

What Youth Are Saying About

ALCOHOL

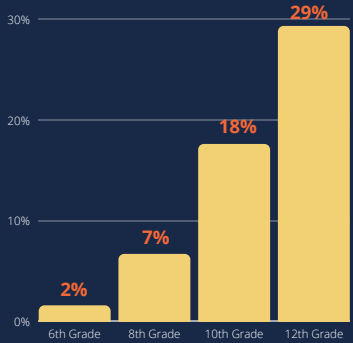
PAYS 2021 Data

What is PAYS?

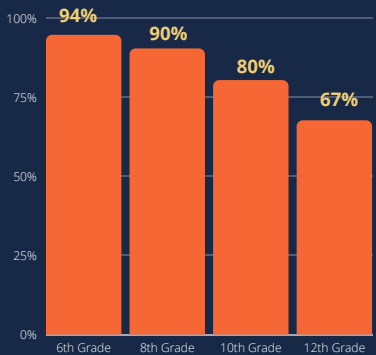
The Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) is a student survey administered in odd-numbered years (e.g. 2017, 2019, 2021) to youth in 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades in participating schools throughout the state. The questions asked in the survey cover many types of attitudes, knowledge, behaviors, and experiences.

DASD Youth Reported They:

Thought that it is “not at all wrong/ a little bit wrong” for someone their age to drink alcohol regularly.



Thought that friends feel it would be “wrong/very wrong” to have one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day.



As students move from 6th to 12th grade, their perception of harm of alcohol use decreases, with 1 out of 3 students accepting regular alcohol use by grade 12. This is paired with easy access, feeling they won't be caught by police, and feeling adults do not disapprove of underage use (see reverse side) may lead to increased use.

DASD Youth Reported They:

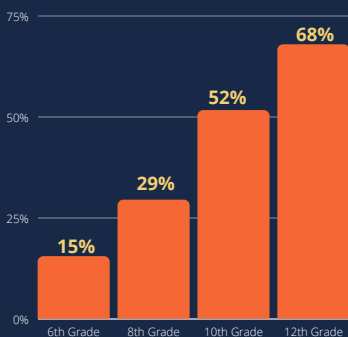


By 12th grade,

3 out of 4 students

felt that if a kid drank alcohol in their neighborhood, he or she would NOT be caught by the police.

Thought that it would be “very easy/sort of easy” for them to get beer, wine, & hard liquor.



1 out of 3 students

in 12th grade thought that most adults (21+) in their neighborhood

would think it was “not at all wrong/a little bit wrong” for kids their age to drink alcohol.

The Link Between Mental Health and Alcohol Use



Of students that reported moderate depressive symptoms, 16.2% had used alcohol in the past 30 days. Of students that reported high depressive symptoms, 27.5% used alcohol in the last 30 days. We know youth may use substances to self-medicate, cope with stress, and that some drugs can exacerbate existing mental health diagnoses.

Learn more about youth alcohol use on our website (www.dtownnctc.org - scan QR below) & follow us on social media:



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