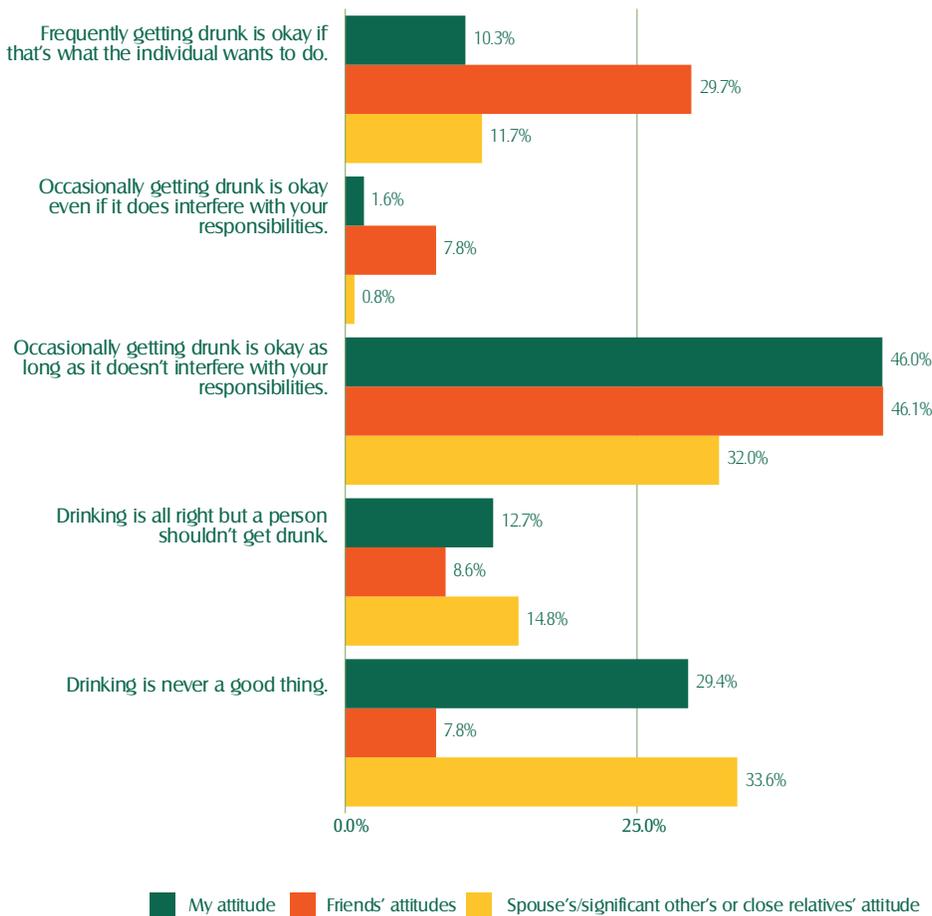


Jail inmates perceived their friends and families had quite different attitudes on alcohol misuse

Jail inmates' attitudes about occasional alcohol misuse were similar to what they thought their friends thought: 46% of inmates believed occasional drunkenness was okay as long as it did not interfere with one's responsibilities, and the same proportion (46.1%) reported that their friends would say the same thing.¹

Although only 10% of inmates thought frequently getting drunk was okay, almost 30% reported that their friends would say frequent alcohol misuse was okay. They also thought their friends had more permissive attitudes than they did when alcohol abuse interfered with one's responsibilities: 7.8% said their friends would think this misuse was acceptable, but only 1.6% reported that they also believed this misuse was acceptable.

Percentage of Fairfield County jail inmates reporting their attitudes and the attitudes of friends and family about alcohol misuse



Results from the
Jail Assessment
in Fairfield County

About 30% of jail inmates said that drinking alcohol is never acceptable.

This data sheet is available at <http://BHIndicators.FairfieldADAMH.org>. You may use this information or distribute this fact sheet without prior permission as long as you do not alter the information and you credit Fairfield County ADAMH. Fairfield County ADAMH makes every effort to find and report correct data and believes this information to be reliable. If you see any errors or omissions, please contact us. This project was supported by Grant No. 2013-PM-BX-0011 awarded by Bureau of Justice Assistance. Points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Inmates reported their spouses and families had less permissive attitudes toward alcohol misuse

On each of the more permissive responses to alcohol misuse, inmates reported they believed their spouses/significant others or close relatives were far less likely to believe alcohol misuse was okay. About one-third reported that their family members thought drinking was never okay (33.6%) and 15% reported that their family members thought some drinking was okay but getting drunk was not.

Overall, inmates' attitudes were more closely aligned with what they thought close family members believed than with what they perceived were their friends' views.

How were these data gathered?

These data come from face-to-face interviews with Fairfield County jail inmates conducted in 2014–2015. These jail inmates scored 3 or higher on the Simple Screening Instrument, indicating moderate to high risk for alcohol or drug abuse.²

Why are attitudes about substance misuse important?

The attitudes and behaviors of close friends, significant others, and family members influence the attitudes and behaviors of an individual. Tacit approval of alcohol or drug abuse increases the risk that an individual will engage in these activities.

How can we address this community issue?

Providing pro-social activities and peer recovery supports for individuals with substance use disorders is essential. Investing in evidence-based prevention effort in schools, in communities, and within the family environment is also a cost-effective approach to mitigating risk factors that may exist.

For more information, contact

Fairfield County ADAMH
108 West Main Street
Lancaster, Ohio 43130
740-654-0829 (p)
740-654-7621 (f)

Mental health crisis hotline:
740-687-8255 (24 hr.)

For more information about alcohol, drug, and mental health community indicators, please visit our interactive website where you can create your own data queries about Fairfield County:

BHIndicators.FairfieldADAMH.org

Notes on the data and sources

Cover graphic: Data from surveys of the jail population.

Source: Data for this fact sheet was drawn from an assessment conducted at the jail with Fairfield County jail inmates ($n = 146$) conducted in 2014–2015. These jail inmates scored ≥ 3 on the Simple Screening Instrument, indicating moderate to high risk for alcohol or drug abuse. The collection of data was conducted as part of a Bureau of Justice Assistance grant. The privacy restrictions approved by the National Center for State Court's Institutional Review Board were followed. Limited demographics were collected to ensure anonymity. The jail sample was primarily male (62%) and white (97%).

¹7% of respondents answered "don't know" when asked about their spouses/significant others/close relatives.

²The Simple Screening Instrument is a questionnaire used across the country in many different settings as an effective way to identify potential substance abuse disorders.

For more information, including interactive data visualizations by gender, location, and age, as well as comparisons to Ohio as a whole, visit the Fairfield County ADAMH Board interactive website at <http://BHIndicators.FairfieldADAMH.org>.