

Data Spotlight

National Survey on Drug Use and Health

September 13, 2012

Teens Whose Parents Have Alcohol Problems Are at Increased Risk of Alcohol Use

Teens are more likely to use alcohol if they live with a mother or father who has an alcohol use disorder. According to the 2002 to 2010 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUHs), youths who lived with a mother with a past year alcohol use disorder (AUD) were more likely than those living with a mother who did not have an AUD to have used alcohol in the past month (23.8 vs. 14.4 percent) and to report past month binge alcohol use (15.3 vs. 8.7 percent) (Figure 1).^{1,2} Youths living with a father with an AUD were more likely than those living with a father who did not have an AUD to have used alcohol in the past month (18.4 vs. 14.3 percent); however, differences for binge alcohol use did not reach statistical significance (Figure 2).

These data emphasize the impact of parents' alcohol misuse on their children. Parents interested in getting help with an alcohol problem can locate treatment resources at <http://www.samhsa.gov/treatment/>.

¹ Alcohol use disorder includes dependence on or abuse of alcohol and is based on definitions found in the fourth edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM-IV). See American Psychiatric Association. (1994). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (4th edition). Washington, DC: Author.

² Estimates are based on one parent respondent per household.

Figure 1. Alcohol Use among Adolescents Aged 12 to 17 Living with a Mother, by Mother's Past Year Alcohol Use Disorder: 2002 to 2010

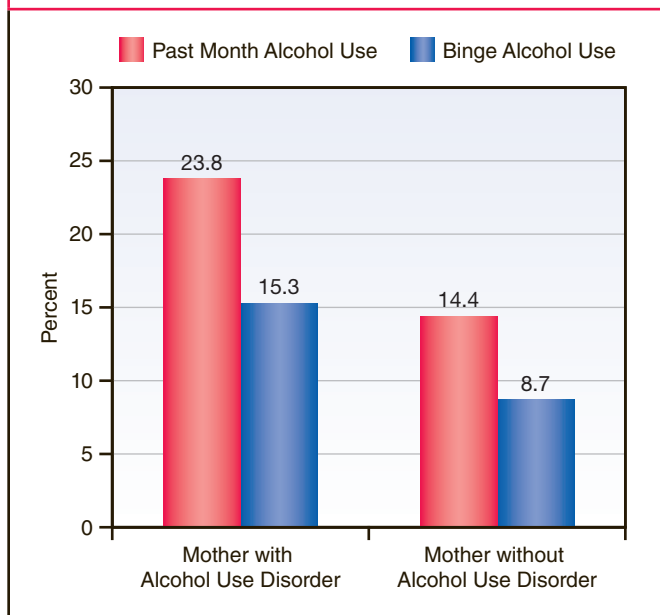
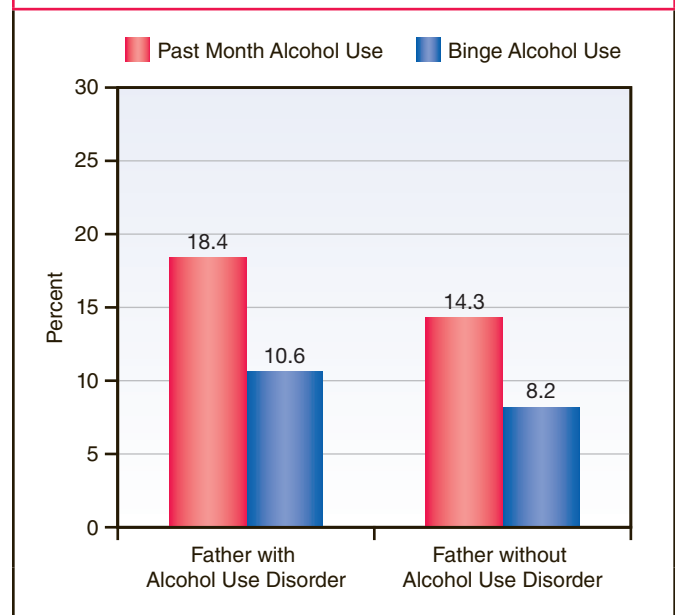


Figure 2. Alcohol Use among Adolescents Aged 12 to 17 Living with a Father, by Father's Past Year Alcohol Use Disorder: 2002 to 2010



Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 2002 to 2005 and 2006 to 2010 (revised March 2012). NSDUH is an annual survey sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The survey collects data by administering questionnaires to a representative sample of the population through face-to-face interviews at their places of residence.

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