

Alcohol use among teens allowed to drink at home

Supplementary materials

August 2021

MEASURES

Alcohol use: Parental survey items

For the first time when K cohort children were aged 16–17 (Wave 7; 2016), Parent 1 (the parent who knows the study child best, usually the child's biological mother) was asked questions about permitting underage alcohol use at home and at parties or social events:

Is study child allowed to drink alcohol at (P1's) home?

Codes: 1 (Yes); 2 (No)

- How often does study child drink alcohol at (P1's) home?
Codes: 1 (Never/Not in last year); 2 (Less than monthly); 3 (2–3 times/month); 4 (Weekly or more)
- At what age was study child first allowed to have a full serve (a glass) of alcohol at (P1's) home?
Continuous numerical response provided.
- Do you let study child take alcohol to parties or social events?
Codes: 1 (Yes); 2 (No)
 - At what age did you first let study child take alcohol to a party or social event?
Continuous numerical response provided.

When K cohort children were aged 14–15 (Wave 6), parents were asked about their own frequency of alcohol consumption:

How often do you have a drink containing alcohol?

Codes: 0 (None); 1 (Not in the last year); 2 (Monthly or less); 3 (2–3 times per month); 4 (Once a week); 5 (Two to three times a week); 6 (Four to six times a week); 7 (Every day)

At each wave, the parents of study children are asked whether they had ever had an alcohol problem:

Have you ever had any of the following conditions? An alcohol problem

Codes: 0 (No, never); 1 (Yes, as a child and/or as an adult)

Alcohol use: Adolescent survey items

At each wave, study children are asked numerous questions about their lifetime, recent and current alcohol use characteristics and behaviours and experience of associated harms:

Have you ever had even part of an alcoholic drink?

Codes: 1 (Yes); 2 (No)

- Have you had an alcoholic drink in the last 12 months?

Codes: 1 (Yes); 2 (No)

- Have you had an alcoholic drink in the last four weeks?

Codes: 1 (Yes); 2 (No)

- Number of alcoholic drinks you had during the last seven days, including yesterday?

Continuous numerical response provided.

Has your use of alcohol caused you to have trouble at school or work the next day?

Codes: 1 (Yes); 2 (No)

Has your use of alcohol caused you to get into arguments with your family?

Codes: 1 (Yes); 2 (No)

Has your use of alcohol caused you to get injured or have an accident?

Codes: 1 (Yes); 2 (No)

Has your use of alcohol caused you to become violent and get into a fight?

Codes: 1 (Yes); 2 (No)

Has your use of alcohol caused you to have sex with someone, which you later regretted?

Codes: 1 (Yes); 2 (No)

Indigenous status

In the first wave of LSAC, a parent or guardian indicated if the study child was of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin. The percentage of teenagers who were Indigenous at Wave 7 was 2.3%.

Level of disadvantage

The level of socio-economic disadvantage of a study child's family at each data collection wave is determined by their residential location in consideration of the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA),¹ developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Those categorised in the lowest quartile (25%) are coded 1, those in the middle 50% are 2, and those in the highest 25% are 3.

Residential location

The residential location of a study child's family at each data collection wave is determined by the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS).²

Those in major cities are coded 0, inner regional are 1, outer regional 2.

¹ www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/seifa

² [www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/home/australian+statistical+geography+standard+\(asgs\)](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/home/australian+statistical+geography+standard+(asgs))

Parent education

Highest level of parent education is the highest qualification completed by a study child's mother or father by the time the child is 14-15 (Wave 6).

Year 12 or less is coded 1, a graduate certificate or diploma is 2, university degree is 3, and 'other' is 4.

Language background

A parent or guardian indicated whether or not the study child spoke a language other than English at home.

Language background was coded 0 (English only) or 1 (language other than English). At Wave 7, the percentage of teenagers from a non-English speaking background was 9.8%.

Family composition

The number and type of parents in the study child's household at the time of interview indicates family composition.

Two biological parents in the household is coded as 1, a lone parent as 2, one biological parent and one step-parent is 3, 'other' (e.g. another relative such as aunt/uncle or grandparent) is 4.

Birth order

The number of siblings a study child has, and whether these siblings are older and/or younger, indicates their birth order.

Codes: 1 (Oldest child); 2 (Middle child/twin); 3 (Youngest child); 4 (Only child; i.e. no siblings)

Main source of parental income: Government payments

At each wave, the parents of study children are asked to report their main source of income from a list of numerous options including wage or salary, profit or loss from rental property, dividends or interest, child support or maintenance, superannuation or annuity, and government pension or allowance. In analyses for this snapshot we compared those on government payments (e.g. unemployment benefits, disability pension) versus all other income sources.

Codes: 1 (Government payment); 0 ('Other')

Parental monitoring

When LSAC K cohort teens were aged 14-15 years (Wave 6; 2014), a parent or guardian was asked:

- How many of child's close friends do you know by sight and by their first and last names?
- How many of child's close friends' parents do you know by sight and by their first and last names?
Codes: 1 (None of them); 2 (Only a few); 3 (About half); 4 (Most of them); 5 (All of them)
- How strongly do you agree or disagree that? 'It is important that parents know where their child is and what they are doing all the time.'
- How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement? 'It is difficult to know where child is and what he/she is doing now that he/she is getting older.' (reversed)
Codes: 1 (Strongly disagree); 2 (Disagree); 3 (Neither agree nor disagree); 4 (Agree); 5 (Strongly agree)
- In the course of a day, how often do you know where child is? (reversed)
- How often do you know who child is with when he/she is away from home? (reversed)
Codes: 1 (Always); 2 (Almost always); 3 (About half the time); 4 (Almost never); 5 (Never)

The standardised sum score of the six items was calculated and parental monitoring was classified as low (lowest 25% of the distribution), middle (middle 50%) or high (top 25%). In multivariable analyses these data were treated as binary: low (lowest 25%) vs middle/high (top 75%) (Table S1).

Parent's drug use as a teenager

To indicate history of illicit drug use among the primary parents of study children, at Wave 7 they were asked:

- When you were a teenager, before you were 18 years of age did any of the following occur? You started using illicit drugs

Codes: 0 (No); 1 (Yes)

FULL RESULTS

Table S1: Multivariable analysis: Factors associated with parents granting permission for teens aged 16-17 years to drink at home, 2016

	aOR	95% CI
Sex of adolescent: Female	1.12	0.93, 1.34
Sex of primary parent: Female	1.60	0.98, 2.62
Age of primary parent	0.98	0.95, 1.00*
SEIFA Index (level of disadvantage)		
Low	1	-
Middle	0.98	0.78, 1.23
High	0.73	0.54, 0.98*
Adolescent is Indigenous Australian (parent-reported)	0.85	0.43, 1.66
ASGS: Residential location		
Major city	1	-
Inner regional area	1.30	1.03, 1.64*
Outer regional area	1.64	1.25, 2.15***
Highest level of parental education		
University degree	1	-
<Year 12	1.87	1.34, 2.60***
Certificate/diploma	1.44	1.18, 1.76***
Family composition		
Two biological parents	1	-
Lone parent	0.95	0.72, 1.25
Biological parent and step-parent	1.61	1.12, 2.31*
Other	1.28	0.77, 2.13
Birth order of adolescent		
Oldest	1	-
Middle/twin	0.88	0.67, 1.17
Youngest	1.13	0.89, 1.44
Only child	1.42	1.08, 1.87*
Main source of parental income: Government payments	0.70	0.31, 1.56
LOTE	0.70	0.47, 1.04
Parental monitoring medium/high (ref. low)	0.94	0.76, 1.17
Parental alcohol use frequency when adolescent aged 14/15 (Wave 6)	1.23	1.17, 1.30***
Primary parent ever had alcohol problems	1.14	0.63, 2.07
Primary parent used illicit drugs as a teenager	1.54	1.09, 2.16*

Notes: *** $p < 0.001$; ** $p < 0.01$; * $p < 0.05$. aOR = adjusted Odds Ratio; ASGS = Australian Statistical Geography Standard; LOTE = Language Other than English; multivariable random effects logistic regression.

Source: LSAC data, Waves 6 and 7, K cohort, unweighted. $n = 2,592$ observations

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