

2019 PA Youth Survey (PAYS) for Chester County Alcohol and Other Drug Trends

The following tables provide data on youth use of alcohol and other drugs. State and county data were collected via the [2019 Pennsylvania Youth Survey \(PAYS\)](#) for 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th graders. Chester County participation included 43 out of 51 schools in 16 out of 17 school districts: 18,146 valid surveys total.

National comparison data is drawn from the [2019 Monitoring the Future Survey](#), conducted annually on a nation-wide basis by the Survey Research Center at the University of Michigan.

- LIFETIME USE (Indicates experimentation with substances)**

SUBSTANCE	CHESTER COUNTY					PA	US	
	Grade 6 %	Grade 8 %	Grade 10 %	Grade 12 %	All Grades %	All Grades %	Grade 8 %	Grade 12 %
Alcohol	17.3	33.1	52.5	67.7	41.2	41.0	24.5	58.5
Vaping (any substance)	--	--	--	--	--	--	24.3	45.6
Marijuana	0.7	6.2	22.2	40.7	16.2	17.3	15.2	43.7
Cigarettes	1.1	3.5	6.9	17.1	6.5	10.8	10.0	22.3
Inhalants	4.3	5.7	4.4	4.2	4.7	4.9	9.5	5.3
Over-the-Counter Drugs	2.2	2.9	3.3	5.0	3.3	4.1	--	--
Prescription Pain Relievers	3.0	3.1	4.4	4.3	3.7	3.9	--	--
Prescription Tranquilizers	0.2	1.2	2.0	3.3	1.6	1.9	--	--
Prescription Stimulants	0.7	1.5	3.0	6.0	2.6	2.5	--	--
Heroin	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.6

- PAST 30-DAY USE (Indicates current use of substances)**

SUBSTANCE	CHESTER COUNTY					PA	US	
	Grade 6 %	Grade 8 %	Grade 10 %	Grade 12 %	All Grades %	All Grades %	Grade 8 %	Grade 12 %
Alcohol	2.3	8.0	24.1	38.6	17.0	16.8	7.9	29.3
Vaping (any substance)	1.5	8.8	20.2	30.2	14.3	19.0	12.2	30.9
Marijuana	0.3	3.3	13.2	24.5	9.5	9.6	6.6	22.3
Cigarettes	0.3	0.6	1.6	6.0	1.8	3.5	2.3	5.7
Inhalants	2.0	1.8	0.6	0.8	1.3	1.4	2.1	0.9
Over-the-Counter Drugs	1.5	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.3	--	--
Prescription Pain Relievers	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.1	--	--
Prescription Tranquilizers	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.5	--	--
Prescription Stimulants	0.3	0.4	0.8	1.6	0.7	0.8	--	--
Heroin	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3

- FULL REPORT**

Rates of use of other substances are low but are still a concern.

Find the full [2019 PAYS for Chester County](#) report here.