

**Table 2. Percent distribution of current alcohol drinking status for adults 18 years of age and older according to selected characteristics: United States, average annual, 1997–98**

Selected characteristic	Total	Current alcohol drinking status <sup>1</sup>				
		Nondrinker	Infrequent	Light	Moderate	Heavier
Percent distribution (standard error)						
Both sexes						
Ages 18 years and older (age-adjusted <sup>2,3</sup> . . . . .	100.00	37.6 (0.29)	14.7 (0.16)	29.1 (0.24)	13.8 (0.18)	4.7 (0.10)
Ages 18 years and older (crude) <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	100.00	37.2 (0.29)	14.8 (0.16)	29.4 (0.24)	13.9 (0.18)	4.7 (0.10)
Age:						
18–24 years . . . . .	100.00	38.6 (0.77)	12.2 (0.49)	31.4 (0.71)	12.7 (0.52)	5.1 (0.34)
25–44 years . . . . .	100.00	28.7 (0.35)	15.9 (0.23)	35.3 (0.33)	15.4 (0.27)	4.9 (0.15)
45–64 years . . . . .	100.00	37.6 (0.49)	15.5 (0.32)	27.5 (0.39)	14.1 (0.32)	5.3 (0.18)
65–74 years . . . . .	100.00	52.0 (0.69)	13.7 (0.48)	18.5 (0.57)	11.9 (0.44)	3.9 (0.26)
75 years and older . . . . .	100.00	64.3 (0.74)	11.8 (0.48)	13.0 (0.47)	9.1 (0.45)	1.8 (0.19)
Race-ethnicity <sup>3</sup> :						
Hispanic . . . . .	100.00	47.7 (0.60)	12.8 (0.44)	25.4 (0.53)	10.5 (0.40)	3.6 (0.25)
White, non-Hispanic . . . . .	100.00	33.1 (0.35)	15.2 (0.20)	31.3 (0.30)	15.2 (0.22)	5.2 (0.12)
Black, non-Hispanic . . . . .	100.00	52.6 (0.77)	13.2 (0.47)	21.0 (0.57)	9.6 (0.40)	3.6 (0.21)
Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic . . . . .	100.00	56.1 (1.49)	13.9 (1.00)	21.4 (1.19)	7.2 (0.75)	1.4 (0.30)
Education <sup>3</sup> :						
Less than high school graduate . . . . .	100.00	53.0 (0.56)	12.6 (0.35)	19.4 (0.44)	9.8 (0.32)	5.1 (0.24)
GED diploma <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	100.00	38.8 (1.39)	16.3 (1.10)	24.7 (1.16)	13.0 (0.92)	7.2 (0.70)
High school graduate . . . . .	100.00	40.4 (0.47)	16.2 (0.35)	25.9 (0.40)	12.6 (0.31)	4.9 (0.20)
Some college - no degree . . . . .	100.00	32.2 (0.53)	16.4 (0.36)	31.2 (0.49)	15.1 (0.37)	5.2 (0.22)
Associate of arts degree . . . . .	100.00	32.1 (0.74)	15.8 (0.60)	33.1 (0.75)	14.8 (0.57)	4.3 (0.30)
Bachelor of arts, science degree . . . . .	100.00	25.5 (0.57)	13.3 (0.38)	38.6 (0.62)	18.3 (0.47)	4.3 (0.27)
Masters, doctorate, medical degree . . . . .	100.00	26.8 (1.30)	11.2 (0.58)	40.3 (1.28)	18.3 (0.81)	3.5 (0.43)
Poverty status <sup>3</sup> :						
Below poverty . . . . .	100.00	54.5 (0.67)	11.6 (0.42)	20.1 (0.50)	9.0 (0.41)	4.8 (0.29)
Poverty–199% above . . . . .	100.00	48.0 (0.59)	14.5 (0.42)	22.6 (0.45)	10.2 (0.37)	4.7 (0.24)
200–399% above . . . . .	100.00	37.2 (0.50)	16.3 (0.34)	28.6 (0.43)	13.1 (0.31)	4.8 (0.18)
400% or more above . . . . .	100.00	24.4 (0.44)	13.9 (0.29)	36.8 (0.45)	19.7 (0.39)	5.2 (0.20)
Marital status <sup>3</sup> :						
Never married . . . . .	100.00	39.6 (0.71)	12.7 (0.46)	27.7 (0.59)	14.8 (0.46)	5.2 (0.28)
Married . . . . .	100.00	37.7 (0.38)	15.8 (0.24)	29.6 (0.35)	13.2 (0.23)	3.8 (0.13)
Cohabiting . . . . .	100.00	26.9 (1.25)	13.1 (0.94)	32.2 (1.09)	18.4 (1.15)	9.4 (0.76)
Divorced or separated . . . . .	100.00	36.4 (0.76)	15.4 (0.55)	27.6 (0.61)	14.2 (0.55)	6.4 (0.38)
Widowed . . . . .	100.00	44.1 (1.85)	12.0 (1.08)	31.2 (1.87)	8.0 (0.97)	4.7 (0.79)
Region <sup>3</sup> :						
Northeast . . . . .	100.00	31.7 (0.58)	15.9 (0.44)	33.1 (0.60)	15.4 (0.43)	3.9 (0.21)
Midwest . . . . .	100.00	33.3 (0.57)	16.4 (0.30)	31.2 (0.54)	14.4 (0.35)	4.7 (0.18)
South . . . . .	100.00	44.8 (0.54)	13.1 (0.26)	25.2 (0.39)	12.1 (0.30)	4.8 (0.18)
West . . . . .	100.00	36.0 (0.49)	14.3 (0.36)	29.6 (0.43)	14.7 (0.36)	5.4 (0.25)
Place of residence <sup>3,5</sup> :						
MSA, central city . . . . .	100.00	38.6 (0.49)	13.7 (0.30)	28.1 (0.38)	14.3 (0.34)	5.3 (0.19)
MSA, not central city . . . . .	100.00	33.8 (0.44)	15.4 (0.25)	31.7 (0.36)	14.6 (0.26)	4.5 (0.15)
Not MSA . . . . .	100.00	44.8 (0.57)	14.7 (0.32)	24.5 (0.45)	11.5 (0.32)	4.4 (0.20)

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Percent distribution of current 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	Current alcohol drinking status <sup>1</sup>				
		Nondrinker	Infrequent	Light	Moderate	Heavier
Percent distribution (standard error)						
Men						
Ages 18 years and older (age-adjusted) <sup>2,3</sup> . . . . .	100.00	30.9 (0.34)	11.3 (0.22)	30.3 (0.32)	21.7 (0.30)	5.7 (0.15)
Ages 18 years and older (crude) <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	100.00	30.1 (0.34)	11.3 (0.22)	30.9 (0.33)	21.9 (0.30)	5.8 (0.15)
Age:						
18–24 years . . . . .	100.00	32.8 (1.10)	9.4 (0.66)	32.1 (1.01)	19.7 (0.89)	6.0 (0.55)
25–44 years . . . . .	100.00	23.1 (0.46)	11.1 (0.31)	35.8 (0.49)	23.9 (0.44)	6.0 (0.24)
45–64 years . . . . .	100.00	30.4 (0.62)	12.6 (0.43)	28.8 (0.58)	21.9 (0.54)	6.4 (0.28)
65–74 years . . . . .	100.00	43.5 (1.00)	11.6 (0.69)	21.1 (0.88)	18.9 (0.80)	4.8 (0.41)
75 years and older . . . . .	100.00	54.8 (1.29)	10.4 (0.78)	16.4 (0.90)	16.4 (0.92)	2.0 (0.37)
Race-ethnicity <sup>3</sup> :						
Hispanic . . . . .	100.00	35.3 (0.84)	10.2 (0.50)	31.4 (0.83)	17.9 (0.72)	5.2 (0.42)
White, non-Hispanic . . . . .	100.00	28.1 (0.41)	11.6 (0.27)	31.0 (0.40)	23.2 (0.36)	6.1 (0.18)
Black, non-Hispanic . . . . .	100.00	43.5 (1.15)	10.1 (0.62)	24.5 (0.93)	17.2 (0.81)	4.6 (0.33)
Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic . . . . .	100.00	42.2 (2.12)	13.9 (1.50)	30.0 (1.87)	12.1 (1.51)	1.8 (0.40)
Education <sup>3</sup> :						
Less than high school graduate . . . . .	100.00	42.0 (0.79)	10.8 (0.46)	23.2 (0.65)	16.4 (0.54)	7.5 (0.41)
GED diploma <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	100.00	30.9 (1.82)	11.6 (1.18)	28.6 (1.74)	19.6 (1.56)	9.4 (1.08)
High school graduate . . . . .	100.00	33.5 (0.63)	12.1 (0.45)	27.3 (0.57)	20.7 (0.60)	6.4 (0.32)
Some college - no degree . . . . .	100.00	27.3 (0.75)	12.4 (0.52)	31.4 (0.74)	22.8 (0.64)	6.1 (0.36)
Associate of arts degree . . . . .	100.00	26.4 (1.09)	11.4 (0.81)	33.8 (1.14)	24.2 (1.09)	4.4 (0.42)
Bachelor of arts, science degree . . . . .	100.00	21.7 (0.75)	10.2 (0.52)	37.7 (0.86)	26.5 (0.74)	3.9 (0.37)
Masters, doctorate, medical degree . . . . .	100.00	24.1 (1.97)	8.5 (0.58)	38.8 (2.03)	26.0 (1.54)	2.6 (0.34)
Poverty status <sup>3</sup> :						
Below poverty . . . . .	100.00	44.1 (1.19)	9.5 (0.65)	23.8 (0.94)	15.9 (0.77)	6.7 (0.60)
Poverty–199% above . . . . .	100.00	39.6 (0.85)	11.2 (0.61)	25.0 (0.71)	17.3 (0.69)	6.9 (0.42)
200–399% above . . . . .	100.00	32.2 (0.61)	11.5 (0.42)	29.9 (0.63)	20.2 (0.51)	6.2 (0.32)
400% or more above . . . . .	100.00	20.9 (0.54)	10.3 (0.40)	35.5 (0.61)	28.0 (0.63)	5.3 (0.27)
Marital status <sup>3</sup> :						
Never married . . . . .	100.00	33.8 (1.09)	10.2 (0.59)	28.0 (0.97)	22.0 (0.75)	6.1 (0.42)
Married . . . . .	100.00	31.0 (0.48)	12.3 (0.35)	32.0 (0.56)	20.3 (0.40)	4.4 (0.20)
Cohabiting . . . . .	100.00	22.5 (1.54)	11.5 (1.22)	28.5 (1.50)	26.6 (1.62)	10.9 (1.07)
Divorced or separated . . . . .	100.00	27.6 (1.10)	10.9 (0.92)	26.9 (1.10)	26.0 (1.16)	8.6 (0.70)
Widowed . . . . .	100.00	26.1 (2.73)	8.2 (2.16)	33.9 (3.88)	21.3 (3.20)	10.4 (3.08)
Region <sup>3</sup> :						
Northeast . . . . .	100.00	25.4 (0.69)	12.1 (0.56)	34.0 (0.84)	24.2 (0.74)	4.3 (0.32)
Midwest . . . . .	100.00	27.9 (0.61)	12.6 (0.42)	31.4 (0.70)	22.3 (0.59)	5.9 (0.28)
South . . . . .	100.00	37.1 (0.64)	10.2 (0.37)	27.2 (0.48)	19.5 (0.48)	6.0 (0.27)
West . . . . .	100.00	29.2 (0.64)	10.9 (0.53)	31.2 (0.67)	22.4 (0.59)	6.2 (0.30)
Place of residence <sup>3,5</sup> :						
MSA, central city . . . . .	100.00	31.0 (0.62)	10.5 (0.38)	29.5 (0.55)	22.6 (0.56)	6.4 (0.28)
MSA, not central city . . . . .	100.00	28.1 (0.50)	11.6 (0.34)	32.5 (0.47)	22.5 (0.44)	5.3 (0.23)
Not MSA . . . . .	100.00	37.4 (0.66)	11.8 (0.47)	26.5 (0.62)	18.6 (0.52)	5.8 (0.31)

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Percent distribution of current 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	Current alcohol drinking status <sup>1</sup>				
		Nondrinker	Infrequent	Light	Moderate	Heavier
Percent distribution (standard error)						
Women						
Ages 18 years and older (age-adjusted) <sup>2,3</sup> . . . . .	100.00	43.6 (0.38)	18.0 (0.23)	28.1 (0.32)	6.6 (0.16)	3.8 (0.13)
Ages 18 years and older (crude) <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	100.00	43.6 (0.38)	18.0 (0.23)	28.1 (0.32)	6.6 (0.16)	3.7 (0.13)
Age:						
18–24 years . . . . .	100.00	44.4 (1.08)	14.9 (0.72)	30.8 (0.94)	5.7 (0.48)	4.2 (0.36)
25–44 years . . . . .	100.00	34.0 (0.48)	20.4 (0.36)	34.7 (0.45)	7.1 (0.24)	3.8 (0.19)
45–64 years . . . . .	100.00	44.2 (0.64)	18.2 (0.44)	26.3 (0.52)	6.9 (0.28)	4.3 (0.22)
65–74 years . . . . .	100.00	58.9 (0.85)	15.4 (0.61)	16.3 (0.69)	6.3 (0.40)	3.2 (0.34)
75 years and older . . . . .	100.00	70.5 (0.85)	12.7 (0.60)	10.8 (0.54)	4.5 (0.38)	1.6 (0.22)
Race-ethnicity <sup>3</sup> :						
Hispanic . . . . .	100.00	60.0 (0.83)	15.6 (0.66)	19.4 (0.61)	3.1 (0.28)	2.0 (0.24)
White, non-Hispanic . . . . .	100.00	37.6 (0.46)	18.8 (0.29)	31.7 (0.40)	7.7 (0.21)	4.3 (0.17)
Black, non-Hispanic . . . . .	100.00	59.6 (0.87)	15.7 (0.62)	18.3 (0.64)	3.6 (0.32)	2.8 (0.27)
Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic . . . . .	100.00	69.4 (1.86)	14.0 (1.32)	13.1 (1.40)	2.4 (0.57)	*1.1 (0.38)
Education <sup>3</sup> :						
Less than high school graduate . . . . .	100.00	63.6 (0.68)	14.6 (0.55)	15.7 (0.54)	3.3 (0.28)	2.8 (0.24)
GED diploma <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	100.00	48.3 (1.95)	21.2 (1.80)	20.3 (1.34)	5.7 (0.81)	4.5 (0.76)
High school graduate . . . . .	100.00	46.1 (0.62)	19.7 (0.47)	24.7 (0.55)	5.8 (0.25)	3.6 (0.23)
Some college - no degree . . . . .	100.00	36.6 (0.71)	20.0 (0.53)	31.1 (0.64)	8.0 (0.41)	4.2 (0.27)
Associate of arts degree . . . . .	100.00	36.6 (0.98)	19.6 (0.82)	32.5 (1.01)	7.1 (0.53)	4.1 (0.44)
Bachelor of arts, science degree . . . . .	100.00	29.5 (0.84)	16.3 (0.62)	39.4 (0.86)	10.0 (0.51)	4.7 (0.36)
Masters, doctorate, medical degree . . . . .	100.00	30.4 (1.77)	14.2 (0.97)	41.8 (1.63)	9.2 (0.68)	4.4 (0.67)
Poverty status <sup>3</sup> :						
Below poverty . . . . .	100.00	61.1 (0.77)	13.0 (0.56)	17.7 (0.60)	4.5 (0.36)	3.6 (0.31)
Poverty–199% above . . . . .	100.00	55.1 (0.77)	17.3 (0.57)	20.6 (0.60)	4.1 (0.31)	2.9 (0.25)
200–399% above . . . . .	100.00	42.1 (0.67)	21.1 (0.52)	27.3 (0.55)	6.1 (0.29)	3.4 (0.20)
400% or more above . . . . .	100.00	28.3 (0.64)	17.9 (0.50)	38.2 (0.64)	10.4 (0.40)	5.2 (0.32)
Marital status <sup>3</sup> :						
Never married . . . . .	100.00	45.8 (0.95)	15.4 (0.65)	27.8 (0.73)	6.8 (0.41)	4.2 (0.35)
Married . . . . .	100.00	43.9 (0.50)	19.2 (0.34)	27.5 (0.42)	6.3 (0.21)	3.2 (0.16)
Cohabiting . . . . .	100.00	34.7 (1.56)	13.5 (0.92)	35.7 (1.56)	8.9 (1.08)	7.3 (0.79)
Divorced or separated . . . . .	100.00	42.0 (0.94)	18.3 (0.65)	28.1 (0.76)	6.6 (0.46)	4.9 (0.39)
Widowed . . . . .	100.00	48.8 (2.51)	13.2 (1.32)	29.4 (2.62)	5.3 (1.29)	3.3 (0.69)
Region <sup>3</sup> :						
Northeast . . . . .	100.00	37.1 (0.75)	19.4 (0.55)	32.5 (0.71)	7.5 (0.36)	3.6 (0.26)
Midwest . . . . .	100.00	38.3 (0.80)	20.0 (0.47)	31.2 (0.73)	7.0 (0.32)	3.5 (0.24)
South . . . . .	100.00	51.7 (0.66)	15.9 (0.37)	23.5 (0.50)	5.3 (0.26)	3.6 (0.21)
West . . . . .	100.00	42.1 (0.72)	17.6 (0.53)	28.0 (0.60)	7.5 (0.35)	4.7 (0.37)
Place of residence <sup>3,5</sup> :						
MSA, central city . . . . .	100.00	45.3 (0.61)	16.7 (0.42)	27.0 (0.50)	6.8 (0.29)	4.3 (0.22)
MSA, not central city . . . . .	100.00	39.0 (0.57)	19.0 (0.35)	31.1 (0.48)	7.2 (0.24)	3.7 (0.19)
Not MSA . . . . .	100.00	51.8 (0.82)	17.6 (0.43)	22.7 (0.62)	4.8 (0.29)	3.1 (0.24)

\* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision (see Technical notes).

<sup>1</sup>Current alcohol drinking status: Nondrinker is defined as a person who had no drinks in past year (includes both former drinkers and lifetime abstainers); infrequent is defined as having had 12 or more drinks in lifetime and 1–11 drinks in past year; light is defined as having had 12 or more drinks in lifetime, at least 12 drinks in the past year, and 3 drinks or fewer per week, on average; moderate is defined as having had more than 3 drinks per week up to 14 drinks per week (for men) and more than 3 drinks per week up to 7 drinks per week (for women), on average; heavier is defined as having had more than 14 drinks per week (for men), and more than 7 drinks per week (for women), on average.

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

<sup>3</sup>Age 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.

<sup>4</sup>GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

<sup>5</sup>MSA is metropolitan statistical area (see Technical notes).

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