



ILLINOIS YOUTH SURVEY

2014 STATE REPORT- EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND OTHER DRUG USE AMONG ILLINOIS YOUTH



Acknowledgments

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2014 Illinois Youth Survey State Report: Executive Summary

Overview

The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) has funded the administration of the Illinois Youth Survey (IYS) biennially since 1993. The IYS is a self-report survey administered in school settings and is designed to gather information about a variety of health and social indicators including substance use patterns and attitudes of Illinois youth. The IYS state sample has been randomly drawn since 2008 to represent 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th grade youth attending public schools in Illinois, however, the 6th grade estimate could not be compiled in 2012 because the Chicago Public Schools Research Review Board did not provide permission to survey 6th grade students in their district. Because Chicago is an essential segment of the random state sample, the 6th grade estimate of Illinois students cannot be reported or compared with 2014 results. This executive summary presents key findings, based on a representative sample of 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grade youth in 2014, regarding alcohol and other drug use behaviors and the factors (in the peer, family, and community environments) that can increase or decrease the likelihood that a young person will become involved with drugs.

The *2014 Illinois Youth Survey State Report* is divided into multiple sections including an overview of substance use and related problems across all drugs. In addition, the report contains substance-specific sections for alcohol, cigarettes and tobacco, marijuana, inhalants, prescription and over-the-counter drugs, and other illicit drugs. Each section includes a summary of highlights, figures and tables to support the highlights, and reference to relevant appendices (Appendix 1 – Appendix 6) which contain more extensive presentations of all data relevant to that section.

Additional appendices provide more detail related to the procedures used to determine the IYS random sample and details of the statistical analyses (Appendix 7), thorough descriptions of the *Monitoring the Future* national data collection methodology (Appendix 8), definitions of the types of Illinois communities compared in this report (Appendix 9), and a summary of relevant data trends from *Monitoring the Future 2007-2014* (Appendix 10).

This executive summary highlights key findings related to the patterns and changes in substance use and associated factors among Illinois youth, using the following statistical comparisons:

- **2012 vs. 2014 IYS responses by grade** -- to determine changes in Illinois youth over time. Note that no statistical comparisons can be made for 6th graders in 2012 vs. 2014 due to the lack of 6th grade participation in Chicago during 2012.
- **2014 IYS responses vs. national estimates** from the 2013 *Monitoring the Future Study* -- to determine how Illinois youth compare with national youth. See Appendix 8: *Monitoring the Future Methodology* for more information about this national study.
- **2014 IYS responses between youth living in four different types of Illinois community environments:** 1) *City of Chicago*, 2) *Suburban Chicago Counties - including Suburban Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, and Will*, 3) *Other Urban/Suburban Counties - excluding Suburban Chicago Counties*, and 4) *Rural Counties*. Community type estimates for 2014 are based on combined 8th, 10th, and 12th grade IYS data. For more information about how these community types are defined and a full list of areas included in each, refer to Appendix 9: *Illinois Community Types*.

The *2014 Illinois Youth Survey State Report*, *2014 State Report Appendices*, and links to reports from past administrations of the IYS can be found at <https://iys.cprd.illinois.edu/results/state>.

Table 1. Substance Use Rates by Grade in 2014

| Substance Used | 6th | 8th | 10th | 12th |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Used Past Year | | | | |
| Any Gateway Substance (Including Alcohol, Cigarettes, Inhalants, Marijuana) | 15.0% | 30.2% | 51.2% | 66.3% |
| Alcohol | 10.8% | 26.8% | 47.5% | 62.8% |
| Cigarettes | 1.3% | 4.9% | 8.9% | 18.0% |
| Inhalants | 5.7% | 4.0% | 2.5% | 2.2% |
| Marijuana | 1.5% | 10.7% | 25.6% | 39.1% |
| Any Illicit Drugs (Excluding Marijuana) | N/A | 2.0% | 4.8% | 8.8% |
| Crack/Cocaine | N/A | 0.8% | 1.2% | 2.7% |
| LSD/Psychedelics | N/A | 0.6% | 2.8% | 4.9% |
| Ecstasy/MDMA | N/A | 0.8% | 2.4% | 5.5% |
| Methamphetamine | N/A | 0.3% | 0.9% | 0.7% |
| Heroin | N/A | 0.6% | 0.7% | 0.9% |
| Any Prescription Drug to Get High (Including Prescription Painkillers or Other Prescription Drugs) | N/A | 2.8% | 5.9% | 9.2% |
| Prescription painkillers (like OxyContin, Vicodin, Lortab, etc.) to get high | N/A | 1.7% | 3.2% | 6.0% |
| Other prescription drugs (like Ritalin, Adderall, Xanax, etc.) to get high | N/A | 2.0% | 4.5% | 7.1% |
| Over-the-Counter Drugs to Get High | N/A | 3.3% | 3.5% | 4.4% |
| Steroids Without a Prescription | N/A | 1.4% | 1.3% | 1.3% |
| Prescription Drugs Not Prescribed to Me | N/A | 5.4% | 9.2% | 12.6% |
| Used Past 30 Days | | | | |
| Alcohol | 5.4% | 14.9% | 27.4% | 44.4% |
| Any Tobacco Product (Including Cigarettes, Chewing Tobacco, Smoking Tobacco) | 1.8% | 5.9% | 9.5% | 23.0% |
| Cigarettes | 0.6% | 2.8% | 5.4% | 12.9% |
| Chewing tobacco | 0.8% | 2.7% | 3.6% | 7.7% |
| Smoking tobacco (other than cigarettes like cigars, cigarillos) | 1.2% | 3.5% | 5.6% | 15.1% |
| Inhalants | 4.3% | 2.6% | 1.5% | 1.3% |
| Marijuana | 1.0% | 7.1% | 16.6% | 26.5% |
| Any Prescription Drugs to Get High (Including Prescription Painkillers or Other Prescription Drugs) | N/A | 1.0% | 3.4% | 5.2% |
| Prescription painkillers (like OxyContin, Vicodin, Lortab, etc.) to get high | N/A | 0.6% | 1.8% | 3.1% |
| Other prescription drugs (like Ritalin, Adderall, Xanax, etc.) to get high | N/A | 0.7% | 2.7% | 4.1% |
| Over-the-Counter Drugs to Get High | N/A | 1.4% | 1.4% | 1.4% |
| Prescription Drugs Not Prescribed to Me | 2.9% | 2.2% | 4.3% | 5.7% |
| Past 2 Weeks | | | | |
| Binge Drinking (5 or more drinks in a row) | 1.7% | 5.5% | 11.0% | 25.5% |
| # of Respondents | 2,059 | 2,640 | 2,822 | 2,395 |

The Landscape of Substance Use Among Illinois Youth

- **Alcohol is the drug of choice compared to all other substances.** Among 12th graders, reports of past year use suggest that the top three most commonly used drugs are alcohol, marijuana, and cigarettes. This pattern has been observed since 2008. As youth age, alcohol use increases. While only 10.8% of 6th graders report using alcohol in the past year, by the time they reach 12th grade, about 62.8% report use in the past year. Female adolescents are more likely than their male counterparts to report alcohol use in the past year but no more likely to report use in the past 30 days. Relative to other race and ethnic groups, African-American/Black youth are *least* likely to use alcohol in the past year and in the past 30 days. Adolescent alcohol use rates do not vary across different types of communities in Illinois (e.g. Chicago, Suburban Chicago, Rural and Other Urban/Suburban Counties).
- **Marijuana ranks number two among 8th through 12th graders and inhalants are the second most frequently used substance among 6th graders.** Use of marijuana follows alcohol as the next most frequently reported substance used in the past year for all but the youngest adolescents. Use of inhalants in the past year is the second most commonly used drug for 6th graders. Males are more likely than females to report using marijuana in the past 30 days, although no gender differences are observed for use in the past year. Relative to other race and ethnic groups, White adolescents are *least* likely to report using marijuana in the past year and past 30 days. Compared to youth living in other types of communities in Illinois, 8th-12th grade Chicago youth are *most* likely to report using marijuana in the past year and past 30 days. Additionally, Illinois 10th graders in 2014 are less likely to report using marijuana in the past 30 days than their national counterparts.
- **Cigarette use in the past year ranks third among 12th graders and fourth among 6th through 10th graders.** Compared to youth from all other community types in Illinois, Rural youth are *most* likely to report smoking cigarettes in the past 30 days and using any tobacco product in the past 30 days (including cigarettes, other smoked tobacco and smokeless tobacco). African-American/Black youth are *least* likely to report smoking cigarettes in the past year and past 30 days compared to youth in other racial and ethnic groups. Tobacco use of any kind is *more likely* to be reported for males than females. At all grade levels, use of smoking tobacco (other than cigarettes – cigars, cigarillos, etc.) in the past 30 days is more prevalent than cigarette use in the past 30 days.

Use of prescription drugs (without a prescription) is more prevalent than past year use of any illicit drug (excluding marijuana), and for 8th graders, more prevalent than cigarette use. In 2014, the fourth most common drug use behavior among 12th graders and the third most common drug behavior among 8th and 10th graders is use of prescription drugs without a prescription. In fact, more 8th graders (5.4%) and 10th graders (9.2%) report using prescription drugs not prescribed to them in the past year than using cigarettes in the past year (4.9% and 8.9% respectively). While 12.6% of 12th graders report using prescription drugs not prescribed to them in the past year, 8.8% reported use of any illicit drug (excluding marijuana) during the past year. Observations of attitudes, beliefs, and community conditions that influence decisions to use prescription drugs without a prescription (asked for the first time in 2014) include:

- **Using prescription drugs without a prescription is perceived as risky among adolescents at all grade levels.** In comparison with risk perceptions associated with other drugs, youth in 2014 generally view teen misuse of prescription drugs as less risky than cigarette smoking but more risky than alcohol and marijuana use.
 - **At all grade levels, there are strong personal views and strong beliefs of parental attitudes that using prescription drugs without a prescription is “wrong” or “very wrong.”** Although these anti-drug attitudes decline or “decay” from 6th to 12th grade, the decay is less pronounced for personal and parent disapproval associated with prescription drug misuse than disapproval associated with other teen gateway drug use behaviors. In fact, high school seniors are more likely to report parent disapproval of teen prescription drug misuse (without a prescription) than parent disapproval of any other teen gateway drug use behavior.
 - **Prescription drugs (without a prescription) are perceived as harder to access than alcohol, cigarettes or marijuana among 10th and 12th graders.** For example, relative to other drugs, fewer 10th graders believe that it would be “sort of easy” or “very easy” to get prescription drugs without a prescription (32.5%), than cigarettes (46.7%), marijuana (53.1%), or alcohol (56.3%).
 - **The supply source for prescription drugs (without a prescription) varies by age.** Among those who have accessed prescription drugs without a prescription in the past year, the most frequently reported supply source for 8th graders is parents providing (53.5%), for 10th graders is someone other than their parents providing (44.2%) and for 12th graders is purchasing from someone (52.2%).
- **Less than 9% of youth report using any illicit drug in the past year.** Among all illicit drugs (excluding marijuana), the most prevalent was MDMA (“Ecstasy”) with 5.5% of 12th graders reporting use in the past year. The least used illicit drugs in the past year among 12th graders are heroin (0.9%) and methamphetamines (0.7%). Illicit drug use does not vary across youth living in different types of communities in Illinois. African-American/Black youth are **least** likely to use cocaine in the past year and are **least** likely to use one or more illicit drugs in the past year compared to youth from other race and ethnic groups.

Encouraging Observations and Trends to Build On

- **Underage drinking overall, binge drinking, driving after drinking and several other health and academic consequences of underage drinking are on the decline from 2012 to 2014.** Use of alcohol in the past year and in the past 30 days is lower among 8th and 10th grade youth in 2014 and trends indicate that less 10th and 12th graders also choose to binge drink (i.e., consume five or more alcoholic drinks in a row). Collectively, these positive trends are accompanied by reductions in driving after drinking alcohol among 12th graders (for the first time since 2010). Finally, high school students report lower rates of several health and academic consequences experienced while or after using alcohol (including fights, property damage, academic impact and medical emergencies). Positive trends (observed from 2012 to 2014) in beliefs, attitudes and community conditions that buffer against underage drinking include:
 - Increase in belief that **“great risk” or harm can result from daily alcohol use** among 10th and 12th graders.
 - Increase in belief that **“great risk” is associated with binge drinking** among 8th graders.
 - Increase in **personal disapproval of teen drinking** among 10th graders.
 - Increase in belief that **parents would catch them if they drank alcohol** (among 8th graders), if they **attended a party where alcohol was served** (among 8th and 10th graders) and if they **rode in a car with a teen driver who had been drinking** (among 10th graders).
 - Decrease in belief that **peers hold favorable views of teen drinking (that underage drinking is “cool”)** among 8th and 10th graders.
 - Decrease in the beliefs that **alcohol would be “sort of easy” or “very easy” to get if they wanted some** among 10th graders.
 - Decrease in reports that they **obtained alcohol through a social source** (including friends, parties, strangers, older siblings, and adults other than their parents), among 8th through 12th graders who used alcohol in the past year.
 - Decrease in **retail access to alcohol**, among 10th and 12th grade youth who used alcohol during the past year.
 - Decrease in reports that **parents have willingly supplied them with alcohol**, among 8th graders who used alcohol during the past year.
- **No changes have been observed in marijuana use at any grade level since 2008.** This will be an important indicator to monitor in the future after new laws legalizing recreational marijuana use in other states and medical use of cannabis in Illinois are fully implemented. One positive trend (observed from 2012 to 2014) in beliefs that buffer against youth marijuana use include:
 - Increase in belief that **“great risk” can result from smoking marijuana once or twice a week** among 8th graders. This is the first time since 2008 that a favorable trend at any grade level is observed in beliefs that smoking marijuana is risky or harmful.

- **Cigarette use continues to decline among 8th through 12th graders from 2012 to 2014.** Smoking other tobacco products (e.g. cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars) in the past 30 days is also decreasing among 10th graders. In fact, 10th graders in 2014 are less likely to report using any type of tobacco product, compared to 2012. In addition, 8th and 10th graders in Illinois are less likely than their national counterparts to report cigarette use in the past 30 days. Positive trends (observed from 2012 to 2014) in beliefs, attitudes and community conditions that buffer against youth tobacco use include:
 - Increase in ***personal disapproval of teen cigarette smoking*** among all grade levels.
 - Increase in belief that ***“great risk” or harm can result from smoking cigarettes daily*** among 12th graders.
 - Decrease in belief that ***peers hold favorable views of teen smoking (that they would be viewed as “cool” if they smoked)*** among 8th and 10th graders.
 - Decrease in the beliefs that ***cigarettes would be “sort of easy” or “very easy” to get if they wanted some*** among 10th and 12th graders.
 - Decrease in ***retail access to cigarettes*** among 10th grade smokers in the past year.
- **In 2014, fewer 8th and 10th graders report using one or more gateway substances in the past year than in 2012.** Use of one or more gateway substances is defined as past-year use of alcohol OR cigarettes OR marijuana OR inhalants. Illinois 10th graders are less likely to report using any gateway drug compared to 2012. For the second time since 2010, 8th graders are less likely to report use of any gateway drug. In addition, 8th graders in 2014 are less likely to report they have gone to school drunk or high in the past year (4.7%) than in in 2012 (7.5%).
- **Relative to the national norm for 12th graders, Illinois 12th graders are less likely to report using prescription drugs (without a prescription) in the past year.** For the first time, the 2014 IYS included an indicator to compare prescription drug use (without a prescription) among Illinois youth with a national sample of youth.
- **Fewer 10th graders screen positive for needing a more in-depth substance abuse assessment in 2014 than in 2012.** Based on responses to the six questions on the IYS that comprise the CRAFFT adolescent substance abuse screening tool, the need for additional substance abuse assessment is lower among 10th graders in 2014 (19.9%) than in 2012 (24.5%). In addition, high school youth in both 10th and 12th grade are less likely to report they have ridden in a car driven by someone (including themselves) who had been using alcohol or drugs and are less likely to report that family or friends have told them to cut down on their drinking or drug use; two indicators of high risk substance use captured through the CRAFFT screening tool.

Concerning Observations and Trends to Watch

- **While alcohol use is on the decline, Illinois' 8th and 12th grade alcohol use is higher than the national average and Illinois 12th graders in 2014 are more likely to report they first regularly used alcohol before age 15 than 12th graders in 2012.** Past 30-day use among 8th graders was 14.9% in Illinois, compared to 10.2% nationally; among 12th graders it was 44.4% in Illinois vs. 39.2% nationally. Since 2008, Illinois 8th grade youth past year and past 30-day alcohol use rates have exceeded the national average. Among 12th graders who have ever used alcohol, more report they used alcohol at least once or twice per month before age 15 in 2014 (16.8%), compared to 2012 (12.7%). This is a concerning trend to monitor as patterns of early regular alcohol use is associated with a higher risk of problems with alcohol later in life. Concerning trends (observed from 2012 to 2014) in beliefs, attitudes and community conditions that buffer against underage drinking include:
 - Decrease in the belief that *adults in their community disapprove of underage drinking* among 10th graders.
 - Decrease in belief that their *parents disapprove of underage drinking among 12th graders.*
 - Decrease in reports that their *parents talked with them during the past year about not using alcohol* among 12th graders.
- **While rates of marijuana use remain unchanged, norms around marijuana use are continuing to trend in an unfavorable direction.** Concerning trends (observed from 2012 to 2014) in beliefs, attitudes and community conditions that buffer against teen marijuana use include:
 - Increase in *perceptions of pro-marijuana peer attitudes* (e.g. would be seen as “cool” to use marijuana) among 12th graders (for the second time since 2010).
 - Decrease in belief that *teen marijuana use is “wrong” or “very wrong”* among 12th graders.
 - Decrease in belief that their *parents disapprove of teen marijuana use*, among 8th, 10th and 12th graders.
- **Among 10th graders, more are using LSD/psychedelics and are more likely to report using one or more illicit drugs in 2014, compared to 2012.** Although use of LSD remains low among 10th graders (2.8% in 2014), there is an increase in use observed since 2012. In 2014, 10th graders are the only age group to report an increase in the use of any illicit drug.

More Information

For a more detailed description of the 2014 Illinois Youth Survey findings, refer to *the Illinois Youth Survey 2014 State Report* and the *2014 State Report Appendices at:*

<https://iys.cprd.illinois.edu/results/state>.