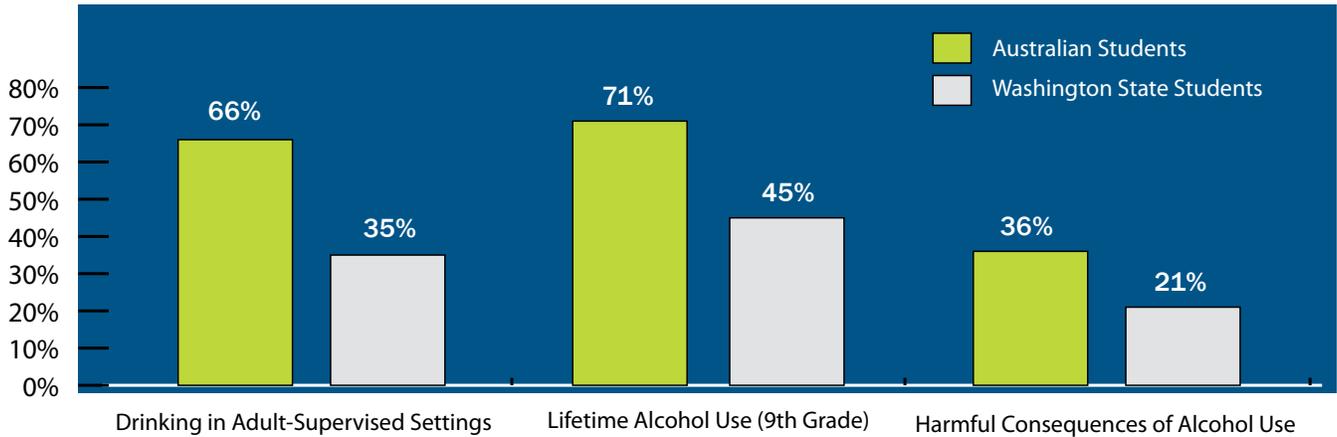




## Teenage Alcohol Use Under Adult Supervision Linked to Harmful Consequences

A recent study conducted in Washington State (U.S.) and Victoria (Australia) compared the alcohol use behaviors of adolescents in the U.S., who are more likely to experience zero-tolerance attitudes toward alcohol use, and those in Australia, who are more likely to be allowed to drink alcohol with adult supervision. The study confirms that teens in Victoria are more likely than their Washington counterparts to report having ever used alcohol in their lifetime (i.e. “lifetime use”) and having experienced harmful consequences,<sup>1</sup> according to a new report in the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*. By eighth grade, approximately 66% of the Australian students reported drinking under adult supervision, compared to 35% of the Washington State students. A greater portion of the Victoria students than the Washington students reported lifetime alcohol use (71% vs. 45%) and harmful consequences of alcohol use (36% vs. 21%).

**Prevalence Among Adolescents of Supervised Alcohol Use, Lifetime Use, and Harmful Consequences, 2002-2004**



**Source:**

McMorris, B. J., Catalano, R. F., Kim, M. J., Toumbourou, J. W., and Hemphill, S. A. (2011.) Influence of Family Factors and Supervised Alcohol Use on Adolescent Alcohol Use and Harms: Similarities Between Youth in Different Alcohol Policy Contexts. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, 72, 418-428.

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> Harmful consequences include blackouts, injuries, loss of control over drinking, fighting, and other risk behaviors.

Prepared by the Center for Health and Justice (CHJ) at TASC. CHJ works to build, enhance, and sustain strong and vibrant communities by promoting policies and practices that stop the cycle of drugs and crime. We conduct research and evaluations, and offer policy analysis, trainings, and technical assistance in the fields of health and justice. For more information, visit us online at [www.centerforhealthandjustice.org](http://www.centerforhealthandjustice.org).

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