

ABSTRACT

ADOLESCENT DRINKING TENDENCIES IN A SAMPLE OF RURAL, CENTRAL CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

This study identifies that some adolescents in fact do drink alcohol. A questionnaire was given to three life skills classes at a rural public secondary school in Central California. The subjects for this study were adolescents 14-18 years of age. There were 68 participants who took the survey; thirty-three 14-year-olds, twenty-three 15-year-olds, four 16-year-olds, and two 18-year-olds. Within this group there were 40 females and 28 males.

Results concluded that of the 68 participants, slightly over one-half have consumed an alcoholic beverage. Beer was their choice of alcoholic beverage to consume. Adolescents stated they drink at gatherings and parties.

The survey also revealed that about one-third also drink alcohol with their friends and a little less than a quarter consume alcohol with their family. The implications of the study reveal adolescents are drinking alcohol mostly with friends and family, and they are drinking at an early age.

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