

4.3.2 ALCOHOL USE

The survey respondents were asked about their alcohol consumption during past 12 months and past 30 days. The results are presented below.

KEY FINDINGS

1.3% adolescents consumed alcohol in the past 12 months and the mean age of initiation was **13.4 years**.

Alcohol use

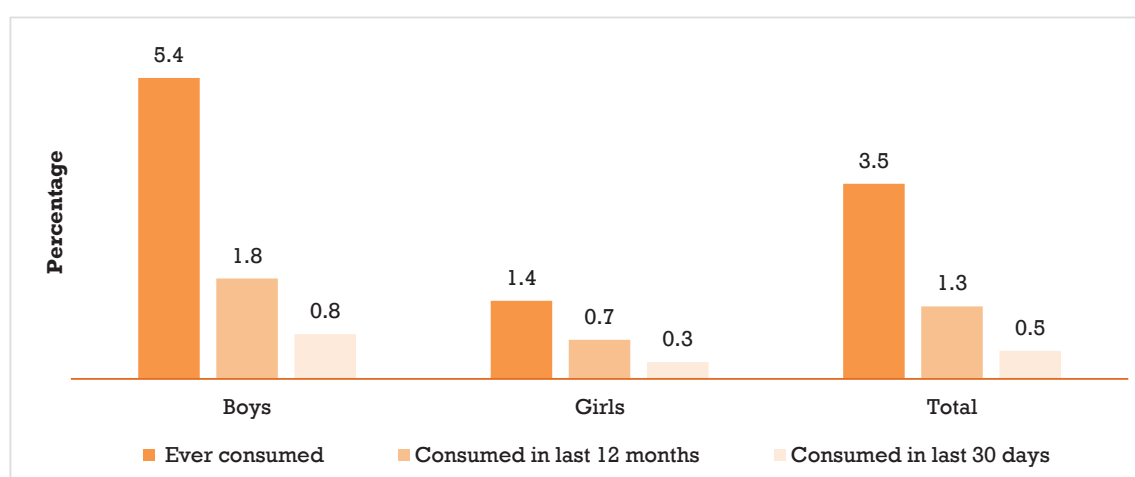


Figure 4.3.2.1 Alcohol use among adolescents by gender (Percentage)

Figure 4.3.2.1 shows, 3.5% had ever used alcohol in their life, while 1.3% and 0.5% used alcohol in past 12 months and past 30 days respectively. It was observed that, the use of alcohol was higher among boys. By area of residence, 3.6% and 3.2% were ever users and 1.4% and 1.1% were users in the past 12 months in rural and urban areas respectively. (Annexure table 4.3.2.1a)

Type of alcohol used

According to the survey results, among those who used alcohol in the past 12 months, the most preferred type of alcohol was country liquor/some other type (57.8%) with a higher percentage from rural areas, followed by beer (34.0%). (Annexure table 4.3.2.2a)

Pattern of drinking among alcohol users in the past 30 days

The survey respondents, who reported consuming alcohol in the past 30 days were asked about the maximum number of standard drinks consumed per drinking occasion in the past 30 days. One standard drink is equivalent to a net alcohol content of 10 grams. The responses are presented as percentage who consumed <5 and ≥ 5 maximum number of standard drinks in one drinking occasion in the past 30 days.

It was observed that, 0.4% adolescents (0.6% were boys and 0.3% were girls) consumed <5 standard drinks and 0.1% consumed ≥ 5 standard drinks. (Annexure table 4.3.2.3a)

Heavy episodic drinking in the past 30 days

It is estimated that 0.1% adolescents indulged in heavy episodic drinking [≥ 5 (boys) and ≥ 4 (girls) standard drinks per occasion] during the past 30 days. 0.2% boys and none of the girls reported being engaged in heavy episodic drinking. (*Annexure table 4.3.2.4a*)

Age of initiation of alcohol use

Table 4.3.2.1 Age (in years) of initiation of alcohol use among adolescents by area of residence and gender (Mean)

15 - 17 years	Urban	Rural	Boys	Girls	Total
Age of initiation	14.1	13.1	13.5	12.8	13.4

The mean age of initiation of alcohol use was 13.4 years, with almost a year difference among boys (13.5 years) and girls (12.8 years). It was observed that the youngest to start were girls from rural areas (11.4 years). (*Table 4.3.2.1 and annexure table 4.3.2.5a*)

Source of alcohol used in the past 30 days

Table 4.3.2.2 Source from where alcohol was consumed in past 30 days by area of residence and gender (Percentage)

Source of alcohol use	Urban	Rural	Boys	Girls	Total
Store/shop/street vendor	21.3	41.8	40.2	0.0	30.7
Friends	6.9	23.9	19.2	0.0	14.6
Family	70.0	34.3	39.4	100.0	53.7

Table 4.3.2.2 shows that, the source of alcohol for more than half of the adolescents (53.7%) was from the family, 30.7% got it from the store/shop/street vendor and 14.6% from friends. The other sources included giving money to someone else for purchasing alcohol (1.0%). (*Annexure table 4.3.2.6a*)