

**2010-2011 Pride New York State Youth Development Survey**  
**Northern Chautauqua County Summary of Highlights**



Chautauqua Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Council [www.casacweb.org](http://www.casacweb.org)  
 Supported by the United Way of Northern Chautauqua County



Chautauqua Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Council (CASAC), the United Way of Northern Chautauqua County and superintendents and secondary school principals in 6 of 8 Northern Chautauqua County school districts collaborated to administer the Pride New York State Youth Development Survey (YDS). In the Spring of 2011, more than 1200 students in grades 7 through 12 participated.

The YDS was developed in 2008 by the New York State Office of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Services. CASAC contracted for survey analysis with International Survey Associates/Pride Surveys. The survey was designed to assess and measure risk and protective factors that predict problem behaviors such as delinquency, violence, dropping out of school, youth substance abuse and gambling. Additionally, the survey assesses four domains in which the students have life experiences - within schools, families, the greater community and with friends/peers.

In Northern Chautauqua County, 1240 students completed surveys representing 68% of all enrolled students in the six participating districts. There were 1088 valid responses included in the data analysis. One district required active consent from parents, hindering overall participation.

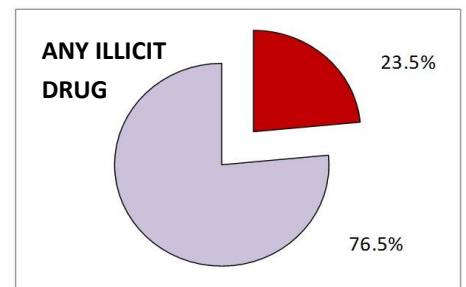
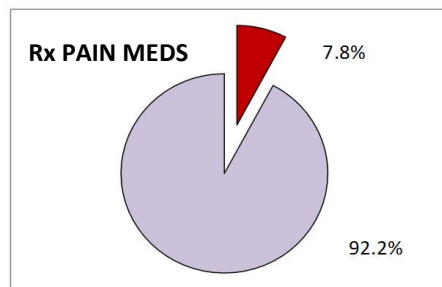
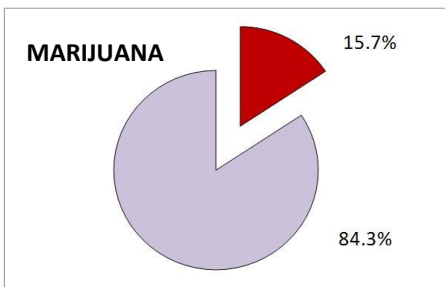
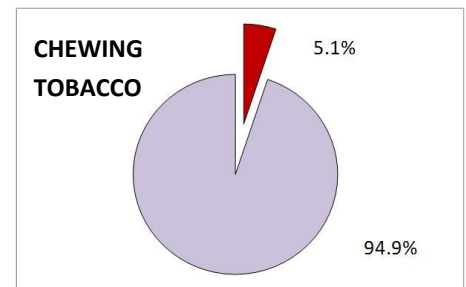
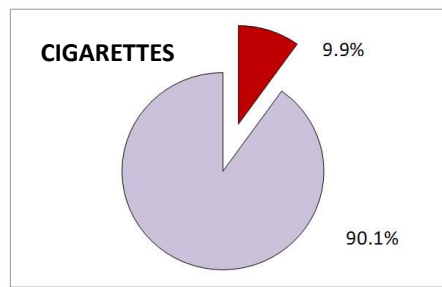
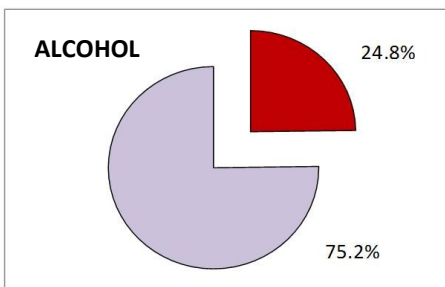
The responses of Chautauqua County students were compared to those of national peers. The results are being used in each district and at the County level to guide school and community efforts to prevent and reduce the use and abuse of alcohol and other drugs, to improve student connections to school and school safety, and to identify the risk and protective factors that communities can modify to improve students' long-term success and well-being.

Each participating school district has been provided with a confidential district report, as well as the compilation report highlighted in this document. The full compilation survey report, a list of all questions and responses are on file with CASAC. District specific questions should be brought to district administration.

This summary is also available at [www.casacweb.org](http://www.casacweb.org).

## Key Findings Related to the Use of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs

### PAST 30-DAY USE (Current use by students in grades 7-12)



▲ % USING    ▲ % NOT USING

Definitions: ALCOHOL: a full drink of beer, wine or hard liquor (not just a sip); ANY ILLICIT DRUG: all drugs except alcohol and tobacco; PAST 30-Day Use of ... The questions "On how many occasions have you used ...during the past 30 days?" are used to measure this statistic by reporting the percentage of students who reported any use of a particular substance during the past 30 days.

# FACTS

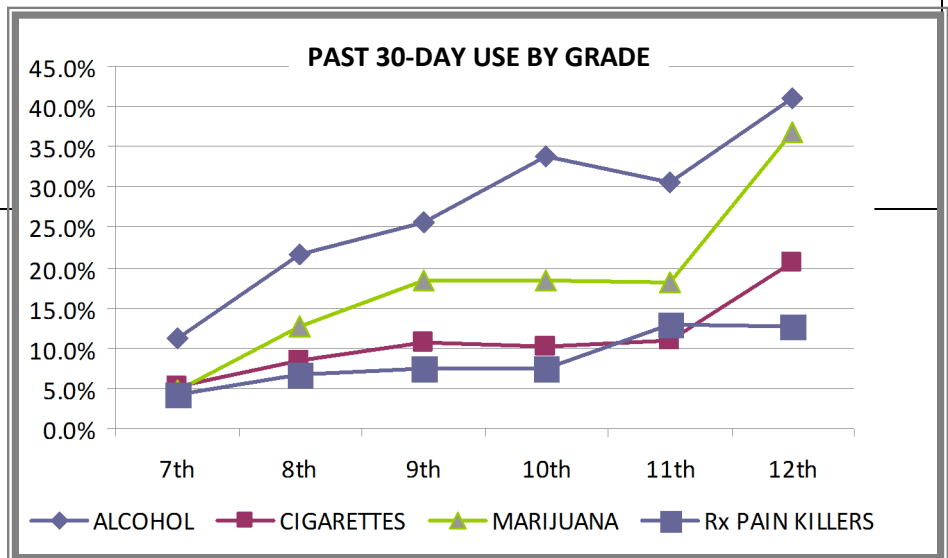
**Alcohol** is the most widely used drug among Chautauqua County youth. While most students did not drink alcohol in the 30 days before taking the survey, 24.8% reported use. Additionally, 56.7% of students in grades 7-12 have had a full alcoholic drink at least once in their lives (henceforth noted as lifetime use). 25.2% of 11th and 12th graders reported binge drinking (consuming 5 or more drinks in a row). Comparisons with national peers show higher lifetime and 30-day use for local students in grades 8, 10 and 12. Use by females is slightly higher (25.8%) than for males (23.9%). Local youth who used alcohol most often obtained it from someone they know over age 21 (12.6%). The next most common source was at home with parents' permission (7.6%). Another 4.4% reported taking alcohol from home without their parents' knowledge. Of youth who used alcohol, 36.7% reported drinking it in a private home, their own or a friend's. Regarding the perception of risk, 68.6% report alcohol use as a moderate or great risk to their health, meaning about one third do not consider it harmful. The average age of first alcohol use is 12.9 years. The average age for regular use of alcohol, drinking alcohol at least once or twice a month, is 14.2.

**Marijuana** is the next most commonly used drug by Chautauqua County youth. By 12th grade, 53.2% have tried marijuana at least once and 36.9% are current users (within the past 30 days). Both of these rates are considerably higher than in previous surveys, doubling since 2007-2008. Current use rates exceed national rates for lifetime and past 30-day use in grades 8, 10 and 12. Noticeable increases in use can be seen from grade to grade; rates more than double between grades 7 and 8 and double again from grades 10 to 12. Use rates by females are just slightly lower (15.2%) than for males (16%). 91% of students reported that their parents would disapprove of their using marijuana. Regarding the perception of risk, 43% of the students report marijuana use as a moderate or great risk to their health, though 57% do not consider it harmful. The average age of first marijuana use is 13.7 years.

**Tobacco** use by youth in Chautauqua County is higher than that of national peers for lifetime use in grades 8, 10 and 12 as well as past 30-day use in grades 8 and 12. Overall, 5.1% of students reported using smokeless tobacco and 9.9% reported using cigarettes in the past 30 days; use rates for both cigarettes and smokeless tobacco are higher in rural school districts. 92.5% of students said their parents would disapprove if they used cigarettes. The older students get, the more perceived harm they see from using cigarettes regularly. By 12th grade, 90.1% report potential harm from using cigarettes, yet 20.7% have used cigarettes in the past 30 days. Compare this to only 27% of 12th graders reporting potential harm from using marijuana. The average age of first use of cigarettes is 12.4 years.

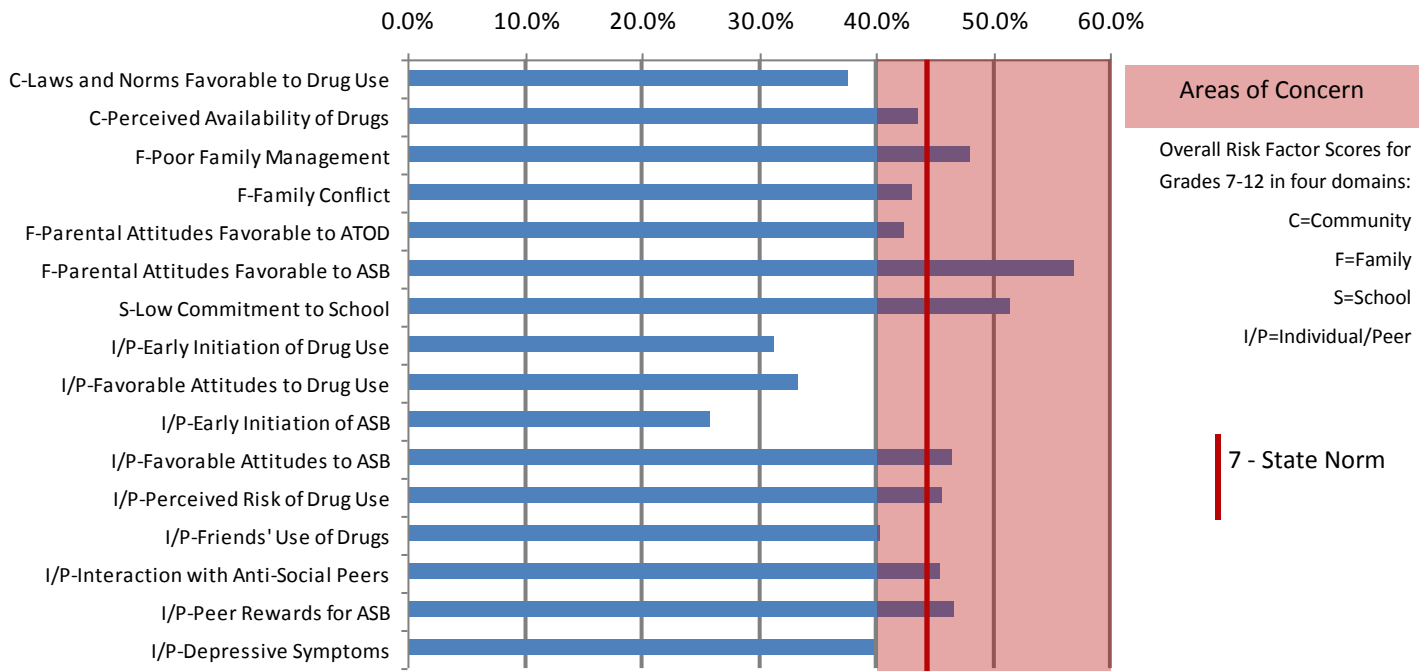
**Pharmaceuticals\*** are being misused at increasing rates across the country and Chautauqua County shows evidence of this trend. The most common type used by local students is prescription pain killers, including dangerous, addictive opioids. Past 30-day use rates range from a low of 4.2% in 7th grade to a high of 13% in 11th grade, with a combined 7.8% for grades 7-12. Often, these students have significantly higher use of other substances as well. Misused pain killers are sometimes mixed with alcohol, a dangerous combination. Past 30-day use rates for other pharmaceuticals range from a low of .1% for prescription sedatives to a high of 3.5% for over-the-counter caffeine/diet pills.

Use rates of other drugs are low among Chautauqua County youth. 30-day use rates of heroin, meth, Ecstasy, and hallucinogens are all below 1%. Cocaine use is at 1.2%. Inhalant use, more common in younger children due to easy access, peaks at 4.7% in 9th grade and drops to less than 1% in 12th grade.



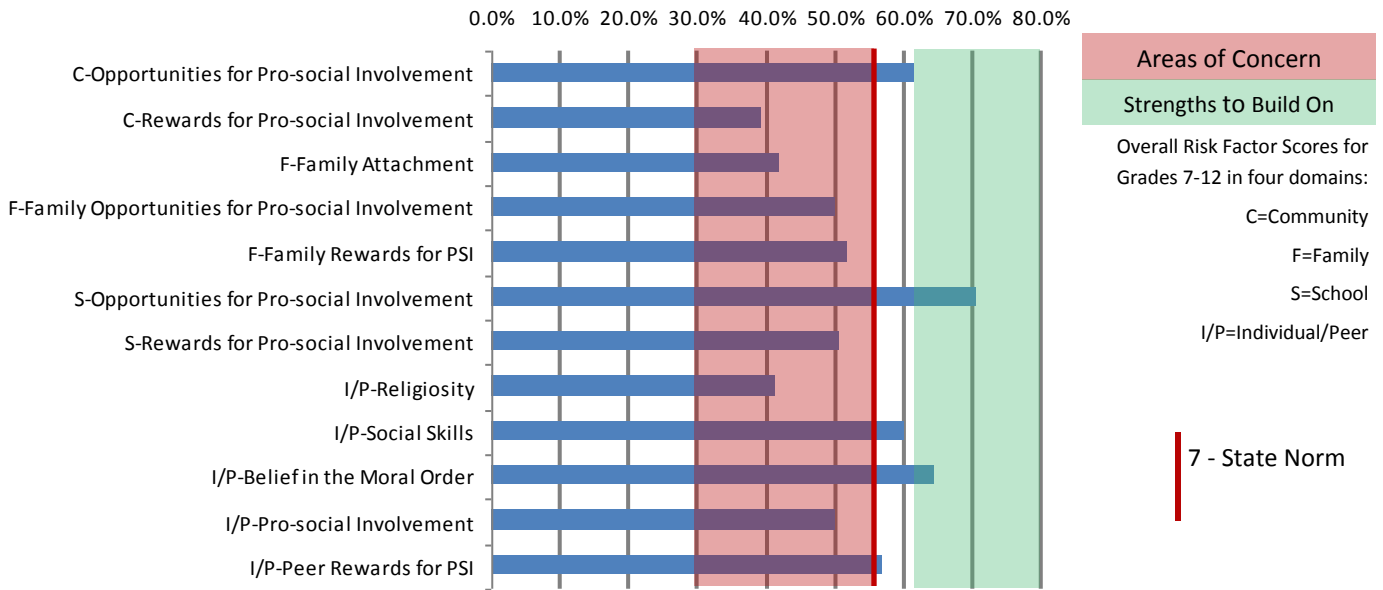
\***Pharmaceutical drugs** include over-the-counter (OTC) cold medicine and caffeine/diet pills and any use of these prescription drugs without a doctor's order: pain killers, tranquilizers, sedatives and stimulants.

## RISK FACTORS



**Risk Factors** include characteristics of school, community, and family environments, as well as characteristics of students and their peer groups that are known to predict increased likelihood of drug use, delinquency, and violent behaviors among youth.

## PROTECTIVE FACTORS



**Protective Factors** exert a positive influence or buffer against the negative influence of risk, thus reducing the likelihood that adolescents will engage in problem behaviors.

## Consider the following....

How much underage alcohol use is too much use for Chautauqua County youth?

How much marijuana use is too much?

Is the rate of Chautauqua County youth prescription drug use unacceptable to you ?

Is it important to you that Chautauqua County youth have an accurate and realistic perception of risk and harm for alcohol, tobacco and marijuana?

Does it concern you that most youth who drink alcohol get it from someone they know over the age of 21 and that they drink it most commonly at home or at a friend's home?

Do you wish to get involved in efforts that can impact the health and safety of Chautauqua County youth in a positive way?

### Chautauqua Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Council

[www.casacweb.org](http://www.casacweb.org)

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