

Using the Utah SHARP Web Tool for Running Item Crosstabs

The Crosstabs function on the Utah SHARP Web Tool allows you to examine responses to one question on the SHARP survey relative to responses on a second item. For example, you might be interested in knowing whether there are differences in 30 day alcohol use between youth who believe their parents would say it is “Very wrong” for them to use alcohol vs. “A little bit wrong.” Alternatively, you might be interested in knowing what percentage of past 30 day alcohol users also reported using marijuana in the past 30 days. Using the Crosstabs function can provide answers to these types of questions.

To Run a Crosstab Report:

Identify the two SHARP items that you are interested in examining using the drop down lists (Question 1 and Question 2). For the crosstab output table to provide the information you desire, it is important that the two questions be entered in the correct order (i.e., reversing the order of the two items will not provide the same response frequencies). The Question 1 field serves as the primary variable of interest, while the Question 2 field serves as the contextual variable. For example, if you are interested in examining 30-day alcohol use (primary variable), in relation to parents’ attitudes about their children using alcohol (contextual variable), you would choose item Q13a for the Question 1 field, and item Q18a (for the 2025 survey) for the Question 2 field (see example next page).

Interpreting the Output Table:

After both Question 1 and Question 2 are selected, several output tables will be displayed. The first table provides data for *All Grades* combined, followed by tables for each separate grade level that has data available. All the tables can be interpreted in the same manner.

Each crosstab output table presents the percentage of participants who indicated each response to the primary variable, *based on* their response to the contextual variable. In the example above, you can examine 30-day alcohol use responses based on perceived parental attitudes about youth alcohol use. For youth who indicated that their parents would feel it was “Not Wrong at All” for them to use alcohol only 69.9% reported not using alcohol, 10.7% indicated using 1-2 occasions, 7.8% indicated using 3-5 occasions, etc. By contrast, for youth who indicated that their parents would feel it was “Very Wrong” for them to use alcohol, 97.4% reported not using alcohol, 1.8% indicated using 1-2 occasions, 0.4% indicated 3-5 times, etc.

The percentages provided *within* each column will always add up to 100% because the percentage in each cell reflects only the total number of participants who indicated the specified response to the contextual variable. In contrast, the row totals present the overall percentage of participants who indicated each response to the primary variable (e.g., 96.2% of all participants [regardless of response to perceived parental attitudes] indicated using alcohol on “0 Occasions” in the past 30 days). This highlights the importance of entering the survey items in the correct order with Question 1 as the primary variable of interest, and Question 2 as the contextual variable. (If you REVERSE the order of the variables, it provides a different perspective on the data. In this case, the table would allow you to see how participants responded to the parental disapproval item based on their alcohol use responses.)

Crosstabs

Year: [How to Use Crosstabs](#)

Entity Type: [Caution Using Crosstabs](#)

Entity:

Filter 1:

Question 1: [SHARP Question Reference](#)

Filter 2:

Question 2: [Participation Table](#)

State of Utah Crosstab Percentages (SHARP 2025)

| Grade: All | | How wrong do your parents/caregivers feel it would be for YOU to drink beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey, or tequila) regularly? | | | | |
|--|-----------------|--|-------|--------------------|------------------|-------|
| | | Very Wrong | Wrong | A Little Bit Wrong | Not Wrong at All | Total |
| During the past 30 days how many times (if any) have you had beer, wine, or hard liquor to drink ? | 0 Occasions | 97.4 | 86.3 | 72.2 | 69.9 | 96.2 |
| | 1-2 Occasions | 1.8 | 9.3 | 18.9 | 10.7 | 2.5 |
| | 3-5 Occasions | 0.4 | 2.7 | 3.7 | 7.8 | 0.6 |
| | 6-9 Occasions | 0.2 | 0.8 | 1.9 | 7.7 | 0.3 |
| | 10-19 Occasions | 0.1 | 0.5 | 1.8 | 1.3 | 0.2 |
| | 20-39 Occasions | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 1.6 | 0.1 |
| | 40+ Occasions | 0.0 | 0.2 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 0.1 |
| | Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

| Grade: 6th | | How wrong do your parents/caregivers feel it would be for YOU to drink beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey, or tequila) regularly? | | | | |
|--|-----------------|--|-------|--------------------|------------------|-------|
| | | Very Wrong | Wrong | A Little Bit Wrong | Not Wrong at All | Total |
| During the past 30 days how many times (if any) have you had beer, wine, or hard liquor to drink ? | 0 Occasions | 99.3 | 93.4 | 81.4 | 90.1 | 98.8 |
| | 1-2 Occasions | 0.6 | 4.4 | 15.8 | 7.6 | 1.0 |
| | 3-5 Occasions | 0.0 | 1.9 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.2 |
| | 6-9 Occasions | 0.0 | 0.2 | 2.2 | 1.5 | 0.1 |
| | 10-19 Occasions | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| | 20-39 Occasions | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| | 40+ Occasions | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| | Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Helpful Tips for Running Crosstabs:

- 1) Use the SHARP Question Reference for a list of items that are included in the drop down box for Question 1 and Question 2. Because the items (or the order of the items) change each survey administration, there is a separate reference document for each survey year. The SHARP Question Reference link (located within the gray Crosstabs entry field area) will access the appropriate document based on the year that is selected in the Year field.
- 2) Use the question filter dropdowns (links located above both the Question 1 and Question 2 boxes) to filter the list of items in each of the Question fields to a smaller and more focused set of items.
- 3) Use the largest relevant sample for your crosstab analyses as possible. The larger the sample size for your analyses, the more reliable the observed relationships are likely to be. For example, using the total state sample will provide the most reliable results vs. using smaller geographical areas. With that said, you may need to drill down to a smaller subset of the data for the results of the analyses to be relevant. If so, just be sure to understand that your confidence in the results should be tempered as you analyze the data at smaller and smaller levels.
- 4) Pay close attention to what the data table is telling you (based on which item is specified as Question 1 and Question 2). Remember, that the order of the items DOES matter regarding interpretation. If you are not sure how to interpret the data table, please re-visit the section above in this document or reach out to the DSAMH or the SEOW for technical assistance.
- 5) You can use the “Reverse Questions” button to quickly switch Question 1 and Question 2 if you accidentally put the items in the wrong order.

Important Cautions for Interpreting Crosstabs:

- 1) Some crosstab queries will NOT include 6th grade respondents for surveys in 2025 and beyond. This is because the new 6th grade survey form implemented in 2025 (and beyond) does not include all the items that are completed by participants in grades 8 through 12. If you do not see a Grade 6 output table (see example below) following the *All grades* combined output table this means that one or both items in your query were not included in the 6th grade survey. When this is the case, it is important to remember that the *All Grades* combined data do not include 6th graders for that particular year. NOTE: If this is the case, exercise caution when comparing the *All Grades* crosstabs data across different years (because 6th graders may be included in surveys prior to 2025 but not included for 2025 and later year surveys).

Crosstabs

Year: 2025 [How to Use Crosstabs](#)

Entity Type: State [Caution Using Crosstabs](#)

Entity: State of Utah

Filter 1: 30 Day Substance Use

Question 1: Alc30dy: Alcohol Past 30 days [SHARP Question Reference](#)

Filter 2: Perceived Availability of Drugs

Question 2: Q29: If you wanted to get some beer, wine, or hard liquor (for ex [Participation Table](#)

Reverse Questions

State of Utah Crosstab Percentages (SHARP 2025)

Grade: All

| | | If you wanted to get some beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey or tequila), how easy would it be for you to get some? | | | | Total |
|----------------------|----------|--|--------------|--------------|-----------|-------|
| | | Very hard | Sort of hard | Sort of easy | Very easy | |
| Alcohol Past 30 days | No Use | 99.0 | 96.5 | 90.7 | 85.0 | 95.4 |
| | Has Used | 1.0 | 3.5 | 9.3 | 15.0 | 4.6 |
| | Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Grade: 8th

| | | If you wanted to get some beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey or tequila), how easy would it be for you to get some? | | | | Total |
|----------------------|----------|--|--------------|--------------|-----------|-------|
| | | Very hard | Sort of hard | Sort of easy | Very easy | |
| Alcohol Past 30 days | No Use | 99.4 | 96.9 | 92.2 | 86.5 | 96.9 |
| | Has Used | 0.6 | 3.1 | 7.8 | 13.5 | 3.1 |
| | Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

- 2) Do not make assumptions about cause and effect. The crosstab tables allow you to examine the relationship between two specified variables. While it may be tempting to interpret the data as having a cause and effect relationship (e.g., Question 2 causes Question 1), the crosstab data DO NOT imply causality. The crosstab tool provides the opportunity to examine *relationships* in the data, but it is important NOT to make assertions from the data that are not warranted. When you find relationships between two variables, some possibilities for that relationship include:
 - a) Question 2 causes Question 1 (there is a cause and effect relationship)
 - b) Question 1 causes Question 2 (cause and effect is reversed)
 - c) Some other variable causes both Question 1 and Question 2
 - d) There is no true relationship between Question 1 and Question 2 (the relationship is an artifact of the survey – see next bullet point)

- 3) Running crosstabs is a form of data “mining.” Given the large number of items on each SHARP Survey, sometimes relationships between items can exist by chance (not because of a true relationship between the variables). It is always good to do some reality checks when you find relationships in the data. For example:
 - a) Does the relationship hold up over time (not just for one year of the survey)?
 - b) Does the relationship seem to be systematic (e.g., is there a linear relationship or is it sporadic)?
 - c) Is there a theoretical foundation that plausibly connects the variables?

- 4) Form A only and Form B only items - The number of items collected through the SHARP Survey has increased over the years to the point where two forms of the survey are now administered each year. Many items appear on both Form A and Form B, but some items appear only on Form A, or only on Form B (please see the SHARP Question Reference document for each survey year for specific items that are only on Form A or Form B). When running crosstabs where either Question 1 or Question 2 contains an item that is on Form A or Form B only, please note that the sample size for the crosstab run is likely to be half of the total SHARP sample for the specified geography. In situations where a Form A only item AND a Form B only item are chosen for a crosstab run, the table will display “n/a” in each cell because there are no participants who would have completed both Form A and Form B only items due to their mutual exclusivity.