

2022 INDIANA YOUTH SURVEY

SUMMARY REPORT

This report summarizes the results of the 2022 Indiana Youth Survey conducted by Prevention Insights in the spring of 2022. This is the 30th year that the Indiana Youth Survey (formerly called the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use Survey) has been conducted. The survey is funded by the Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction to assess behaviors, experiences, and other factors that influence the health and well-being of Indiana youth.

All schools in Indiana were invited to participate in the online survey, and students in 6th- through 12th-grades were eligible to participate, though a shorter questionnaire used for 6th-grade students. Students' participation in the survey was voluntary (they could choose not to participate) and anonymous.

A total of 323 schools and 96,266 youth participated in the survey, resulting in 91,578 (95.1%) usable surveys. A full report of the 2022 methodology and findings, as well as previous years' reports can be found at www.inys.indiana.edu.

Substance Use

Alcohol was the most frequently used substance reported by students in all surveyed grades. Four percent of 6th-grade students reported drinking alcohol in the past month, and about one-fifth of 12th-grade students (19.9%) did so. Female students were more likely than males to report consuming alcohol in the past month in all grades except 6th. Rates of past-month alcohol use were lower in 2022 compared to 2020 for all grades.

Approximately 8.2% of 12th-grade students reported binge drinking in the past two weeks. For 7th through 9th grades, female students were more likely to report binge drinking than male students. Fewer students reported binge drinking in 2022 than in 2020 for all grades.

Electronic vapor products were the second-most prevalent substance used by Indiana youth, with almost one in seven 12th-grade students (14.8%) reporting having used them in the past month. The survey did not ask students what substances (nicotine, marijuana, etc.) were used with the vaping device. Female students reported higher rates of vaping than male students in all grades. Past-month prevalence rates of using electronic vapor products were significantly lower in 2022 than in 2020 for all grades.

Rates of marijuana use in the past month ranged from 1.0% of 6th-grade students to nearly one in eight 12th-grade students (12.6%). Female students were more likely to report using marijuana than male students among 7th through 10th grade students. Past-month prevalence rates of marijuana use decreased significantly from 2020 rates for all grades.

Use of cigarettes in the past month ranged from 1.0% of 6th-grade students to 2.8% of 12th-grade students. Female students were more likely than males to report smoking cigarettes in 7th and 9th-grades, while older male students (11th- and 12th-grade students) reported higher cigarette smoking rates than females. Past-month prevalence rates of cigarette use were significantly lower in 2022 than in 2020 rates for all grades.

Finally, about 2.3% of 6th-grade students reported using prescription drugs not prescribed to them in the past month, while about 1.5% of 12th-grade students reported doing so. Female students were more likely than male students to report using prescription drugs not prescribed to them in 7th through 10th grades, while 12th-grade male students were more likely to do so than female students. Rates of using prescription drugs not prescribed to them were significantly lower in 2022 than in 2020 for students in 8th through 12th grades.

Table 1. Percentage of Students Who Reported Using Select Substances in the Past Month^a, by Grade and Gender, 2022

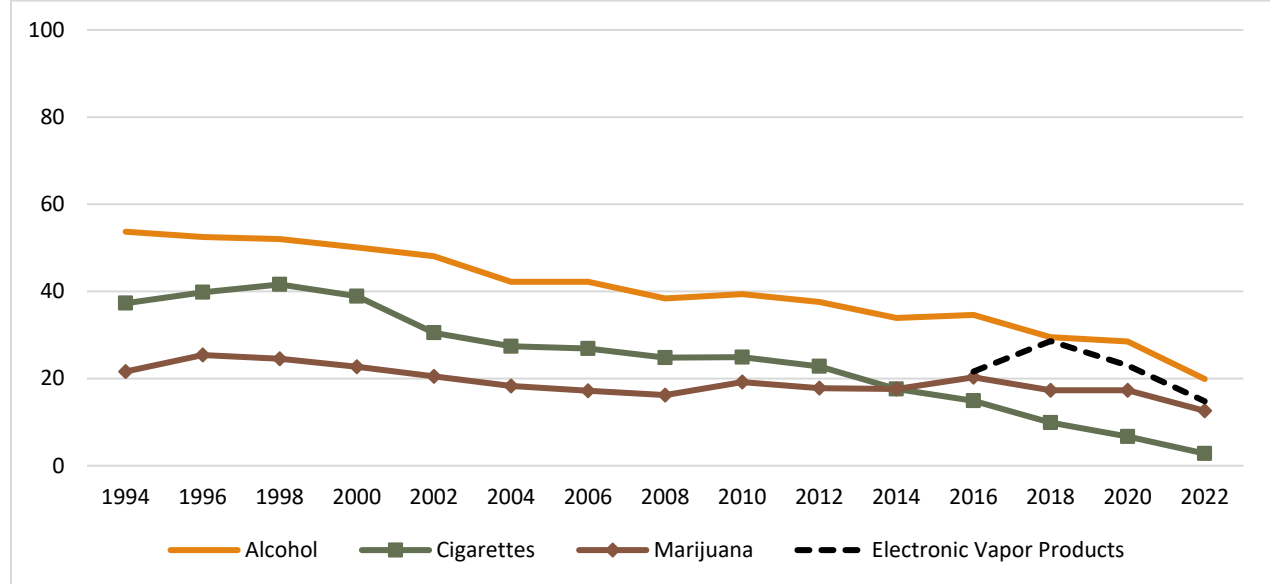
		6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
Alcohol	Overall	4.0	5.8	8.2	10.2	12.5	15.9	19.9
	Male	4.1	4.8	6.6	8.4	11.1	14.1	18.2
	Female	3.8	6.7*	9.8*	11.9*	13.8*	17.5*	21.4*
Binge Drinking ^a	Overall	--	1.9	2.5	3.2	4.0	6.2	8.2
	Male	--	1.3	2.0	2.4	3.8	6.0	8.0
	Female	--	2.4*	3.1*	4.0*	4.3	6.4	8.4
Cigarettes	Overall	1.0	1.1	1.5	2.0	2.0	2.8	2.8
	Male	0.9	0.8	1.5	1.6	1.9	3.3*	3.3*
	Female	1.0	1.3*	1.5	2.3*	2.1	2.4	2.4
Electronic vapor products	Overall	--	5.3	7.5	9.3	11.0	13.5	14.8
	Male	--	3.9	5.8	6.9	8.8	11.5	13.6
	Female	--	6.8*	9.3*	11.7*	13.0*	15.2*	16.1*
Marijuana	Overall	1.0	1.9	4.0	6.4	8.4	10.6	12.6
	Male	0.9	1.6	3.2	5.6	7.6	9.9	12.3
	Female	1.0	2.2*	4.9*	7.1*	9.1*	11.1	12.8
Prescription Drugs	Overall	2.3	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.5	1.5
	Male	2.5	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.9*
	Female	2.2	1.6*	1.6*	1.9*	1.6*	1.7	1.2

Note. ^aBinge drinking was defined as consuming five or more drinks in a row in the past two weeks.

-- These substances were not included on the 6th-grade instrument.

* Difference between male and female rates is statistically significant ($p < .05$).

Figure 1. Percentage of 12th-Grade Students Who Reported Using Select Substances in the Past Month, 1994 – 2022



Note. The data cleaning methodology was changed in 2015. Comparing this year’s results with years prior to 2015 is not advised.

Risk Factors

Availability

Among students who reported drinking alcohol in the past year, parents were the primary source of alcohol for youth in 7th and 8th grades, while older students (10th through 12th grades) were most likely to report getting it at a party. Approximately one-fifth of the respondents in all grades (ranging from 20.1% to 22.6%) reported that other family members (e.g., not parents or guardians) gave alcohol to them.

Table 2. Percentage of Students Who Drank Alcohol in the Past Year Who Reported Accessing Alcohol by Select Methods, by Grade, 2022

	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
My parent/guardian gave it to me	36.8	33.4	29.9	27.6	26.8	27.7
I got it at a party	17.1	20.6	29.1	37.2	44.0	48.4
Some other family member gave it to me.	22.0	22.6	21.2	20.9	20.2	20.1
I took it from home, someone else’s house, or a store (without them knowing)	16.8	19.6	21.5	19.8	16.2	11.9
Person 21 years old or older gave it to me	12.5	15.0	17.3	18.9	23.1	29.3

Note. Out of students who reported drinking alcohol in the past year (n = 15,279); Students were asked to select mark all responses that applied; Percentages do not sum to 100%.

Perception of Risk

Approximately half of students said they think there is no risk or a slight risk of harm from taking one or two drinks of alcohol nearly every day (ranging from 44.8% to 50.4%). There was little variance among grades.

The percentage of students who said that they believe there is no risk or a slight risk of harm from smoking marijuana once or twice per week increased with grade-level, and over two-thirds of 12th-grade students (69.0%) reported such beliefs.

Approximately one-third of students reported believing that there is no risk or a slight risk of harm from smoking one or more packs of cigarettes a day (ranging from 33.0% to 36.8%), while approximately one-quarter of students felt that using prescription drugs not prescribed to them did not present significant risk of harm (ranging from 22.9% to 26.8%).

Table 3. Percentage of Students Who Thought There Is No Risk or a Slight Risk of Harm for Select Behaviors, by Grade, 2022

	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
Taking 1-2 alcoholic drinks per day	47.0	44.8	46.7	45.3	48.6	50.4
Smoking marijuana once or twice per week	42.9	45.8	54.2	57.8	64.4	69.0
Smoking 1+ packs of cigarettes per day	35.5	33.0	34.9	33.7	36.5	36.8
Using prescription drugs not prescribed to them	26.8	23.7	24.9	23.4	24.2	22.9

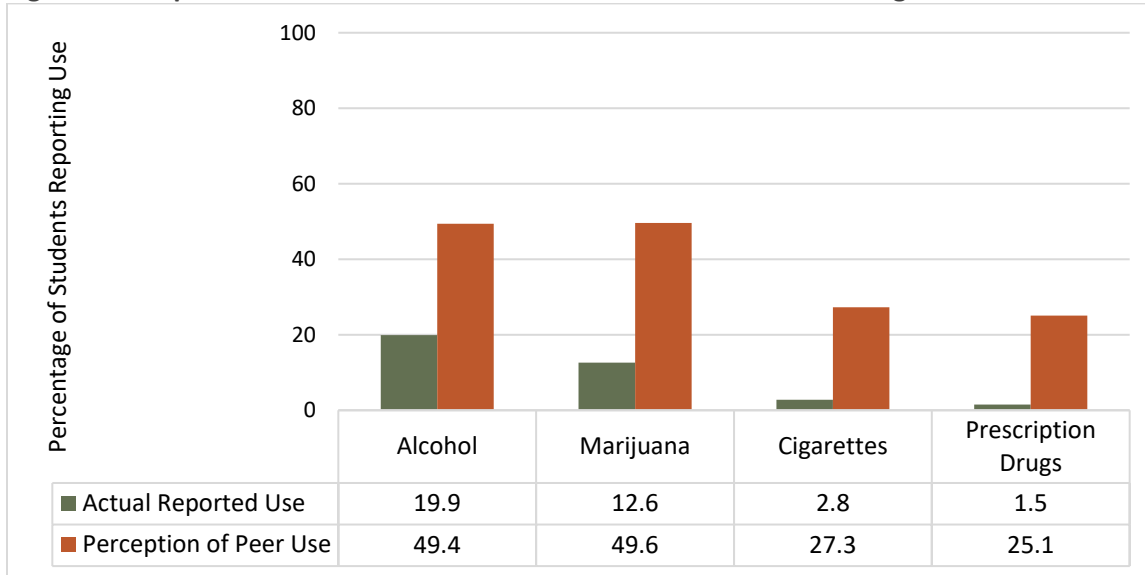
Perception of Peer Behavior

Students’ perceptions of how other students behave can influence their own choices. Specifically, individuals who report a heightened perception of peer substance use may be more likely to use substances themselves. In the 2022 Indiana Youth Survey, for all measured substances, students believed that a much higher percentage of their peers had used each substance than the percentage who had actually used that substance. For example, 12th-grade students on average reported that they believed about half of the students in their school (49.4%) drank alcohol in the past month, whereas only 19.9% of 12th-grade students actually reported drinking alcohol in the past month. Likewise, for marijuana, while 12th-grade students on average estimated that half of the students at their school (49.6%) used marijuana in the past month, only 12.6% actually reported using it in the past month.

Table 4. Average of Students' Estimations of the Percentage of Students at Their School Who Used Select Substances in the Past Month, by Grade, 2022

	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
Alcohol	22.9	28.3	42.7	45.3	48.1	49.4
Marijuana	20.9	28.5	43.9	46.5	48.8	49.6
Cigarettes	21.9	23.7	30.9	29.1	28.7	27.3
Prescription Drugs	23.5	24.1	30.7	28.8	27.4	25.1

Figure 2. Comparison of Perceived and Actual Substance Use Rates among 12th Grade Students, 2022



Consequences

The percentage of students who reported performing poorly on a test or project in the past year due to their drinking or drug use ranged from 4.5% of 12th-grade students to 7.9% of 8th-grade students. Approximately five percent of students in 7th through 11th grades reported missing class in the past year because of their drinking or drug use.

Table 5. Percentage of Students Who Reported Experiencing Select Consequences as a Result of Their Drinking or Drug Use in the Past Year, by Grade, 2022

	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
Performed poorly on a test or project	7.5	7.9	6.8	5.8	5.0	4.5
Missed class	5.9	6.0	5.6	4.8	4.7	4.4

Note. These questions were not included on the 6th-grade instrument.

Mental Health

The Indiana Youth Survey includes three questions on mental health. The percentages of students who said they felt so sad or hopeless for two or more weeks in a row in the past year that they stopped doing usual activities ranged from about one-third of 7th-grade students (31.4%) to 38.8% of 11th-grade students. Questions on considering and attempting suicide had the lowest rates among 6th-grade students (12.9%) and the highest rates reported by 11th-grade students (18.5%). One in ten 6th-grade students (10.2%) said they had made a plan about attempting suicide in the past year, ranging to 14.0% of 9th-grade students.

Female students reported dramatically higher prevalence rates for all mental health indicators included on the survey. In grades 7 through 9, female students were more than twice as likely to respond affirmatively, with approximately one-quarter of female students in 8th through 11th grades reporting that they had considered attempting suicide in the past year, and almost one-fifth of 8th and 9th-grade female students reporting that they had made a plan to attempt suicide.

Table 6. Percentage of Students Who Reported Select Mental Health Questions in the Past Year, by Grade and Gender, 2022

		6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
Felt sad or hopeless for 2+ weeks in a row	Overall	35.2	31.4	35.4	36.5	37.8	38.8	36.8
	Male	26.1	20.3	22.8	24.1	25.9	27.4	26.6
	Female	44.4	42.3	48.3	48.5	48.9	48.6	46.5
Considered attempting suicide	Overall	12.9	15.0	17.3	18.4	18.1	18.5	16.0
	Male	8.1	8.3	10.0	11.2	12.6	12.8	12.0
	Female	17.8	21.6	24.9	25.4	23.3	23.4	19.9
Made a plan about attempting suicide	Overall	10.2	11.4	13.2	14.0	13.7	12.9	11.0
	Male	6.2	5.9	7.2	8.7	10.0	9.0	8.3
	Female	14.2	16.9	19.5	19.1	17.2	16.2	13.4

Note. All differences between male and female rates are statistically significant ($p < .001$).

Gambling

A student who reported having bet/gambled money in at least one way that was queried on the survey was considered to have gambled. Prevalence rates of past-year gambling among 7th to 12th-grade students ranged from a low of 31.8% (11th grade) to a high of 40.6% (8th grade). Male students were much more likely to report having gambled in the past year, with approximately half of them in all grades reporting participating in at least one form of gambling.

Table 7. Percentage of Students Who Reported Any Gambling in the Past Year, by Grade and Gender, 2022

	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
Overall	39.6	40.6	36.7	35.7	31.8	38.1
Male	47.7	49.2	46.9	45.7	42.5	47.7
Female	31.4	31.5	26.7	26.2	22.4	29.0

Note. Gambling questions were not included on the 6th-grade instrument. All differences between male and female rates are statistically significant ($p < .001$).

With the exception of students in 12th grade, for whom the lottery was the most frequent gambling behavior, students uniformly reported gambling on video games (via skins or loot boxes) more often than any other gambling behavior; this prevalence rate approached one quarter of students in 8th grade (24.9%). The prevalence rates for many forms of gambling were higher for students in 8th grade than for students in any other grade.

Table 8. Percentage of Students Reporting Selected Gambling Behaviors in the Past Year, by Grade, 2022

	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
Video game (e.g., skins, loot boxes)	23.6	24.9	22.0	20.9	17.5	18.3
Lottery	15.4	15.6	12.8	12.1	11.2	19.5
Card games	14.7	14.9	12.1	11.8	10.1	10.3
Competitive video gaming (Esports)	10.3	10.1	7.9	6.7	5.5	4.9
Other sports betting	7.0	7.5	6.0	5.6	4.8	4.7
Fantasy sports	6.5	7.2	6.4	6.3	5.5	6.2
Charitable gambling	6.5	6.1	4.8	5.0	4.6	5.6
Pools (e.g., March Madness)	5.9	6.9	5.9	6.5	5.6	6.8
Gambled in other ways	5.2	4.8	3.7	3.5	2.7	2.5
Online gambling (e.g., poker, casino-style games)	3.6	3.6	3.0	2.7	2.6	2.7
Horse track betting	2.1	2.2	1.6	1.8	1.5	1.8
Casino	1.1	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.6

Note. Gambling questions were not included on the 6th-grade instrument.