



Illinois Youth Survey Trends for District 181 Middle School Students

2008-2014

Compiled Dec. 2015

The Illinois Youth Survey (IYS) Trend Report provides information for selected IYS indicators that reflect changes in our student population over time and comparisons between our students and 2014 students throughout Illinois. The IYS is administered to students in 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades if their schools choose it. District 181 began using the IYS with 6th and 8th grade students in 2008. Our Trend Reports include data from 2008, 2010, 2012, and 2014. The IYS Trend Reports for the District, CHMS, and HMS are posted on the District's website at www.d181.org> Parents> SELAS> Evaluating Outcomes of SEL and include graphs and charts that illustrate trends.

The IYS tracks many of the same factors as the national survey called Monitoring the Future. These two surveys and others show that American teens are smoking and drinking at the lowest levels ever tracked. A notable exception to this decline however is marijuana use across the US. As laws, products, and technology change, monitoring and educating about e-cigarette use, marijuana, and cyber-bullying continues to be important. The IYS also measures perceptions of school climate and factors influencing health.

PERCEPTION OF SCHOOL CLIMATE:

Students were asked about 4 components of school climate: caring adults, high expectations, meaningful participation, and school connectedness. In general, students at both middle schools perceive very positive school climates. On a 4-point scale, 6th graders rated school climate as 3.22 and 8th graders as 3.05 in 2014. Both 6th and 8th graders rated high expectations as the strongest component. For both 6th and 8th graders, the weakest component was meaningful participation. For both grades, meaningful participation also showed the greatest change through time (2010-2014) with a decline from 2.8 to 2.6 (of 4.0) for 6th graders and a decline from 2.5 to 2.3 (of 4.0) for 8th graders. These averages were similar to state averages. The scores for the other three components were more consistent from year to year and higher than state averages.

BULLYING VICTIMIZATION:

Since 2010, reports of bullying in all categories (name-calling, being threatened, kicked, pushed, punched) except cyber-bullying are trending downwards by significant percentages. Name-calling showed the greatest decline for both grades, with a 12-13 percentile point drop since 2008. Still, 28-29% of 6th and 8th graders reported being called names in 2014. While cyber-bullying declined slightly for 6th graders from 2012-2014, it trended slightly upwards for 8th graders in that same period. 20-22% of our students (6th and 8th grade) reported being cyber-bullied.

Compared to 6th and 8th grade students across the state, 25-40% fewer students here report experiencing bullying (in the form of name-calling, being threatened, kicked, pushed, punched) but our averages are consistent with the state for cyber-bullying.

MENTAL HEALTH:

8th graders indicated a lack of adult support more often than 6th graders (12% vs 8%) but for both ages, these percentages have fallen by 50% since 2010.

8th graders have been asked about whether they experienced depression since the 2008 IYS. The overall data has stayed flat with 19% of our 8th graders reporting that they had been depressed for two weeks or more. While these numbers are concerning, they are lower than state averages of 28% of 8th graders who report feeling depressed.

SUBSTANCE USE TRENDS:

3% of 6th graders reported using alcohol and inhalants in 2014. Notably, alcohol use and binge drinking by 6th graders declined by 50% from 2012. Smaller percentages of 6th graders here use alcohol (3%) than the state average of 5%. By

8th grade, alcohol use more than doubles the 6th grade percentages and from 2008-present, the percentage of 8th graders using alcohol trends upwards. A decline was measured in 2012 to 6% of 8th graders from 10% in 2010, but in 2014, 12% of 8th graders reported using alcohol. For both 6th and 8th graders here, alcohol and inhalant use is more prevalent than marijuana. Smaller percentages of 8th graders here use alcohol (12%) than the state average of 15%. 8th graders were asked also about Rx drug use to get high and illicit drug use in the past year. Less than 1% indicated using illicit drugs and 0% reported using Rx drugs to get high in the last year. Since 2008, our students' self-reported drug use is trending downward.

BELIEFS ABOUT SUBSTANCE USE:

For our 6th grade students, 97-99% of those surveyed in 2008, 2010, 2012, indicated it is wrong or very wrong to use substances (alcohol, cigarettes, marijuana). In 2014, 100% indicated it is wrong/very wrong to use these substances. Some students' beliefs appear to change by 8th grade when data shows that the percentage of students who believe that substance use is wrong/very wrong declines. Cigarette smoking is considered to be wrong/very wrong by the vast majority of 8th graders but alcohol and marijuana use are more flexibly viewed with 91% and 92% indicating in 2014 that use of these respective substances is wrong/very wrong. These norms are higher than state averages by 3-8 percentile points for 6th and 8th graders.

PERCEPTIONS OF THE RISK ASSOCIATED WITH SUBSTANCE USE:

From 2008-2014, 6th graders' perception that moderate to great risk is associated with regular substance use (alcohol, binge drinking, cigarettes, and marijuana) increased from 3-6 percentage points, with smoking a pack of cigarettes daily being perceived as a moderate to great risk by the greatest percentage of students (97-98% of 6th and 8th graders). For 8th graders from 2010-2014, there was a 14 percentile point increase of students perceiving greater risks with drinking alcohol daily, but alcohol use is considered the least risky of the substances (alcohol, cigarettes, and marijuana) by our students. 82% of 6th graders and 88% of 8th graders in 2014 perceived daily alcohol use as a moderate to great risk. As compared to 8th grade students across Illinois, our students are more likely to perceive moderate to great risk with substance use.

BELIEF THAT THEIR PARENTS THINK YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE IS WRONG:

The belief that their parents think youth substance use is wrong is predominant and consistent from 2008-2014 for 6th graders in terms of alcohol use, cigarettes, and marijuana, but by 8th grade there is an increase to 2-3% of students who believe their parents are accepting of youth alcohol use. This percentage is trending lower in recent years from 2010-2014, however. Of the three substances, (alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana), alcohol is believed to be more acceptable by parents of some 6th and 8th graders.

PARENTS PROVIDE AN EXPLICIT NO-USE SPOKEN MESSAGE RE SUBSTANCE USE:

For 6th grade students, a decline of over 11 percentile points was seen between 2010 and 2012-2014 in terms of how many students reported their parents talked with them about not using substances. 60-70% of students reported their parents talked with them in 2008-2010 and in 2012-2014, 50-60% of 6th grade students reported that their parents talked with them about not using substances. This trend was reversed for the 8th grade students however, from 2008 to 2014. In 2008, 42-55% of 8th graders reported such conversations and this rose to 54-68% in 2014. Particularly for alcohol and marijuana, 8th graders here report higher rates of parental no-use messages than state norms by 8 and 2 percentile points respectively.

PERCEPTION OF EASE OF ACCESS TO ALCOHOL, CIGARETTES, AND MARIJUANA:

Both 6th and 8th graders perceive alcohol as the most accessible substance. Since 2008, 6th graders' perception that it is easy to get alcohol has trended down 5 percentage points from 24% to 19% saying it is easy to get. Since 2008, 8th graders' perception that it is easy to get has been around 49-50% of students. Our students are outside the state range on this factor with our higher percentages of students finding access to alcohol easy. To the other extreme of state averages, our students here perceive access to cigarettes and marijuana to be more difficult.