



SNAPSHOT OF CHESTER COUNTY YOUTH

A brief overview of the 2019 Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) Report

Information presented is based on combined data from 18,146 Chester County public school youth in grades 6th, 8th, 10th & 12th.

What is "Typical" Behavior of a Chester County Youth Age 11-18?

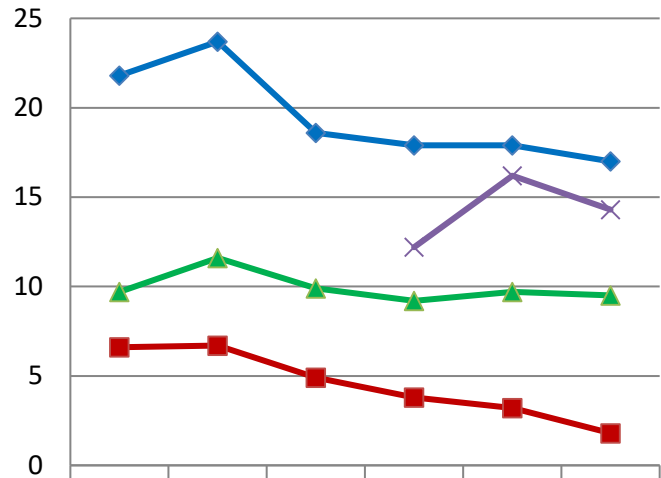
- Does not drink alcohol
 - 83% report no past-30-day-use
- Does not smoke cigarettes
 - 98.2% report no past-30-day-use
- Does not smoke marijuana
 - 90.5% report no past-30-day-use
- Do not vape
 - 85.7 report no past-30-day-use
- 99% have never been arrested
- 95% have never been suspended from school

These numbers are at or below State numbers and lower than many surrounding counties!

Note: Past 30-Day-Use is a good measure of current use.

PREVENTION IN ACTION - DOWNWARD TRENDS

Past 30-Day-Use of "Gateway Drugs" 2009-2019



	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019
—◆— Alcohol	21.8	23.7	18.6	17.9	17.9	17
—■— Cigarettes	6.6	6.7	4.9	3.8	3.2	1.8
—▲— Marijuana	9.7	11.6	9.9	9.2	9.7	9.5
—×— Vaping				12.2	16.2	14.3

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Approximately 38.6% of 12th graders report past-30-day-use of alcohol (though this represents a decrease from 2017, still higher than both state and national numbers).
- Approximately 25% of 12th graders report past-30-day-use of marijuana (this represents a tie with 2017, and remains higher than both state and national numbers).
- Approximately 30% of 12th graders report past-30-day-use of vaping (this represents a decrease from 2017 and is below both state and national numbers).
- 14% of surveyed youth had seriously considered attempting suicide (this represents an increase over 2017).

INITIATIVES

The Chester County Department of Drug and Alcohol Services provides residents of the county with quality, cost-effective prevention programming in response to identified needs. Programs are offered in the following areas:

Community Awareness – services are designed to increase community knowledge of addiction and understanding of available resources through presentations, health promotion events, Information & Referral Line, etc.

Parent Education – curriculum based programs to improve parenting strategies and promote the development of healthy behaviors in youth.

Youth Programming – variety of age appropriate programming designed to give youth the knowledge and skills needed to understand the consequences of drug use, recognize the benefits of nonuse, build norms against use, and identify and resist pro- drug pressures.

Community Mobilization – assist individuals and organizations to work together to prevent adolescent substance abuse.

To bring free services to your group or organization call: 1-866-286-3767.