

ABSTRACT



10356: Binge Drinking Prevalence By Occupation Among Nebraska Adults

BACKGROUND: Excessive alcohol consumption, including binge drinking, is a leading preventable cause of death in the United States. Binge drinking is a significant public health risk in Nebraska, which ranked in the top five nationally for binge drinking prevalence according to 2016 data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). Binge drinking is associated with many health problems, including unintentional injuries, cancer, and chronic diseases such as high blood pressure, stroke, heart disease, and liver disease. Binge drinking also impacts the workplace due to high turnover rates, health care costs, and lost productivity. Understanding how binge drinking varies across occupations could yield useful information for public health programs aimed at reducing binge drinking.

METHODS: Data from the Nebraska BRFSS collected during 2012-2015 were combined, which included a total sample of 76,293 respondents. Binge drinking prevalence was defined as adults 18 and older who reported having five or more alcoholic drinks for men/four or more alcoholic drinks for women on at least one occasion during the past 30 days. Respondents who indicated they were employed for wages, self-employed, or out of work for less than one year were asked their occupation on one of two survey paths (n=23,446). Occupation was coded using the 2002 Census Occupation Codes and collapsed into 23 groups. Binge drinking prevalence was stratified by demographic characteristics, employment status, and occupation. Estimated prevalence rates and 95% confidence intervals were calculated and described across sub-groups.

RESULTS: An estimated 25.3% (CI=24.6-25.9) of employed adults in Nebraska reported binge drinking during 2012-2015, which was more than double the prevalence in non-employed adults (11.0%; CI=10.3-11.7). Among employed adults, binge drinking prevalence was higher in male workers (31.1%; CI=30.1- 32.1), workers aged 25-34 (34.9%; CI=33.3-36.6), and workers residing in large urban areas (25.8%; CI=24.8-26.8). Across occupational groups, the highest binge drinking prevalence reported was in 'Construction and Extraction' occupations (40.6%; CI=35.8-45.3), followed by 'Installation, Repair and Maintenance' occupations (33.2%; CI=28.3-38.1). The lowest prevalence of binge drinking was reported in workers with 'Community and Social Services' occupations (14.6%; CI=9.9-19.3).

CONCLUSIONS: Binge drinking prevalence is higher among those currently employed, and it varies across occupations. Intervention programs should be tailored to specific occupations, with a focus on those with higher prevalence.

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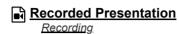
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