

the drinking & teens project

THE UNIVERSITIES OF NEW SOUTH WALES, QUEENSLAND, NEWCASTLE, & TASMANIA AND CURTIN UNIVERSITY

Internationally, the drinking and teens project is the longest running study of young people and alcohol use to date. Most people who started with the project in year 7 are still participating; our retention rate is close to 90%! So far we have been on this journey with you from early teens when most young people had not tried alcohol up to now, when some young people have started to experiment with alcohol. We want to keep hearing about your experiences over the next few years until the young people in the study turn 18 and enter adulthood. The information that your family can provide is vital to understanding the factors which influence youth alcohol use.

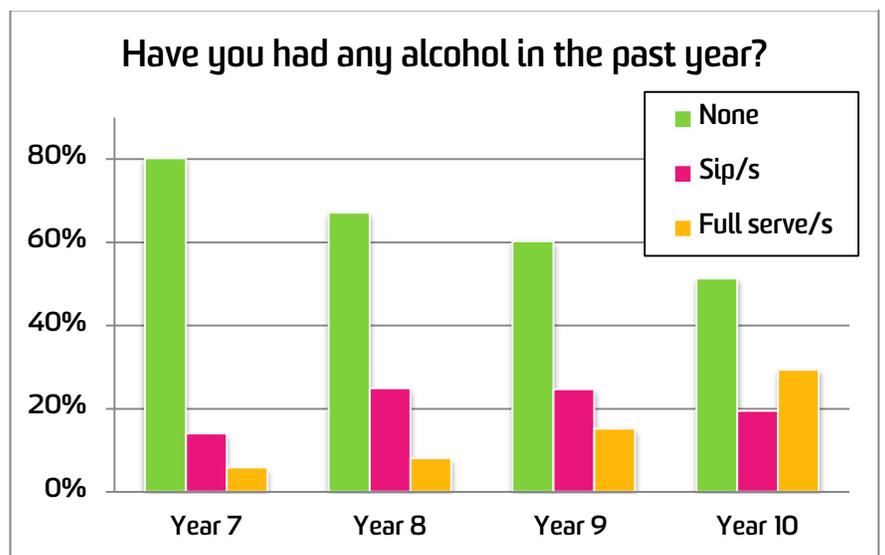
We recently presented some results from the study at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre's annual symposium and attracted quite a bit of attention in the media. The study was discussed on ABC, SBS, Nine, Seven and Ten news, the Project on Ten, Triple J's Hack and the Today show. This is really exciting and shows how important this research is.

ARE YOU MOVING?

Have you moved recently or changed any of your contact details? If any of your details have changed, please let us know so that future surveys and vouchers arrive at the right place!



The graph below shows the proportions of young people in the drinking and teens project who reported drinking alcohol or not when they were in years 7, 8, 9 and 10. The majority report NOT drinking alcohol (shown by the green bars), though this proportion is decreasing each year. The proportion of young people who reported drinking full serves of alcohol (at least one standard drink) is shown by the yellow bars and has been increasing over time, from around 5% in year 7 up to approximately 30% in year 10. The pink bars show the people who reported having only sips or tastes of alcohol.



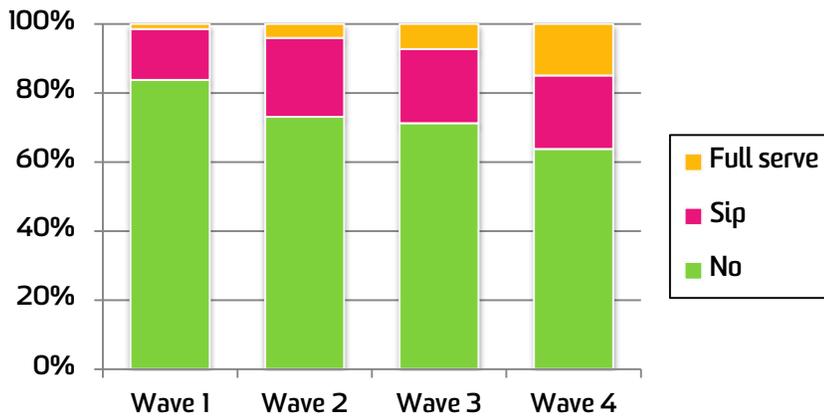
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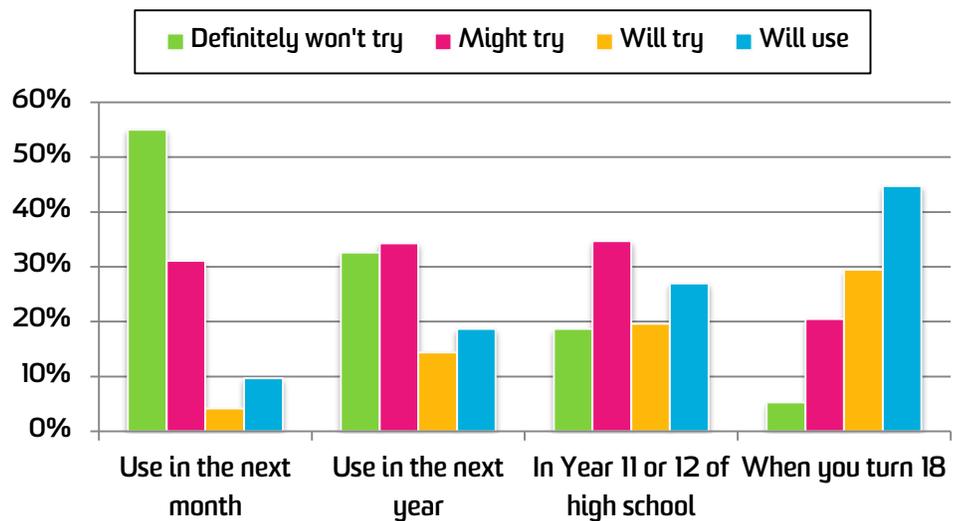
Have you received any alcohol from your parents in the past year?



We have asked young people whether their parents have given them any alcohol at each wave of the study. The proportion of parents who have supplied their child with alcohol has been increasing over the study period. At wave 1 (year 7) very few young people reported getting full serves of alcohol from their parents (approximately 1.5%), and only 15% reported receiving sips of alcohol. At the most recent wave (year 10) approximately 15% of young people report that their parents have given them a full serve of alcohol, as well as around 20% who report that they have received a sip of alcohol from their parents.

When we asked year 10 students about their intentions to use alcohol in the next month, most people (55%) reported that they would definitely not try, with around 30% reporting that they might. Responses to whether they intended to use alcohol in the next year and in year 11 or 12 of high school were varied. Most young people thought that they would try or would use alcohol when they turned 18, with only very few (approximately 5%) saying that they would definitely not try alcohol when they turned 18.

Intentions to use alcohol



Why do young people choose to drink alcohol?

Friends are an important influence on alcohol consumption. When we asked young people about their reasons for drinking alcohol, the most common responses included:

- Because it helps you to enjoy a party
- To be sociable
- Because you like the feeling
- It improves parties and celebrations
- To celebrate a special occasion with friends
- Because it's fun
- You feel more self-confident