

Allegany County: Substance Use and Mental Health Among Alcohol Users in High School



SUMMARY— The Maryland Statewide Epidemiological Workgroup (SEOW) analyzed the 2014 Maryland High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) data for Maryland and each jurisdiction. In Allegany County:

- ◇ Female students reported higher rates of alcohol use than male students
- ◇ Students who ever used alcohol had higher rates of ever using other drugs
- ◇ Students who were current or binge alcohol users had higher rates of current marijuana and prescription drug use without a prescription
- ◇ Students who were current or binge alcohol users had higher rates of feeling sad or hopeless, and considered suicide and/or made a suicide plan

High School Demographics:

Allegany County

Students Surveyed: 1,726

Racial Mix: 3.6% Black; 85.2% White; 11.2% Other

Gender: 49.7% Female; 50.3% Male

Grade: 31.1% 9th Grade; 21.1% 10th Grade; 24.9% 11th Grade; 22.9% 12th Grade

The 2014 Maryland YRBS is the source of data used for all tables and graphs. The survey uses three time frame measurements when assessing students' substance use and mental health status. Any lifetime use is defined as whether or not a student has ever used a substance. Past year substance use is defined as any use in the past 12 months. Current use is defined as substance use in the past 30 days. Current binge alcohol use is defined as five or more drinks in a row in the past thirty days.

Alcohol Consumption

According to the 2014 YRBS, 44.6% of 9th graders, 63.7% of 10th graders, 65.9% of 11th graders, and 73.1% of 12th graders reported using alcohol in their lifetime; and 20.1% of 9th graders, 30.9% of 10th graders, 34.9% of 11th graders, and 44.9% of 12th graders reported current alcohol use (Fig. 1). Compared to peers statewide, Allegany County high schoolers reported higher rates of current alcohol use in every grade (statewide data not shown).

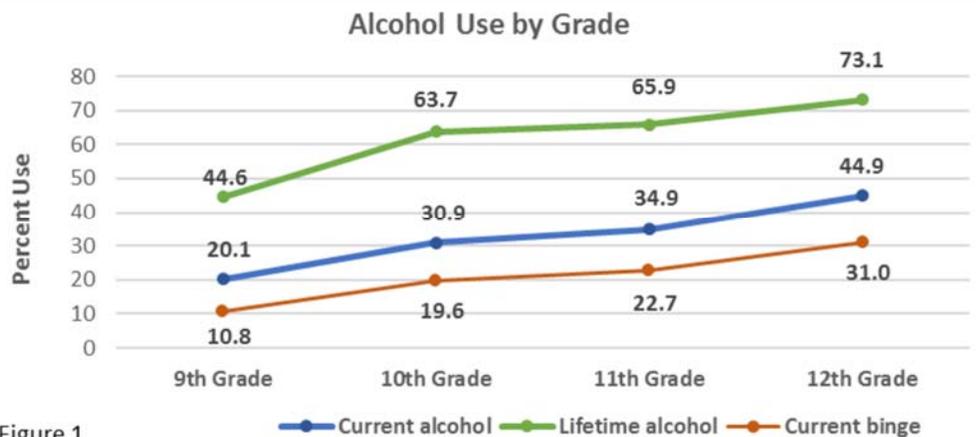


Figure 1

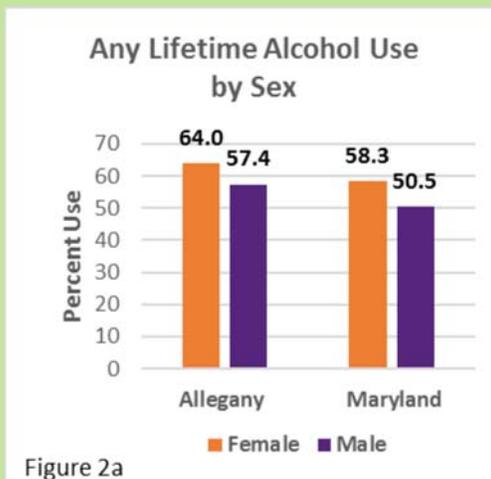


Figure 2a

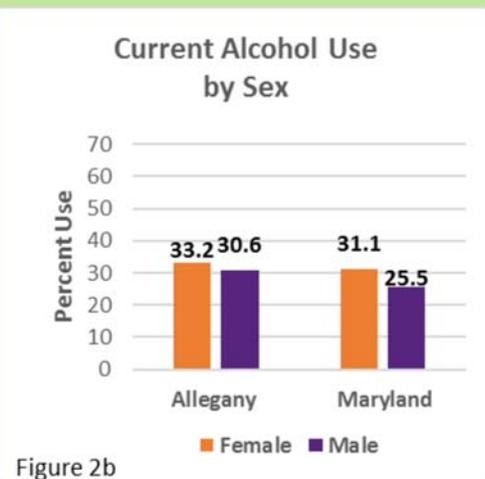


Figure 2b

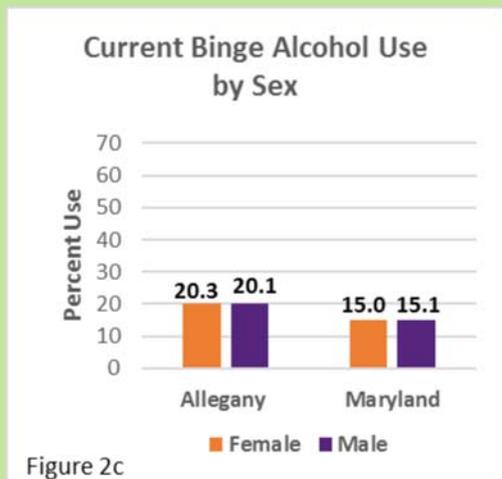


Figure 2c

Allegany County female students reported a higher rate of any lifetime alcohol use (64.0%) than female students statewide (58.3%) (Fig. 2a). One third of Allegany County female students reported current alcohol use, slightly higher than females statewide (33.2% vs. 31.1%, respectively) (Fig. 2b). Allegany County female and male students reported similar rates of binge alcohol use (20.3% and 20.1%, respectively), both higher than students statewide (15.0% and 15.1%, respectively) (Fig. 2c).



Other Drug Use

Any Lifetime Drug Use by Any Lifetime Alcohol Use

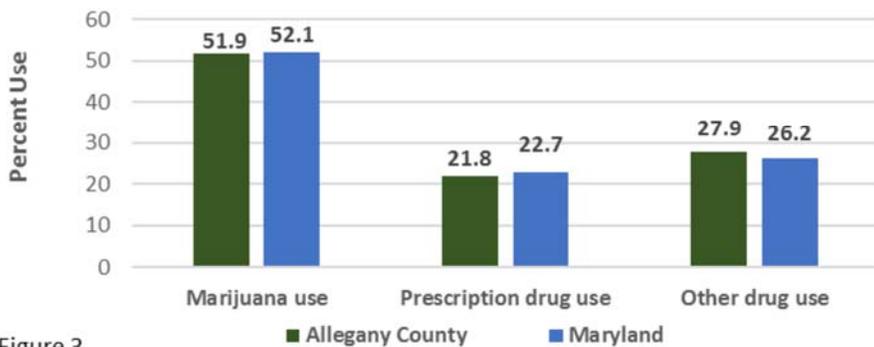


Figure 3

Allegany County students who reported any lifetime alcohol use were slightly less likely to report using marijuana and prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription compared to peers statewide (Fig. 3). Over half of those who ever drank alcohol also used marijuana, and over one-fifth reported using a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription. Overall, 27.9% of Allegany County students who reported ever using alcohol reported using at least one other drug including: inhalants (12.1%), synthetic marijuana (8.7%), or ecstasy (10.7%).

*'Other drug use' includes inhalants, synthetic marijuana, ecstasy, cocaine, steroids, heroin, and methamphetamine.

Allegany County students who currently drank were more likely to report current marijuana use than non-drinking peers (48.8% vs. 6.5%, respectively); 17.9% of current drinkers reported using a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription (Fig. 4a).

Students who reported binge drinking were more likely to report current marijuana use (59.3%) than peers who do not binge drink (10.1%); 23.7% of binge drinkers reported using a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription (Fig. 4b).

Current Drug Use by Current Alcohol Use Status

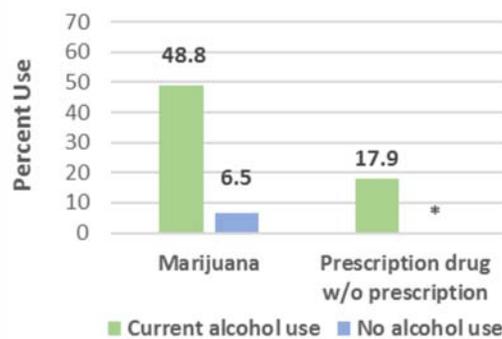


Figure 4a

* Cell size too small to report

Current Drug Use by Current Binge Alcohol Use Status

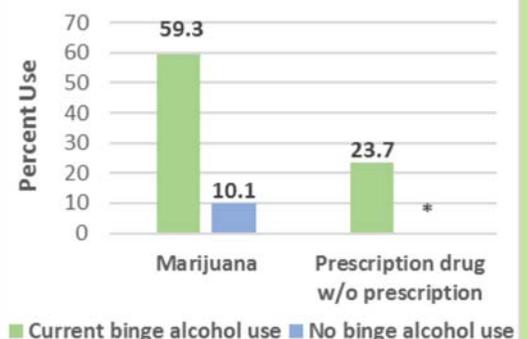


Figure 4b

* Cell size too small to report



Mental Health

Mental Health Status by Current Alcohol Use

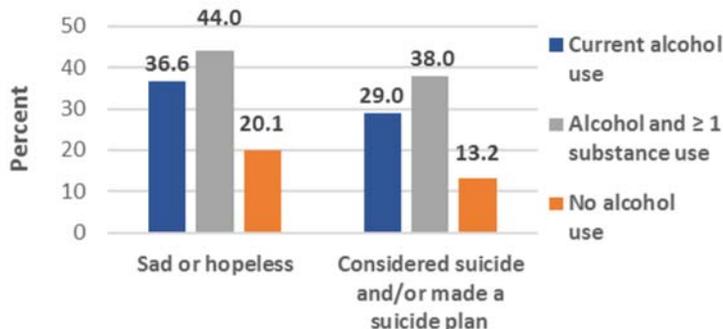


Figure 5a

Mental Health Status by Current Binge Alcohol Use

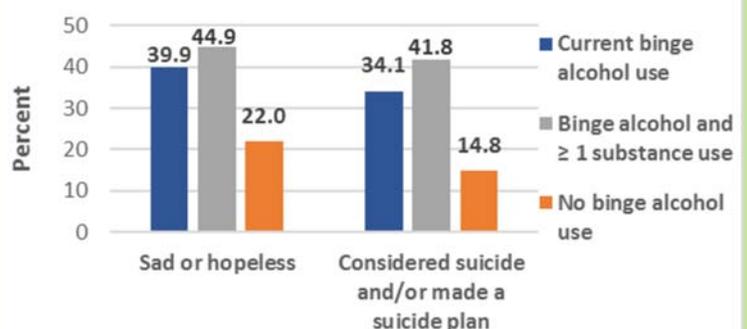


Figure 5b

Compared to non-drinking peers, Allegany County high school students who reported current alcohol use were more likely to report feeling sad or hopeless (36.6% vs. 20.1%, respectively) and considered suicide/made a suicide plan (29.0% vs. 13.2%, respectively). Students who reported current alcohol use plus current marijuana use and/or prescription drug use without a doctor's prescription were more likely to report feeling sad or hopeless (44.0%) and considered suicide/made a suicide plan (38.0%) (Fig. 5a).

A higher percentage of binge drinkers in Allegany County high schools reported feeling sad or hopeless (39.9%) as compared to non-binge-drinking peers (22.0%) and had higher rates of considering suicide/making a suicide plan (34.1% vs. 14.8%, respectively) (Fig. 5b).