



# Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) 2021

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PENNRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

JUNE 2022

# Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS)

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Conducted Every other year

Offered at no charge to any school or district courtesy of funding provided by:

- Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD)
- Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (PDDAP)
- Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE).

# Pennsylvania Youth Survey

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We had a great participation rate of 80%

2021 Pennridge students completed PAYS

- ❑ Sixth grade: 473 (86%)
- ❑ Eighth grade: 487 (87%)
- ❑ Tenth grade: 457 (82%)
- ❑ Twelfth grade: 375 (64%)

# Five Areas To Consider

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1. Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug (ATOD) Use and Access
2. Community and School Climate and Safety
3. Social and Emotional Health
4. Student Perceptions
5. Risk and Protective Factors

# Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs (ATOD) Use and Access

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## Positive Trends:

- Lifetime use of Alcohol, Marijuana, and inhalants is down in all grades
- Vaping use is down dramatically
  - 17.5% (2017), 13% (2019), 8% (2021) – state average = 13%
- Risky behaviors associated with ATOD are down and continue to be low
  - Binge Drinking
  - Driving while drunk and/or high

# Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs (ATOD) Use and Access

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## Concerning Trends:

- Fewer are using vapes, but 35% of those using report using THC. This is down from 39% in 2019, but is still above the state average of 26%
- Alcohol use is down, but 55% of those reporting use indicate that they received the alcohol from their parent, a friend's parent, or another adult relative
- Prescription drug use is down, but 63% of those reporting use indicate they stole them from their own home

# Community and School Climate and Safety

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## Positive Trends:

- Violence at school is lower in all grade levels
- Drug use at school is lower in all grade levels
- Reports of Bullying are down
  - 26% (2019) to 22% (2021) – 23% (state average)
    - 54% at school, 46% away from school
  - 78% indicate they have not been bullied in past year
- Reports of Positive School Environment are up

# Community and School Climate and Safety

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## Concerning Trends:

- **Sexting reported by students in grade 12 showed a dramatic increase**
- **Student reported 'importance of school' is low (41%)**
- **Although those with jobs has increased, Involvement in other pro-social activities is down**



# Social and Emotional Health

## Concerning Trends:

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- **Although still below the state averages, the majority of mental health data has increased.**
  - **'At times I feel I am no good' – 27.9% (2019), 31.6% (2021), 38.6% (state)**
  - **'Felt depressed or sad most days' – 27% (2019), 31.4% (2021), 40.1% (state)**
  - **'So sad, I stopped doing usual activities' – 20.5% (2019), 23.6% (2021), 31% (state)**
- **Planned Suicide – 9.7% (2019), 9.9% (2021), 14.7% (state)**
  - **9.9% of secondary population would be 395 students**
- **Attempted Suicide – 7.0% (2019), 7.0% (2021), 10.9% (state)**
  - **7% of secondary population would be 279 students**

# Student Perceptions

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- Continued Strengths
  - Perceived risk of risky behavior
  - Perceived disapproval from parents for risky behavior
  - Perceived disapproval from peers for risky behavior
  - Decreased perception of peers' risky behavior
  
- Inconsistent with perceived approval from community for risky behavior

# Risk and Protective Factors

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- **Risk Factors** – items that are likely to contribute to anti-social behaviors (delinquency, drug use, etc)
  - Conflict with family/peers; anti-social peers; low attachment to family/community/school; perceptions of ATOD
- **Protective Factors** – items that are likely to contribute to positive social behaviors (attachment to others, positive social interactions, etc)
  - Positive involvement with family/community/school; Moral/religious beliefs; pro-social peers;
- **Family Connections and Negative Views of ATOD remain strong**

# Risk Factors (17 of them)

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- **Highest (same as 2019)**
  - **Low commitment to school (54%)**
  - **Parental attitudes that support anti-social behavior (48%)**
  - **Perceived risks of drug use (45%)**
  
- **Lowest (Rebelliousness was third in 2019)**
  - **Gang Involvement (2%)**
  - **Interaction with anti-social peers (13%)**
  - **Friends use of drugs (16%)**

# Protective Factors (11 of them)

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- **Highest (same as 2019)**
  - **Family Attachment (68%)**
  - **Family opportunities for pro-social involvement (67%)**
  - **Family rewards for pro-social involvement (63%)**
  
- **Lowest (same as 2019)**
  - **Religiosity (32%)**
  - **Rewards for pro-social involvement (40%)**
  - **School opportunities for pro-social involvement (43%)**

# Next Steps

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- Communicate the data to Pennridge Community**
  - Public presentation to Board and Community**
  - Post on website (early June)**
  - Share with families, staff, and students**
  
- Work with building administration to analyze grade level data**
  
- Work with Pennridge Community Partnership to develop themes for trainings and presentations over the next two years**
  - Pennridge School District**
  - Grandview Health**
  - St. Luke's Penn Foundation**