

# 2024 INDIANA YOUTH SURVEY

## SUMMARY REPORT

This report summarizes the results of the 2024 *Indiana Youth Survey* conducted by Prevention Insights in the spring of 2024. This is the 31st year that the *Indiana Youth Survey* (formerly called the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use Survey) has been conducted. The survey is funded by the Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA), Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) to monitor behaviors, experiences, and other factors that influence the health and well-being of Indiana youth.

All schools in Indiana were invited to participate in the online survey for 6<sup>th</sup>- through 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students, with a shorter questionnaire used for 6<sup>th</sup>-grade students. Students' participation in the survey was voluntary (they could choose not to participate) and anonymous. A total of 223 schools and 63,678 youth participated in the survey, resulting in 60,034 (94.3%) usable surveys. A full report of the 2024 methodology and findings, as well as previous years' reports, can be found at [www.inys.indiana.edu](http://www.inys.indiana.edu).

### Substance Use

Students reported that alcohol was the most frequently used substance in all surveyed grades for the 30 days prior to the survey (e.g., past month use). Approximately four percent of 6<sup>th</sup>-grade students (4.2%) reported drinking alcohol in the past month, and about one-sixth of 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students (15.6%) did so (see Table 1). Female students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade were more likely than males to report consuming alcohol in the past month, while in 12<sup>th</sup> grade, male students were more likely to report alcohol use than female students. About 5.8% of 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students reported binge drinking in the past two weeks. Female students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade were more likely to report binge drinking than male students, whereas in 12<sup>th</sup> grade, male students were more likely to report binge drinking than female students. Rates of past-month alcohol use were lower in 2024 compared to 2022 for all grades and fewer students reported binge drinking in 2024 than in 2022 across all grades (see full report for details).

**Table 1. Percentage of Students Who Reported Using Alcohol in the Past Month, by Grade and Gender, 2024**

		6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
Alcohol	Overall	4.2	5.4	7.6	7.9	9.6	11.9	15.6
	Male	4.1	5.2	6.3	7.3	9.1	11.8	16.9*
	Female	4.2	5.5	8.9*	8.4	10.1	12.0	14.5
Binge Drinking <sup>a</sup>	Overall	--	1.7	2.2	2.5	2.9	4.3	5.8
	Male	--	1.4	1.5	2.3	2.7	4.6	7.1*
	Female	--	1.9	2.9*	2.6	3.1	4.1	4.6

Notes. <sup>a</sup>Binge drinking was defined as consuming five or more drinks in a row in the past two weeks.

-- Questions about binge drinking were not included on the 6<sup>th</sup>-grade instrument.

\* Difference between male and female rates is statistically significant ( $p < .05$ ).

Electronic vapor products were the second-most prevalent substance used by Indiana youth. However, the 2024 *Indiana Youth Survey* marked the third, large, biennial decrease in 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students' reported use of electronic vapor products in the 30 days prior to taking the *Indiana Youth Survey*, with rates significantly lower than those reported in 2022 (see Table 2). For example, the rate of vaping among 12<sup>th</sup> grade students dropped 5.2 percentage points between 2022 and 2024 and has dropped 19 percentage points since 2018. Sixth grade students are not included in these comparisons because they were not surveyed about electronic vapor products until this year (2024). Now, with four points of measurement (2018, 2020, 2022, and 2024) spanning six years, there is sufficient information to infer that youth vaping in Indiana has likely been on a downward trend. This year, the survey also asked students who reported vaping in the past month about the substances they used with vaping devices. Tobacco/nicotine was the most commonly inhaled substance, followed by marijuana/THC, alcohol, flavoring only, and CBD/DBD oil.

**Table 2. Percentage of Students Who Reported Vaping in the Past Month, by Grade**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2020	2022	2024
6 <sup>th</sup>	--	--	--	--	--	--	2.5
7 <sup>th</sup>	5.5	4.9	5.0	7.0	6.5	5.3	4.5
8 <sup>th</sup>	10.4	9.4	8.6	11.9	10.0	7.5	6.3
9 <sup>th</sup>	14.4	13.7	11.7	16.7	13.0	9.3	5.9
10 <sup>th</sup>	18.2	15.4	14.0	20.4	17.3	11.0	7.1
11 <sup>th</sup>	20.3	18.8	15.8	23.7	18.2	13.5	8.1
12 <sup>th</sup>	24.8	21.6	19.7	28.6	23.0	14.8	9.6

Note. -- These substances were not included on the 6<sup>th</sup>-grade instrument.

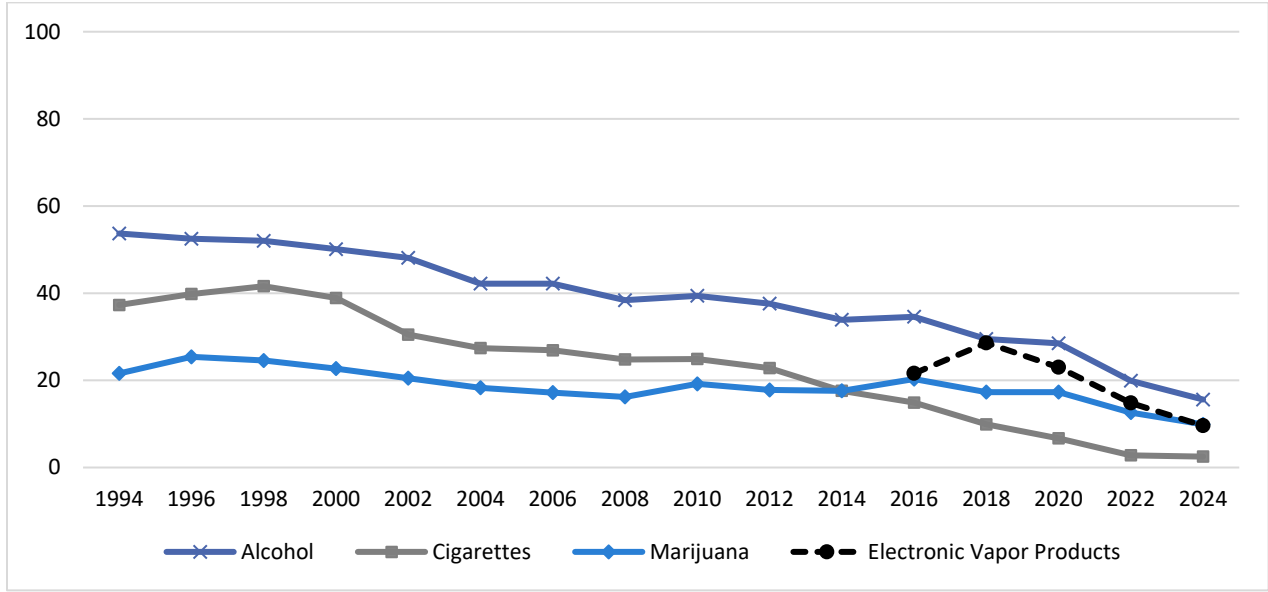
Rates of marijuana use in the past month ranged from 1.4% of 6<sup>th</sup>-grade students to nearly one in ten 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students (9.9%). Female students were more likely to report using marijuana than male students in all grades except 12<sup>th</sup> grade. This year, the survey asked students who reported using marijuana in the past month how they used it (e.g., the “route” by which they administered it to themselves). The most common routes were vaping followed by smoking, eating, dabbing, and drinking. Past-month prevalence of using marijuana decreased significantly from 2022 rates for 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades.

Use of cigarettes in the past month ranged from 0.5% of 6<sup>th</sup>-grade students to 2.5% of 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students. Past-month prevalence rates of cigarette use decreased significantly from 2022 rates for all grades except 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

The rate of using prescription drugs without a doctor’s order in the past month was about 2.0% among 6<sup>th</sup>-grade students, while about 1.0% of 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students reported doing so. Female students were more likely to report misusing prescription drugs among 7<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup>-grade students, while 11<sup>th</sup>-grade male students reported higher rates than females. Rates of misusing prescription drugs were significantly lower than in 2022 for grades 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>.

Figure 1 shows the percentage of 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who reported using selected substances in the past month over the past 30 years.

**Figure 1. Percentage of 12th-Grade Students Who Reported Using Select Substances in the Past Month, 1994 – 2024**



## Risk Factors

### Availability

Parents were the primary source of alcohol for youth in 7<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> grades who drank alcohol in the past year, while older students (10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades) who drank alcohol in the past year were most likely to report getting it at a party. Approximately one-fifth of the respondents in 7<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> grades (ranging from 17.2% to 21.1%) reported that some other family members gave alcohol to them.

**Table 2. Percentage of Students Who Drank Alcohol in the Past Year Who Reported Accessing Alcohol by Select Methods, by Grade, 2024**

	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
My parent/guardian gave it to me	32.8	28.7	28.9	24.2	23.5	22.3
I got it at a party	16.1	19.9	26.5	33.7	42.1	43.5
Some other family member gave it to me.	20.4	21.1	19.6	17.2	18.9	15.8
I took it from home, someone else's house, or a store (without them knowing)	14.3	19.7	18.7	18.7	13.8	9.9
Person 21 years old or older gave it to me	11.2	12.9	13.9	17.7	20.6	25.7

Notes. Out of students who reported drinking alcohol in the past year (n = 9,107); Students could mark all that applied; Percentages do not sum to 100%.

These questions were not included on the 6<sup>th</sup>-grade instrument.

## Perception of Risk

Approximately half of the students said they think there is no risk or slight risk of harm from taking one or two drinks of alcohol nearly every day (ranging from 41.7% to 48.2%). The percentage of students who said that they believe there is no risk or slight risk of harm from smoking marijuana once or twice per week increased with grade-level. About two-thirds of 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students (62.4%) reported believing there is negligible risk of harm from participating in the behavior. Approximately one-third of students reported believing that there is no or slight risk of harm from smoking one or more packs of cigarettes a day (ranging from 26.5% to 38.2%), while approximately one-quarter of students felt that misusing prescription drugs did not present significant risk of harm (ranging from 22.9% to 26.5%).

**Table 3. Percentage of Students Who Thought There Is No or Slight Risk of Harm for Select Behaviors, by Grade, 2024**

	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Taking 1-2 alcoholic drinks per day	48.2	44.3	41.7	44.8	43.0	45.6	46.5
Smoking marijuana once or twice per week	37.3	39.8	42.1	48.4	51.6	58.2	62.4
Smoking 1+ packs of cigarettes per day	26.5	35.0	32.9	35.6	35.1	37.5	38.2
Using prescription drugs not prescribed to them	22.9	26.2	23.6	26.3	26.0	26.5	24.3

## Perception of Peer Behavior

Students' perception of how other students behave may influence their own choices. A heightened perception of peer substance use is generally associated with higher levels of actual use. In the 2024 *Indiana Youth Survey*, for all measured substances, students believed that a much higher percentage of

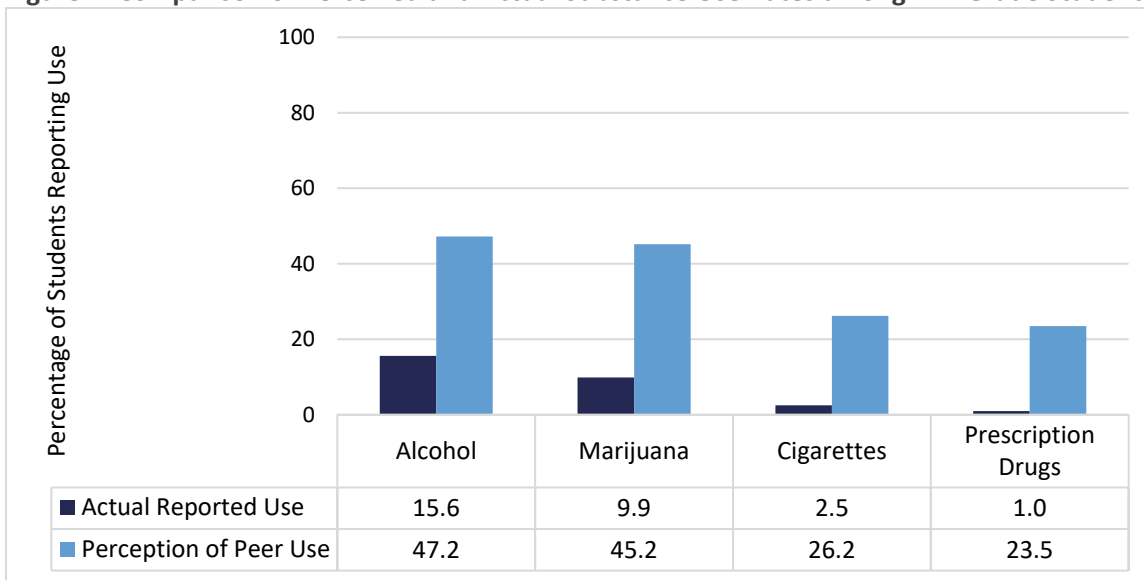
their peers had used each substance than the percentage who had actually used that substance (see Table 4). For example, 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students on average reported that they believed about half of the students in their school (47.2%) drank alcohol in the past month, whereas only 15.6% of 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students actually reported drinking alcohol in the past month (see Figure 2). Likewise, for marijuana, while 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students on average estimated that half of the students at their school (45.2%) used marijuana in the past month, only 9.9% actually reported using it in the past month.

**Table 4. Average of Students' Estimations of the Percentage of Students at Their School Who Used Select Substances in the Past Month, by Grade, 2024**

	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Alcohol	23.4	28.8	40.4	44.2	45.8	47.2
Marijuana	21.6	28.9	39.0	43.2	44.4	45.2
Cigarettes	22.1	23.6	29.1	28.2	27.4	26.2
Prescription Drugs	23.5	24.4	28.9	27.6	25.4	23.5

Note. These questions were not included on the 6<sup>th</sup>-grade instrument.

**Figure 2. Comparison of Perceived and Actual Substance Use Rates among 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students, 2024**



## Consequences

The percentage of students who reported performing poorly on a test or project in the past year due to their drinking or drug use decreased with grade-level, ranging from 7.5% of 6<sup>th</sup>-grade students to 3.5% of 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students. Approximately five percent of students in 7<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> grades reported missing class in the past year because of their drinking or drug use.

**Table 5. Percentage of Students Who Reported Experiencing Select Consequences as a Result of Their Drinking or Drug Use in the Past Year, by Grade, 2024**

	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Performed poorly on a test or project	7.5	7.1	6.4	5.8	5.0	3.5
Missed class	5.8	5.9	5.9	5.2	4.5	3.3

Note. These questions were not included on the 6<sup>th</sup>-grade instrument.

## Mental Health

The *Indiana Youth Survey* included three questions on mental health. The percentage of students who said they felt so sad or hopeless for two or more weeks in a row in the past year that they stopped doing usual activities ranged from 29.5% of 9<sup>th</sup>-grade students to 32.6% of 6<sup>th</sup>-grade students. Questions on considering attempting suicide had the lowest rates among 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students (11.5%) and the highest rates reported by 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students (15.7%). About 7.5% of 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students (the grade with the lowest rate) said they had made a plan about attempting suicide in the past year, whereas for 8<sup>th</sup> grade (the grade with the highest rate), 11.7% of students reported doing so. Female students reported substantially higher rates of experiencing all of the mental health indicators included on the survey. In general, female students were more than twice as likely to have experienced each of these emotions or behaviors.

**Table 6. Percentage of Students Who Reported Select Mental Health Behaviors in the Past Year, by Grade and Gender, 2024**

		6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Felt sad or hopeless for 2+ weeks in a row	Overall	32.6	29.6	31.2	29.5	30.2	29.8	28.5
	Male	25.7	18.9	19.8	20.1	21.0	21.6	20.9
	Female	39.7	40.4	42.9	38.7	39.0	37.3	35.4
Considered attempting suicide	Overall	13.3	14.2	15.7	13.8	13.7	12.9	11.5
	Male	8.8	8.3	9.3	9.2	9.8	10.2	8.9
	Female	18.0	20.0	22.3	18.3	17.4	15.4	13.9
Made a plan about attempting suicide	Overall	9.6	10.5	11.7	10.3	9.7	9.2	7.5
	Male	6.2	6.0	7.0	6.6	7.2	7.3	6.3
	Female	13.2	15.1	16.7	13.9	12.2	10.9	8.6

Note. All differences between male and female rates are statistically significant ( $p < .01$ ).

## Gambling

A student who reported having bet/gambled money on at least one of the activities investigated on the survey was considered to have gambled. Prevalence rates of past-year gambling among 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students ranged from a low of 32.1% (11<sup>th</sup> grade) to a high of 38.8% (8<sup>th</sup> grade). Male students were much more likely to report having gambled in the past year, with approximately half of them in all grades

reporting participating in at least one form of gambling (see Table 8).

**Table 7. Percentage of Students Who Reported Any Gambling in the Past Year, by Grade and Gender, 2024**

	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Overall	38.3	38.8	35.1	34.3	32.1	38.7
Male	46.3	47.5	44.5	44.0	42.8	49.1
Female	30.1	29.7	25.8	24.9	22.0	29.1

Notes. Gambling questions were not included on the 6<sup>th</sup>-grade instrument.  
 All differences between male and female rates are statistically significant ( $p < .001$ ).

With the exception of students in 12<sup>th</sup> grade, for whom the lottery was the most frequent gambling behavior, students uniformly reported gambling on video games (via loot boxes, mystery boxes, Loot Creates, etc.) more often than any other gambling behavior; this prevalence rate approached one-fifth of students in 7<sup>th</sup> (19.3%) and 8<sup>th</sup> (19.6%) grades.

**Table 8. Percentage of Students Reporting Selected Gambling Behaviors in the Past Year, by Grade, 2024**

	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Video game in app purchases (e.g. loot boxes, mystery boxes, Loot Crates)	19.3	19.6	18.3	17.5	15.3	16.4
Lottery	16.4	15.3	14.1	13.2	11.7	21.1
Card games	14.4	14.9	13.5	13.4	11.9	11.5
Competitive video gaming (Esports)	9.7	9.0	7.1	6.2	5.4	4.3
Pools (e.g. March Madness Brackets, Super Bowl)	8.4	8.8	8.4	8.7	7.4	7.7
Fantasy sports	7.1	8.6	7.5	7.6	6.9	7.0
Other sports betting	7.1	7.2	5.8	5.7	5.2	5.2
Charitable gambling	5.4	5.5	4.9	5.0	4.9	5.4
Gambled in other ways	4.4	3.7	3.2	3.1	2.2	2.1
Online sports betting (e.g., FanDuel, DraftKings, BetMGM) <sup>#</sup>	3.3	4.0	3.7	3.8	4.4	5.1
Online gambling (e.g., poker, casino-style games)	2.9	3.0	2.9	3.4	2.7	2.6
Horse track betting	1.9	2.1	1.9	2.6	1.8	2.4
Casino	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.4	1.2	1.7

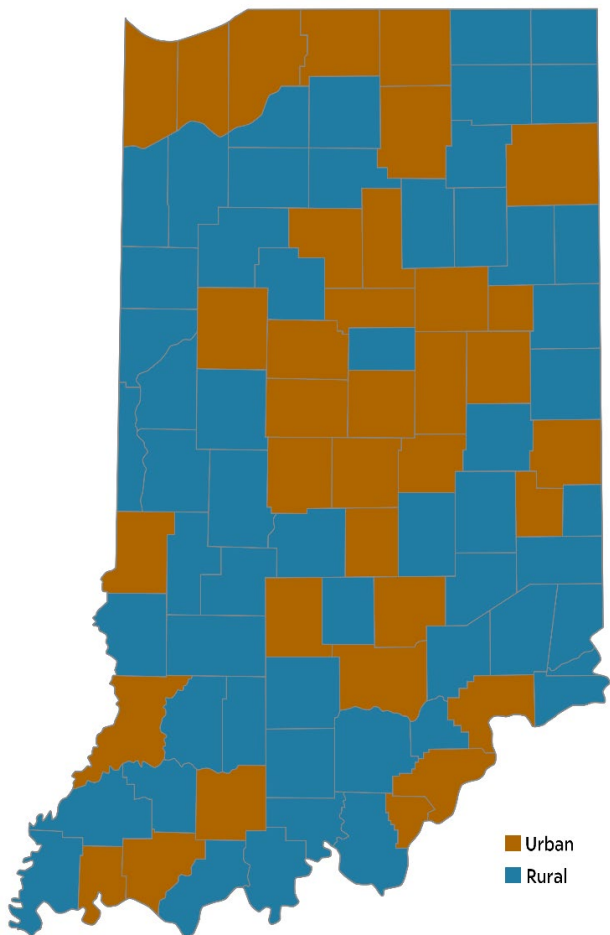
Note. Gambling questions were not included on the 6<sup>th</sup>-grade instrument.

## Rural Urban Classification

In previous years, the *Indiana Youth Survey* has reported outcomes by FSSA’s sub-state planning regions. This year, and moving forward, outcomes will be reported according to whether a county is determined to be rural or urban. Details on how rural and urban counties were classified can be found in the full report at [www.inys.indiana.edu](http://www.inys.indiana.edu).

It is notable that in 2024, there were no instances where youth attending school in urban counties reported statistically higher prevalence rates of past-month use of any substance, including binge drinking, compared to those in rural counties. However, students in rural counties were significantly more likely to report higher prevalence rates for various substances than their urban counterparts. For example, the use of cigarettes (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades), electronic vapor products (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> grades), alcohol (7<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> grades), and binge drinking (8<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> grades) were higher among students in rural counties than those in urban counties.

**Figure 3. Indiana Rural Urban Classification Based on 2020 US Census**





## Statewide Random Sample

Among the 223 schools participating in the survey, 67 were part of the statewide random sample (n = 13,197). The sample was stratified by FSSA's planning region and grade level. A full section of the primary *Indiana Youth Survey* report focuses on the methods and results for the random sample.

In general, the random sample data suggest that the primary substance-related results from the *Indiana Youth Survey* are likely to reflect true prevalence rates for Indiana. Specifically, when the value for the convenience sample falls within the random sample's 95% confidence interval (CI) lower limit and upper limit, we are confident that the convenience sample data aligns with the population-level data of the random sample. This year, only two values from the convenience sample fell outside of the random sample's CIs for monthly substance use. Both instances were for 10<sup>th</sup> grade and suggested that the convenience sample may have slightly underreported the prevalence of electronic vapor product use (7.1% vs. 8.7%) and marijuana use (6.4% vs. 8.4%) at the state level.