



U.S. Department of Health
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Office of Family Assistance

NRFC Quick Statistics

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www.fatherhood.gov

Fathers and Alcohol Abuse

Percentage of Males and Females Age 12 and Over Reporting Binge Drinking* in the Past 30 Days, 1979-2000

Year	Males	Females
1979	27.6%	7.9%
1985	30.3%	9.2%
1990	21.3%	6.9%
1995	23.8%	8.5%
2000	26.9%	12.6%

Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 1979-2000
Binge drinking is defined by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
as having five or more drinks in the same occasion.

- The percentage of males reporting binge drinking over the past 30 days decreased through the late 1980s and increased through the 1990s. The percentage reporting binge drinking in 2000 (26.9 percent) differs very little from 1979 (27.6 percent).
- Males were consistently far more likely to engage in binge drinking than females during this period.

Percentage of Males and Females Age 12 and Over Reporting Binge Drinking* in the Past 30 Days, by Parental Status, 2005

	Nonparents	Parents
Males	28.2%	32.2%
Females	13.6%	16.1%

Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2005
Binge drinking is defined by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
as having five or more drinks in the same occasion.

- For both parents and nonparents, males have higher proportions of reported binge drinking in the past 30 days than females.
- About one in three fathers (32.2 percent) report binge drinking in the past 30 days as compared to only about one in six mothers (16.1 percent).

Percentage of Males Age 12 and Over Reporting Binge Drinking* in the Past 30 Days, by Age, 2005

Age	Non-fathers	Fathers
12-17 years	9.6%	0.0%
18-25 years	50.4%	45.5%
26-34 years	47.0%	39.8%
35+ years	22.7%	28.7%

Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2005
Binge drinking is defined by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism as having five or more drinks in the same occasion.

- Fathers and non-fathers age 18 to 25 had the highest percentage of engagement in binge drinking over the past 30 days (50.4 percent and 45.5 percent respectively) compared with other age groups.
- Non-fathers and fathers ages 12 to 17 years of age had the lowest proportion of engagement in binge drinking.
- Fathers 35 years of age and older were slightly more likely than non-fathers to report binge drinking in the past 30 days (28.7 percent vs. 22.7 percent).

Percentage of Males Reporting Binge Drinking* in the Past 30 Days, by Income Level, 2005

Family Income	Non-fathers	Fathers
Less than \$20,000	28.8%	30.2%
\$20,000-49,999	29.2%	36.5%
\$50,000-74,999	26.5%	30.5%
\$75,000+	27.6%	30.6%

Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2005
* Binge drinking is defined by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism as having five or more drinks in the same occasion.

- Across income levels, fathers appear slightly more likely than non-fathers to participate in binge drinking. At each income level more than 3 in 10 fathers report binge drinking in the past 30 days.
- Fathers at an income level of \$20,000 to \$49,999 have the highest reported binge drinking engagement in the past 30 days (36.5 percent).

Percentage of Males Age 12 and Over Reporting Binge Drinking* in the Past 30 Days, by Marital Status, 2005

Marital Status	Non-fathers	Fathers
Married	20.1%	30.5%
Divorced/ Separated	35.6%	37.4%
Never Married	45.5%	46.6%

Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2005
Binge drinking is defined by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism as having five or more drinks in the same occasion.

- Never married fathers and non-fathers have higher rates of reported binge drinking in the past 30 days than with males of other marital statuses.
- A higher proportion of married fathers report binge drinking as compared to married non-fathers (30.5 percent of fathers compared with 20.1 percent of non-fathers).

Percentage of Males Age 12 and Over Reporting Binge Drinking* in the Past 30 Days, by Employment Status, 2005

Employment Status	Non-fathers	Fathers
Employed	35.1%	32.4%
Not Employed**	20.1%	29.6%

Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2005
Binge drinking is defined by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism as having five or more drinks in the same occasion.

**Does not include students

- Among fathers, rates of binge drinking varied little between employed and not employed (32.4 percent compared with 29.6 percent).