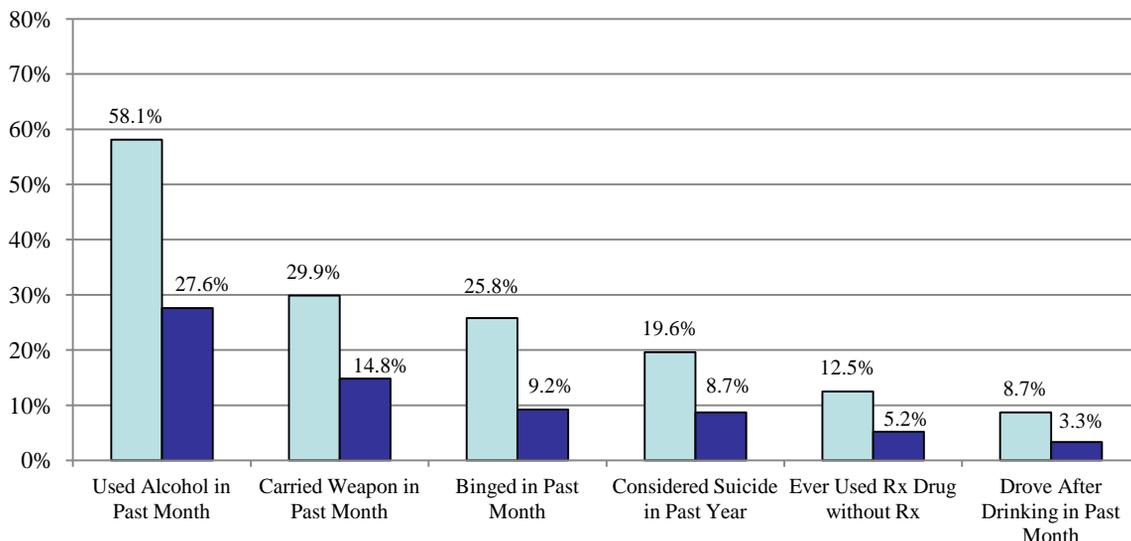


Is Early Alcohol Use Among DC Public High School Students Associated With Other Risky Behaviors?*

□ First Tried Alcohol Before Age 13 ■ First Tried Alcohol After Age 13 or Never Used Alcohol



- Nearly one-quarter (21%) of DC public high school students were early drinkers (i.e., first tried alcohol before age 13).
- Early drinkers were more than two times as likely as non-early drinkers (i.e., first tried alcohol after age 13 or never used alcohol) to have (see data above):
 - used alcohol in the past month
 - carried a weapon in the past month
 - binged in the past month
 - considered suicide in the past year
 - ever used a prescription drug without a prescription
 - drove after drinking in the past month
- Early drinkers were also more likely (but less than twice as likely) to have:
 - used marijuana in the past month (40% vs. 23%)
 - ridden in a car with a drinking driver (32% vs. 20%)
 - physically fought in the past year (52% vs. 34%)
 - been in a gang/crew in the past year (24% vs. 18%)
 - had sex in the past three months (50% vs. 41%)

Did You Know...?

- As of 2010, there were more than 1,500 licensed alcohol retailers in DC—a 68-square mile area. That’s approximately 22 alcohol retailers per square mile in the District.
- It is illegal in DC for persons under age 21 to possess, drink, purchase, attempt to purchase an alcoholic beverage, or to use a fake ID. Violations of this law may result in suspension of driving privileges for up to one year and a fine of up to \$1,000 (DC Code 25-1002).
- It is illegal for persons under age 21 to operate any vehicle when their blood, breath, or urine contains any measurable amount of alcohol. First-time violation of this law may result in a fine of \$300 and violators may be imprisoned for not more than 90 days (DC Code 50-2201.05).

Data Notes & Source: *Percentages are from a weighted sample of public high school students in DC. Students attending public charter schools were not included in the 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). Only those students who reported a valid sex and grade were included in this analysis. Early drinkers unweighted n=251. Non-early drinkers unweighted n=1,030. Drinking and driving refers to teens that are age 16+ only. Bingeing is drinking five or more alcoholic drinks on any occasion in the past month.

Adapted by the Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR) from data from the 2011 DC YRBS, Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), District of Columbia.