

# District of Columbia 2010 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Alcohol and Other Drug Use

**WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?** Alcohol use among adolescents is a major factor in homicides, suicides, motor vehicle crash deaths, and injuries. Heavy alcohol use among adolescents is linked with other risks, including cigarette and drug use, as well as increased sexual activity.<sup>1</sup>



## The National Picture

National results from the 2009 YRBS<sup>2</sup> indicate:

- 72.5% of students have drunk alcohol
- 41.8% of students had at least one drink of alcohol during the 30 days before the survey
- 20.8% of high school seniors used marijuana in the past 30 days, while 19.5% had smoked cigarettes

Key Indicators for DC YRBS Percentage of DC students who	2007 High School	2010 High School*	2007 Middle School	2010 Middle School*
Had at least one drink of alcohol in their lifetime	66.8	60.3	42.7	28.0
Had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more of the past 30 days	34.2	32.8	-	-
Had their first drink of alcohol, other than a few sips, before... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• age 13 (High School)</li> <li>• age 11 (Middle School)</li> </ul>	25.4	21.3	17.6	11.7
Had used marijuana at least one or more times in their lifetime	39.8	43.0	15.9	10.8
Had used marijuana one or more times in the last 30 days	20.5	26.1	-	-
Had been offered, sold, or given an illegal drug by someone on school property during the past 12 months	25.0	22.6	-	-

\*2010 DC YRBS results are population estimates derived using only DCPS student data. The 2007 data includes both DCPS and Public Charter Schools.

## Effective Strategies and Best Practices in DC

- The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) outlines learning standards for alcohol and drug education that are medically accurate, comprehensive, and age appropriate. <http://osse.dc.gov/service/dc-educational-standards>
- The Department of Health, Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration is developing four DC Prevention Centers to provide infrastructure and science-based practices to prevent the onset of substance use. <http://doh.dc.gov/doh/cwp/view,a,3,q,604873.asp>
- DC Mayor's Office of Justice Grants Administration funds underage drinking prevention programs through the Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws grant. <http://jga.dc.gov/DC/JGA/Grantmaking/Funding+Opportunities/Funding+Opportunities>

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2007). *The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking*. Rockville: Office of the Surgeon General.

<sup>2</sup> CDC. (2010). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance-United States, 2009. *MMWR*, 59 (5), 1-148.

