

- Pierce County -

Alcohol & Drug Report

Locally collected data that identifies trends in alcohol and substance use in teens within Pierce County.



Pierce County

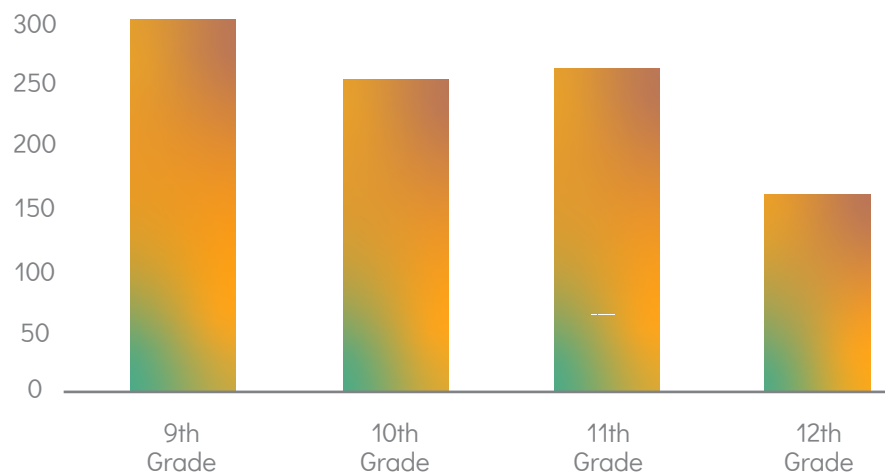
PREVENTION PROGRAM

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Introduction

The data in this report are based on responses provided by Pierce County High School students (grades 9-12) on the Youth Behavior Risk Survey (YBRS). The results below are from 979 students in grades 9-12 that participated in the YBRS from the 2018-2019.*

Number of Pierce County High School Student Surveyed



Grade	# of Students	% of all HS Students
9	303	31%
10	253	26%
11	262	27%
12	161	16%
Total	979	100%

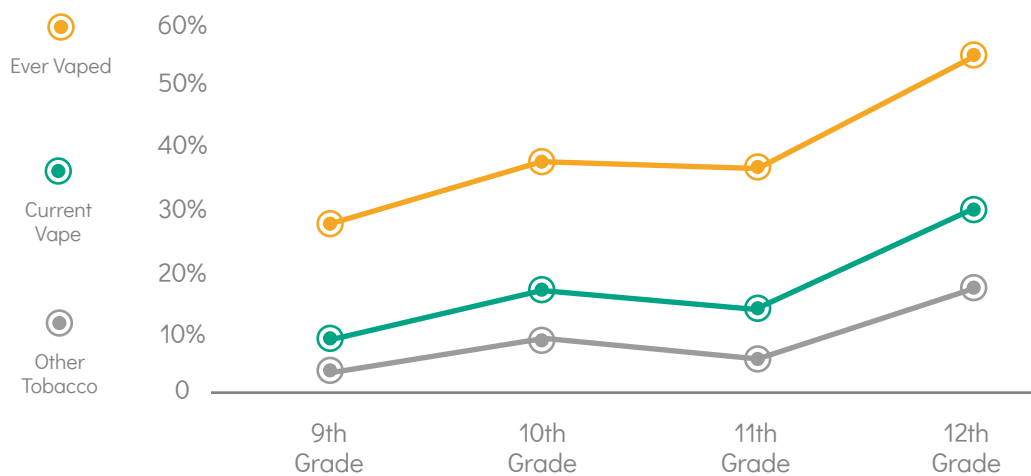
Demographic Snapshot

- Nearly one-third of Pierce County High School students surveyed were 9th grade students (31%)
- Tenth-grade students accounted for 26% of Pierce County High School students surveyed.
- Eleventh-grade students accounted for 27% of Pierce County High School students surveyed.
- Sixteen percent of Pierce County High School students surveyed were in 12th grade.

Vaping & Tobacco

This section contains data related to students who reported current vaping (defined as vaping or other tobacco-related substance use within the past 30 days), having ever tried vaping, and/ or used other tobacco products (specifically cigarettes, chew, cigars, or cigarillos).

Percentage of Vaping and Other Tobacco Use by Grade Level



Vaping and Tobacco Snapshot

- Approximately 15% of ALL Pierce County High School students surveyed reported vaping within the past 30 days while OVER one-third of ALL Pierce County High School students surveyed reported vaping at least once in their lifetime (35%).
- The proportion of 12th graders who currently vape is OVER THREE TIMES the proportion of 9th graders who currently vape.
- The proportion of 12th graders who have tried vaping at least once in their lifetime is nearly TWICE the proportion of 9th graders who have tried vaping at least once in their lifetime.

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Vaping & Tobacco Cont.

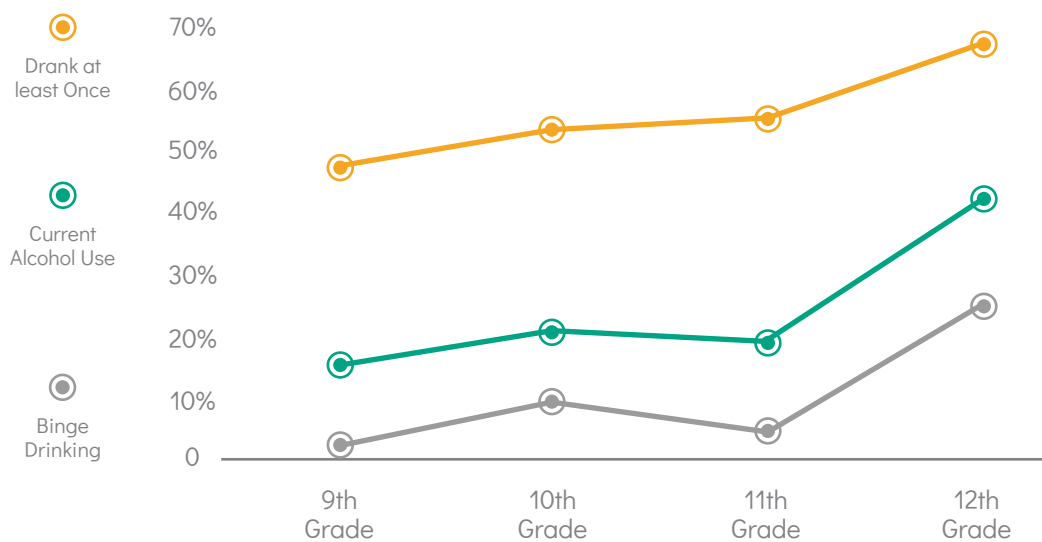
Key “take-aways” about Vaping/Tobacco Use

- Vaping and tobacco use is a growing trend in Pierce County High Schools, regardless of grade level. Students reported current (within last 30 days) vape use, vaping at least once, and/or using other tobacco-related products at each grade level. Vaping and other tobacco-related product use was least commonly reported among 9th graders and most commonly reported among 12th graders. It is alarming that vaping, experimenting with vaping, and/or other tobacco-related products is an upward trend across Pierce County High School students (even though there is a slight decrease in the percentage of 11th graders who reported their vaping and/or tobacco use). This upward trend is expected to continue as vaping products become more diverse in nature (e.g., different flavors, ease of vaping other drugs like marijuana), more widely available (e.g., sold wherever tobacco products are sold), and more normalized (e.g., students feeling that all of their peers either vape or use other tobacco products) over time. The diverse nature, availability, and normalization of vaping is expected to lead to higher proportions of use among High School students, not only in Pierce County, but nationwide.

Alcohol

This section contains data related to Pierce County High School students and their alcohol use. Three indicators were measured: current alcohol use (defined as students who had at least one drink in the past 30 days), students who reported using alcohol at least once in their lifetime (defined as more than a “few sips” of an alcoholic beverage), and students who binge drank (defined as males who reported drinking five or more drinks in one sitting, females who reported having four or more drinks in one sitting) within the past 30 days from the day the survey was administered.

Percentage of Alcohol Use by Grade Level



Alcohol Snapshot

- Approximately 8% of Pierce County High School students reported showing up to school drunk or high on at least one occasion within the past 12 months of the date the survey was administered (not displayed in the chart above).

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Alcohol Cont.

Alcohol Snapshot Continued

- The percentage of students who reported current alcohol use were relatively consistent across 9th, 10th, and 11th graders, but nearly DOUBLE for 12th graders (42%)
- The percentage of students who reported drinking alcohol at least once increased as grade level increased. Forty-seven percent of 9th graders, 54% of 10th graders, 56% of 11th graders, and 69% of 12th graders reported having at least one drink in their lifetime.
- The lowest percentage of binge drinking reported were from 9th graders (2%). The reported incidences of binge drinking increased to 10% for 10th graders and 5% for 11th graders.
- The greatest percentage of reported binge drinking was reported by 12th graders (26%).

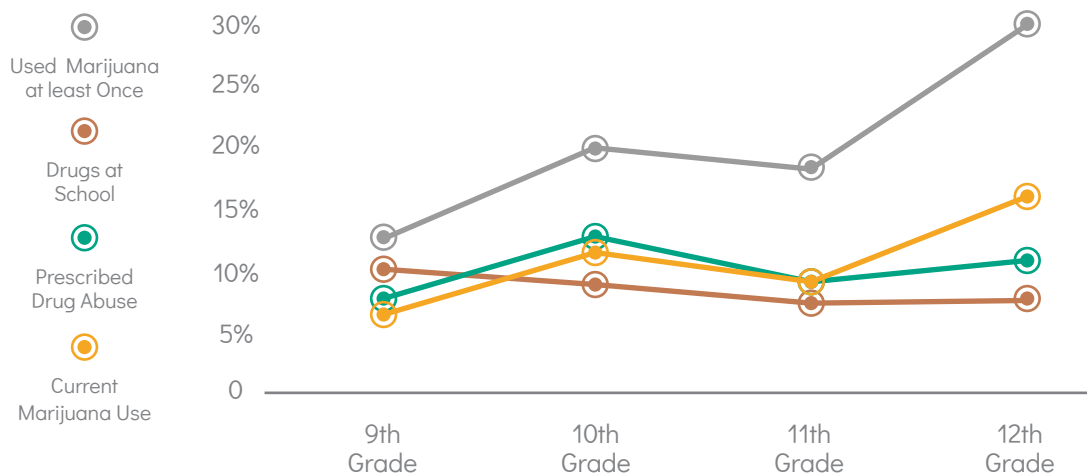
Key “take-aways” about Alcohol use

- Nearly 1/4th of ALL Pierce County High School Students reported current alcohol use. Current alcohol use was rather equally proportionate in male High School students (24%) compared to their female counterparts (25%). Any type of alcohol use (whether current use, drinking at least once, and/or binge drinking) follow a fairly consistent trend across grade levels. The data indicated that the smallest proportion of students who currently drank, drank at least once, and/or binge drank occurred in 9th graders, whereas the greatest proportion of alcohol use was reported by 12th graders. While all alcohol use (even experimental) is concerning, it is crucial to highlight that current alcohol use is over DOUBLE in 12th graders when compared to 9th graders. Even more alarming is the increasing rate of binge drinking which was nearly 13 times higher in 12th graders when compared to 9th graders. Though alcohol use is fairly normalized across the state of Wisconsin, what is rarely discussed are the physiological, psychological, and social risks associated with alcohol use.

Marijuana & Other Drugs

This section contains data related to students who reported being offered, sold, or given drugs on school property within the past 12 months, students who reported current (within past 30 days) marijuana use, students who reported using marijuana at least once, and students who reported misusing over the counter and/or prescription pain medications.

Percentage of Marijuana and Other Drug Use by Grade Level



Marijuana and Other Drugs Snapshot

- Collectively, approximately 9% of all Pierce County High School students reported being offered, sold, or given drugs at school.
- About 11% of all Pierce County High School students reported current marijuana use with a slightly higher percentage (19%) reporting using marijuana at least once.
- The smallest percent of students who reported current marijuana use were 9th graders (7%) followed by 11th graders (9%).

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Marijuana & Other Drugs Cont.

Marijuana and Other Drugs Snapshot Continued

- The highest percentages of reported current marijuana use were in grades 10 (12%) and 12 (16%).
- The proportion of students who reported using marijuana at least once (from smallest to largest) were 9th graders (13%) followed 11th graders (19%) 10th graders (20%) and 12th graders (30%).
- Prescription drug abuse (specifically opioids aka “painkillers”) was reported at each grade level; 8% of 9th graders, 13% of 10th graders, 9% of 11th graders, and 11% of 12th graders.

Key “take-aways” about Marijuana and other Drug use

- Marijuana and other drug use among Pierce County High School students were reported by students in all grade levels. The percentage of students reporting being offered, sold, or given drugs at school were relatively consistent across all grade levels. The greatest percentage of students who report current use of marijuana are in 10th and 12th grade. Over TWICE as many 12th graders reported current marijuana use than did 9th graders. It may be the case that students in grades 9-12 feel that it is more socially acceptable to report having tried marijuana as opposed to currently using marijuana. The possible social acceptability of reporting having used marijuana at least once is supported by the data which indicated that nearly twice as many students in each grade level reported trying marijuana compared to those who reported current marijuana use.

The last drug students were surveyed on in this section was the misuse or abuse of prescription pain medications, otherwise known as opioids. It is common for teenagers to acquire prescription pain medication from family members or close friends (whether known or unbeknownst to the person who has the prescription). The reported percentages of prescription drug abuse was relatively small compared to marijuana use. Again, it may be the case that students felt that it was more socially acceptable to report marijuana use than prescription opioid use. Nonetheless, the trends of prescription drug abuse follow trends of other substances of abuse (including vaping and alcohol) with smaller percentages of use being reported by 9th graders when compared to higher percentages in 10th, 11th, and 12th graders.

Note: Data for completed responses only are reported. Not all Pierce County schools participated in the YBRS. Further, schools were able to choose which items from the YBRS were provided. These data should be interpreted with caution)



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