

# BINGE DRINKING

Pronunciation: 'binj  
'dri[ng]k·ing

**1. a:** Consumption of five or more drinks on a single occasion. **b:** the amount of alcohol needed to raise the average person's blood alcohol concentration to about 0.1%. **2.** amount of alcohol consumption that would raise the level of intoxication.

- Binge drinking, often beginning around age 13, tends to increase during adolescence, peak in young adulthood (ages 18 to 22), then gradually decrease.
- Binge drinking during the past 30 days was reported by 8 percent of youth ages 12 to 17 and 30 percent of those ages 18 to 20.
- Among persons under the legal drinking age, 15 percent were binge drinkers.
- About 10.4 million adolescents ages 12 to 20 reported using alcohol. Of those, 5.1 million were binge drinkers, of which 2.3 million were heavy drinkers that binged at least five times a month.

## ELKS DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

*“Prevention through Education”*

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NATIONAL DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

# JUST THE FACTS BINGE DRINKING

in ADOLESCENTS and  
COLLEGE STUDENTS

# The old joke about going out to kill some brain cells IS NOT THAT FUNNY ANYMORE

**900,000**  
assaults or date rapes

**599,000**  
injuries

**1,700**  
deaths

**TWO** words, **ONE** cause  
binge drinking...

Tailgates, houses, post prom parties, pre-parties, frat houses, bars, supervised parties, dorm rooms, bedrooms...binge drinking has and continues to happen in these places. Scary fact is this list is merely the tip of the iceberg. Binge drinking is more prevalent today among high school students and college-age young adults than ever before. Blame it on some stigma portraying the honorable ability of out drinking another person. Blame it on younger children drinking. Place fault where you please; the bottom line is that it's out there.

## UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

"He looked really bad, and even though they didn't want me to take him in, I knew I had to." Trent stepped up and demanded that his overly intoxicated friend needed to go to the hospital. His buddy was thirty minutes away from death. The weapon, alcohol.

"The worst part wasn't knowing that I almost died, it was when I came to. There sat my dad...crying. He just walked out of the room, unable to even speak to me," Nikki recalls from her freshman year of college after coming out of a three-day binge-drinking induced coma.

## IDENTIFY

What's binge drinking called on the street?

- Power hour
- Keg stand
- 21 shots before bar close
- Double fisting
- Beer bong
- Shotgun
- Waterfall
- Speed

## THE CONSEQUENCES

Alcohol poisoning — a severe and potentially fatal physical reaction to an alcohol overdose — is the most serious consequence of binge drinking. When excessive amounts of alcohol are consumed, the brain is deprived of oxygen. The struggle to deal with an overdose of alcohol and lack of oxygen will eventually cause the brain to shut down the voluntary functions that regulate breathing and heart rate.

If a person is known to have consumed large quantities of alcohol in a short period of time, symptoms of alcohol poisoning include:

- Vomiting
- Unconsciousness
- Cold, clammy, pale, or bluish skin
- Slow or irregular breathing

## SECONDARY EFFECTS

In schools with high binge drinking rates...

- 34 percent of non-binge drinkers reported being insulted or humiliated by binge drinkers.
- 13 percent reported being pushed, hit, or assaulted.
- 54 percent reported having to take care of a drunken student.
- 68 percent were interrupted while studying at night.
- 26 percent of women experienced an unwanted sexual advance.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Frequent binge drinkers were eight times more likely than non-binge drinkers to miss a class, fall behind in schoolwork, get hurt or injured, and damage property.
- Nearly one out of every five teenagers (16 percent) has experienced "black out" spells where they could not remember what happened the previous evening because of heavy drinking.
- More than 60 percent of college men and almost 50 percent of college women who are frequent binge drinkers report that they drink and drive.
- Drinking during high school, especially among males, is predictive of binge drinking in college.
- Binge drinking during college may be associated with mental health disorders such as compulsiveness, depression or anxiety, or early deviant behavior.
- 91 percent of women and 78 percent of the men who were frequent binge drinkers considered themselves to be moderate or light drinkers.