

# Alcohol and Other Drug Use

Among Public High School Students in Oklahoma



## What do the data say?

Data from the **2023 Oklahoma Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)** show that:

### Alcohol Use

- **80.2%** of students did not drink alcohol before 13 years of age
- **74.3%** did not drink alcohol recently<sup>1</sup>
  - **29.3%** of 11th graders
  - **37.2%** of 12th graders
- **85.8%** did not engage in binge drinking<sup>1,2</sup>

### Other Drug Use

- **64.9%** had never used marijuana
- **80.9%** had not used marijuana recently<sup>1</sup>
- **83.3%** had never taken prescription pain medicine without a doctor's prescription<sup>3</sup>

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of students did not drink alcohol recently<sup>1</sup>

**85.8%**

of students did not engage in binge drinking<sup>1,2</sup>

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Have never taken a prescription pain medicine without a doctor's prescription<sup>3</sup>

## What are the solutions?

- **Reduce youth access to alcohol and other drugs** by supporting local and state policies that restrict easy availability to adolescents.
- **Educate students on the harmful effects** alcohol has on their maturing minds and bodies and consequences that could affect their future.
- **Educate parents and community members** about adolescent development and the effects of alcohol and drug use.
- **Encourage students to get involved** in extracurricular or other prosocial activities.
- **Implement evidence-based strategies** in schools, such as PAX Good Behavior Game and Botvin LifeSkills Training, proven to address risk and protective factors, including healthy coping skills.
- **Encourage schools to participate in surveys**, such as the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) and the Oklahoma Prevention Needs Assessment survey, which assess risk-taking behaviors among youth.
- **Encourage parents/guardians to talk to their children** about the risks of substance use using resources from [SAMHSA's "Talk. They Hear You."® campaign](#).<sup>4</sup>

1. During the 30 days before the survey
2. Had four or more drinks of alcohol in a row if they were female or five or more drinks of alcohol in a row if they were male, within a couple of hours
3. Or differently than how a doctor told them to use it (counting drugs such as codeine, Vicodin, OxyContin, Hydrocodone, and Percocet, one or more times during their life).
4. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Talk. They Hear You. Available at Parent Resources - Talk. They Hear You | SAMHSA

For more information, contact the Family Support and Prevention Service, Assessment Division, at **(405) 426-8092** or visit [oklahoma.gov/health/yrbs](http://oklahoma.gov/health/yrbs).



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