



# Report On Underage and Binge Drinking

2<sup>nd</sup> Edition – Executive Summary

## Vision Statement

*The Local Advisory Council promotes healthier lifestyles by supporting prevention efforts and educating the community about the consequences associated with underage alcohol consumption and binge drinking among young adults.*

## Our Mission

**Drug Free Marion County, a not-for-profit organization, plans, promotes, implements and coordinates efforts to prevent and reduce the abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs among youth and adults.**

# **Drug Free Marion County's Report on Underage and Binge Drinking 2009**

**Prepared by the  
Local Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In its “2007 *Comprehensive Community Plan*,” Drug Free Marion County (DFMC) identified two prevention goals for Marion County: 1] reduce alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) use and 2) increase the level of parental knowledge about substance use and the acquisition of skills to help their child(ren) avoid ATOD use. The *2009 Local Epidemiological Report on Underage and Binge Drinking* further addresses alcohol use by presenting updated local data on the level of alcohol consumption in Marion County as well as indicators of the personal consequences and risk factors associated with its use. The report re-examines and identifies the sub-populations and geographic areas of the county most impacted by underage and high risk alcohol use as of 2009.

This report uses the most current existing data to document the prevalence of alcohol and drug use in Marion County. In addition, the effects of alcohol and drug use are measured both directly (arrests for driving while intoxicated, public intoxication, juvenile alcohol and drug related crimes) and indirectly (school drop-out rates, ER blood alcohol levels, and student surveys). Data sets providing information on community risk factors, medical information and data (high blood alcohol levels, death certificate data, and hospital discharge data), reflecting a high incidence of heavy underage drinking and/or drug use, as well as evidence of its consequences, are also presented in the 2009 report. Substance abuse disorder is a disease which begins in adolescence. In recognition of that fact, much time has been spent gathering data from local educational institutions.

The 2009 report consists of 5 chapters.

**Chapter 1: Introduction** provides background demographic information for Marion County and current enrollment figures for its public school districts as well as for the institutions of higher education.

**Chapter 2: Methods** summarizes the methods used to obtain alcohol consumption related information from existing data sources. Information was retrieved from the following major sources: 1] the criminal justice system; 2] schools and colleges; 3] social services agencies and treatment providers; 4] alcohol regulatory agencies and availability (compliance checks); 5] medical records; and, 6] community surveys. The available data was examined by the The Local Epidemiology and Outcomes Workgroup (LEOW) and decisions were made as to which data would be and used to prepare the descriptive summary tables for the report. In all cases, the most recent data available was used.

**Chapter 3: Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Consumption Patterns** was based on data from several sources including: hospital blood alcohol level reports; middle and high school student self reported substance use levels; college student CORE alcohol and drug use survey results; and, college student alcohol screening day survey results.

*Medical Data:* In 2008, over 12,500 blood alcohol levels (BALs) were measured in Marion County hospital laboratories. Less than half of the BALs (43.3%) detected the presence of ethanol. However, 2,827 of the results (22.5%) exceeded 200 mg/dl, demonstrating evidence of alcohol abuse. Over two-thirds of those with a BAL >200mg/dl were men; two-thirds were white. None under age 14 had a BAL >200mg/dl and few under age 14 had a BAL screening. The greatest percentage of individuals with a high BAL were in the 40-49 year old age group.

Zip codes 46201 and 46203 had the greatest number of individuals with a high BAL in both 2007 and 2008.

*Middle and High School Student Consumption:* With the exception of those in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade, survey data showed that Marion County students had higher alcohol use rates compared to regional and state averages. This finding was particularly true among the 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Of greater significance were the rates themselves; 27.6 percent of 6<sup>th</sup> graders reported having used alcohol, but 8<sup>th</sup> graders use of alcohol more than doubled to 55.0 percent and reached 65.2 percent of 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Marion County students reported a higher rate of binge drinking in 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades as compared to the State and Central Regional averages. By 10<sup>th</sup> grade, almost one in five students reported binge drinking in the last two weeks. More than one-quarter (26.9%) of seniors reported binge drinking within the past two weeks. In addition to alcohol consumption, Marion County students in general reported much higher use rates for other drugs as compared to the State and Central Region averages. This higher level of use was especially pronounced with marijuana. While a greater percentage of Marion County 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students reported using cigarettes in the past 30 days, the rate of cigarette use by 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade Marion County students was lower than the rates in the Central region and in the State. As with alcohol and marijuana use, these results point to the need for increased substance use preventive intervention efforts in the earlier grades.

*College Student ATOD Use Patterns:* One-third (33.3%) of Indiana college students reported some form of public misconduct in 2008 (such as trouble with police, fighting/arguing, DWI/DUI, vandalism) at least once during the past year because of drinking or drug use, compared to 34.7 percent in 2006. In the National Alcohol Screening Day survey, 20 percent of the student respondents reported not drinking at all. One-half of the students reported making low risk drinking choices and the remaining 30 percent reported high-risk levels of use. The highest level of use was among men under the age of 21.

Chapter 4: Consequence Data presents descriptive legal and administrative data providing the level of selected consequences from alcohol consumption. The 2009 report reviewed and reports data from the following sources: 1] police DWI incident reports; 2] police public intoxication incident reports; 3] college Clery reports; 4] juvenile crime statistics; 5] hospital blood alcohol level reports; 6] percent low birth weight infants (vital statistics) ; and, 7] hospital discharge diagnoses reports.

*Consequence Data:* According to the State Epidemiological Outcomes Report, (SEOW) 3,523 DWI arrests were reported in Marion County during 2008, more than any other Indiana county. Additionally, the SEOW showed that Marion County recorded 1,087 alcohol related car collisions and 5,317 public intoxication arrests. Thirteen out of the forty area ZIP Codes experienced more than 108 DWI arrests. The highest concentration of DWI offenders was in the 21-30 year old age group, followed by 30-40 year olds. Alcohol and drug related crimes made up about 7 percent of all juvenile crimes. More comprehensive ATOD use by selected demographic characteristics, including township statistics, is included in Chapter 4. Health related consequences from ATOD as well as college student related alcohol violations are also presented in detail.

**Chapter 5: Community Risk Factors** reveals that between January 2007 and September 2009, 446 alcohol violations were given to establishments in 34 of Marion County's 40 ZIP Codes. The two most common violations were: "Acting without a Permit" and "Examination of

Permit by Employer". Both are requirements dealing with the need for clerks/servers to have and display the required licensure. Together, minors in a tavern and sales to minors accounted for 63 violations. Alcohol sale violations are detailed in Chapter 5. The 10 ZIP Codes with the highest number of liquor permits are also listed in Chapter 5.

Most students perceived a moderate/high risk from binge drinking and perceived their parent's disapproval of occasional alcohol use, binge drinking, occasional or regular marijuana use. The 20-30 percent who do not know their parents' attitudes or believe their parents approve of their substance use remain a problem. The peer approval rate was generally higher than the rate for parents. Data on where teens obtain their alcohol, where they drink, what they drink and when they drink are presented.