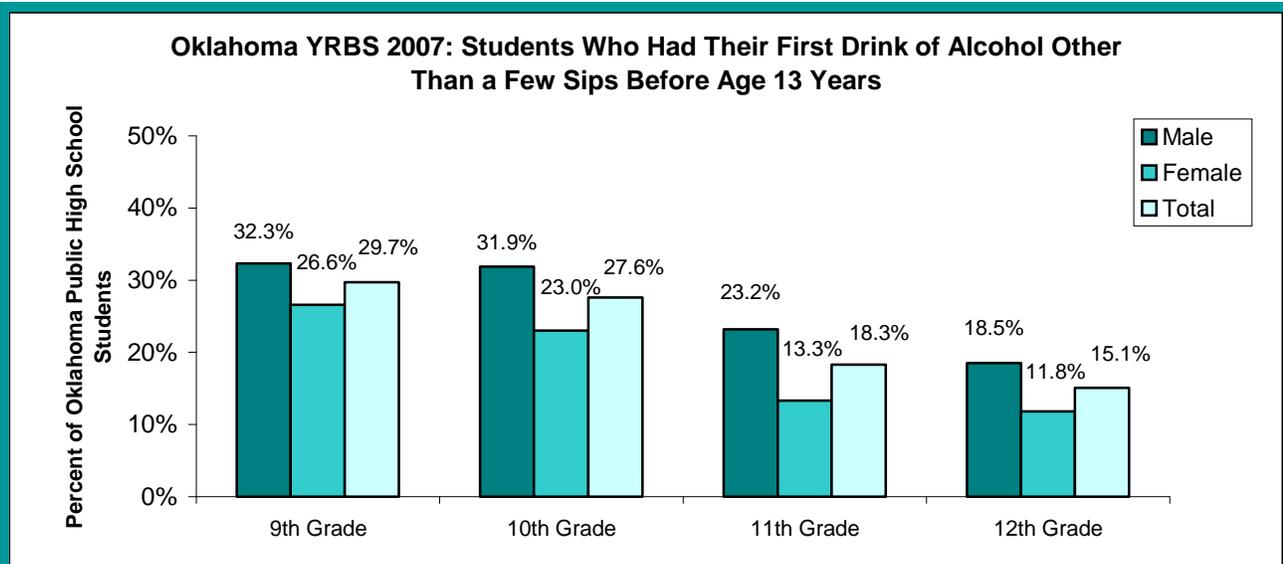


Oklahoma State
Department of Health
An AA/EEO Employer

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) was developed by the Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH), National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The YRBS is administered to students in grades 9-12 who attend Oklahoma public high schools. The survey is administered every odd year. It serves to monitor risk behaviors among adolescents that are the leading contributors of mortality, morbidity, and social problems among youth and adults. The behaviors covered in the YRBS fall into six categories: intentional and unintentional injury, tobacco use, alcohol and other drug use, sexual behaviors, dietary behaviors and physical activity. All data are self-reported. Data in this report were provided by the CDC. The data in this report are statistically weighted to represent all Oklahoma public high school students. The results presented reflect observed rates and do not necessarily represent statistically significant differences.

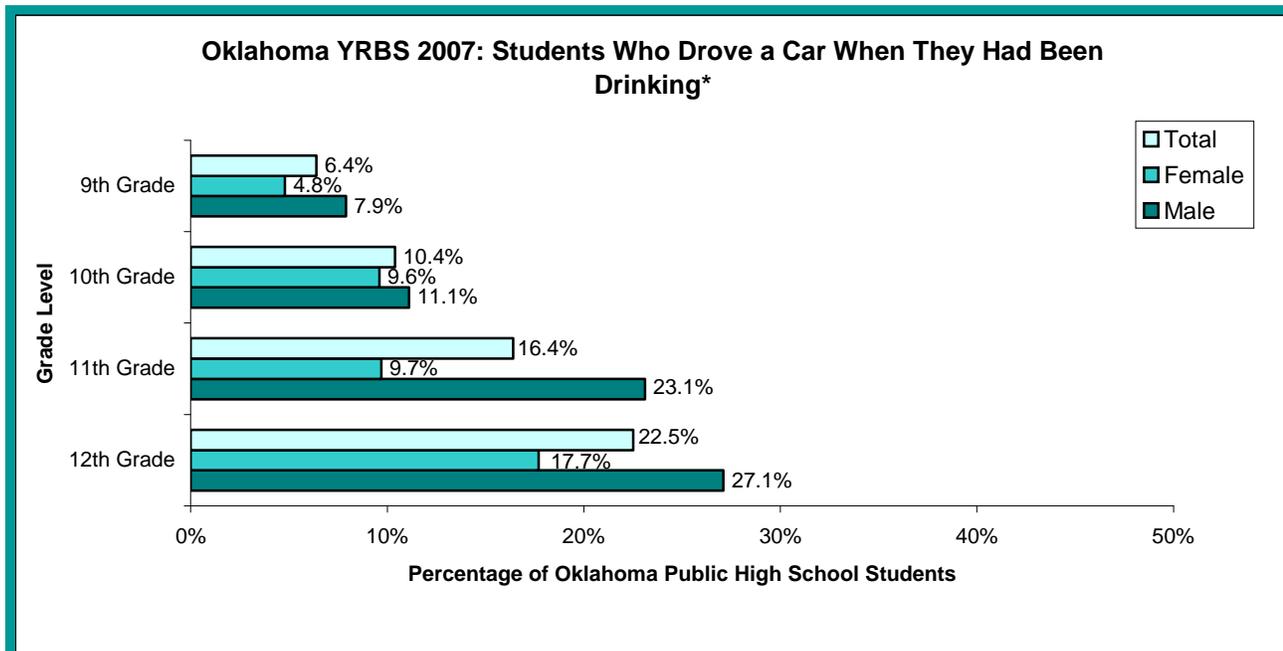
Funding for the YRBS project is provided in part by the CDC. (Grant Number U87/CCU622647-04-05), Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Department of Health and Human Services (Grant Number B04MC08929). This publication, printed by the Oklahoma State Department of Health, was authorized by James M. Crutcher, MD, MPH, Commissioner of Health and State Health Officer. Five hundred copies were printed in January, 2009 at a cost of \$145. Copies have been deposited with the Publications Clearinghouse of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. For more information regarding the YRBS, contact the Maternal and Child Health Service at (405) 271-6761.

Oklahoma YRBS 2007 Results for Alcohol



◆ Males in each grade consistently reported higher percentages of drinking alcohol before the age of 13 years than did their female

◆ Twelfth grade females reported the lowest percentage of having their first drink of alcohol before the age of 13 years.

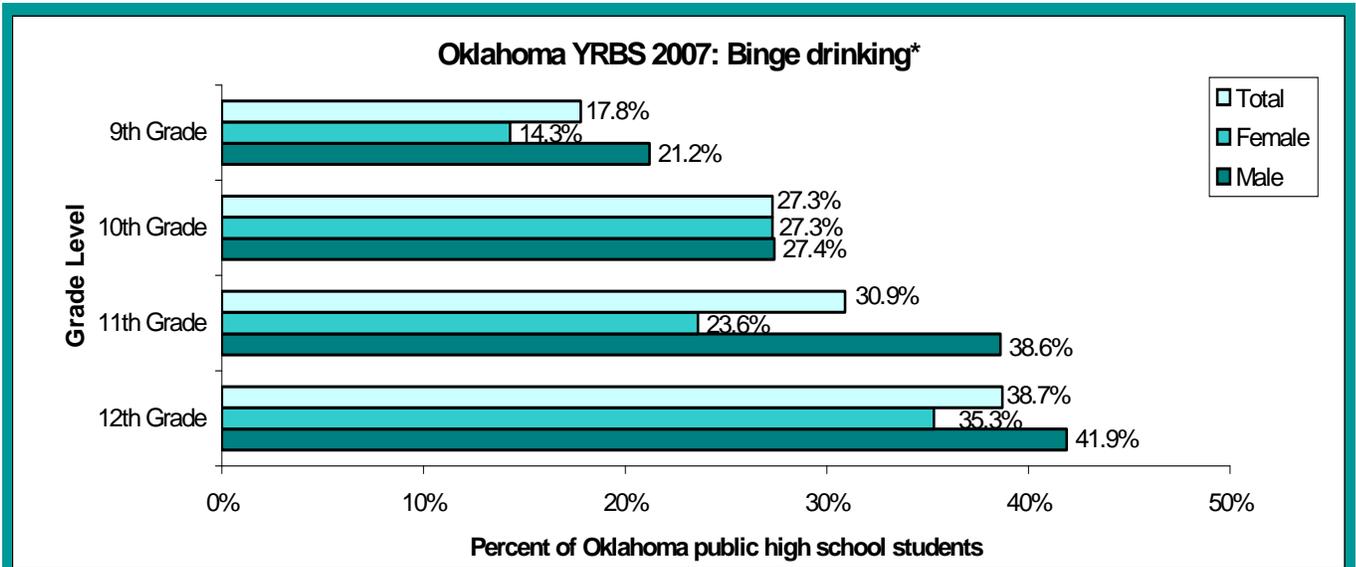


◆ Twelfth grade males reported the highest percentage of driving a car while drinking alcohol.

◆ Over one-fifth of all students had driven a car while drinking alcohol.

* Percentage of students who drove a car or other vehicle one or more times during the past 30 days when they had been drinking alcohol.

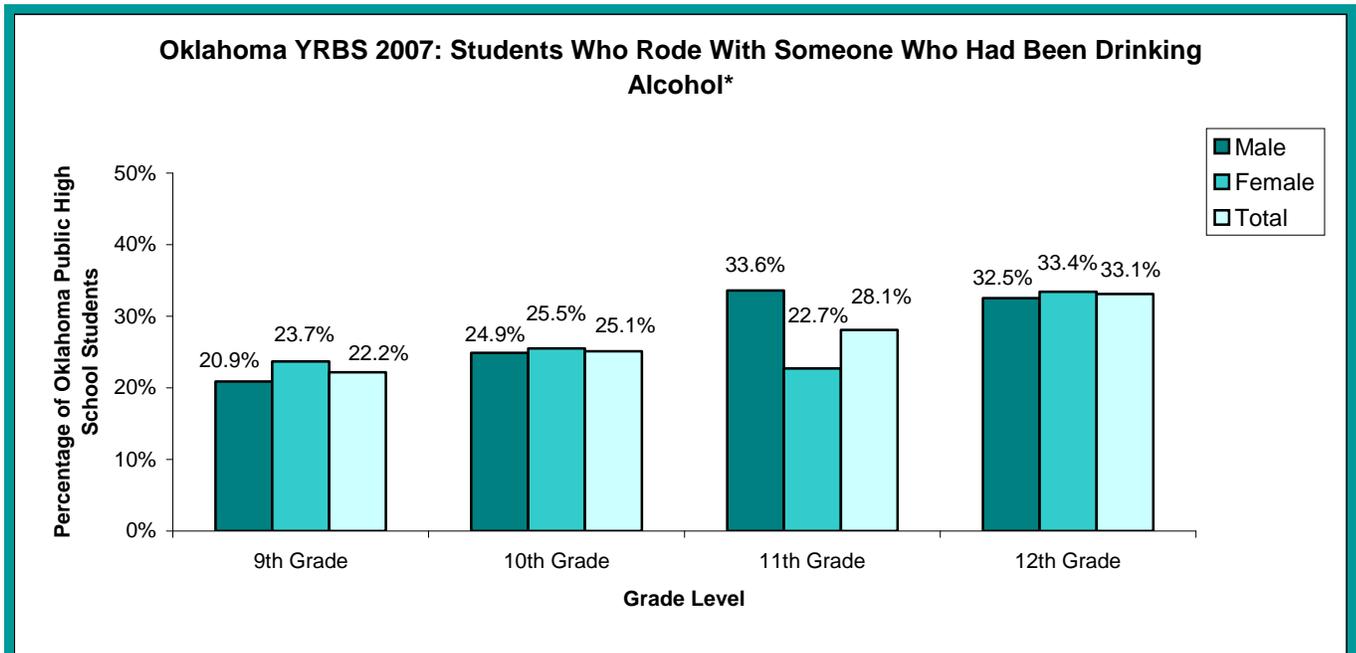
Oklahoma YRBS 2007 Results for Alcohol



◆ Males reported higher percentages of binge drinking compared to females.

◆ Ninth grade females reported the lowest percentage of binge drinking.

*Five or more drinks in a row, that is, within a couple of hours on one or more of the past 30 days.



◆ One-third of all twelfth graders had ridden with someone who had been drinking alcohol.

◆ Eleventh grade males reported the highest percentage of riding with someone who had been drinking alcohol.

* Percentage of students who rode one or more times during the past 30 days in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol.

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Summary Table

SURVEY QUESTION	National % 2007	OK % 2007	GENDER %		GRADE %				Trends %		
			M	F	9	10	11	12	2003	2005	2007
Students who rode one or more times during the past 30 days in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol.	29.1	26.8	27.5	26.0	22.2	25.1	28.1	33.1	30.6	25.8	26.8
Students who drove a car or other vehicle one or more times during the past 30 days when they had been drinking alcohol.	10.5	13.3	16.5	10.0	6.4	10.4	16.4	22.5	17.5	12.3	13.3
Students who had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more days during their life.	75.0	75.6	74.4	76.8.	64.6	78.4	79.2	82.9	78.6	76.5	75.6
Students who had their first drink of alcohol other than a few sips before age 13 years.	23.8	23.3	27.2	19.2	29.7	27.6	18.3	15.1	26.8	25.2	23.3
Students who had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more of the past 30 days.	44.7	43.1	46.2	40.2	32.3	42.6	46.5	54.3	47.8	40.5	43.1
Students who had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row, that is, within a couple of hours on one or more of the past 30 days.	26.0	27.9	31.3	24.5	17.8	27.3	30.9	38.7	34.0	26.6	27.9
Among students who reported current alcohol use, the percentage who usually got the alcohol they drank by buying it in a store such as a liquor store, a convenient store, supermarket, discount store, or gas station during the past 30 days.	5.2	5.3	7.4	2.8	2.2	3.1	6.8	8.3	*	*	5.3
Students who had at least one drink of alcohol on school property on one or more of the past 30 days.	4.1	5.0	5.8	4.1	4.2	6.5	3.6	5.5	3.2	3.8	5.0

* Not on questionnaire

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Alcohol-Related Disease Impact (ARDI). Atlanta, GA: CDC. Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/ardi.htm>. Accessed March 28, 2008
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Traffic Safety Facts: Young Drivers. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Web site. Available at <http://www.nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/809918.PDF> Retrieved October 8, 2008
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2007). *Handbook for Conducting Youth Risk Behavior Surveys 2007*. Division of Adolescent and School Health.
- White A., *Alcohol and the adolescent brain*. Retrieved electronically June 6, 2008 from: <http://www.duke.edu/~amwhite/Adolescence/adolescent8.html>.