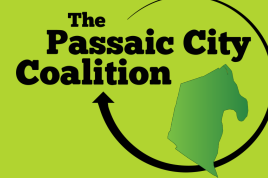


2025

PASSAIC YOUTH DRUG SURVEY RESULTS



Funded by:
Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Grant



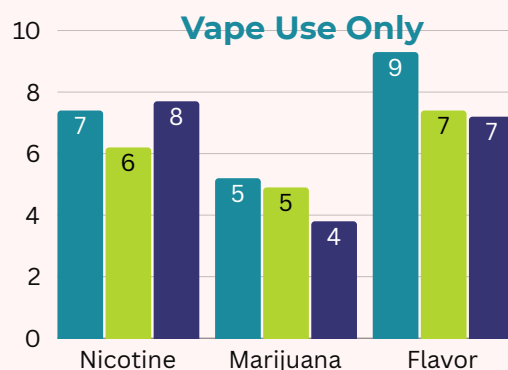
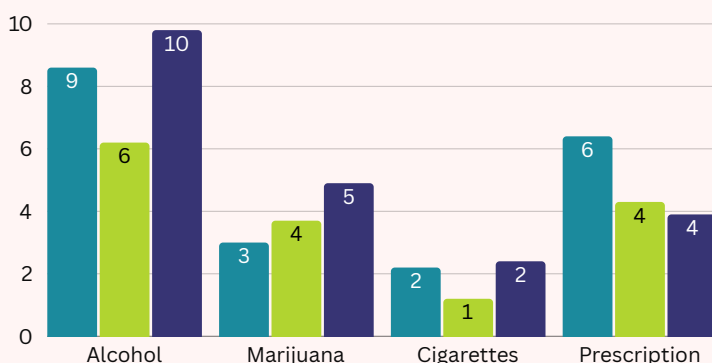
ABOUT THE SURVEY

Over 700 Passaic City students in grades 7th, 9th, and 11th participated in a drug survey in the spring of 2025. The primary purpose of the survey is to collect data on 30-day drug use, perception of risk, parental disapproval, and friend disapproval. Additional questions ask information about vapes, marijuana, and protective factors.

7th Grade 9th Grade 11th Grade

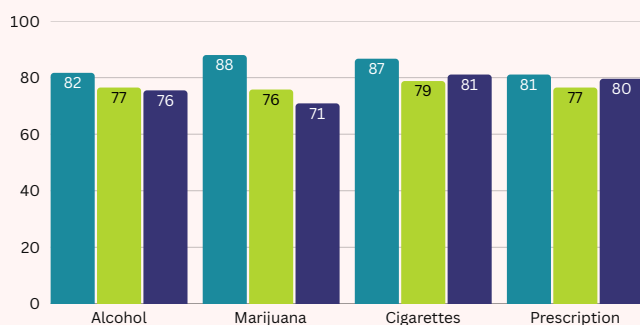
30-DAY USE

Alcohol is the most commonly reported drug used by Passaic City youth. When it comes to vape-use, flavored electronic cigarette use is more commonly used over nicotine and marijuana.



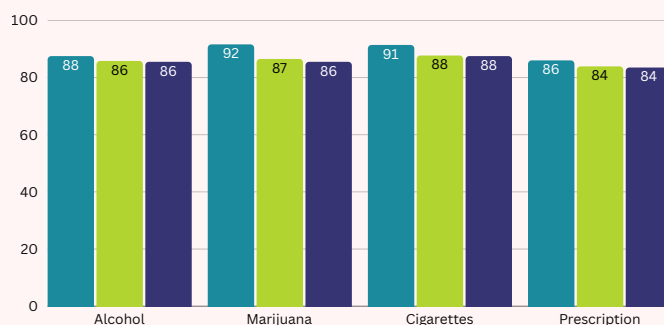
FRIENDS DISAPPROVAL

Over 80% of 7th grade students believe their friends disapprove of any drug use. Friend disapproval decreases among high school students and is lowest with marijuana use in 9th and 11th grade.



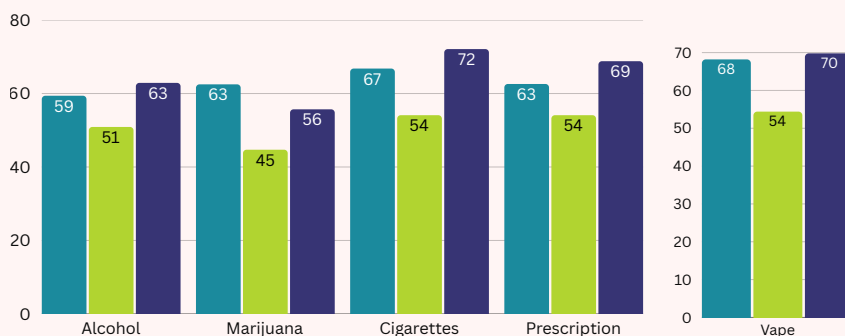
PARENTAL DISAPPROVAL

Close to 90% of 7th grade students think their parents disapprove any drug use. Parent disapproval decreases slightly with high school students and is lowest with prescription drug use for 9th and 11th grades.



PERCEPTION OF RISK

Passaic City youth believe alcohol and marijuana use is less risky than cigarette-use, prescription drug-use, and vapes. Among survey participants, 9th grade student view drug use much less risky than their 7th grade and 11th grade peers.



2025

PASSAIC YOUTH DRUG SURVEY RESULTS



Funded by:
Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Grant

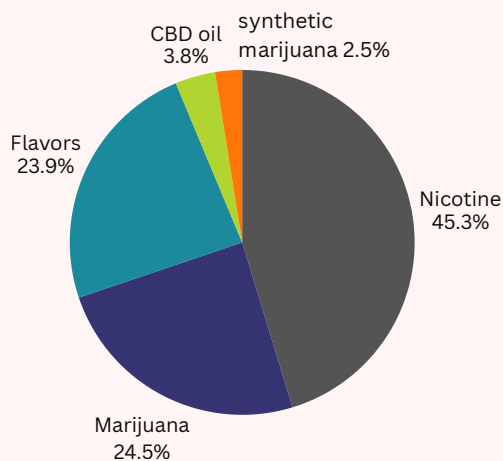


ABOUT ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS - SUBSTANCE USE

The Passaic City Coalition Steering Committee agreed on the importance of collecting data on youth vaping and marijuana use. This recommendation is based on both verbal reports and documented incidents of students using these substances at school. Including these questions in the survey would provide insight into substance use patterns across the broader student population, rather than relying solely on anecdotal or limited reports. The proposed vaping question is shown on the previous page, and the marijuana-specific questions are presented below.

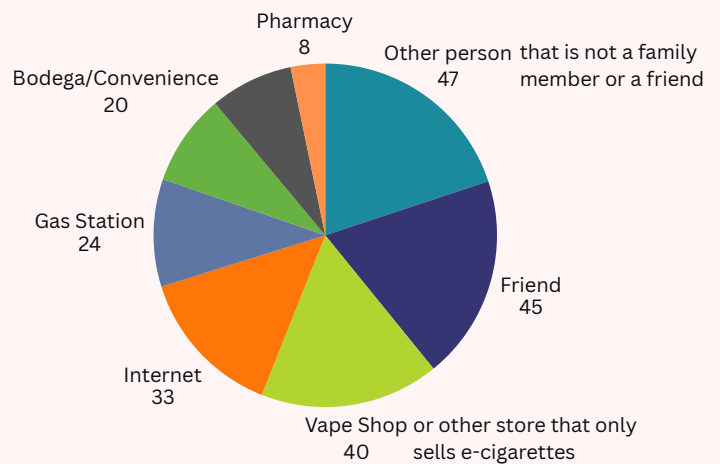
MARIJUANA EXPOSURE

Lifetime Use



Approximately, 84% of respondents reported having never vaped these substances. Of those that reported vaping at least once, close to half reported vaping nicotine, a quarter reported vaping marijuana, and another quarter reported vaping flavored e-cigarettes.

Access



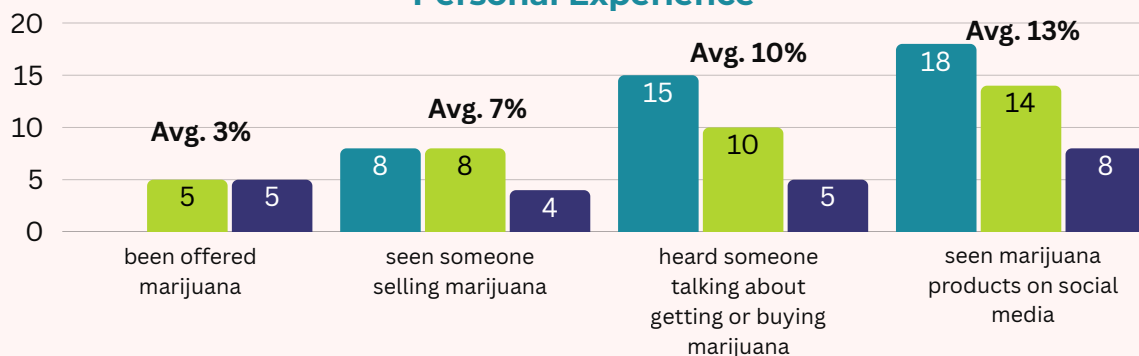
Close to half of all youth said they can get it from either a person who is not a family member or someone who is a friend. This is followed by youth obtaining marijuana vapes from a vape shop or other store that sells e-cigarettes (40%), the internet (33%), gas station (24%), bodega/convenience (20%), family member (18%), and pharmacy (8%).

7th Grade

9th Grade

11th Grade

Personal Experience



When we asked when which of the following have you experienced as it relates to marijuana, 13% of youth have seen marijuana products on social media, 10% have heard someone talking about getting or buying marijuana, 7% have seen someone selling marijuana, and 3% have been offered marijuana.

2025

PASSAIC YOUTH DRUG SURVEY RESULTS



Funded by:
Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Grant

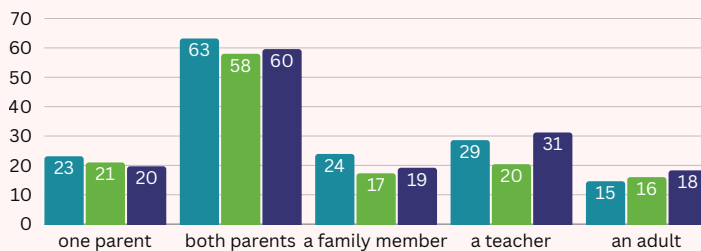


ABOUT ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS - PROTECTIVE FACTORS

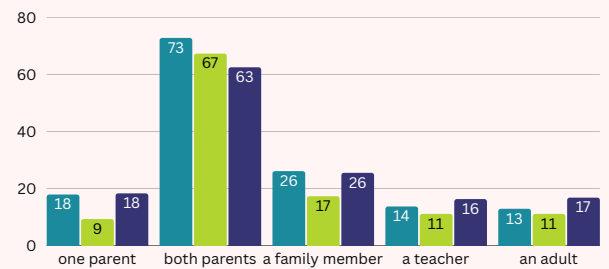
The Passaic City Coalition Steering Committee agreed on the importance of collecting data on factors that help young people develop healthy, caring, and responsible characteristics. These topics were carefully selected from the Search Institute's research-based 40 Developmental Assets framework, a foundational model in positive youth development and one of the most widely recognized and frequently used frameworks in the field worldwide.

7th Grade 9th Grade 11th Grade

ADULTS HELPING YOU SUCCEED IN SCHOOL

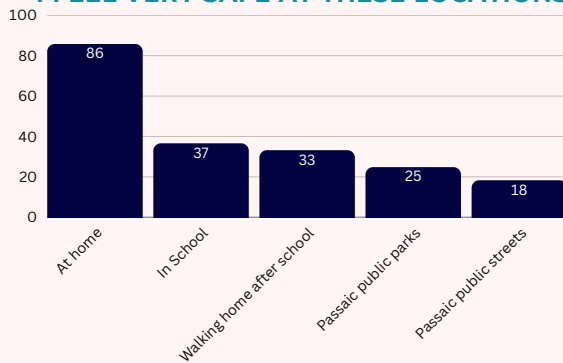


ADULTS PROVIDING LOVE & SUPPORT

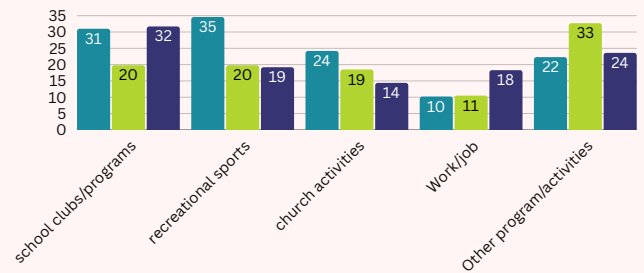


only

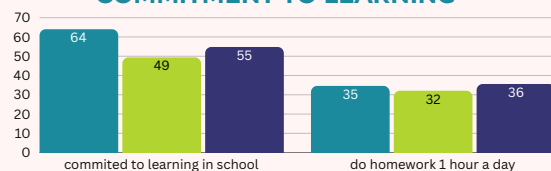
I FEEL VERY SAFE AT THESE LOCATIONS



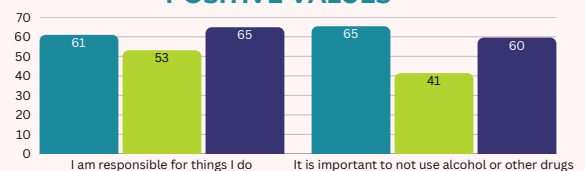
ACTIVITIES AFTER SCHOOL AND/OR ON WEEKENDS



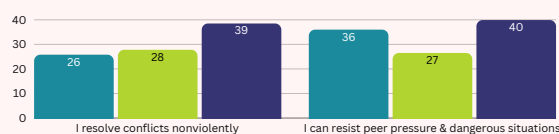
COMMITMENT TO LEARNING



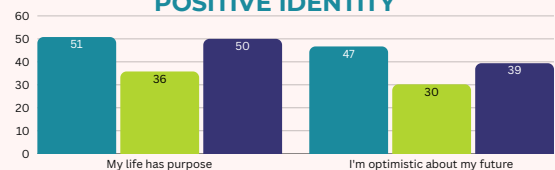
POSITIVE VALUES



SOCIAL COMPETENCIES



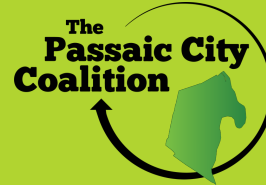
POSITIVE IDENTITY



The data revealed that approximately 60% of youth have both of their parents helping them succeed in school, 68% receive love from both parents, 86% feel safe at home while less than 37% feel safe at school and in their community, less than 40% of youth participate in at least 3 or more hours a week on afterschool or weekend programs/activities, approximately half of students are committed to learning, less than 40% of students do at least 1 hour of homework a day, less than 40% of students believe they can resolve conflicts nonviolently, less than 40% of students feel that they can resist peer pressure and dangerous situations, about half of students feel their life has purpose and are optimistic about their future.

2025

PASSAIC YOUTH DRUG SURVEY RESULTS



Funded by:
Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Grant



FINAL ASSESSMENT

SUBSTANCE USE

The data collected reinforces the coalition's need to focus its prevention efforts on alcohol, marijuana, and vaping. The findings highlight the influence that peers and local businesses can have on youth access to substances. The data also demonstrate how parents, peers, and social media shape young people's perceptions of substance use and may influence their attitudes and behaviors.

PROTECTIVE FACTORS

The coalition aims to focus its efforts on creating opportunities that help youth build self-worth, resilience, and motivation for personal growth and achievement. In addition, the coalition will support parents and partner with agencies that provide families with the tools, resources, and education needed to strengthen parenting skills and promote positive youth development.



ABOUT THE DATA COLLECTION PROCESS

APPROVALS

This research received approval from the Passaic Board of Education (BOE) to survey students in the Passaic City School District. The research methodology was also reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at William Paterson University.

RESEARCH LEAD:

Vanesa Apaza

SSenior Health Promotion Specialist, United for Prevention in Passaic County
Program Coordinator, Passaic City Coalition

STUDENT POPULATION:

The study sample included students from Thomas Jefferson School No. 1, Mario J. Drago School No. 3, Martin Luther King Jr. School No. 6, William B. Cruise School No. 11, Daniel F. Ryan School No. 19, Sonia Sotomayor School No. 21, Muhammad Ali School No. 23, and Passaic High School No. 12.