

2010 Porter County Epidemiological Profile

At A Glance

Together we can make a difference

Information from the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATOD) Survey, Porter County Coroner, and Sheriff's Department as well as Porter-Starke Services and Porter Health Systems were used to provide us with an inside look at the substance abuse issues facing youth in our community. This fact sheet highlights some of the key issues revealed by the data. For more information, download the full profile at www.unitedwaypc.org

Contributing Factors

Low Perception of Risk

- As age increases perception of risk for regular alcohol use decreases.
- Nearly 1 in 5 (17.9%) children at the 6th grade level perceive little to no risk in using cocaine.

High Perceived Peer Approval

- Compared to last year's data, there is a substantial decline in the perception of peer disapproval at the 6th and 7th grade levels for use of marijuana.

Weak Perceived Parental Disapproval

- Although the majority of youth believe their parents would disapprove of them using marijuana, the percentage decreases with age and the 2009 percentages were lower overall than those of 2008.

Community Acceptance

- Porter County residents spend more money annually on alcohol than the average household in the state and in the nation (\$657).

Availability

- A large percentage of alcohol retailers in the county selling to minors (see chart below).
- Most students reporting alcohol use said they received it from a person 21 or older or that they had someone else purchase it for them.

Alcohol Sales to Minors

	2007 % Pass	2007 % Fail	2007 Total Tests	2009 % Pass	2009 % Fail	2009 Total Tests
Beverly Shores	0	0	0	100	0	2
Burns Harbor	0	0	0	0	100	2
Chesterton	75	25	20	59	41	29
Hebron	0	0	0	33	66	9
Kouts	0	0	0	83	17	6
Odgen Dunes	100	0	1	0	0	0
Pines	0	0	0	100	0	2
Portage	79	21	24	59	41	54
Porter	50	50	2	83	17	6
Valparaiso	79	21	53	52	48	52
Wheeler	0	0	0	100	0	1
County Totals	76.6	23.2	100	66.9	33	163

Unsupervised Activities

- Porter County youth are overall less likely to be involved with family events than other students in the state.
- 1 in 5 Porter County youth never participate in family events and that number increases with grade level.

Low Program Participation

- Porter County youth spend more time after school without adult supervision than other students in the state.
- There is an overall general lack of participation in after school programs across all grade levels. For example, 83.7% of seniors do not participate in any programs.

Substance Use

Extremely High Prevalence Rates for Youth

As illustrated below, Porter County youth use substances at a higher rate than their peers throughout the state: daily, monthly, annually and throughout their lifetime. For ease of interpretation, grade level has been indicated rather than age.

In Porter County the....

Daily prevalence rates were HIGHER than the state rates for:

- **binge drinking** (7th through 11th)
- **marijuana** (8th)

Monthly prevalence rates were HIGHER than the state rates for :

- **cigars** (8th and 10th)
- **pipes** (8th, 11th, and 12th)
- **alcohol** (7th through 12th)
- **marijuana** (8th through 11th)
- **methamphetamines** (8th, 10th through 12th)
- **Ritalin** (7th through 12th)
- **MDMA** (8th, 10th through 12th)
- **Over the Counter Drugs** (7th through 12th)

Annual prevalence rates were HIGHER than the state rates for:

- **cigarettes** (8th through 11th)
- **pipes** (8th, 11th and 12th)
- **alcohol** (7th through 12th)
- **marijuana** (8th through 12th)
- **amphetamines** (7th through 12th)
- **Ritalin** (8th through 12th)
- **Tranquilizers** (7th through 12th)
- **MDMA** (8th through 12th)
- **Over the Counter Drugs** (7th through 11th)

Lifetime prevalence rates were HIGHER than the state rates for:

- **cigarettes** (8th and 11th)
- **pipes** (8th 10th through 12th)
- **alcohol** (7th through 12th)
- **marijuana** (8th, 9th, 11th, and 12th)
- **amphetamines** (7th, 8th, 10th through 12th)
- **Ritalin** (8th through 12th)
- **Tranquilizers** (8th through 12th)
- **MDMA** (8th through 12th)
- **Over the Counter Drugs** (7th through 12th)



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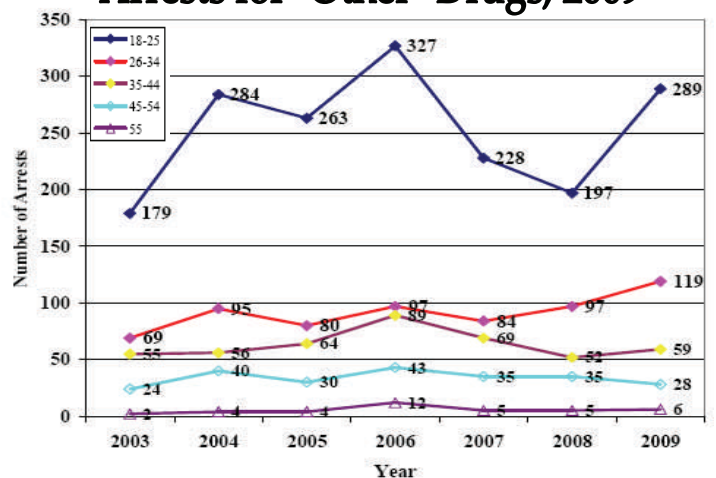
Substance Related Problems

Below are some facts about the substance related problems and consequences facing young adults. Information was provided by the Porter County Coroner, Porter County Sheriff's Department and Porter Health Systems.

- 1322 referrals to adult probation for alcohol related issues
- 18 alcohol related deaths
- 159 of the 449 arrested for Public Intoxication were between the ages of 18-25
- 288 of the 951 arrests for Driving Under the Influence were committed by 18-25 year olds
- 259 of the 429 arrests for marijuana related offenses were committed by 18-25 year olds
- 7 heroin related deaths
- 42 people under 25 were treated in the emergency room for heroin use
- 25 people between 18-25 arrested for cocaine charges
- 22 people under 25 treated in the Emergency Room for cocaine use
- 289 18-25 year olds arrested for possession of "other" drugs.

A separate category dealing with "other drugs" was created to include less frequently referenced drugs as well as cases where the drug was unspecified. This includes arrests for all other drugs not included in previous parts of this report.

Arrests for "Other" Drugs, 2009



These findings illustrate the continued need for substance abuse prevention and the support of the community. Without the efforts of many, few can be helped. We have the opportunity to impact our youth with our dedication to their future, ensuring the success of Porter County in the years to come. Please take part in our initiative.

Together we can make a difference.

Substance Use (cont.)

Below are some highlighted percentages of reported substance use at different age levels during the 2008 and 2009 school years. All information gathered from the *Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Survey*.

Percentage Using Alcohol Monthly, 2009

	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Total 2008	6.1	11	22.5	28.4	31.7	38	45.4
Total 2009	6.2	13.4	21.8	27.2	34.6	40.5	43.8

Percentage Binge Drinking in Last Two Weeks, 2009

	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Total 2008	3.5	6.7	14.2	18.5	26.3	26.3	31.5
Total 2009	5.3	9.9	15.0	19.0	25.0	29.6	30.5

Percentage Using Marijuana Monthly, 2009

	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Total 2008	1.1	3.4	8.2	14.4	19	19	21.9
Total 2009	1.7	4.8	11.3	16.6	21.2	25.3	22.6

Percentage of 12th Graders Reporting Substance Abuse, 2009

Substance	Monthly		Yearly		Lifetime	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
Cigarettes	27	26.6	40.3	38.8	51.5	49.4
Alcohol	45.3	43.7	65.3	65.2	74	76
Marijuana	22	22.6	33.7	36.7	43.1	47
Cocaine	2.4	2.9	6.1	6	9.1	8.7
Inhalants	2.2	2.7	5.5	6	10.2	11.7
Amphetamines	3.1	4.1	7.6	8.2	11.6	13
Methamphet.	0.5	1.7	1.2	2.4	1.9	2.6
Ritalin	4.6	6	9.8	12.9	15.4	18.4
Tranquillizers	5.7	6.9	10.7	12.2	16.3	18
Heroin	0.8	1.9	1.4	3.1	2.5	3.8
Ecstasy	3.3	3.9	7.1	9.1	11.4	13.6
OCDs	5.4	6.7	10.6	9.9	16.4	17.3

A Perpetuating Problem

A large number of risk factors can lead to increases in substance abuse among youth as well as increases in other substance related problems. With the use of prevention programs we can limit risk factors, target substance use and decrease substance related problems. This strengthens our community and aids in putting an end to perpetuating substance abuse problems.

Risk Factors

- Low Perception of Risk
- Perceived Peer Approval
- "Weak" Perceived Parental Disapproval
- Community Acceptance
- Availability
- Unsupervised Activities
- Low Program Participation

Substance Use

- Extremely High Prevalence Rates for Youth
- "Culture of Consumption"

Substance Related Problems

- Alcohol/Drug Related Deaths
- High Illegal Activity
- High Demand for Treatment
- High Rates of Hospitalization
- High Rates of Accidents

For more information, please contact
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