

Youth and Alcohol

When it comes to alcohol consumption, the trends among Buffalo County youth remain encouraging. Over the past decade, the percentage of survey respondents who have ever used alcohol has fallen by more than ten percentage points, to fewer than 40% in 2021. While a sizable share of respondents has tried alcohol at least once, fewer than one in six (14.4%), report having at least one drink in the previous month. Binge drinking (4 or more in a row for women, 5 or more in a row for men) continues to decline. However, of those youth that reported drinking in the past 30 days, there was a slight increase in those that said they drove after they drank.

Percent responding one or more.

		2014	2016	2018	2021	2023
During the past 30 days, how many times did you drive a car or other vehicle when you had been drinking alcohol? (of those that drove)	Buffalo County Respondents	6.6%	5.4%	4.7%	3.3%	5.2%*
	Nebraska Respondents	6.8%	10.1%	6.3%	5.8%	4.5%
During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have 4 or more drinks of alcohol in a row (if you are female) or 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row (if you are male)	Buffalo County Respondents	10.2%	12.0%	10.3%	8.8%	8.3%*
	Nebraska Respondents	14.3%	10.5%	8.2%	9.1%	4.1%
During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have at least one drink of alcohol?	Buffalo County Respondents	18.6%	20.4%	18.9%	15.9%	14.4%*
	Nebraska Respondents	22.7%	24.4%	21.0%	18.9%	10.8%
Of those who reported drinking alcohol, during the last 30 days what is the largest number of alcoholic drinks you had in a row, that is withing a couple of hours? (percent responding 6 or more)	Buffalo County Respondents	32.1%	32.1%	27.8%	28.9%	33.1%*
	Male	42.6%	48.6%	36.1%	36.1%	40.0%*
	Female	21.3%	27.3%	20.2%	20.2%	25.4%*

**Buffalo County Respondents data set was weighted for representativeness*

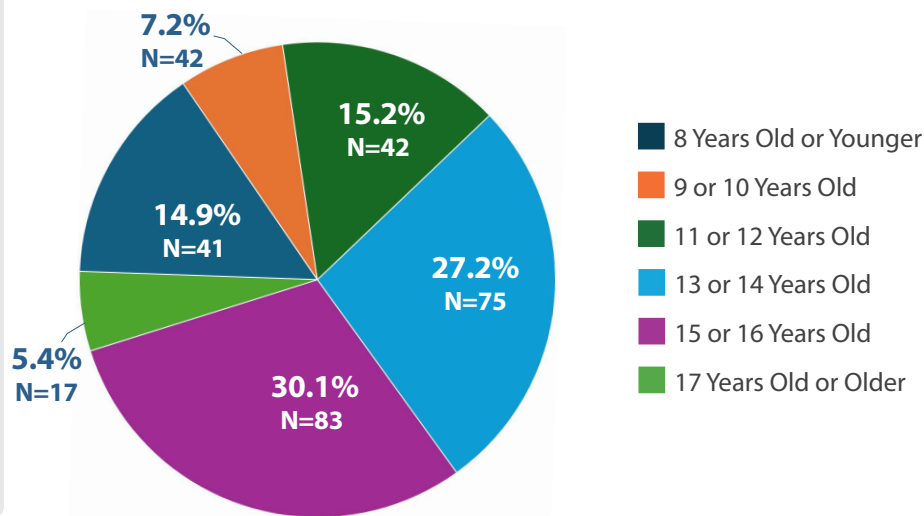
BUFFALO COUNTY 2023 YOUTH RISK BEHAVIORAL SURVEY YOUTH AND ALCOHOL

Age of First Alcohol Use, 2023*

Of the respondents who have ever consumed alcohol, a large majority, 94.6%, had their first drink before age 17.

About a third (30.1%) had their first drink at age 15 or 16, followed closely by the group that first drank at age 13 or 14 (27.2%). Over a third (37.3%) of those who drank were 12 or younger.

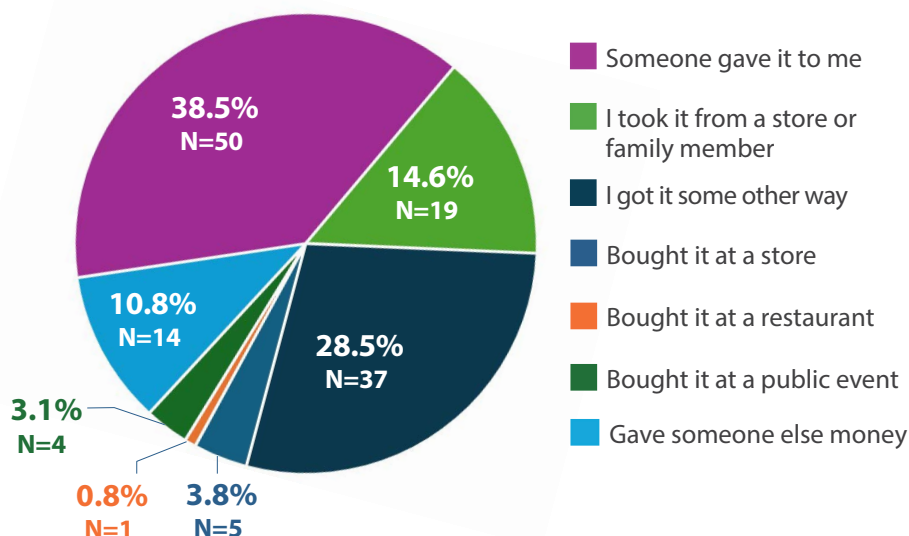
Of those who have ever consumed more than a few sips, how old were you when you had your first drink of alcohol, other than a few sips?



Sources for Obtaining Alcohol, 2023*

Bearing in mind that about 1 in 7 respondents report having consumed alcohol in the previous month, most of them obtained it from another person. Very few respondents (7.7%) successfully purchased alcohol at a store, restaurant or other venue.

Of those who drank alcohol in the past 30 days, during the past 30 days, how did you usually get the alcohol you drank?



Research Methods

Every two to three years, Buffalo County Community Partners collaborates with the Nebraska Departments of Education and Health and Human Services to administer and analyze the Youth Behavioral and Risk Factor Survey. Data from Buffalo County were collected from a representative sample of Buffalo County youth between October and December 2023. In all, 1,023 Buffalo County youth, in grades 9-12, completed the 2023 survey. Copies of current and past reports are available at www.bcchp.org/assessments. For research methods respecting the Nebraska data, see <https://bosr.unl.edu/sharp/>. **Resource for parents can be found at, bcchp.org/parents.**



*Buffalo County Respondents data set was weighted for representativeness