

Self-Reported Drinking and Driving Decreases in Ontario

This *eBulletin* presents the 2005 prevalence of drinking and driving among Ontario adults with a valid driver's licence, and changes over the past decade. Data are from the 1996 to 2005 *CAMH Monitor*, which is the longest ongoing survey of adult substance use and problems in Canada.

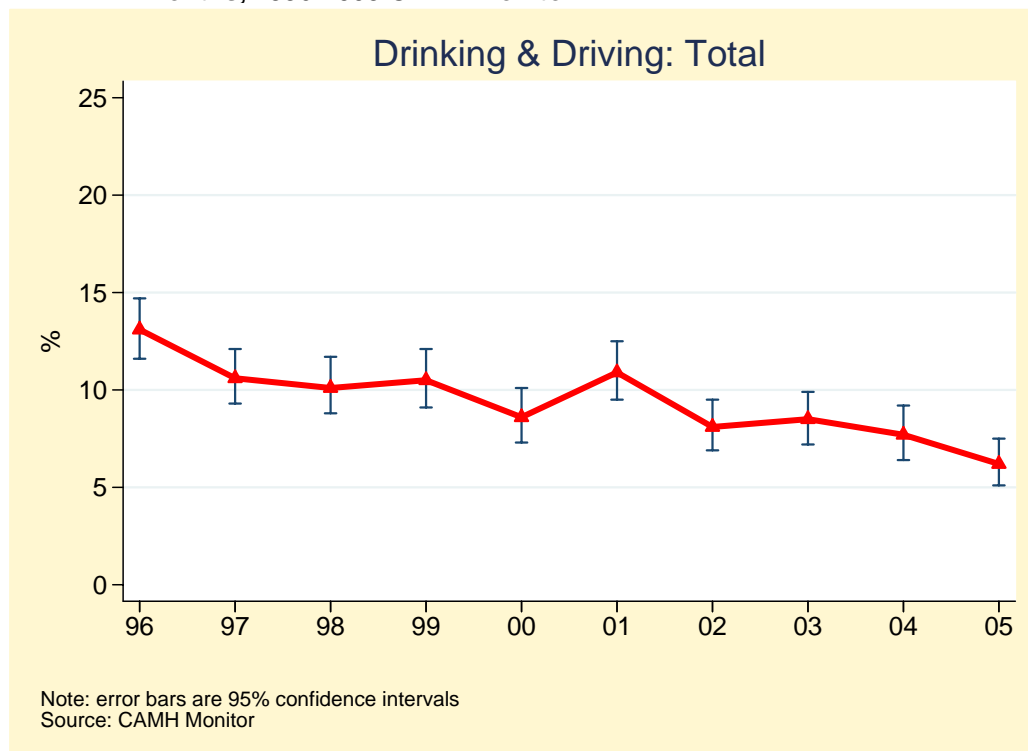
Drinking and Driving in 2005

As presented in Table 1, in 2005, 6.2% (95% confidence interval: 5.1%-7.5%) of adult drivers across Ontario reported drinking and driving at least once during the 12 months before the survey. There are

statistically significant differences according to sex and age group. Male drivers (10.1%) are significantly more likely to drink and drive compared to female drivers (2.1%).

Drinking and driving tends to decline with age, but only after age 50. As seen in Table 1, in 2005, drinking and driving estimates were around 8% among those in the three age groups between 18 and 49, but the estimate declines to 2.6% among ages 50-64 and remains relatively stable at 4.3% among those 65 or older.

Figure 1. Percentage of Ontario Adults Aged 18+ with a Valid Driver's Licence Reporting Drinking and Driving At Least Once During the Past 12 Months, 1996-2005 CAMH Monitor



Drinking and Driving, 1996 – 2005

As shown in Figure 1 and Table 1, drinking and driving among Ontario adults steadily decreased between 1996 (13.1%) and 2005 (6.2%).

Males show a substantial decrease in drinking and driving over the past decade. As seen in Figure 2 and Table 1, the highest rate on record was in 1996 (21.2%) and this steadily decreased over time (except for a spike in 2001) down to 10.1% in 2005. Females also show a decline between 1996 (4.9%) and 2005 (2.1%), although not as dramatic.

There have been significant declines in rates of drinking and driving among all age groups, except for the oldest (ages 65+). As seen in Figure 3 and Table 1, the most dramatic decrease has been among those aged 18 to 29, from 20.1% in 1996 to 7.7% in 2005.

A Note About Validity

Population surveys are among the most feasible methods to monitor health behaviours and related problems among the general population. Yet there are limitations to the survey method, including the known under-reporting of substance use and related behaviours, such as drinking and driving. Thus, these estimates should be viewed as conservative. However, the trend estimates remain unbiased, assuming that the degree of under-reporting remains more or less constant across years.

Figure 2. Percentage of Ontario Adults Aged 18+ with a Valid Driver's Licence Reporting Drinking and Driving At Least Once During the Past 12 Months, by Sex, 1996-2005 CAMH Monitor

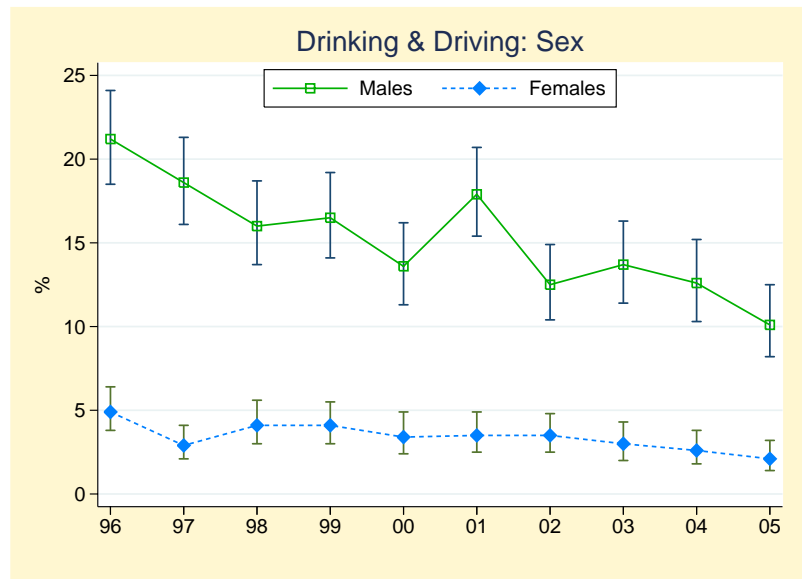


Figure 3. Percentage of Ontario Adults Aged 18+ with a Valid Driver's Licence Reporting Drinking and Driving At Least Once During the Past 12 Months, by Age Group, 1996-2005 CAMH Monitor

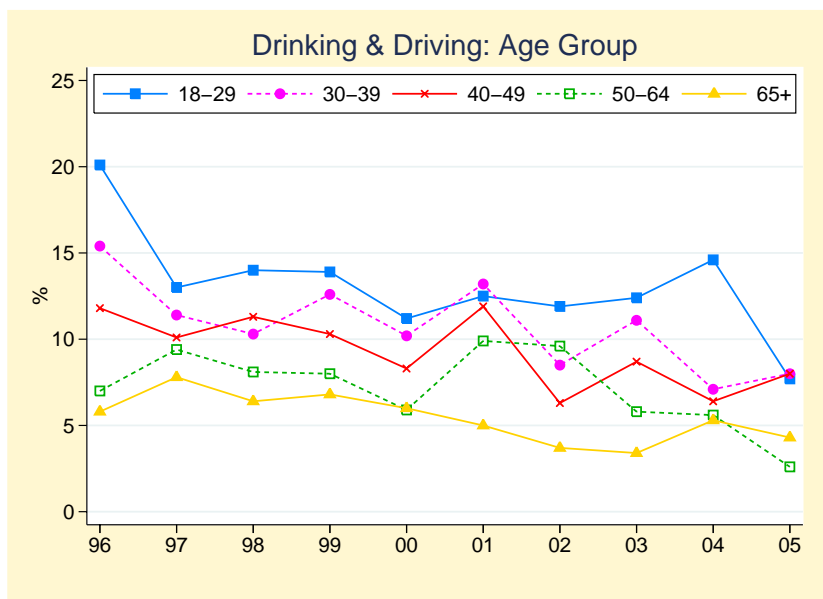


Table 1. Percentage of Ontarians Aged 18+ with a Valid Driver's Licence Reporting Drinking and Driving At Least Once During the Past 12 Months, 1996-2005 CAMH Monitor

(N=)	1996 (2360)	1997 (2432)	1998 (2183)	1999 (2101)	2000 (2066)	2001 (2308)	2002 (2132)	2003 (2124)	2004 (2283)	2005 (2126)	Overall Change	2005 vs. 2004
Total (95% CI)	13.1 (11.6-14.7)	10.6 (9.3-12.1)	10.1 (8.8-11.7)	10.5 (9.1-12.1)	8.6 (7.3-10.1)	10.9 (9.5-12.5)	8.1 (6.9-9.5)	8.5 (7.2-9.9)	7.7 (6.4-9.2)	6.2 (5.1-7.5)	*	
Sex												
Males	21.2 (18.5-24.1)	18.6 (16.1-21.3)	16.0 (13.7-18.7)	16.5 (14.1-19.2)	13.6 (11.3-16.2)	17.9 (15.4-20.7)	12.5 (10.4-14.9)	13.7 (11.4-16.3)	12.6 (10.3-15.2)	10.1 (8.2-12.5)	*	
Females	4.9 (3.8-6.4)	†2.9 (2.1-4.1)	4.1 (3.0-5.6)	4.1 (3.0-5.5)	3.4 (2.4-4.9)	3.5 (2.5-4.9)	3.5 (2.5-4.8)	3.0 (2.0-4.3)	†2.6 (1.8-3.8)	†2.1 (1.4-3.2)	*	
Age Group												
18-29	20.1 (16.7-24.7)	13.0 (10.0-16.8)	14.0 (10.4-18.4)	13.9 (10.4-18.4)	11.2 (8.2-15.1)	12.5 (9.3- 16.6)	11.9 (8.8-15.9)	12.4 (9.0-16.9)	14.6 (10.5-19.9)	†7.7 (5.0-11.8)	*	*
30-39	15.4 (12.4-19.0)	11.4 (8.8-16.5)	10.3 (7.5-13.3)	12.6 (10.0-15.8)	10.2 (7.5-13.8)	13.2 (10.1-17.0)	8.5 (6.0-11.9)	11.1 (8.1-15.0)	7.1 (4.6-10.7)	†8.0 (5.4-11.8)	*	
40-49	11.8 (9.1-15.1)	10.1 (7.3-13.8)	11.3 (8.6-14.9)	10.3 (7.5-13.9)	8.3 (6.0-11.4)	11.9 (9.0-15.5)	†6.3 (4.3-9.2)	8.7 (6.3-11.9)	†6.4 (4.4-9.2)	8.0 (5.8-11.0)	*	
50-64	7.0 (4.7-10.2)	9.4 (6.9-12.6)	8.1 (5.8-11.4)	8.0 (5.5-11.6)	†5.9 (3.7-9.3)	9.9 (7.1- 13.5)	9.6 (7.0-13.2)	†5.8 (3.8-8.7)	†5.6 (3.9-8.2)	†2.6 (1.5-4.6)	*	*
65+	5.8 (3.3-9.9)	7.8 (5.2-10.4)	6.4 (4.0-10.2)	6.8 (4.1-11.0)	†6.0 (3.3-10.7)	†5.0 (2.7- 9.4)	†3.7 (1.9-7.1)	†3.4 (1.8-6.6)	†5.3 (3.1-8.8)	†4.3 (2.4-7.6)		

Notes: (1) entries in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; (2) † estimate unstable; (3) * trend test significant at p-value <.05.

Methods:

The CAMH Monitor is an addiction and mental health random, anonymous telephone survey of the Ontario population aged 18 and older, administered by the Institute for Social Research, York University. The CAMH Monitor is conducted on an ongoing monthly basis and employs a stratified (region) two-stage (household, respondent) probability sample design. The following 6 regional strata are used: Toronto, Central East, East, Central West, West, and North. The annual sample size averages around 2,400 respondents.

All survey estimates were weighted, and variance and statistical tests were corrected for the sampling design.

Terminology:

- **Drinking and Driving** was measured with the question: “*How many times in the past 12 months have you driven a motor vehicle after having two or more drinks in the previous hour?*” Prevalence is based on those with a valid driver’s licence who report having done so at least once during the 12 months before the survey. (Note that respondents are told that a standard “drink” means one 12-ounce bottle of beer or glass of draft, one 5-ounce glass of wine, or one straight or mixed drink with 1 ounce and a half of hard liquor.)
- **95% Confidence Interval (CI)** can be crudely interpreted as being 95% likely to include the “true” value if every adult in Ontario was surveyed.
- **Significant Difference** refers to a difference between two percentages that is not likely due to chance. For example, a difference found at the $p < .05$ level of statistical significance is one that is less than 5% likely to occur by chance alone.

Source:

Based on the forthcoming 2005 *CAMH Monitor* Trend Report.

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