

Pride Survey of Licking County Youth, 2008-09 School Year

Summary of Key Findings

Alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) use slightly higher in Licking County than in US overall for 8th, 10th, and 12th graders

- **Alcohol:** 45% of Licking County 12th graders reported monthly alcohol use, compared to 41% nationally; 16% of local 8th graders reported monthly drinking, compared to 14%
- **Marijuana:** 25% of local 12th graders reported monthly marijuana use, compared to 21% in the nationally; 10% of local 8th graders reported monthly marijuana use, compared to 7%
- **Cigarettes:** 27% of local 12th graders reported monthly cigarette smoking, compared to 25% nationally; 12% of local 8th graders reported monthly cigarette smoking, compared to 9%

ATOD use rates slightly lower than national rates for 6th graders

- Compared to their peers in the national sample, slightly fewer 6th graders reported monthly use of alcohol, marijuana, and cigarettes.
- Monthly ATOD use among 6th graders was very rare: 3% for alcohol, 1% for marijuana, and 2% for cigarettes
- On average, local youth start using slightly later in their teen years compared to youth nationally; Licking County 12th graders reported that the average age they started using marijuana was 15.1 years old, compared to 14.6 years old in the national sample

Alcohol most commonly used drug

- Alcohol is by far the most commonly used drug among teens in Licking County and in the US
- 45% of Licking County 12th graders reported monthly drinking, compared to 25% for marijuana use, 2% for cocaine, 2% for heroin, 4% for OxyContin, and 1% for Meth
- Prescription drug use is also fairly common: 22% of local 12th graders said they had taken a prescription drug such as Ritalin, Adderall, or Xanax without a doctor's prescription at some point in their lifetime

Alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana readily available for high school students

- A majority of 10th and 12th graders say it is easy to get tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana, while far fewer 6th and 8th graders report easy access
- Licking County teens reported easier access than the national sample:
 - **Alcohol:** 69% of local 10th and 12th graders said it is "fairly" or "very" easy to get, compared to 60% nationally
 - **Marijuana:** 56% of local 10th and 12th graders reported easy access, compared to 45% nationally
 - **Tobacco:** 74% of local 10th and 12th graders reported easy access, compared to 59% nationally
- Tobacco and alcohol are the most accessible, although marijuana access also appears to be widespread
- 31% of local 10th and 12th graders said an adult had given them or their friends alcohol (beer, wine, hard liquor) for a party in the past 30 days

Most students believe ATOD use is harmful

- Teens feel marijuana and cigarettes are more harmful than alcohol; 85% of local 6th and 8th graders said marijuana use was "harmful" or "very harmful," compared to 73% saying that drinking every day is a "moderate" or "great risk"
- Local 6th and 8th graders were more likely than the national sample to perceive marijuana and cigarette use as harmful; this difference was reversed for alcohol

Most ATOD use occurs at home, not in school

- ATOD use in school is very rare: 2% of local 10th and 12th graders reported using alcohol at school, and 3% reported using marijuana use at school
- Students most commonly use ATOD at a friend's house or in their own home
- Far more Licking County teens reported ATOD use in private homes (own or friend's house) compared to the national sample; 48% of local 10th and 12th graders said they use alcohol at a friend house, compared to 34% nationally; 28% said they use alcohol at home, compared to 22% nationally

Parental monitoring and supervision drops considerably at high school level

- The vast majority of local 6th and 8th graders said that their parents know where they are and who they are with when they are not at home, and set clear rules for them
- Parental monitoring is less common for 10th and 12th graders; 66% said their parents set clear rules for them "often" or "a lot," compared to 81% for 6th and 8th graders

Most—but not all—parents disapprove of youth ATOD use

- The vast majority of students at all grade levels reported that their parents would feel it was "wrong" or "very wrong" for them to use ATOD
- Licking County 10th and 12th graders were less likely than their national counterparts to say their parents disapprove of alcohol use (70% local vs. 74% national) or tobacco use (79% local vs. 82% national)

Compared to national sample, Licking County youth appear to have

- Easier access to ATOD
- Less parental disapproval of alcohol and tobacco use
- More alcohol and marijuana use in private homes (own home or friend's house)

So... what are we going to do about it?

Our Futures in Licking County is a county-wide plan to create a healthier Licking County by improving the educational, social, safety, and economic environments. Our Futures is currently planning to implement several evidence-based strategies designed to reduce ATOD use and behavior problems, including:

- Reward and Reminder Campaign to reduce access to alcohol and tobacco
- Families United Campaign to help parents talk with their kids about not using ATOD
- PAX-IT Notes and the Good Behavior Game to promote positive behaviors in school
- Triple P Parenting education and intervention to help parents address behavior problems

About the Pride survey

- Pride *Questionnaire for Grades 6 to 12* was administered to students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 in May 2009, and will be repeated each spring
- 7 of the 10 public school districts in Licking County participated, representing 81% of public school students in the county: Newark City, Southwest Licking, Licking Heights, Granville, Lakewood, North Fork, and Heath, plus C-TEC
- 5,097 students completed the survey; 86% response rate
- To access the full report and a description of the research methods, go to www.communitymhrb.org or www.lcuw.net

