


2010 Pennsylvania Youth Survey Report (PAYS)

for

**Central Bucks School
District**



PAYS REPORT

- ❖ The PAYS report is sponsored by the PA Commission on Crime Delinquency. The survey was given anonymously to a representative sample of Central Bucks 8th, 10th and 12th grade students in the Fall of 2009.
 - ❖ The purpose of the survey is to determine the prevalence and frequency of drug, tobacco, alcohol use and antisocial behaviors.
 - ❖ The survey also measures the risk and protective factors in a student's life. These factors are based on a body of research that suggests certain risk factors are conditions likely to increase drug, tobacco, alcohol use and antisocial behaviors. The survey also measures protective factors that guard against drug, tobacco, alcohol use and antisocial behaviors. These factors are selected from and scored against the *Communities That Care (40 Assets)* national normative database.
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Past 30 Day Use

This table shows the percentage of students in 8th, 10th and 12th grade who reported they have used these substances within the past 30 days. “Binge drinking” was defined as five (5) drinks in a row in the last two weeks. For prescription drugs students were asked about the use of these drugs “without a doctor’s orders”.

	8 th	10 th	12 th
Alcohol	11.3	30.8	56.8
Binge Drinking	3.7	14.1	37.9
Cigarettes	2.7	11.2	23.1
Marijuana	2.2	13.8	29.7
Inhalants	6.1	3.2	3.1
Pain Relievers	2.2	4.8	6.5
Tranquilizers	.4	1.3	3.5
Stimulants	1.0	2.1	6.6

30 Day Use: 8th Grade Comparisons

This table compares the percentage of use of 8th grade students between 2005 and 2009. We last surveyed our students using the PAYS in 2005. State and national comparison percentages from 2009 are also listed.

	CB 2009	CB 2005	State 2009	National 2009
Alcohol	11.3	15.7	17.2	14.9
Binge Drinking	3.7	7.2	7.5	7.8
Cigarettes	2.7	8.2	6.7	6.5
Marijuana	2.2	3.5	5.4	6.5
Inhalants	6.1	5.0	8.2	3.8
Pain Relievers	2.2	--	3.6	--
Tranquilizers	.4	--	.8	--
Stimulants	1.0	--	1.2	--

30 Day Use: 10th Grade Comparisons

This table compares the percentage of use of 10th grade students in 2009 with state and national percentages. We did not survey our 10th grade students in 2005.

	CB 2009	CB 2005	State 2009	National 2009
Alcohol	30.8	--	30.5	30.4
Binge Drinking	14.4	--	15.7	17.5
Cigarettes	11.2	--	13.9	13.1
Marijuana	13.8	--	14.2	15.9
Inhalants	3.2	--	5.5	2.2
Pain Relievers	4.8	--	6.1	--
Tranquilizers	1.3	--	2.1	--
Stimulants	2.1	--	3.2	--


30 Day Use: 12th Grade Comparisons

This table compares the percentage of use of 12th grade students between 2005 and 2009. We last surveyed our students using the PAYS in 2005. State and national comparison percentages from 2009 are also listed.

	CB 2009	CB 2005	State 2009	National 2009
Alcohol	56.8	54.2	46.0	43.5
Binge Drinking	37.9	32.6	27.6	25.2
Cigarettes	23.1	24.1	20.8	20.1
Marijuana	29.7	23.1	23.7	20.6
Inhalants	3.1	2.0	3.3	1.2
Pain Relievers	6.5	--	8.7	--
Tranquilizers	3.5	--	4.2	--
Stimulants	6.6	--	6.0	--



Summary

- Our students' highest prevalence rates, both lifetime and past 30 day use, are for alcohol, cigarettes and marijuana.
 - 2005 to 2009 comparisons indicate a decrease in the use of alcohol, cigarettes and marijuana by 8th grade students.
 - 2005 to 2009 comparisons indicate an increase in the use of alcohol, cigarettes and marijuana by 12th grade students.
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Average Age of Onset

Age of onset information is an important tool for coordinating prevention efforts. This data compares the average age of onset between 2005 and 2009 and also compares our students to 2009 state averages. This data suggests that the age at which our students are beginning to use drugs and alcohol is later than in 2005 and later than students across the state.


	CB 2009	CB 2005	State 2009
Trying Alcohol	14.5	14.3	14.3
Drinking Alcohol Regularly (once or twice a month)	15.7	15.6	15.6
Smoking Cigarettes	14.4	14.1	13.9
Smoking Marijuana	15.0	15.0	14.7



Risk of “Great Harm”

Research suggests that the more risk students assign to a drug the lower their level of use. This table looks at how harmful students perceive the use of alcohol, cigarettes and marijuana. For example, 81.7% of our 8th grade students believed smoking marijuana on a regular basis was harmful whereas only 33.6 of our 12th grader students perceived regular marijuana use as harmful.

	8 th	10 th	12 th
Drinking Alcohol Regularly	35.6	26.1	25.4
Smoking Cigarettes Regularly	76.3	66.1	69.0
Smoking Marijuana Once or Twice	34.8	15.3	19.8
Smoking Marijuana Regularly	81.7	53.7	33.6






Student Perception of Parental Disapproval

Parental disapproval was measured by asking students “How wrong do your parents feel it would be for you to...”. These results indicate students’ perception of their parent disapproval by percentage. For example 89.5% of our 8th graders think their parents would disapprove of their drinking regularly, only 48.7% of 12 graders believe their parents would disapprove of their drinking.


	8 th	10 th	12 th
Drinking Alcohol Regularly	89.5	71.1	48.7
Smoking Cigarettes	92.1	82.3	67.7
Smoking Marijuana	94.5	84.6	68.8





Bullying and Internet Harassment

2009 was the first year the PAYS report included questions about the prevalence of bullying and internet harassment. The following information summarizes the responses of our students (in percentage) to various questions related to bullying. The numbers in parentheses are state averages to the same questions.




Bullying and Internet Harassment

District (State)

	8th	10th	12th
Been hit, kicked or shoved around	24.2 (24.5)	12.6 (16.5)	6.6 (9.5)
Been called names, made fun of or teased	46.2 (49.5)	40.4 (43.0)	32.9 (34.9)
Other students taking money or damaging your things	24.1 (23.0)	19.4 (21.2)	18.9 (18.1)
Other students using the Internet or a cell phone to threaten or embarrass you	13.4 (10.7)	12.2 (11.8)	9.0 (10.7)
Sexual harassment on the Internet	11.7 (12.2)	15.6 (17.0)	14.8 (12.9)



Risk and Protective Factors

- Protective factors are assets that buffer an adolescent against drug, tobacco, alcohol use; protective factors identified through research include strong positive connections to school, home, peers and community. The stronger the bonds the less likely an adolescent will engage in at-risk behavior.
 - Risk factors are conditions that increase the likelihood that adolescents will become involved with drug use, delinquency and violence. There is substantial research to support that the greater the exposure to risk factor the more likely adolescents will engage in at risk behaviors.
 - Overall the results in Central Bucks show that the risk factors for our students were equal to or lower than state and national averages; protective factors were average or higher than state and national averages. This suggests that generally our students see home, school and community as a positive and supportive environment.
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What Can I Do?

- Talk to your children. **Parents have more influence over their children than friends, music, TV, the Internet and celebrities.**
 - Children who learn about the risks of drugs and alcohol from their parents are up to 50% less likely to use than those who do not.
 - Know where your children are, call and make sure a parent is home if your child is going to a party.
 - Take advantage of community and other resources:
 - CB Cares: www.cb-cares.org
 - The Council of Southeast PA: www.councilsepa.org
 - www.drugfree.org
 - www.antidrug.org
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