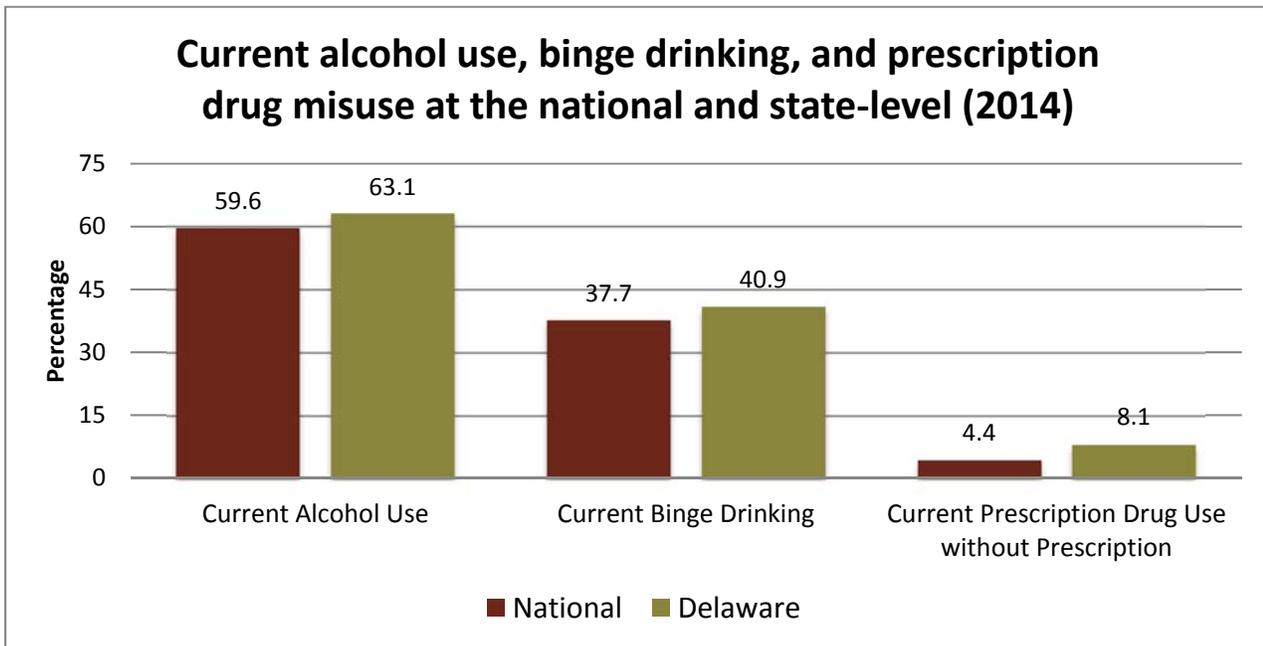


Current alcohol use, binge drinking, and prescription drug misuse among young adults in Delaware higher than National average

Many current health and prevention initiatives in Delaware focus on reducing and preventing alcohol and the misuse of prescription drugs¹ among youth and young adults. This DDATAGram compares Delaware and national rates of current use for young adults, aged 18 to 25, using the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), which collects data at the national, state, and county level on various health and substance use related topics. Current use is defined as using alcohol or prescription drugs² in the past 30 days.

Data from the 2014 NSDUH indicate that while current alcohol use and binge drinking rates are similar to the national average, prescription drug misuse in Delaware is almost double the national average.



¹ This refers to the use of prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription, or in a manner other than prescribed, to get high, concentrate, relieve anxiety or depression, or for some other reason. This category includes pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, and sedatives. It can also include drugs within these particular drug classes that can be available as prescription medications, even if they are more likely to be manufactured and distributed illegally (e.g., the stimulant methamphetamine).

² NSDUH refers to the use of prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription as the nonmedical use of prescription drugs.