

TOP LINE: SUBSTANCE USE SURVEY ANALYSIS

Prepared for New Albany-Plain Local Schools

March 2017



In the following document, Hanover Research presents an overview of the results from the Substance Use Survey administered to middle school and high school students at New Albany-Plain Local Schools.

INTRODUCTION

In the following document, Hanover Research presents an overview of the results from the Substance Use Survey administered to middle school and high school students at New Albany-Plain Local Schools. In total, the analysis includes 2,962 responses, of which 1,171 are middle school students, and 1,791 are high school students.

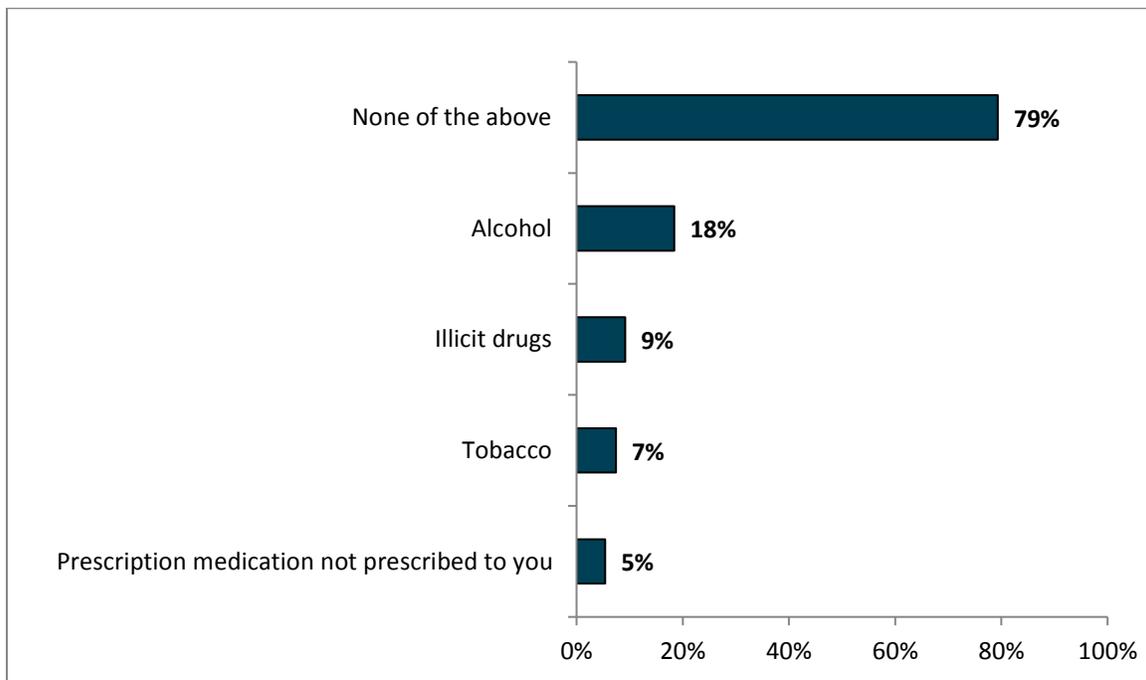
Hanover summarizes overall trends from the survey and presents a select number of figures to illustrate the results. An accompanying data supplement contains complete results and comparisons across gender, grade level, school level, and whether students have used each type of substance.

KEY FINDINGS

TYPE OF SUBSTANCE USE

- **Approximately one-fifth of student respondents report using a substance.** The most frequently mentioned substance is alcohol (18%), followed by illicit drugs (9%), tobacco (7%) and prescription medication not prescribed to them (herein referred to as *prescription medication*) (5%). Of those that report illicit drug use, marijuana is most prevalent (96%), followed by over-the-counter drugs (24%) and synthetic marijuana (24%) (Figure 1.1 and Figure 1.2).

Figure 1.1: Which of the following substances have you used?



n=2,961

Note: Respondents may select more than one substance.

Figure 1.2: What types of drugs have you ever used?

DRUG	%	DRUG	%
Marijuana (e.g., pot, hash)	96%	Cocaine (e.g., crack, freebase)	19%
Over-the-counter drugs to get high	24%	Inhalants (e.g., glue, spray cans)	16%
Synthetic marijuana (e.g., K2, Spice)	24%	Heroin (e.g., opiates)	14%
Ecstasy (e.g., MDMA, Molly)	23%	Steroids	13%
Hallucinogens (e.g., PCP, LSD)	22%	Meth (e.g., crystal, ice, crank)	11%

n=267

Note: Respondents may select more than one drug. Only respondents who indicated having used illicit drugs answered this question.

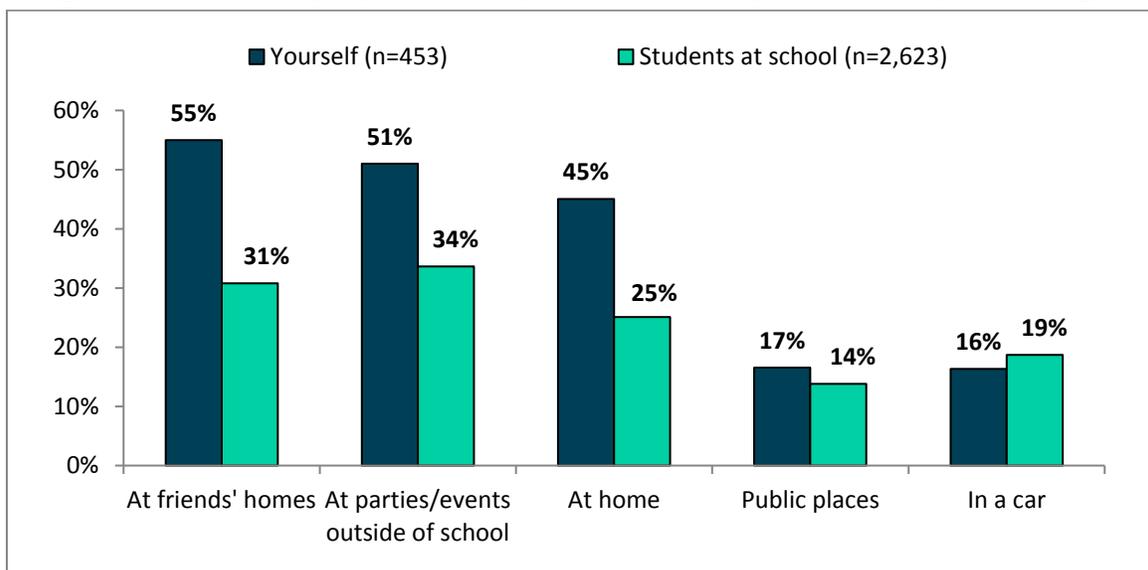
AGE AND LOCATION OF FIRST USE

- Most student respondents commonly first used substances between the ages of 15 to 17, although some students first used certain substances at age 10 or younger.** For example, 25 percent of alcohol users first tried it at age 15 or 16; first time marijuana and prescription drug users were most commonly 16 or 17 years old. Students most frequently first use substances with their friends (63%) in their friends’ homes (46%) or their own home (41%).

LOCATION OF USE

- Similarly, respondents report that they personally, or the students at their school, commonly use substances at parties/events outside of school, friends’ homes, and at their own home** (Figure 1.3). On a typical school day, students report that substances are commonly used after school (32%), although a majority of students report that they do not know where students typically use substances (65%).

Figure 1.3: Where do you/students at your school usually drink, smoke, or use drugs?

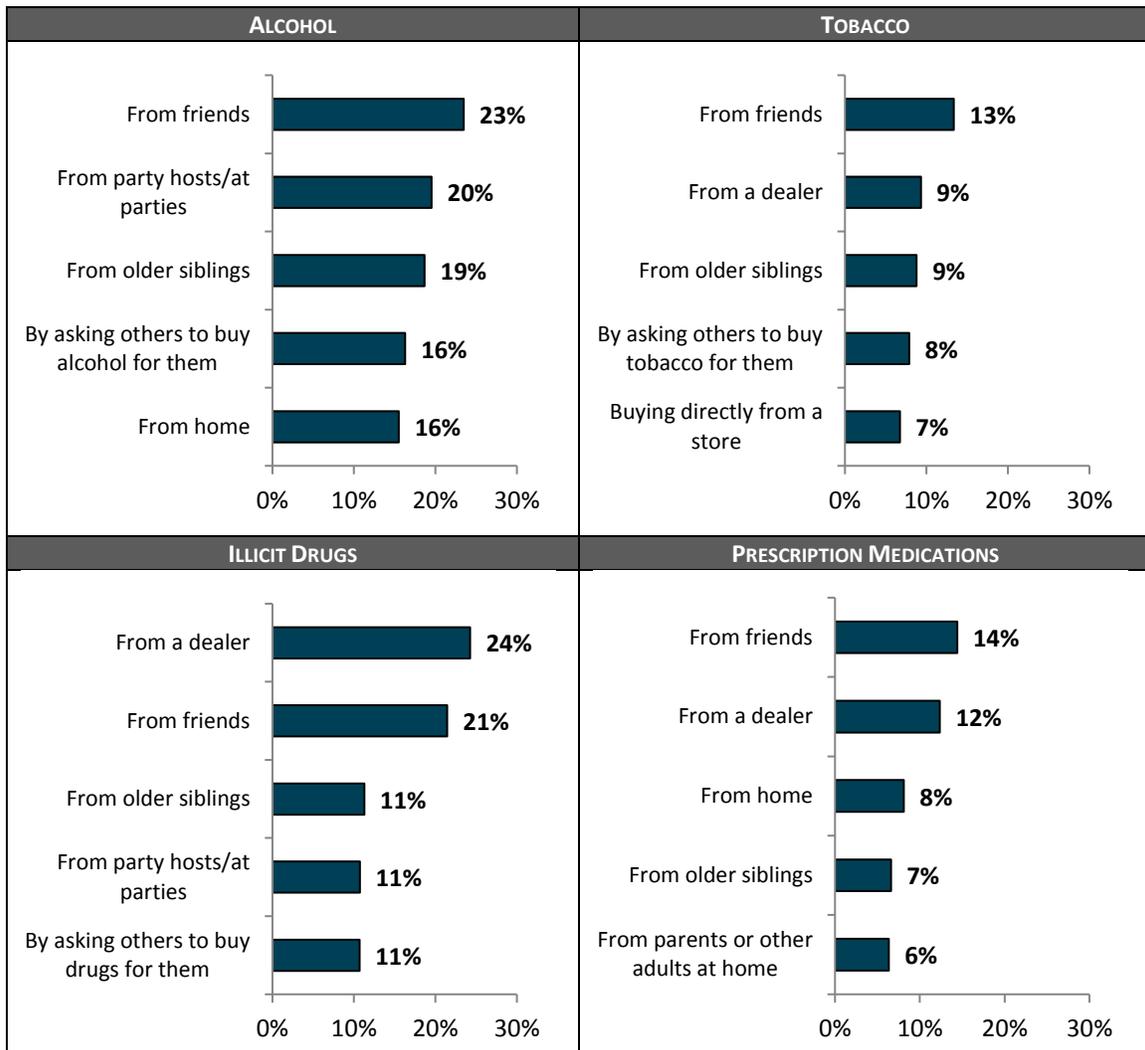


Note: Respondents may select more than one location. This figure displays the top five most common places.

ACCESS TO SUBSTANCES

- Respondents report that students at their school usually get alcohol, tobacco, and drugs through their friends, dealers, or older siblings, although most respondents select “I don’t know” (62%-77%) (Figure 1.4).

Figure 1.4: Ways to Access Substances



n=2,509-2,559

Note: Respondents may select more than one answer. Each figure presents the top five ways to access the substance.

REASONS FOR SUBSTANCE USE

- Of those that use substances, students report that the predominant reasons for substance use are “to feel good quickly,” because they are bored, and “to escape my life.” Interestingly, students who use tobacco most commonly use due to boredom, compared to students who use other substances where the most common reason was to feel good quickly (Figure 1.5).

Figure 1.5: Reasons for Substance Use

REASONS	ALCOHOL (N=387)	TOBACCO (N=141)	ILLICIT DRUGS (N=180)	PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS (N=97)
I use...because it makes me feel good quickly	30%	18%	43%	35%
I use...because I am bored	28%	30%	28%	19%
I use...to escape my life	20%	11%	33%	32%
I see other people I know using...	20%	16%	15%	15%
I use...because it increases my confidence	22%	4%	19%	13%
I use...because I do not think it is dangerous	16%	9%	21%	10%
I use...to fit in	14%	8%	10%	8%
I see people on TV and in movies using...	4%	5%	7%	8%
I use...because my parents/guardians do not want me to	4%	3%	4%	7%

Note: Respondents may select more than one answer.

- More than half of respondents report issues at home or school, experienced by themselves or their friends, such as stress/anxiety (45% self and 46% their friends), family stressors (20% self and 35% their friends), or depression (20% self and 31% their friends) (Figure 1.6).

Figure 1.6: Which of the following home, school, or relationship issues have you experienced?

ISSUES	YOURSELF (N= 2,453)	YOUR FRIENDS (N= 2,443)
Stress/anxiety	45%	46%
Family stressors (e.g., finances, substance abuse, parents' marital problems/divorce)	20%	35%
Depression	20%	31%
Poor relationships with friends/dating problems	18%	32%
Behavior/discipline problems at home or school	12%	25%
Trauma/grief	9%	15%
Drug or alcohol abuse in the family	9%	17%
Avoiding school	8%	19%
Violence/bullying behavior	7%	16%
Other	3%	5%
I/My friends do not have any issues at home, school, or with friends	44%	37%

Note: Respondents may select more than one answer.

SUPPORT

- About half of student respondents (54%) either “strongly agree” or “agree” that their school makes it easy for students to get support when they need it (e.g., counseling), although only 36 percent agree to some degree that the school quickly stops all cases of bullying. Respondents also report that they feel comfortable talking to a friend (71%) or their parent/guardian (63%) when experiencing a problem.

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