



Westerville City Schools

Dr. J. Daniel Good, Superintendent

336 South Otterbein Avenue, Westerville, OH 43081-2398
Main Office (614)-797-5700 Fax (614) 797-5701

Vision

Our vision is
to be the benchmark
of educational
excellence.

Mission

Our mission is
to prepare students
to contribute
to the competitive
and changing world
in which we live.

Values

Respect
Inclusiveness
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Collaboration
Innovation
Nurturing
Trust
Accountability

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 5/6/10

NEWS RELEASE

Latest survey on adolescents' use of alcohol, marijuana, and tobacco yields results comparable to 2006 survey

Data from the 2009 Primary Prevention Awareness, Attitude and Use Survey (PPAAUS) indicate that adolescents' self-reported use of alcohol, tobacco and marijuana has increased at some grade levels and decreased at others, but overall reported use does not vary greatly from the last administration of the survey in 2006. This trend held true for all of Franklin County as well as Westerville City Schools.

In Westerville City Schools there were 2,899 students in grades eight, 10 and 12 who completed questionnaires. The purpose of this assessment – conducted every three years since 1988 by the Safe & Drug-Free Schools Consortium, a program of the Educational Council – is to guide school prevention and intervention programs, and to evaluate the general effectiveness of these programs. This adolescent self-report measure also helps to gauge the current attitudes and perceptions of our youth as related to important variables in the areas of both substance use and violence prevention.

“Findings from the November 2009 survey offer a mixed bag of results regarding students' use of substances,” said Dr. Steve Coolahan, facilitator of intervention assistance for Westerville Schools. “Overall use continues to trend lower than past years, though we've seen slight increases in usage at specific grade levels when compared to the last administration of this survey in 2006. Findings substantiate the effectiveness of the consistent message sent to youth from the community, schools and parents that it is not acceptable to use alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. However, we still have work to do as some of our youth continue to report regular use of such substances. Thus, our continued partnership with entities such as Concord Counseling, Genoa Police and the Westerville Police, as well as the importance of personnel such as DARE officers, our school resource officers and our student assistance program personnel remain as vital components of both our prevention and intervention efforts.”

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WCSD 2009 PPAAUS 2-2-2-2

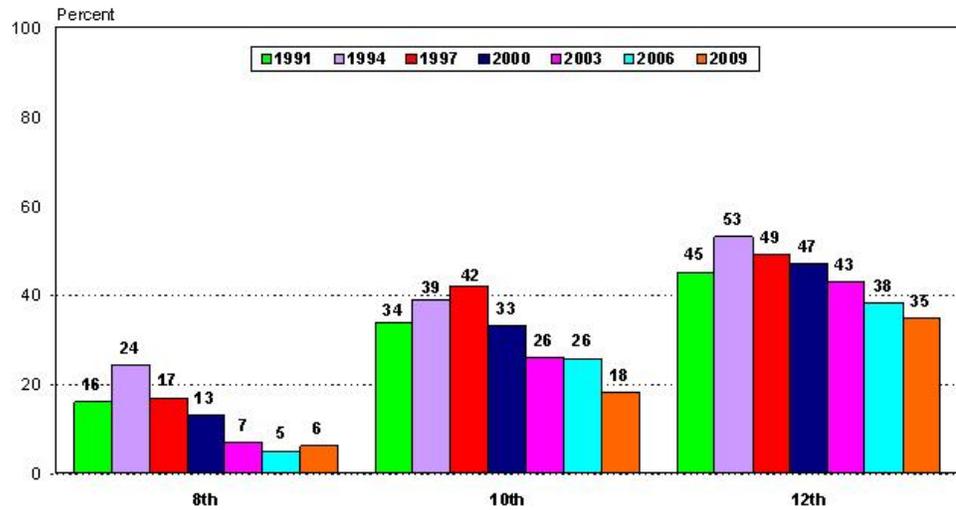
How Westerville Youth Responded

- Alcohol:** Nineteen percent of the students reported drinking alcohol at least once a month. Six percent of the students reported using alcohol once a week or more often. Overall, students in grades 10 and 12 reported a decrease in alcohol use, bringing those results to their lowest-ever levels. Students in grade 8 reported a 1 percent increase in alcohol use when compared to 2006 results, though 2009 results still reflect the second-lowest reported usage levels ever.



Westerville City Schools

Regular Use of Alcohol: Monthly or More Often Use



In the 1988-1997 versions of PPAAUS, alcohol figures are calculated from four items: beer, wine, coolers, and hard liquor. In 2000, 2003, 2006 and 2009 PPAAUS had one item with the four categories listed in parentheses.

Services by: DiagnosticsPlus
A Division of IntelliQ Research

Funded by: United Way
of Central Ohio



US Dept of Health
and Human Services
Substance Abuse and
Mental Health Service
Administration, Center
for Substance Abuse
Prevention, 2009
85-7958-1104-01

2009 Primary Prevention
Awareness, Attitude, and Use Survey

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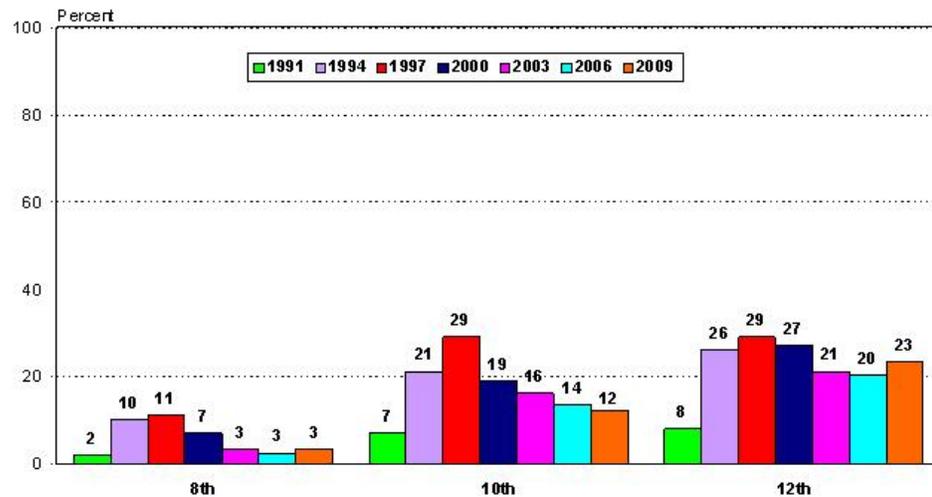
WCSD 2009 PPAAUS 4-4-4-4

Marijuana: An average of 12 percent of students surveyed reported regular use of marijuana; 7 percent smoked at least once a week. Marijuana use has been declining and remains below the levels reported in 1997, when it reached its peak. Students in grades 8 and 10 reported usage levels the same as or lower than those reported in 2006, while students in grade 12 reported a 3 percent increase in use.



Westerville City Schools

Regular Use of Marijuana: Monthly or More Often Use



Services by: DiagnosticsPlus
A Division of IntelliQ Research

Funded by: United Way
United Way of Central Ohio



U.S. Dept. of Justice
2009 Primary Prevention
Substance Abuse
National Service
Center for Substance Abuse
Prevention (NSAP)
2009-2010
NSAP-1104-01

2009 Primary Prevention
Awareness, Attitude, and Use Survey

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WCSD 2009 PPAAUS 5-5-5-5

A portion of the 2009 survey particularly addresses “perceived messages about use.” Students perceive different messages from different sources about the acceptability of drinking alcohol, smoking marijuana, and smoking cigarettes. In separate survey items, students were asked whether the message they received was “It’s OK to use,” or “It’s not OK to use.” Other response options were that a “mixed message” or “no message” came from a particular information source.

Among Westerville City Schools students, 66 percent felt that the message they received from their parents about drinking alcohol was “It’s not OK.” An average of 26 percent felt that they received an “It’s not OK” to drink alcohol message from their friends, 81 percent from their teachers, 85 percent from coaches, 77 percent from club advisors, and 17 percent from the media. An average of six percent perceived an “It’s OK to use” message about alcohol from their parents, 28 percent from their friends, two percent from teachers, one percent from coaches, two percent from activity advisors, and 34 percent from the media.

Among Westerville City Schools students, 87 percent felt that the message they received from their parents about smoking marijuana was “It’s not OK to use.” Forty-four percent perceived “It’s not OK to use” messages from their friends, 87 percent from their teachers, 89 percent from coaches, 83 percent from activity advisors, and 39 percent from the media. An average of two percent of the students thought the message they got from parents was “It’s OK” to smoke marijuana. Twenty-one percent perceived an approving message about marijuana from friends, one percent from teachers, one percent from coaches, two percent from club advisors, and 16 percent from the media.

An average of 83 percent of the Westerville City Schools students indicated that the message they got from their parents about using tobacco was “It’s not OK to use.” Forty-three percent perceived messages of disapproval from their friends, 84 percent from their teachers, 87 percent from coaches, 80 percent from advisors, and 28 percent from the media. Two percent felt that their parents’ message about tobacco use was “It’s OK to use.” An average of 18 percent perceived an “It’s OK” message about tobacco use from friends, one percent from their teachers, one percent from coaches, two percent from club advisors, and 24 percent from the media.

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WCSD 2009 PPAAUS 6-6-6-6

An average of 79 percent of all Westerville City Schools students had participated in Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) at least once in school. Fifteen percent of all students surveyed had been in Drug-Free clubs or activities such as Youth to Youth or Teen Institute. An average of 72 percent of the Westerville City Schools students had learned about the effects of using alcohol, tobacco and other drugs from a D.A.R.E. officer. Fifty-five percent had learned about the effects of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs from a health teacher; nine percent from a guidance counselor. Parents were a source of information about the effects of these substances for 60 percent of the students. An average of 20 percent of all students indicated that they had learned about the effects of these substances from a source other than D.A.R.E., a health teacher, a guidance counselor, or a parent.

The PPAAUS also attempts to gather information from youth with regard to perceptions of school climate, their own well-being, and information as it relates to victims and perpetrators and bystanders of problem behaviors. The 2009 Westerville summary revealed the following:

- **Learning Environment:** An average of 90 percent of the Westerville City Schools students agreed (Strongly Agree or Agree) that “teachers in this school have high expectations for their students.” Eighty-eight percent of the students thought that “the school is run in an orderly manner that helps learning to take place.”
- **Discipline:** In the Westerville City Schools, 79 percent of the students believed that “teachers in this school enforce school rules fairly.” An average of 83 percent agreed that “my school does a good job of assisting students who need help.”
- **Students and Staff:** An average of 77 percent of the Westerville City Schools students thought that “teachers in this school treat students with respect.” Forty-nine percent of the students agreed with the statement: “I feel that I can talk to the teachers in this school about things that are bothering me.” An average of 43 percent of the students thought that “students in this school treat teachers with respect.” An average of 73 percent of the students felt that they had a “good relationship with an adult at this school.”

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WCSD 2009 PPAAUS 7-7-7-7

- **Students and Other Students:** Among Westerville City Schools students, 43 percent of the students agreed that “students in this school really care about each other.” Thirty-seven percent agreed that “students in this school treat each other with respect.”
- **Staff, Students and Parents:** An average of 68 percent of the Westerville City Schools students surveyed felt that “staff, students, and parents work together to solve problems.”
- **Well Being:** An average of 72 percent of the Westerville City Schools students said they were happy Most of the Time; three percent were happy Almost Never. Ten percent of the students were depressed Most of the Time, and 49 percent Almost Never. Nine percent of the students said they were angry Most of the Time, and 27 percent said they were angry Almost Never. An average of 11 percent were nervous Most of the Time, and 32 percent were Almost Never nervous.

“These most recent PPAAUS results continue to reinforce the previous findings from the National Longitudinal Study on Adolescent Health that suggest family and school connectedness are the leading protective factors against youth violence, suicide, depression and substance use,” Dr. Coolahan concluded. “Therefore, our work and that of our community partners will remain focused upon creating positive and safe learning environments, teaching skills related to effective problem solving and decision making, and, when necessary, confronting student use and inappropriate behaviors in order to provide guidance and assistance to those students in need.”

For further alcohol/drug use and “messages” data, as well as school climate information, which include information on perpetrators, victims and problem behaviors, please refer to the included PPAAUS Executive Summary, or the comprehensive PPAAUS Franklin County report on the Educational Council web site at www.edcouncil.org. The PPAAUS Westerville City Schools 2009 results can be reviewed on the District’s web site at www.wcsoh.org after May 6, 2010.

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