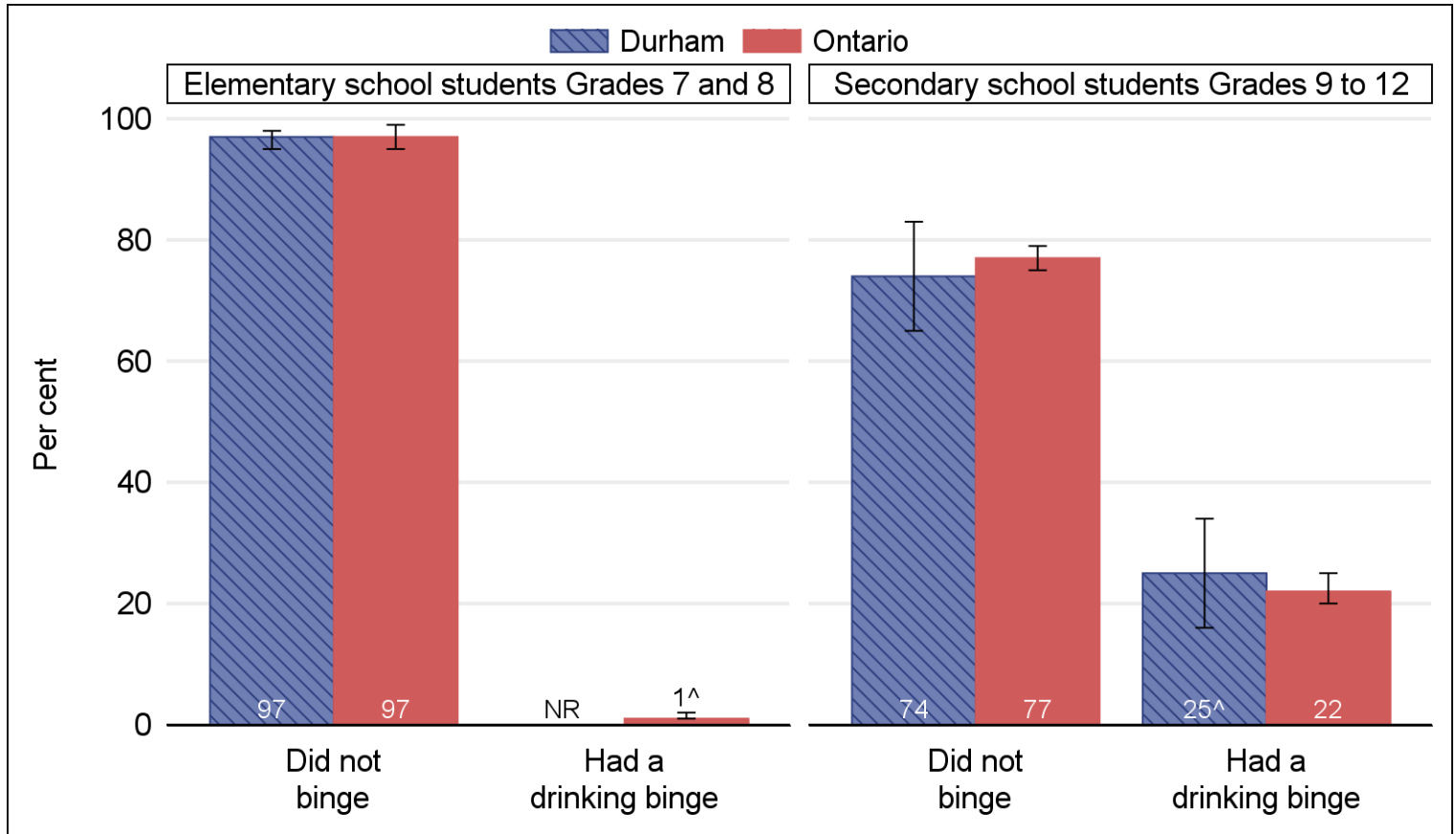


Quick facts:

Percentage of students who drank five or more drinks on the same occasion in the past month, 2016-2017



Release date: December 2017



Notes

Results were weighted and sex-by-grade adjusted to the Ontario 2014-2015 student enrollment.

Error bars represent the 95 per cent confidence intervals around the percentage. The true or actual percentage falls within the range of values, 95 out of 100 times. Categories may not sum to 100% as item non-response is not presented in the results above.

[^] Interpret with caution as the coefficient of variation (CV) is between 16.6 and 33.3 per cent, inclusive.

NR - Unreliable and not releasable as the CV is greater than 33.3 per cent.

Source: Public Health Monitoring of Risk Factors in Ontario – Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Study (OSDUHS), 2016-2017.

Summary

Drinking five or more drinks of alcohol on a single occasion in the past month for males and females is known as a drinking binge. One-quarter of Durham Region secondary school students reported a drinking binge at least once in the past month. The same percentage of students across Ontario reported this behaviour. An estimate of binge drinking in Durham Region elementary school students was not reportable. Province-wide, one per cent of students in Grades 7 and 8 reported a drinking binge in the past month.

Questions

In the last 4 weeks, how often have you had 5 or more drinks of alcohol on the same occasion?

- Once
- 2 times
- 3 times
- 4 times
- 5 or more times
- Did not drink alcohol in the last 4 weeks
- Did not have five or more drinks of alcohol on the same occasion in the last 4 weeks
- Never drank in lifetime

Survey methods

The Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey (OSDUHS) targets students, Grades 7 to 12, enrolled in the public and catholic regular school system. The OSDUHS uses a two-stage (school, class) stratified (region and school type) cluster sample design, and oversampling in PMO-participating public health units. The survey is self-administered in the classroom, taking, on average, 35 minutes to complete. Participation is voluntary and anonymous. Students 17 years old and younger absent or without signed consent forms on the day of the survey do not participate.

This survey excluded groups, such as street youth and dropouts, in which health behaviours such as healthy eating, physical activity, drug use, etc. may be underestimated. In addition, self-reporting may result in under-reporting whether from social desirability or recall bias.

The definition of a drinking binge used in this report does not reflect the sex-specific limits for drinking on any single occasion as established in Canada's Low Risk Drinking Guidelines (LRDG). While the LRDG are for adults aged 25 to 65 years, youth in their late teens up to age 24 years should never exceed the limits established in the LRDG.

For a detailed description of the OSDUHS, visit the [CAMH website](#).

Data analysis

Data were analyzed using SAS 9.4. For 2016-2017, the analysis was based on a design of 17 strata (7 geographical strata for elementary schools and 10 for secondary schools), 214 schools, 764 classes and 11,435 students. Variables accounting for the probability of selection, stratification and clustering were used when analyzing the data. The final sampling weight was based on each regional stratum's sex-by-grade structure according to the provincial population structure.

Differences in two percentages may be clinically important. However, when error bars overlap, the difference cannot necessarily be interpreted as real or statistically significant.

Acknowledgement

The data used in this publication came from the OSDUHS conducted at the CAMH and administered by the Institute for Social Research, York University. Its contents and interpretation are solely the responsibility of the author and do not necessarily represent the official view of the CAMH.

For more information, contact Durham Region Health Department at 1-800-841-2729, by fax at 905-666-6241 or by visiting the [Durham Region website](#).