



Idaho Youth Prevention Survey

Region 1 Report

Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Benewah, and Shoshone Counties

2014

The Idaho Youth Prevention Survey assessed behaviors and attitudes about substance use and other high-risk behaviors. The survey was administered to students statewide in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12, and resulting data yielded information about student perceptions and activities.

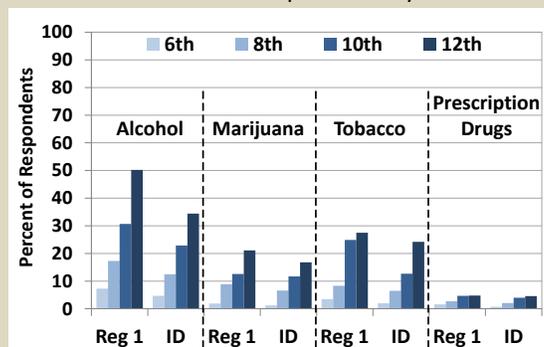
More than 12,000 students participated in the survey statewide; 1,389 attended schools in the Region 1 counties of Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, and Benewah, located in northern Idaho.

Grade Level	Region 1		Idaho	
	#	%	#	%
6th	392	28	3140	25
8th	515	37	3663	29
10th	198	14	3168	25
12th	284	20	2679	21
Total	1389	100	12650	100

Focusing on alcohol, tobacco, marijuana use, and consumption of unprescribed prescription drugs, this report addresses students' recent use and perceptions of substance use. Data pertaining to suicidal attempts and ideation is also presented.

Regional and statewide results are provided based on the grade level of the students surveyed. Nearly all at-risk behaviors examined were more common among older students (Chart 1). Similarly, attitudes towards such behaviors became more casual, with less risk or wrong-doing ascribed by older students.

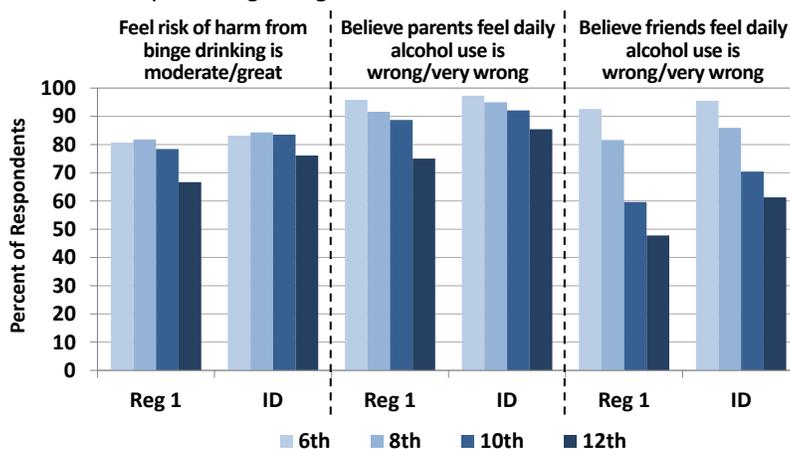
Chart 1. Substance use in prior 30 days



Previous studies indicate that, since 2008, alcohol use has decreased while tobacco and marijuana usage rates remain stable (see Idaho Department of Education Report: *Substance Use, Safety, And School Climate In Idaho, 2008*).

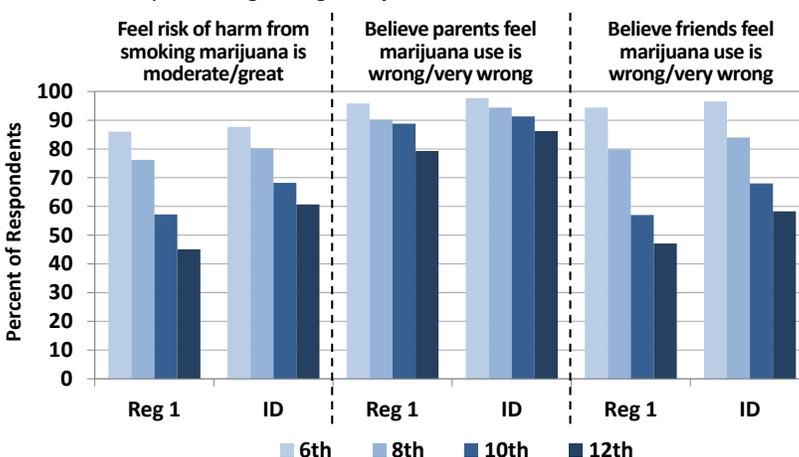
Few sixth grade students reported consuming alcohol in the month prior to taking the survey. Use increased among older students, with half of the Region 1 seniors reporting recent alcohol use, compared with 34% statewide (Chart 1). Most sixth, eighth, and tenth grade students, in both Region 1 and statewide, believed that consuming five or more alcoholic drinks once or twice a week (i.e., binge drinking) involved moderate or great risk of harm; such thinking was notably lower among seniors. Seniors were also less likely to believe their parents feel daily alcohol use is wrong. Students of different grade levels varied widely regarding whether they believe their friends feel daily alcohol use is wrong (Chart 2).

Chart 2. Perceptions regarding alcohol use



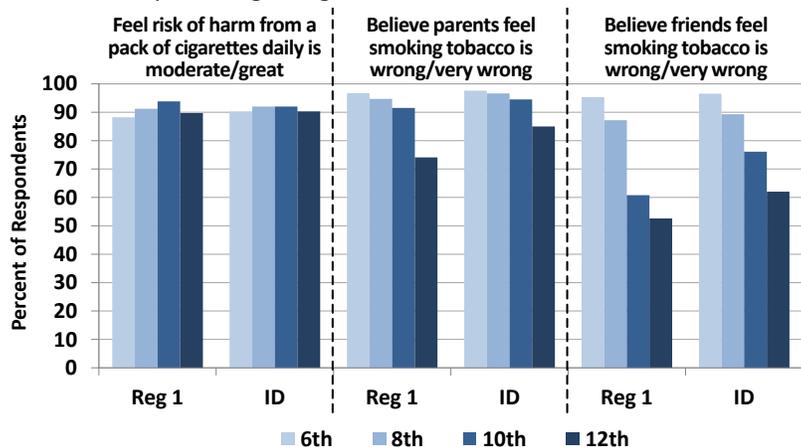
Very similar trends are evident among topics pertaining to marijuana use, though usage is considerably lower. The risk of harm associated with such use is also notably lower (Chart 3).

Chart 3. Perceptions regarding marijuana use



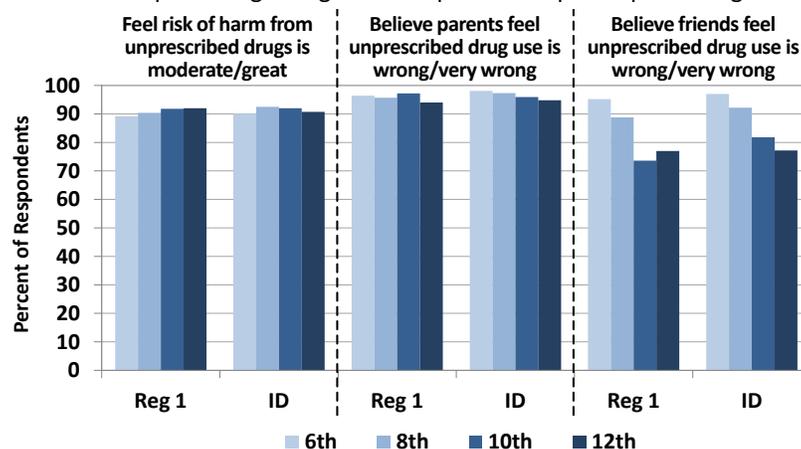
Tobacco, in the form of cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, or cigars, was used recently by more than 20% of Region 1 tenth and twelfth grade students, while statewide usage among tenth graders was considerably lower (Chart 1). The vast majority of students believed that smoking at least a pack of cigarettes daily posed a risk of harm. Region 1 seniors were less likely to think their parents felt smoking tobacco was wrong compared with seniors statewide (Chart 4), as were tenth graders' perceptions of their friends.

Chart 4. Perceptions regarding tobacco use



Recent use of unprescribed prescription drugs was rare among Idaho students (Chart 1). Nearly all believe such use is risky, and that their parents feel it is wrong. High school students' belief that their friends feel it is wrong was lower than that of students in middle school (Chart 5).

Chart 5. Perceptions regarding use of unprescribed prescription drugs



The following questions can be used to start a conversation in your community about ways to prevent substance abuse.

- How do students' substance abuse rates in our region compare to the rest of the state?
- How do these rates compare with what we are personally aware of among our students?
- What are students' perceptions of school culture and climate in our region?
- How can we better educate families about substance abuse and inform them about community resources for our students?
- What are our goals around substance abuse prevention, and how can we achieve them?

Suicidal Ideation

During tenth grade, when responses indicating depressive behaviors were the most common, 28% of Region 1 students indicated feeling hopeless at least some of the time during the prior 30 days, compared with 33% statewide, and 20% reported they had seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year, compared with 17% statewide. Among Region 1 students who had been bullied in the past year, 29% indicated they had seriously considered suicide, compared with 7% among those not bullied.



Other Region 1 Survey Findings

- In Region 1, 11% of seniors had tried hallucinogens compared with 7% statewide.
- Region 1 seniors were less likely to report that they were slightly or very overweight compared with seniors statewide (23% vs. 27%, respectively).
- Sixth graders in Region 1 more commonly reported being bullied in the prior year (49%) than did students statewide (42%). Among all other grade levels, rates were similar to statewide figures.
- In Region 1, 18% of seniors reported they had carried a weapon (e.g., gun, knife, or club) on school property, compared with 15% statewide.
- Region 1 sixth graders were more likely to indicate they had been driven in the past month by someone using alcohol or drugs (18%) than were sixth graders statewide (13%).
- Among Region 1 sixth graders, 67% believe it is likely or very likely that they will attend/graduate from a university. This is less than the 75% who believe so statewide.

The complete 2014 Idaho Youth Prevention Survey report can be downloaded from the following website:

www.sde.idaho.gov/site/safe_drugfree/

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