

During the 2008-2009 school year, 18 public junior and senior high schools in Clinton and Warren Counties administered the Ohio Youth Survey to 6th-12th graders. This survey included questions on attitudes, activities, assets, and risk-taking. A total of 7,969 students responded. Of these, 3,345 were Clinton County students and 4,624 were Warren County students. Unless otherwise noted, there were no statistically significant differences between the two counties in terms of student responses.

For more information about the survey, visit www.mhrsonline.org/ohioyouthsurvey.

The Clinton County Family and Children First Council, the Warren County Family and Children First Council, and Mental Health Recovery Services of Warren and Clinton Counties would like to thank the administrators, teachers, school staff, and students of the Clinton and Warren Schools who participated.

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Characteristics of Clinton and Warren County Youth who Drink Alcohol

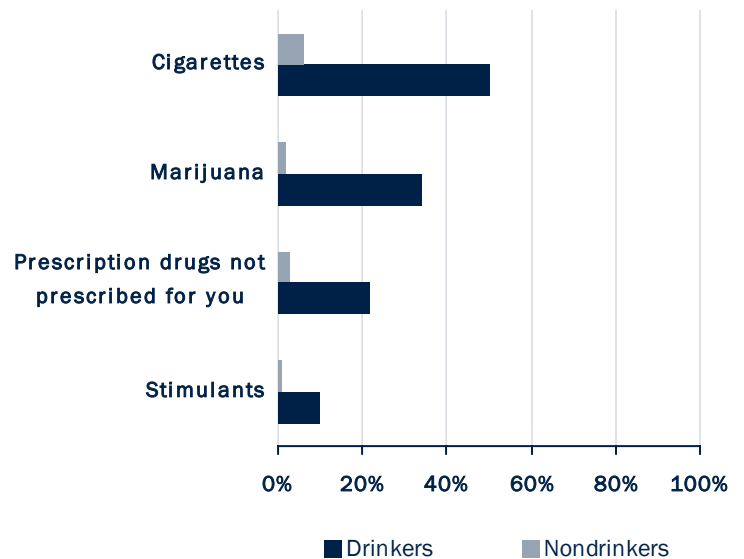
2010

One in five 6th-12th graders in Clinton and Warren Counties (21%) drank alcohol in the last 30 days, according to a survey conducted by the Warren and Clinton County Families and Children First Councils and Mental Health and Recovery Services of Warren and Clinton Counties.

There were no significant differences in alcohol use among youth of different genders, races, or family composition. However, the likelihood of alcohol usage increased in older students: nearly 1 in 2 students in 12th grade (42%) and 1 in 3 students in 11th grade (37%) reported drinking in the previous 30 days, compared to 1 in 25 students in 6th grade (4%) or 1 in 13 students in 7th grade (8%).

Additionally, 80% of drinkers reported easy access to alcohol and 60% of drinkers indicated they had binge drank, or drank 5 or more alcoholic drinks on the same occasion, in the past 30 days. The most commonly reported age of first use for all drinkers was 13-14 years old.

In the past 30 days, did you use...



Youth who Drink More Likely to Use Other Substances

Youth who drank were more likely to also use other substances such as cigarettes, marijuana, or stimulants, and to abuse prescription drugs, which is defined as using a prescription drug that has not been prescribed to you.

What this Means for Parents and Adults

- Parents should talk early and often to their children about alcohol risks.

- Parents should set and enforce rules that show they care about their children's well being and safety.
- Adults should monitor youth's access to alcohol in their homes as well as in the community.
- A community should support young people making positive decisions.
- A community should create a culture where substance abuse is not acceptable.