

Table 1. Percent distribution of lifetime alcohol drinking status for adults 18 years of age and older according to selected characteristics: United States, average annual, 1997–98

Selected characteristic	Total	Lifetime alcohol drinking status ¹			
		Lifetime abstainer	Former infrequent	Former regular	Current
Percent distribution (standard error)					
Both sexes					
Ages 18 years and older (age-adjusted) ^{2,3}	100.00	21.7 (0.24)	9.1 (0.15)	6.8 (0.14)	62.4 (0.29)
Ages 18 years and older (crude) ²	100.00	21.5 (0.24)	9.0 (0.15)	6.7 (0.14)	62.8 (0.29)
Age:					
18–24 years	100.00	32.4 (0.72)	3.7 (0.27)	2.5 (0.23)	61.4 (0.77)
25–44 years	100.00	16.4 (0.30)	7.1 (0.18)	5.1 (0.17)	71.3 (0.35)
45–64 years	100.00	18.8 (0.37)	10.7 (0.29)	8.0 (0.27)	62.4 (0.49)
65–74 years	100.00	26.6 (0.64)	14.2 (0.45)	11.2 (0.45)	48.0 (0.69)
75 years and older	100.00	35.5 (0.74)	15.8 (0.55)	13.1 (0.55)	35.7 (0.74)
Race-ethnicity ³ :					
Hispanic	100.00	33.1 (0.68)	8.8 (0.39)	5.7 (0.33)	52.3 (0.60)
White, non-Hispanic	100.00	17.5 (0.29)	8.6 (0.17)	7.0 (0.16)	66.9 (0.35)
Black, non-Hispanic	100.00	32.0 (0.72)	12.6 (0.38)	7.9 (0.37)	47.4 (0.77)
Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic	100.00	45.6 (1.53)	7.6 (0.75)	2.9 (0.52)	43.9 (1.49)
Education ³ :					
Less than high school graduate	100.00	32.1 (0.52)	12.0 (0.36)	8.9 (0.30)	47.0 (0.56)
GED diploma ⁴	100.00	18.5 (1.16)	10.0 (0.83)	10.4 (0.85)	61.2 (1.39)
High school graduate	100.00	23.0 (0.43)	10.4 (0.27)	6.9 (0.25)	59.6 (0.47)
Some college - no degree	100.00	17.2 (0.45)	8.0 (0.28)	7.0 (0.28)	67.8 (0.53)
Associate of arts degree	100.00	18.0 (0.66)	7.6 (0.42)	6.5 (0.39)	67.9 (0.74)
Bachelor of arts, science degree	100.00	14.6 (0.48)	6.2 (0.29)	4.8 (0.27)	74.5 (0.57)
Masters, doctorate, medical degree	100.00	17.3 (1.25)	5.5 (0.32)	4.0 (0.31)	73.2 (1.30)
Poverty status ³ :					
Below poverty	100.00	33.4 (0.75)	12.4 (0.49)	8.7 (0.46)	45.5 (0.67)
Poverty–199% above	100.00	27.5 (0.58)	11.8 (0.38)	8.8 (0.35)	52.0 (0.59)
200–399% above	100.00	20.4 (0.39)	9.5 (0.28)	7.4 (0.24)	62.8 (0.50)
400% or more above	100.00	12.7 (0.37)	6.4 (0.23)	5.3 (0.20)	75.6 (0.44)
Marital status ³ :					
Never married	100.00	25.1 (0.59)	7.7 (0.37)	6.8 (0.40)	60.4 (0.71)
Married	100.00	20.8 (0.34)	9.6 (0.22)	7.2 (0.20)	62.3 (0.38)
Cohabiting	100.00	10.9 (1.03)	8.3 (0.91)	7.7 (0.90)	73.1 (1.25)
Divorced or separated	100.00	18.2 (0.65)	9.7 (0.40)	8.5 (0.41)	63.6 (0.76)
Widowed	100.00	25.1 (1.80)	11.2 (0.91)	7.7 (0.84)	55.9 (1.85)
Geographic region ³ :					
Northeast	100.00	17.0 (0.40)	9.1 (0.33)	5.6 (0.31)	68.3 (0.58)
Midwest	100.00	17.8 (0.54)	9.1 (0.25)	6.5 (0.25)	66.7 (0.57)
South	100.00	27.3 (0.44)	9.7 (0.29)	7.7 (0.27)	55.2 (0.54)
West	100.00	21.2 (0.47)	7.8 (0.29)	7.0 (0.26)	64.0 (0.49)
Place of residence ^{3,5} :					
MSA, central city	100.00	23.3 (0.43)	8.9 (0.24)	6.4 (0.21)	61.4 (0.49)
MSA, not central city	100.00	18.9 (0.33)	8.5 (0.20)	6.3 (0.19)	66.2 (0.44)
Not MSA	100.00	25.5 (0.55)	10.6 (0.38)	8.7 (0.35)	55.2 (0.57)

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Percent distribution of lifetime alcohol drinking status for adults 18 years of age and older according to selected characteristics: United States, average annual, 1997–98—Con.

Selected characteristic	Total	Lifetime alcohol drinking status ¹			
		Lifetime abstainer	Former infrequent	Former regular	Current
Percent distribution (standard error)					
Men					
Ages 18 years and older (age-adjusted ^{2,3}	100.00	14.3 (0.27)	7.7 (0.19)	8.9 (0.21)	69.1 (0.34)
Ages 18 years and older (crude) ²	100.00	14.2 (0.27)	7.5 (0.18)	8.4 (0.20)	69.9 (0.34)
Age:					
18–24 years	100.00	27.7 (1.02)	2.9 (0.38)	2.2 (0.35)	67.2 (1.10)
25–44 years	100.00	11.5 (0.35)	5.9 (0.25)	5.8 (0.25)	76.9 (0.46)
45–64 years	100.00	10.8 (0.41)	9.1 (0.38)	10.6 (0.40)	69.6 (0.62)
65–74 years	100.00	14.6 (0.68)	12.8 (0.63)	16.1 (0.77)	56.5 (1.00)
75 years and older	100.00	19.9 (1.05)	14.2 (0.88)	20.7 (1.09)	45.2 (1.29)
Race-ethnicity ³ :					
Hispanic	100.00	18.5 (0.86)	8.8 (0.56)	8.0 (0.57)	64.7 (0.84)
White, non-Hispanic	100.00	11.9 (0.31)	7.1 (0.21)	9.0 (0.25)	71.9 (0.41)
Black, non-Hispanic	100.00	21.4 (0.87)	11.4 (0.66)	10.7 (0.65)	56.5 (1.15)
Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic	100.00	30.3 (2.09)	7.6 (1.00)	4.3 (1.06)	57.8 (2.12)
Education ³ :					
Less than high school graduate	100.00	18.6 (0.58)	11.2 (0.48)	12.2 (0.49)	58.0 (0.79)
GED diploma ⁴	100.00	8.7 (1.06)	9.2 (1.18)	13.0 (1.37)	69.1 (1.82)
High school graduate	100.00	15.4 (0.56)	8.6 (0.37)	9.6 (0.40)	66.5 (0.63)
Some college - no degree	100.00	12.0 (0.54)	6.2 (0.35)	9.1 (0.50)	72.7 (0.75)
Associate of arts degree	100.00	12.2 (0.88)	6.2 (0.66)	8.0 (0.68)	73.6 (1.09)
Bachelor of arts, science degree	100.00	10.9 (0.59)	5.5 (0.41)	5.3 (0.43)	78.3 (0.75)
Masters, doctorate, medical degree	100.00	15.1 (1.90)	4.7 (0.40)	4.3 (0.43)	75.9 (1.97)
Poverty status ³ :					
Below poverty	100.00	21.3 (1.12)	11.1 (0.75)	11.7 (0.85)	55.9 (1.19)
Poverty–199% above	100.00	17.1 (0.65)	10.4 (0.54)	12.2 (0.59)	60.4 (0.85)
200–399% above.	100.00	13.9 (0.44)	8.6 (0.40)	9.7 (0.38)	67.8 (0.61)
400% or more above	100.00	9.6 (0.45)	5.0 (0.25)	6.4 (0.31)	79.1 (0.54)
Marital status ³ :					
Never married.	100.00	17.4 (0.79)	7.4 (0.56)	9.0 (0.71)	66.2 (1.09)
Married	100.00	13.6 (0.39)	8.6 (0.29)	8.9 (0.28)	69.0 (0.48)
Cohabiting	100.00	8.0 (1.10)	5.6 (0.85)	8.8 (1.16)	77.5 (1.54)
Divorced or separated.	100.00	9.2 (0.77)	6.4 (0.44)	12.0 (0.82)	72.4 (1.10)
Widowed	100.00	9.1 (1.85)	4.5 (0.66)	12.5 (2.17)	73.9 (2.73)
Geographic region ³ :					
Northeast	100.00	11.1 (0.47)	6.8 (0.38)	7.5 (0.45)	74.6 (0.69)
Midwest	100.00	12.8 (0.60)	7.1 (0.34)	8.0 (0.39)	72.1 (0.61)
South	100.00	17.3 (0.50)	9.2 (0.37)	10.5 (0.39)	62.9 (0.64)
West	100.00	14.1 (0.48)	6.7 (0.37)	8.5 (0.44)	70.8 (0.64)
Place of residence ^{3,5} :					
MSA, central city	100.00	14.9 (0.52)	7.7 (0.34)	8.4 (0.34)	69.0 (0.62)
MSA, not central city	100.00	12.9 (0.35)	7.0 (0.25)	8.1 (0.29)	71.9 (0.50)
Not MSA	100.00	16.6 (0.63)	9.4 (0.42)	11.4 (0.50)	62.6 (0.66)

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Percent distribution of lifetime alcohol drinking status for adults 18 years of age and older according to selected characteristics: United States, average annual, 1997–98—Con.

Selected characteristic	Total	Lifetime alcohol drinking status ¹			
		Lifetime abstainer	Former infrequent	Former regular	Current
Percent distribution (standard error)					
Women					
Ages 18 years and older (age-adjusted) ^{2,3}	100.00	28.1 (0.34)	10.3 (0.19)	5.2 (0.16)	56.4 (0.38)
Ages 18 years and older (crude) ²	100.00	28.1 (0.34)	10.3 (0.20)	5.2 (0.16)	56.4 (0.38)
Age:					
18–24 years	100.00	37.2 (1.03)	4.4 (0.40)	2.8 (0.31)	55.6 (1.08)
25–44 years	100.00	21.2 (0.41)	8.3 (0.26)	4.5 (0.21)	66.0 (0.48)
45–64 years	100.00	26.4 (0.54)	12.2 (0.39)	5.6 (0.28)	55.8 (0.64)
65–74 years	100.00	36.2 (0.88)	15.4 (0.62)	7.3 (0.47)	41.1 (0.85)
75 years and older	100.00	45.4 (0.98)	16.8 (0.69)	8.2 (0.50)	29.5 (0.85)
Race-ethnicity ³ :					
Hispanic	100.00	47.2 (0.90)	9.0 (0.47)	3.8 (0.32)	40.0 (0.83)
White, non-Hispanic	100.00	22.3 (0.40)	9.9 (0.23)	5.4 (0.19)	62.4 (0.46)
Black, non-Hispanic	100.00	40.1 (0.88)	13.6 (0.53)	5.9 (0.41)	40.4 (0.87)
Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic	100.00	60.0 (1.95)	7.7 (1.07)	1.8 (0.48)	30.6 (1.86)
Education ³ :					
Less than high school graduate	100.00	44.7 (0.75)	12.9 (0.46)	6.1 (0.32)	36.4 (0.68)
GED diploma ⁴	100.00	29.8 (1.90)	10.8 (1.33)	7.7 (1.07)	51.7 (1.95)
High school graduate	100.00	29.1 (0.57)	12.0 (0.37)	5.1 (0.26)	53.9 (0.62)
Some college - no degree	100.00	21.9 (0.63)	9.6 (0.42)	5.1 (0.29)	63.4 (0.71)
Associate of arts degree	100.00	22.5 (0.90)	8.8 (0.52)	5.4 (0.46)	63.4 (0.98)
Bachelor of arts, science degree	100.00	18.5 (0.70)	6.9 (0.41)	4.2 (0.33)	70.5 (0.84)
Masters, doctorate, medical degree	100.00	20.3 (1.68)	6.5 (0.55)	3.5 (0.40)	69.6 (1.77)
Poverty status ³ :					
Below poverty	100.00	40.4 (0.86)	13.4 (0.64)	7.3 (0.49)	38.9 (0.77)
Poverty–199% above	100.00	35.8 (0.79)	13.0 (0.50)	6.3 (0.39)	44.9 (0.77)
200–399% above	100.00	26.6 (0.59)	10.4 (0.36)	5.1 (0.28)	57.9 (0.67)
400% or more above	100.00	16.3 (0.55)	8.0 (0.39)	4.0 (0.25)	71.7 (0.64)
Marital status ³ :					
Never married.	100.00	32.6 (0.87)	8.2 (0.51)	4.9 (0.40)	54.2 (0.95)
Married	100.00	28.0 (0.48)	10.6 (0.29)	5.2 (0.23)	56.1 (0.50)
Cohabiting	100.00	16.1 (3.03)	14.7 (2.88)	3.9 (0.59)	65.3 (1.56)
Divorced or separated.	100.00	23.7 (0.88)	11.7 (0.55)	6.6 (0.42)	58.0 (0.94)
Widowed	100.00	29.3 (2.47)	12.9 (1.12)	6.6 (0.93)	51.2 (2.51)
Geographic region ³ :					
Northeast	100.00	22.0 (0.55)	11.0 (0.43)	4.1 (0.36)	62.9 (0.75)
Midwest	100.00	22.1 (0.70)	10.9 (0.38)	5.3 (0.30)	61.7 (0.80)
South	100.00	36.1 (0.60)	10.2 (0.35)	5.4 (0.27)	48.3 (0.66)
West	100.00	27.7 (0.74)	8.8 (0.37)	5.6 (0.29)	57.9 (0.72)
Place of residence ^{3,5} :					
MSA, central city	100.00	30.4 (0.56)	10.0 (0.31)	4.9 (0.22)	54.7 (0.61)
MSA, not central city	100.00	24.3 (0.46)	9.8 (0.26)	4.8 (0.22)	61.0 (0.57)
Not MSA	100.00	33.5 (0.81)	11.9 (0.53)	6.4 (0.39)	48.2 (0.82)

¹Lifetime alcohol drinking status: Lifetime abstainer is defined as a person who had less than 12 drinks in lifetime; former infrequent is defined as having had 12 or more drinks in lifetime, but less than 12 in 1 year, and none in past year; former regular is defined as having had 12 or more drinks in 1 year but none in past year; current is defined as having had 12 or more drinks in lifetime and 1 or more drinks in past year.

²Persons of other races and unknown race and ethnicity, unknown education, unknown poverty status, and unknown marital status are included in the total.

³Age adjusted to the 2000 projected U.S. population using age groups 18–24 years, 25–44 years, 45–64 years, 65–74 years, and 75 years and over.

⁴GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

⁵MSA is metropolitan statistical area (see Technical notes).

NOTE: Denominator for each percent distribution excludes persons with unknown lifetime drinking status.