

Drug, Tobacco and Alcohol Use

Table 1. Percent of Franklin County Teens Who Use Drugs Monthly or More, 1997-2003

	Marijuana				Cocaine				Designer Drugs			
	1997	2000	2003	2006	1997	2000	2003	2006	1997	2000	2003	2006
9th Graders	18.1%	14.4%	12.0%	10.0%	1.2%	0.8%	0.9%		1.1%	2.2%	1.1%	
10th Graders	23.3%	28.5%	15.5%	14.0%	1.6%	1.1%	1.4%		1.3%	3.0%	1.3%	
11th Graders	25.2%	21.5%	18.2%	17.0%	2.2%	1.1%	1.5%		1.5%	3.2%	1.2%	
12th Graders	26.2%	23.9%	20.9%	19.0%	2.8%	1.3%	2.4%		1.6%	3.6%	1.6%	

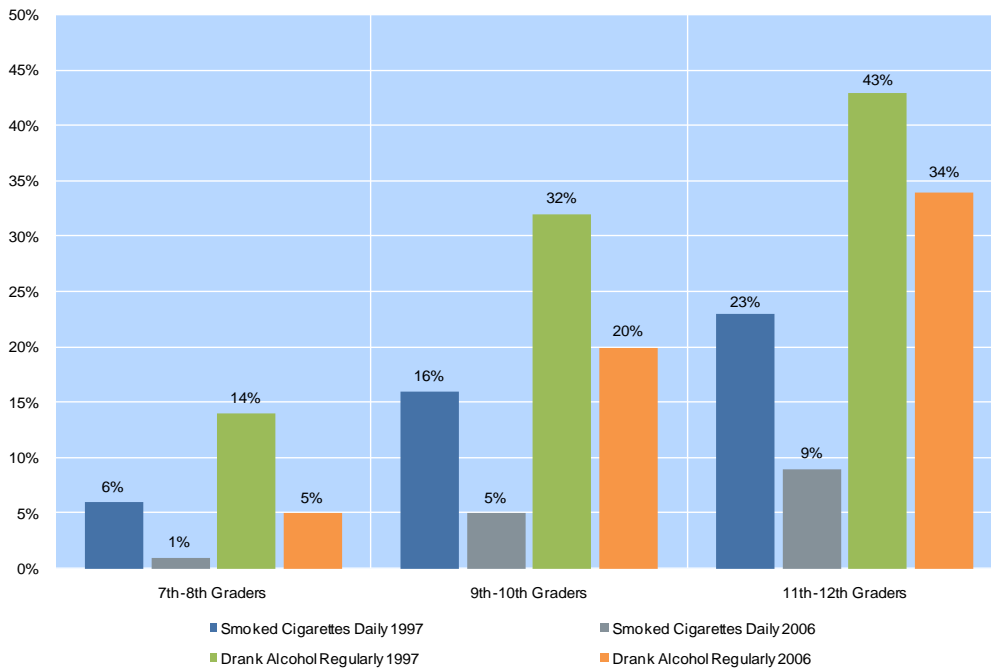
- Marijuana use among most Franklin County high school youth declined from 1997 to 2003. Despite this gain, 18.2% of high school juniors and 20.9% of high school seniors reported smoking marijuana at least monthly in 2003. Levels of cocaine use among these students remained fairly consistent across survey years, although cocaine use was reported by fewer than one-tenth as many students as marijuana use.
- The percentage of Franklin County youth in grades 9 through 12 who reported using “designer drugs” once a month or more increased from 1997 to 2000, then decreased from 2000 to 2003.

Table 2. Percent of Franklin County Teens Who Use Tobacco or Alcohol Regularly, 1997-2006

	Smoked Cigarettes Daily					Drank Alcohol Regularly			
	1997	2000	2003	2006		1997	2000	2003	2006
7th-8th Graders	6%	3%	2%	1%		14%	7%	6%	5%
9th-10th Graders	16%	10%	7%	5%		32%	24%	21%	20%
11th-12th Graders	23%	16%	10%	9%		43%	38%	35%	34%

- The 2006 Primary Prevention, Awareness, Attitude and Use Survey (PPAAUS) found that high school youth in Franklin County are less likely than in previous years to use alcohol and tobacco.

Chart 1. Percent of Franklin County Teens Who Use Alcohol or Tobacco Regularly, 1997-2006



- Regular use of both alcohol and tobacco by Franklin County students in grades 7–12 declined steadily in all grades from 1997 to 2006.

About the Data

Data Sources:

- The Franklin County Educational Council’s Safe and Drug-Free Schools Consortium, *Primary Prevention, Awareness, Attitude and Use Survey (PPAAUS)*, 1997, 2000, 2003, and 2006(Use of tobacco and alcohol, Franklin County data)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, Vol. 54, No. 12, 2005 (U.S. tobacco and drug use data)

Definitions:

- Designer drugs:** The PPAAUS survey included ecstasy, XTC, Special K, and GHB in the designer drug category.
- Regular use:** The PPAAUS survey defined regular use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs to include “about once or twice a month,” “about once or twice a week,” or “about every day.”

Explanations and Caveats:

- The 2003 PPAAUS survey was the sixth survey of its type in Franklin County since 1988. The 2003 survey was funded by Columbus Medical Association Foundation, Safe and Drug-Free Schools Consortium, U.S. Department of Justice and United Way of Central Ohio. Participants included 82,150 6th through 12th graders in Franklin County’s 16 public school districts and in 37 nonpublic schools. The 2006 PPAAUS survey was filled out by 81,608 students in Franklin County schools in grades six through twelve. The Ohio Department of Health reports that high lead exposure in children (≥ 80 ug/dL) can cause coma, convulsions, and death. Lower levels cause adverse effects in the central nervous system and kidneys. Blood levels as low as 10ug/dL, which do not cause distinctive symptoms, are associated with decreased intelligence, impaired neurobehavioral development, and decreased stature or slow growth.

Update Status:

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