

Idaho Youth Prevention Survey

Region 3 Report

Adams, Washington, Payette, Gem, Canyon, and Owyhee 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.

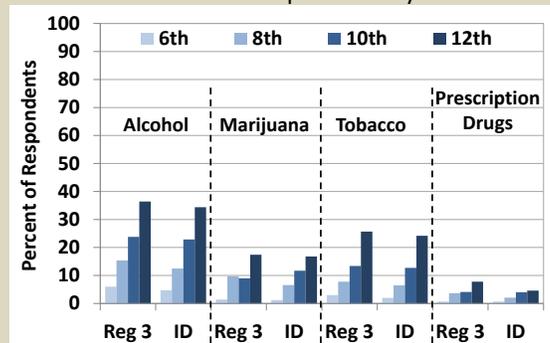
More than 12,000 students participated in the survey statewide; 1,836 attended schools in the southwestern Idaho Region 3 counties of Adams, Canyon, Gem, Owyhee, and Payette.

Grade Level	Region 3		Idaho	
	#	%	#	%
6th	555	30	3140	25
8th	530	29	3663	29
10th	383	21	3168	25
12th	369	20	2679	21
Total	1836	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.

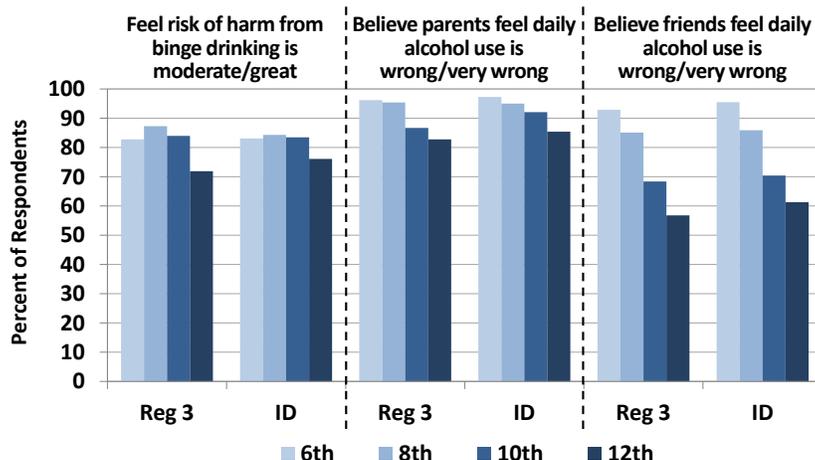
Chart 1. Substance use in prior 30 days



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*).

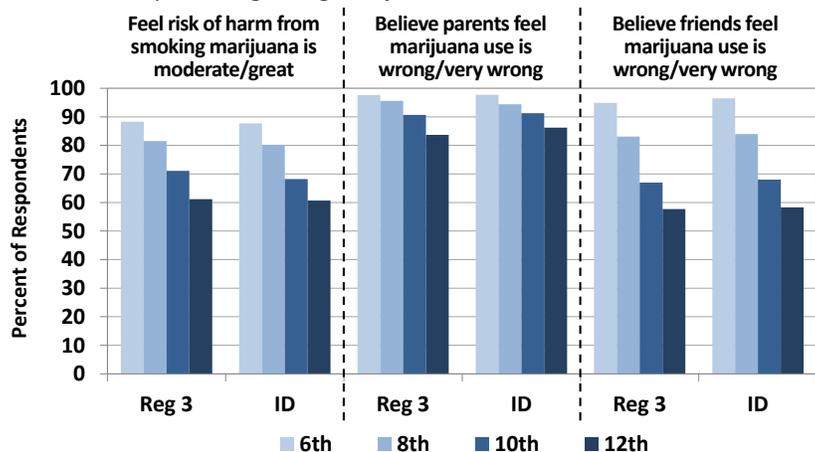
Few sixth grade students reported consuming alcohol in the month prior to taking the survey. Use increased among older students, with 36% of the Region 3 seniors reporting recent alcohol use, compared with 34% statewide (Chart 1). Most sixth, eighth, and tenth grade students, in both Region 3 and statewide, 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 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



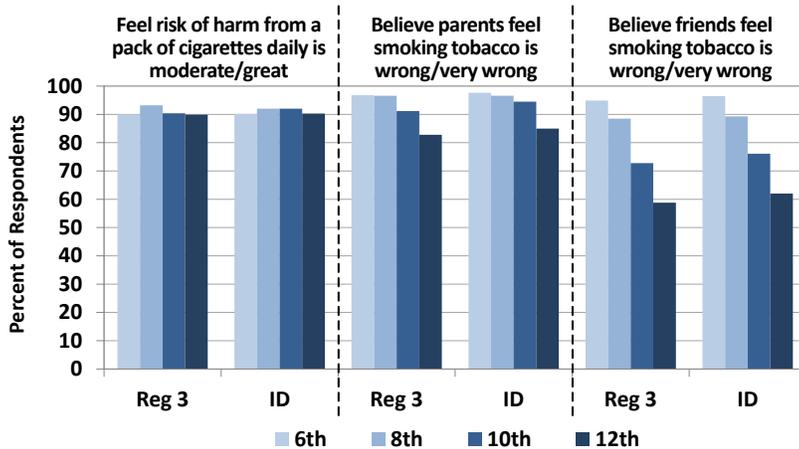
Though marijuana use is considerably lower than that of alcohol (Chart 1), similar trends are evident among students' perceptions of parents' and friends' judgments. The risk of harm associated with such use is also notably lower among high school students (Chart 3).

Chart 3. Perceptions regarding marijuana use



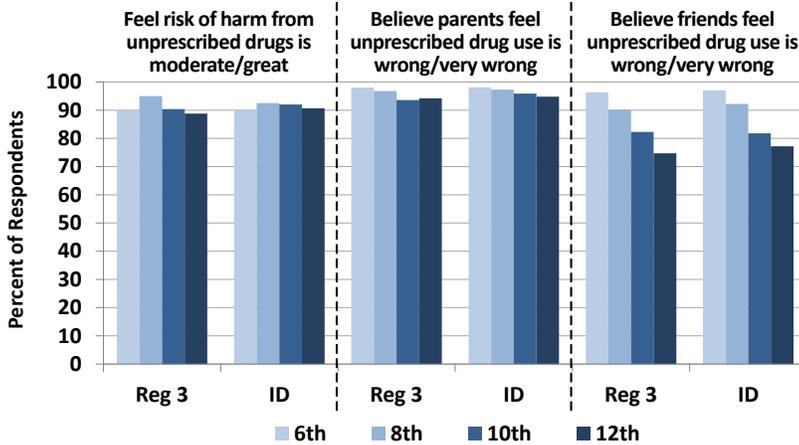
More than one fourth of Region 3 twelfth grade students recently used tobacco, in the form of cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, or cigars, similar to statewide usage (Chart 1). The vast majority of students from all grade levels believed that smoking at least a pack of cigarettes daily posed a risk of harm. In Region 3, 83% of seniors believed their parents feel smoking tobacco is wrong, while only 59% believed their friends feel it is wrong. These rates were similar to statewide figures (Chart 4).

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 were less likely than middle school students to report that their friends feel it is wrong (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, 38% of Region 3 students indicated feeling hopeless at least some of the time during the prior 30 days, 5% higher than statewide, and 18% reported they had seriously considered attempting suicide, similar to 17% statewide. Among Region 3 students who had been bullied in the past year, 30% indicated they had seriously considered suicide, compared with 8% among those not bullied.



Other Region 3 Survey Findings

- In Region 3, 11% of seniors had tried using over-the-counter drugs to get high, compared with 7% statewide.
- Region 3 students were more likely to report that gangs cause trouble at their school (47%) than were students statewide (35%). Additionally, they were less likely to indicate that they always felt safe at their school (38%) than were students statewide (44%).
- Seniors in Region 3 more commonly reported being bullied in the prior year (28%) than did seniors statewide (23%). They were also more likely than seniors statewide to report bullying someone else (20% and 14%, respectively).
- Students in Region 3 were less likely to feel that students of all racial groups always get along than were students statewide; for example, 22% of Region 3 eighth graders felt this way, compared with 29% statewide. Though Region 3 is comprised of a higher proportion of Hispanic students than participating students statewide, these survey findings were evident across most racial and ethnic groups.

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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