

JUST THE FACTS

Substance Abuse in Marion County

A quick summary on the use of
alcohol, in Marion County



Underage and Binge Drinking Prevention Initiative

Mission Statement:

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.

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.

Prepared by Members of the
Local Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup

Local Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup

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Kevin Reily—Marion County Probation-Juvenile
Gary A. Weir, MS—Marion County Health Department



Underage and Binge Drinking Prevention Initiative Drug Free Marion County (DFMC)

As the county’s Local Coordinating Council, Drug Free Marion County has long identified the need to reduce youth substance use and to increase parental awareness and prevention skills. The process of gathering and reviewing local data on the specific topics of underage and binge drinking has led DFMC staff to a comprehensive knowledge of and concern about the impact of such use. It has also led to a better understanding of the need to make changes in our local communities.

For questions and additional information please contact:

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Sheree Scott-Itza
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The state-generated report “The Consumption and Consequences of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs in Indiana: A State Epidemiological Profile” identifies Marion County as having a high rate of use for cocaine, alcohol and marijuana based on the uniform crime-report data. The state prioritized funding under this project for alcohol, cocaine and methamphetamine.

Drug Free Marion County submitted a proposal and received funding to address underage and binge drinking. Drug Free Marion County then created a Local Advisory Council (LAC) to direct this project and used the strategic prevention framework to guide and organize its efforts. This fact sheet is a summary of key data points illuminating the issue of underage and binge drinking in Marion County.

The Local Advisory Council is implementing the following **action plan**:

- Increase public awareness by sharing data and information on prevention strategies
- Reduce social availability by increasing knowledge of legal penalties, party patrols and stop-loss measures and by reducing third-party sales

Local Advisory Council

Scott Allen (LAC Chair)—At large
Phil Burton—Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department
Jill Alerding—Amani Treatment Center
Mike Banner—Butler University
Sarah Barnes—Butler University
Kendra D. Belden—Gallahue School-Based Services
Tommy Chittenden—Step-Up, Inc.
James Coleman—Health & Hospital Corporation
June Davis—At large
Barbara Fengya—Franklin Township
Diane Hannell—Marion County Prosecutor’s Office
Debra Henderson—Marion County Health Department
Clarke Kahlo—Neighborhood organizer/
Broad Ripple
Milele Kennedy—Indy Parks
Gloria King—Wishard Multicultural Health Services
Maggie Lewis—Governor’s Council
Leanne Malloy—Marian University
Brian Overbey—Emberwood Center

Al Polin—Mapleton Fallcreek Neighborhood
Joenne Pope—Indy Parks
Katharine Brown Sadler—Indiana University
Dyetra Waire—Marion County Health Department/Smokefree Indy
Mary Walker—MCANA
Brenda Walls—Kaleidoscope

Youth Advisory Council

Marwan Abusnaneh—Zionsville Community High School
Sara Alghani—IUPUI
Zana Ali—IUPUI
Hannah Barker—Roncalli High School
Edrece Bryant—Lawrence Central High School
Hadiyah Bryant—Guion Creek Middle School
Haja Bryant—Guion Creek Middle School
Ronald Craig—At large
Alpha Drallo—Zionsville Community High School
Shandes Hoosier—Warren Central High School
Carlyn McGinty—Warren Central High School
Krystal Porter—Warren Central High School

Marion County Data on Underage Drinking



***Binge Drinking** is defined as having four or more drinks for women; five or more drinks for men during one occasion.

Be part of the solution. Help make lasting change by participating in the Underage and Binge Drinking Prevention Initiative.

Contact us for information on meeting schedules and volunteer opportunities.

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Prevalence of Use Among Marion County Youth:¹

- 55.2% of 8th grade students report having drunk alcohol.
- On average 10.1% of area 6th grade students report having used alcohol in the last 30 days.
- 30-day alcohol use rates increase significantly between the 6th and 8th grade, from 10.1% to 23.6%.
- 18.8% of 10th grade students report binge drinking in the last two weeks.

Availability:²

- 71.7% of area teens report getting alcohol from friends or relatives who are of legal age.
- 52.8% of teens report that they know of parents who allow teens to drink in their home.
- Marion County has 1,656 licensed liquor establishments.
- 75% of Marion County middle and high schools lie within a half mile radius of a licensed liquor establishment.

Impact of use:³

- A person who begins drinking as a young teen is four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than someone who waits until adulthood to use alcohol.
- During adolescence, significant changes occur in the body, including the formation of new networks in the brain. Alcohol use during this time may affect brain development.
- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among youth ages 15 to 20, and the rate of fatal crashes among alcohol-involved drivers between 16 and 20 years old is more than twice the rate for alcohol-involved drivers 21 and older. Alcohol use also is linked with youthful deaths by drowning, suicide and homicide.
- Alcohol use is associated with many adolescent risk behaviors, including other drug use and delinquency, weapon carrying and fighting, and perpetrating or being the victim of date rape.

Data sources

- 1) Alcohol Tobacco and other Drug Use by Indiana Children and Adolescents Survey, 2009 Indiana Prevention Resource Center (<http://www.drugs.indiana.edu/>)
- 2) Drug Free Marion County's Youth Advisory Council, Teen Alcohol Survey April 2008
State Excise Police registry of Marion County liquor license establishments
SAVI data mapping, Polis Center
- 3) NIAAA The Facts about Youth and Alcohol. <http://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/PSA/factsheet.pdf>

Drug Free Marion County Data on Binge Drinking



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In 2007, Marion County had **1,087 alcohol-related car collisions, 5,634 public intoxication arrests, and 3,702 DUI arrests**, the highest of any county in the state. We ranked fourth in the state for the number of public intoxication arrests per 1,000 people. We also tied for the highest number of alcohol-related fatal car crashes, resulting in 19 deaths.

Adult use

Countywide, 42% of DWI arrestees are between the ages of 21 and 30.

Marion County has a very active downtown with many conventions, restaurants, bars and professional and collegiate sporting events. Unfortunately, some of those events result in high-risk alcohol use. The downtown zip code (46204) is one of the top five zip codes in the county for alcohol-related arrests. Other areas of concern in the county include the near east (46201), southeast (46203), and west (46222 and 46224) sides. High-risk drinking in these communities seems to be driven by the personality of the neighborhood. The concentration of incidents on the southeast side has led to it being identified as a target community for our prevention efforts.

High-risk or binge drinking impacts the health of our citizens

37% of blood alcohol draws at area hospitals resulted in blood alcohol levels over the legal limit. Nearly 3,000 results exceeded 200mg/dl, demonstrating evidence of alcohol abuse. Approximately two-thirds of the blood levels measured came from men. In 2008, over 1,259 patients were diagnosed with an alcohol- or drug-related disease.

Collegiate use

Marion County has six major institutions of higher education (Butler University, Indiana University Purdue University at Indianapolis, Ivy Tech, Marian College, Martin University, and the University of Indianapolis). Two of those participated in the 2008 Indiana College Alcohol Use Survey. Approximately two-fifths (38.1 percent) of the students who responded to the survey reported that they had participated in binge drinking during 2008. The state average is 43.9 percent. More than 53 percent of underage Marion County students responding had consumed alcohol in the past 30 days, slightly lower than the 63.3 percent reported for participating state colleges. Prevention efforts to address campus culture relative to alcohol use and high risk activities are part of the strategic plan.

1) Drug Free Marion County (2009) Local Epidemiological Report on Underage and Binge Drinking March 2010” pg 32
2) Indiana University Center for Health Policy. (2009) “The Consumption and Consequences of Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs in Indiana: A State Epidemiological Profile 2009” (pg 52)
3) and 4) Drug Free Marion County (2009) Local Epidemiological Report on Underage and Binge Drinking March 2010” pg 33-34, 10, 21-23