

2021 PA Youth Survey 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 [2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey \(PAYS\)](#) for 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th graders. Chester County, PA participation included 44 out of 54 schools in 14 out of 16 school districts: 17,477 valid surveys total.

National comparison data is drawn from the [2021 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	12.1	24.5	40.0	59.1	33.6	34.8	21.7	54.1
Vaping (any substance)	--	--	--	--	--	--	17.5	40.5
Marijuana	0.6	3.2	13.5	33.0	12.1	13.1	10.2	38.6
Cigarettes	1.0	2.3	5.1	12.8	5.1	8.1	7.0	17.8
Inhalants	4.0	4.1	4.2	3.9	4.1	4.3	13.7	5.0
Over-the-Counter Drugs	3.2	1.9	2.5	3.5	2.7	2.9	--	--
Prescription Pain Relievers	2.4	2.9	2.0	2.7	2.5	3.1	--	2.3
Prescription Tranquilizers	0.3	0.6	0.9	1.9	0.9	1.0	2.5	3.3
Prescription Stimulants	0.6	0.9	1.5	2.9	1.5	1.8	5.8	4.9
Heroin	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.4

- 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	2.7	5.6	15.6	33.2	13.8	13.4	7.3	25.8
Vaping (any substance)	1.1	5.2	11.7	22.2	9.8	13.0	8.9	24.0
Marijuana	0.1	1.6	7.5	18.7	6.7	7.0	4.1	19.5
Cigarettes	0.2	0.5	1.0	3.4	1.2	2.3	1.1	4.1
Inhalants	1.3	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.9	1.2	1.8	0.7
Over-the-Counter Drugs	1.4	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.9	--	--
Prescription Pain Relievers	0.7	1.1	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.9	--	0.3
Prescription Tranquilizers	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.4
Prescription Stimulants	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.5	1.7	1.0
Heroin	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1

- FULL REPORT**

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

Read the full [2021 PAYS](#) report for Chester County.