



PAST 30 DAY USE OF ALCOHOL

BY NEW JERSEY MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Statewide

According to the *New Jersey Middle School Risk and Protective Factor Survey*, alcohol, which includes beer, wine, and hard liquor, was the substance used most often by New Jersey adolescents in 2012. The statewide mean for past 30 day use of alcohol was 9.0%, meaning that about one-in-eleven students in New Jersey reported having tried alcohol at some point within that time frame. This reflects a slight decrease from the 10.7% rate measured in 2010, and a sharp decrease from the 15.3% rate recorded in 2007**.

Countywide

In 2012, Passaic County had the highest past 30 day prevalence of alcohol use (20.8%), followed by Cumberland and Hudson counties (14.9% and 13.4%, respectively). The lowest past 30 day rates were found in Monmouth, Cape May, and Morris counties (4.1%, 4.7%, and 4.8%, respectively). However, because of low response rates in some counties, caution should be used when interpreting findings. Full results for past 30 day alcohol use by county, sorted from high to low, can be found in Table 1 and a visual representation of county variation is available on the next page.

Table 1

County	%
<i>Passaic</i>	20.8%
<i>Cumberland</i>	14.9%
<i>Hudson</i>	13.4%
<i>Essex</i>	10.6%
<i>Camden</i>	10.1%
<i>Middlesex</i>	9.8%
<i>Salem</i>	9.5%
<i>Gloucester</i>	9.2%
<i>Sussex</i>	9.1%
Statewide	9.0%
<i>Burlington</i>	8.7%
<i>Somerset</i>	8.1%
<i>Bergen</i>	7.4%
<i>Ocean</i>	7.2%
<i>Mercer</i>	7.0%
<i>Atlantic</i>	6.8%
<i>Warren</i>	5.8%
<i>Morris</i>	4.8%
<i>Cape May</i>	4.7%
<i>Monmouth</i>	4.1%
<i>Hunterdon*</i>	n/a
<i>Union*</i>	n/a

The 2012 New Jersey Middle School Risk and Protective Factor Survey was commissioned by the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to assess the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (ATOD), track antisocial behaviors, and document risk and protective factors among New Jersey youth. It was administered by the Bloustein Center for Survey Research (BCSR), at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. The survey contained 6,544 respondents statewide, with county samples ranging between 105 and 403 respondents.

*Please note that Hunterdon and Union Counties are not represented here because their sample sizes were too small to be considered reliable.

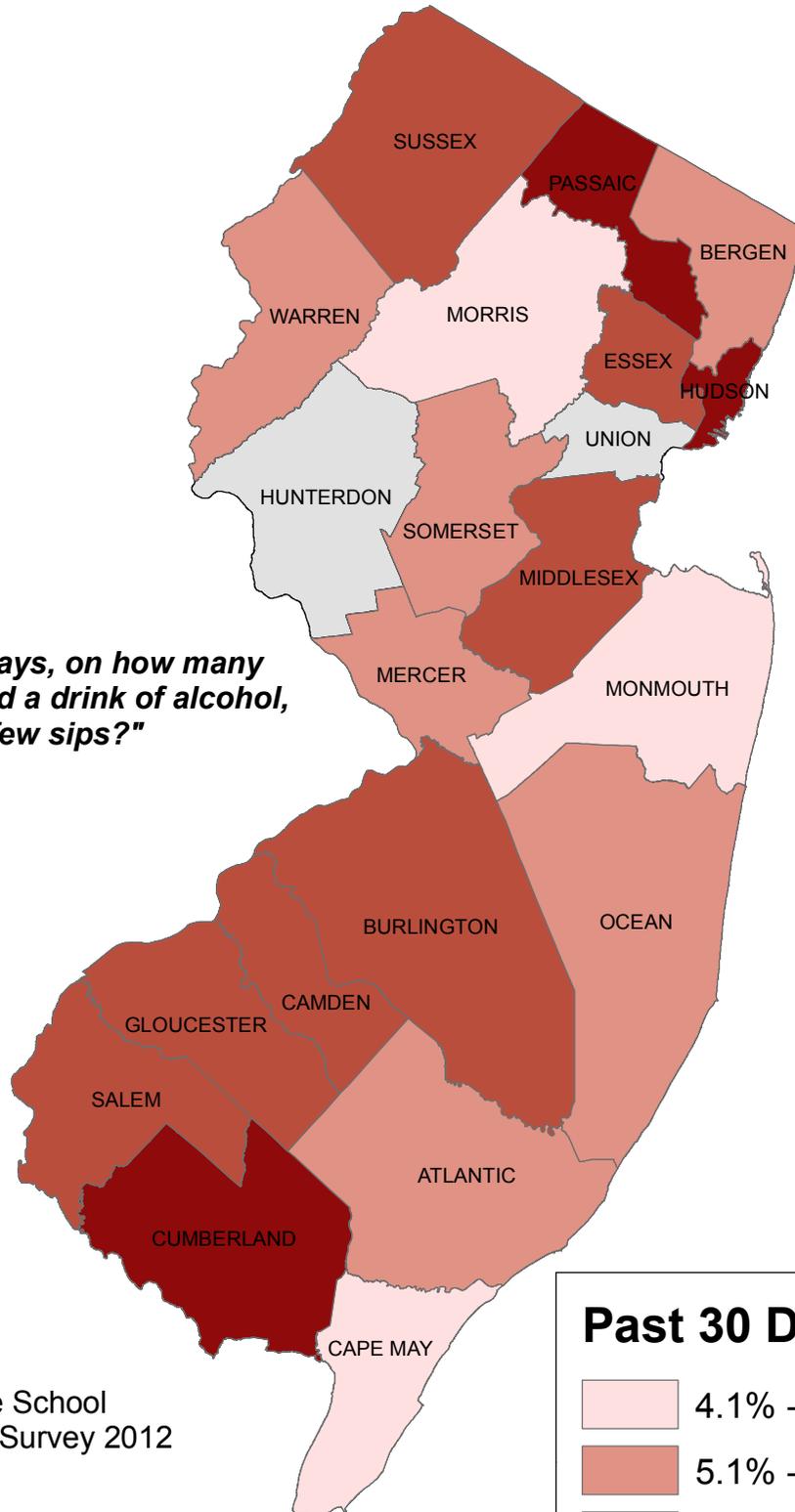
** Wording of the alcohol question was slightly different in 2007, thus making comparisons less reliable.

PAST 30 DAY USE OF ALCOHOL

By New Jersey Middle School Students

Min: 4.1%
Max: 20.8%
Mean: 9.0%

"During the past 30 days, on how many occasions have you had a drink of alcohol, other than a few sips?"



Source: New Jersey Middle School Risk and Protective Factor Survey 2012

*Note: Hunterdon and Union County estimates are not depicted here due to small sample sizes

Past 30 Day Use Rate

