

# **Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS)**

## **Key Trend Findings From Four Survey Cycles**



**October 2008**

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2007 Monitoring the Future ATOD Rates

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## Survey History

Since 1989, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has conducted a survey of secondary school students on their behavior, attitudes, and knowledge concerning alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, and violence. The Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) of public school students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 is conducted every two years.

PAYS is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), in collaboration with the state Department of Education, Department of Health, Liquor Control Board, and Department of Public Welfare. PCCD contracts with an independent research firm to conduct the survey, which is then administered in the state between September and December.<sup>1</sup> Participating schools are provided detailed instructions for administering the PAYS, including a teacher-read script designed to protect students' privacy by allowing for anonymous and voluntary participation.

Participating students complete a self-administered PAYS questionnaire during one class period. Before the survey is conducted, local parental permission procedures are followed. In some schools, some or all of the student respondents complete the survey in a computer lab using an Internet-based survey administration system. All schools administering the Internet survey received formal training for the task.<sup>2</sup>

The data gathered from PAYS serves two primary needs.

- First, the survey results provide an important benchmark for alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) use and delinquent behavior among young Pennsylvanians and help to indicate whether prevention and treatment programs are achieving their intended results.

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<sup>1</sup>The 2001 and 2003 PAYS were conducted by the Channing Bete Company. The 2005 and 2007 PAYS were conducted by Westat.

<sup>2</sup>The online PAYS was first administered as part of the 2005 PAYS administration cycle.

- Second, the survey assesses risk factors that are related to these behaviors and the protective factors that guard against them. This information allows community leaders and school administrators to direct prevention resources to areas where they are likely to have the greatest impact.

PAYS is grounded in the Communities That Care Youth Survey (CTCYS). Based on the work of Dr. J. David Hawkins and Dr. Richard F. Catalano, the CTCYS is designed to identify the levels of risk factors related to problem behaviors such as ATOD use and to identify the levels of protective factors that help guard against those behaviors. In addition to measuring risk and protective factors, the CTCYS also measures the actual prevalence of drug use, violence, and other antisocial behaviors among surveyed students.<sup>3</sup>

## Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to present key trend findings across four different administration cycles of the PAYS: the 2001, 2003, 2005, and 2007 surveys. Complete detailed summaries of each of the four PAYS administrations can be downloaded from the PCCD website at [www.pccd.state.pa.us](http://www.pccd.state.pa.us).

This report focuses specifically on trends for the following three key issues:

- **Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug (ATOD) Use.** This includes reported use of alcohol, cigarettes, and illegal and prescription drugs. It also includes data on the willingness of students to use alcohol and illegal drugs, as well as the age of onset for using alcohol and drugs.
- **Antisocial Behaviors.** This includes reported behaviors such as carrying a handgun, being arrested, and gambling. It also includes data on students self-identifying as belonging to a gang.
- **Risk and Protective Factors.** This includes an examination of the factors that measure “assets” or protective conditions that buffer young people from exposure to risk, as well as the “risk” conditions that increase the likelihood of a young person becoming involved in drug use or other risk behaviors.

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<sup>3</sup> R. R. Glaser, M. L. Van Horn, M. W. Arthur, J. D. Hawkins, & R. F. Catalano, “Measurement properties of the communities that care youth survey across demographic groups,” *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 21 (2005): 73-102.

Each of the three key issues is derived totally from the PAYS questionnaire. Copies of the questionnaires can be downloaded from the PCCD website at [www.pccd.state.pa.us](http://www.pccd.state.pa.us). Readers should keep in mind that this report makes no attempt to be comprehensive and therefore does not present data on every questionnaire item. During a typical PAYS administration, the survey instruments used have included over 200 single items.

## Demographic Profile of Surveyed Youth

Table 1 shows selected characteristics of surveyed youth for the four PAYS cycles being examined in this report. The “Other/Multiple” category listed in the table includes students who selected “other” as their primary ethnicity. This category also includes those students who selected multiple ethnicities. Therefore, for example, students who reported both African American and Latino ethnicity would be classified as Other/Multiple for the purposes of ethnicity classification. The difference in student sample sizes—2001 and 2003 versus 2005 and 2007—basically reflects the methodology used by the research firms hired by PCCD to conduct the PAYS. All sampling methodologies are valid, and details about how samples were selected are found in the details of each PAYS cycle report.

**Table 1. Characteristics of surveyed youth**

Survey year	2001	2003	2005	2007
Number of surveys	43,889	42,623	14,348	16,544
	<b>Percent</b>			
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	47.6	49.0	49.7	48.7
Female	49.3	50.3	49.9	50.0
Did not respond	3.1	0.6	0.4	1.3
<b>Ethnicity</b>				
White	79.6	86.3	70.3	81.5
African American	6.5	3.6	4.5	4.9
Latino	3.2	1.9	2.9	3.1
American Indian	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7
Asian	2.1	1.5	1.7	2.2
Other/Multiple	6.1	5.0	17.0	6.3
Did not respond	1.7	0.9	2.9	1.2
<b>Grade</b>				
6th	26.2	25.1	25.1	25.0
8th	27.7	28.7	28.7	26.1
10th	25.7	27.5	27.5	25.8
12th	20.4	18.7	18.7	23.1

NOTE: Percents may not add to 100 because of rounding.



Beyond the randomly selected samples for the 2005 and 2007 PAYS administrations, it is important to point out that both administrations included a substantial number of volunteer student participants. In 2005, 79,536 volunteers participated, and in 2007, 124,302 did the same. The overwhelming majority of these participants originated from individual counties undertaking a complete survey census of all public school students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12. For the 2007 PAYS administration, nearly one-third of the state's counties (22 out of 67 counties) completed a survey census of all public school students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12. A few counties included all private school students in their survey administrations. For the 2005 PAYS administration, 15 counties undertook similar efforts. Results from the 2007 PAYS volunteer populations, however, are not included in this report.

## Survey Margin of Error—Interpreting Trends

Table 2 shows the margins of error—the level of precision of the survey estimates—for each of the four PAYS cycles by grade and overall statewide. The survey results from a random probability sample can be generalized to the entire target population. How well the sample generalizes to the population is measured by two important statistics—the survey's margin of error and the confidence level. For example, a survey's margin of error of  $\pm 2$  percent at a 95 percent level of confidence means that if the survey were conducted 100 times, the “true” percentage in the entire population would be within 2 percentage points above or below the survey's percentage reported in 95 of the 100 surveys. Hence, the 95 percent confidence interval is between 38.0 percent and 42.0 percent for a prevalence rate of 40 percent. That is, with 95 percent confidence, the true population percentage can be expected to fall between 38.0 percent and 42.0 percent.

**Table 2. Margins of error, by survey year and grade**

Survey year	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Grade</b>				
6th	$\pm 0.9$	$\pm 0.9$	$\pm 1.4$	$\pm 1.5$
8th	$\pm 0.9$	$\pm 0.8$	$\pm 1.5$	$\pm 1.4$
10th	$\pm 0.9$	$\pm 0.9$	$\pm 1.7$	$\pm 1.4$
12th	$\pm 1.0$	$\pm 1.1$	$\pm 2.2$	$\pm 1.9$
Overall	$\pm 0.4$	$\pm 0.5$	$\pm 0.8$	$\pm 0.8$

The margins of error number presented in Table 2 can be used by readers to determine if reported prevalence rates from different years are indeed significantly different from another. In general, rates and estimates (percents) are significantly different when confidence intervals from

different survey cycles *do not* overlap. For example, in 2001, 83.8 percent of the 12th graders in the state reported lifetime use of alcohol (see rates in Table 3). Based on a margin of error of  $\pm 1.0$ , the 95 percent confidence interval for this prevalence rate is 82.8 percent and 84.8 percent. In 2007, 78.4 percent of the 12th graders in the state reported lifetime use of alcohol (see Table 3). Based on a margin of error of  $\pm 1.9$ , the 95 percent confidence interval for this prevalence rate is 76.5 percent and 80.3 percent. Since the confidence intervals *do not* overlap, one is completely safe in concluding that the 2001 and 2007 rates are significantly different from one other. Thus, the 5.5 percentage point change in the lifetime drinking prevalence rate for high school seniors is a significant drop and indicates a positive trend for this behavior.

Another way to interpret the PAYS findings is to compare PAYS results to the results from Monitoring the Future (MTF). MTF is a national survey of adolescent drug use, conducted by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research. The MTF and PAYS ask adolescents many of the same drug use questions. An overview of the 2007 MTF results can be found at [www.monitoringthefuture.org/pubs/monographs/overview2007.pdf](http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/pubs/monographs/overview2007.pdf). In the Appendix of this report, readers can find the 2007 MTF lifetime and 30-day prevalence rates for a number of ATOD uses.

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## Overall Highlights

**ATOD Rates and Behaviors:** In 2007, nearly all PAYS ATOD prevalence rates were down compared to rates from previous PAYS administrations, especially 2001 ATOD prevalence rates versus 2007 ATOD prevalence rates. Highlights include the following:

- *Pennsylvania youth using less marijuana.* In 2001, 40.5 percent of the 12th graders statewide reported that they were willing to try marijuana compared to 28.6 percent in 2007.
- *Pennsylvania youth binge drinking less.* In 2001, 20.9 percent of the 10th graders statewide reported binge drinking. In 2007, the binge drinking rate for 10th graders dropped to 16.8 percent. Binge drinking is having five or more drinks in a row in the past two weeks.
- *Pennsylvania youth using fewer prescription drugs.* In 2005, for the first time, PCCD asked students about the inappropriate use of prescription drugs. In 2005, statewide, 16.6 percent of high school seniors surveyed reported using prescription narcotics at some time in their life—a good measure of experimentation. In 2007, fewer seniors—12.1 percent—reported the use of prescription narcotics.
- *Fewer Pennsylvania youth driving under the influence of alcohol and marijuana.* In 2001, 21.4 percent of 12th graders reported driving after alcohol use. In 2007, that percentage stood at 17.8 percent. There are similar trends for driving after marijuana use. The 2007 rate was 16.4 percent compared to 24.1 percent in 2001.

**Antisocial Behaviors:** In 2007, many key antisocial behaviors' prevalence rates were down compared to rates from previous PAYS administrations. Highlights include the following:

- *A slight upward trend in Pennsylvania youth belonging to gangs.* In 2001, 4.6 percent of the 10th graders surveyed said they belonged to a gang. In 2007, 7.1 percent of the 10th graders indicated the same. And the percentage of 10th graders saying they belonged to a gang with a name increased from 2001 to 2007 (3.8 percent versus 6.1 percent).

- *Fewer Pennsylvania youth are threatened or attacked on school property.* In 2003, statewide, 24.7 percent of the students surveyed said they had been threatened to be beaten up at school. In 2007, this rate had dropped to 20.7 percent.
- *Fewer Pennsylvania youth gambling.* In 2005, for the first time, PAYS asked students about gambling behaviors. In 2005, statewide 35.7 percent of the students surveyed reported gambling for money in the past year. The overall 30-day rate was 19.3 percent. In 2007, both rates—past year and 30 day—dropped. In 2007, 28.8 percent of the students reported gambling for money in the past year, while 14.3 percent reported gambling in the past 30 days.

**Risk and Protective Factors:** Statewide, Pennsylvania youth maintain extremely positive profiles of risk and protective factors. Overall, protective factor scores remain high—above 50 percent, and risk factor scores remain low—below 50 percent. Highlights include the following:

- *Pennsylvania youth acknowledge high community involvement and a strong belief in the moral order.* Since 2001, scores for both *community opportunities for prosocial involvement* (60 percent in 2007) and a *belief in the moral order* (64 percent in 2007) climbed to or are above 60 percent. Conversely, statewide, there are a number of risk protective factor scores that consistently tracked downward. For example, in 2007, scores for *favorable attitudes toward antisocial behavior* (38 percent), *favorable attitudes toward ATOD use* (37 percent) and *early initiation of drug use* (38 percent) dropped for the first time below 40 percent—these trends bode well for protecting young people against drug use.
- *Younger Pennsylvania youth—students in grades 6 and 8—show favorable attitudes for not using alcohol and drugs.* For example, in 2007, scores for *favorable attitudes toward antisocial behavior* (35 percent), *favorable attitudes toward ATOD use* (39 percent), and *early initiation of drug use* (39 percent) dropped for the first time below 40 percent for 6th graders—these trends bode well for protecting young people against drug use and other related risky behaviors.
- *Older Pennsylvania youth—students in grades 10 and 12—show positive signs of avoiding sensation seeking and early drug use.* For example, in 2007, *sensation seeking* (43 percent) dropped close to 40 percent for 10th graders. In 2001, this factor recorded the highest risk score (54 percent). These trends bode well for protecting young people against drug use and other related risky behaviors.

## Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug (ATOD) Use

### Lifetime and 30-Day Alcohol Use and Binge Drinking (Table 3)

- For students in grade 6, ATOD rates remain low. For example, in 2007, 3.3 percent of the 6th graders statewide reported using alcohol use in the past 30 days. In 2001, the 30-day rate for 6th graders was 4.8 percent.
- Prevalence rates for students in grades 8 and 10 all reflect gradual downward trends from 2001 to 2007. For example, in 2001, 36.4 percent of the 10th graders statewide reported using alcohol in the past 30 days. In 2007, the rate stood at 31.9 percent.
- In 2007, lifetime and 30-day prevalence rates for 12th graders were lower than the 2001 rates. For example, in 2001, the 30-day alcohol use rate for 12th graders was 48.5 percent. In 2007, it was 44.8 percent.
- In 2007, the prevalence rate for binge drinking for 12th graders was 25.7 percent compared to 31.2 percent in 2001.

**Table 3. Prevalence of alcohol use**

Alcohol use	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Lifetime use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	32.3	28.7	23.5	23.9
8 <sup>th</sup>	57.4	56.7	52.9	50.5
10 <sup>th</sup>	75.8	76.4	74.8	69.7
12 <sup>th</sup>	83.8	83.6	85.0	78.4
All grades	61.3	60.6	58.8	55.4
<b>30-day use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	4.8	4.1	2.6	3.3
8 <sup>th</sup>	17.4	17.0	14.5	13.9
10 <sup>th</sup>	36.4	37.9	36.5	31.9
12 <sup>th</sup>	48.5	49.2	53.7	44.8
All grades	25.6	26.2	26.3	23.2
<b>Binge drinking</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	2.4	1.5	1.0	1.4
8 <sup>th</sup>	8.6	8.8	6.7	6.5
10 <sup>th</sup>	20.9	21.5	19.6	16.8
12 <sup>th</sup>	31.2	31.4	33.7	25.7
All grades	14.9	15.3	14.9	12.5

NOTE: Binge drinking is defined as five or more drinks in a row in the past two weeks.

### Cigarette Smoking and Smokeless Tobacco Use (Table 4)

- For students in grade 6, both lifetime and 30-day use of cigarettes remain low. For example, in 2007, 1.3 percent of the 6th graders statewide reported smoking cigarettes in the past 30 days. In 2001, the 30-day smoking rate stood at 2.2 percent.
- The prevalence rates for students in grades 8, 10, and 12 all reflect gradual downward trends from 2001 to 2007. For example, in 2001, the 30-day smoking cigarette rate for 12th graders was 31.9 percent. In 2003, it was 25.8 percent, and in 2005, it climbed slightly higher to 28.5 percent. In 2007, however, the 30-day smoking cigarette rate was 20.6 percent.
- In 2007, lifetime and 30-day prevalence rates for smokeless tobacco products remained stable for all students. For example, in 2001, the 30-day rate for 12th graders was 9.7 percent. In 2007, the same rate was reported by 12th graders.

**Table 4. Prevalence of tobacco use**

Tobacco use	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Lifetime cigarettes</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	8.9	8.9	6.3	5.6
8 <sup>th</sup>	27.1	27.8	20.4	16.2
10 <sup>th</sup>	43.8	40.4	38.8	32.3
12 <sup>th</sup>	57.0	52.4	54.5	42.1
All grades	329.	31.6	29.6	23.9
<b>30-day use cigarettes</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	2.2	2.1	1.0	1.3
8 <sup>th</sup>	10.6	10.9	6.4	5.5
10 <sup>th</sup>	20.2	19.0	18.4	13.7
12 <sup>th</sup>	31.9	25.8	28.5	20.6
All grades	15.4	14.1	13.3	10.2
<b>Lifetime smokeless tobacco</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	—	2.7	2.5	2.2
8 <sup>th</sup>	—	7.9	5.4	5.8
10 <sup>th</sup>	—	15.0	16.0	13.7
12 <sup>th</sup>	—	21.0	25.3	18.1
All grades	—	11.3	12.0	9.8
<b>30-day smokeless tobacco</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.8
8 <sup>th</sup>	4.1	3.1	2.4	2.6
10 <sup>th</sup>	7.0	7.1	8.7	7.1
12 <sup>th</sup>	9.7	9.5	11.1	9.7
All grades	5.4	5.0	5.6	5.0

NOTE: The symbol “—” indicates data are not available because the item was not included in the survey.

## Marijuana Use (Table 5)

- For students in grade 6, both lifetime and 30-day use of marijuana remain low. For example, since 2001, less than 1 percent of the 6th graders statewide reported using marijuana in the past 30 days.
- The prevalence rates for students in grades 8, 10, and 12 all reflect gradual downward trends from 2001 to 2007. For example, in 2001, the 30-day marijuana use rate for 12th graders was 25.6 percent. In 2007, the 30-day marijuana rate was 19.2 percent.

**Table 5. Prevalence of marijuana use**

Marijuana use	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Lifetime use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	1.3	1.3	0.8	0.9
8 <sup>th</sup>	10.9	10.8	7.7	6.5
10 <sup>th</sup>	30.9	27.5	25.2	23.5
12 <sup>th</sup>	47.1	42.8	44.8	35.7
All grades	21.1	19.8	19.1	16.4
<b>30-day use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.2
8 <sup>th</sup>	5.3	5.2	3.5	2.8
10 <sup>th</sup>	17.0	14.5	12.0	12.0
12 <sup>th</sup>	25.6	21.4	22.9	19.2
All grades	11.4	10.0	9.4	8.5



### Inhalants Use (Table 6)

- For students in grade 6, both lifetime and 30-day use of inhalants remain low. Since 2003, both lifetime and 30-day rates have not changed much in either a downward or upward trend. In 2003, the 30-day rate for 6th graders was 2.8 percent; in 2007, it was 2.6 percent.
- The prevalence rates for students in grades 8, 10, and 12 reflect slight changes in trends from 2001 to 2007. For example, in 2001, the 30-day inhalant use rate for 10th graders was 2.1 percent. In 2007, the 30-day inhalant rate was 3.4 percent—a slight upward trend. However, for 12th graders there was a slight downward trend in inhalant use. In 2003, the 30-day inhalant rate was 3.0 percent compared to a rate of 1.7 percent in 2007.

**Table 6. Prevalence of inhalants use**

Inhalants use	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Lifetime use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	2.3	7.3	7.3	7.0
8 <sup>th</sup>	5.8	12.3	10.9	9.4
10 <sup>th</sup>	7.5	10.5	10.8	11.0
12 <sup>th</sup>	12.5	9.1	9.2	6.6
All grades	6.7	9.8	9.6	8.6
<b>30-day use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	0.7	2.8	2.5	2.6
8 <sup>th</sup>	1.9	5.0	3.9	3.7
10 <sup>th</sup>	2.1	2.9	4.1	3.4
12 <sup>th</sup>	3.0	2.0	3.1	1.7
All grades	1.9	3.2	2.4	2.9

### Cocaine and Crack Cocaine Use (Table 7)

- For students in grades 6 and 8, both lifetime and 30-day use of either cocaine or crack cocaine remain extremely low. In many years, no 6th graders reported using either drug in the past 30 days, and typically less than 1 percent of the 8th graders reported using either drug in the past 30 days.
- The prevalence rates for students in grades 10 and 12 are also extremely low; however, lifetime rates for both cocaine and crack cocaine show that there are students in these grades experimenting with both drugs. Nonetheless, in 2007, both cocaine and crack cocaine lifetime use rates were lower or about the same as those reported in 2001.

**Table 7. Prevalence of cocaine and crack cocaine use**

Cocaine and crack cocaine use	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Cocaine lifetime use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.3
8 <sup>th</sup>	1.0	1.8	0.8	0.9
10 <sup>th</sup>	3.0	3.9	4.3	3.1
12 <sup>th</sup>	6.0	7.4	9.5	5.7
All grades	2.4	3.2	3.6	2.5
<b>Cocaine 30-day use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0
8 <sup>th</sup>	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.2
10 <sup>th</sup>	1.0	1.3	1.4	1.0
12 <sup>th</sup>	1.9	2.4	2.8	1.8
All grades	0.8	1.1	1.1	0.8
<b>Crack cocaine lifetime use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.4
8 <sup>th</sup>	0.9	1.8	1.0	0.8
10 <sup>th</sup>	1.7	1.9	2.7	1.8
12 <sup>th</sup>	2.3	2.5	3.1	1.6
All grades	1.3	1.6	1.7	1.2
<b>Crack cocaine 30-day use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
8 <sup>th</sup>	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.2
10 <sup>th</sup>	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9
12 <sup>th</sup>	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.5
All grades	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.3

## Heroin Use (Table 8)

- For students in all grades, both lifetime and 30-day use of heroin remain low. Less than 1 percent of the students statewide use heroin, and in some grades, the reported prevalence rates were less than one-half of a full percentage point.

**Table 8. Prevalence of heroin use**

Heroin use	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Lifetime use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
8 <sup>th</sup>	0.5	1.0	0.4	0.3
10 <sup>th</sup>	0.9	1.4	1.0	1.3
12 <sup>th</sup>	1.7	2.9	2.3	1.5
All grades	0.8	1.3	0.9	0.8
<b>30-day use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
8 <sup>th</sup>	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2
10 <sup>th</sup>	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.4
12 <sup>th</sup>	0.5	1.3	0.6	0.5
All grades	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.3

### Hallucinogens Use (Table 9)

- For students in grades 6 and 8, both lifetime and 30-day use of hallucinogens remain extremely low. In most years, typically less than 1 percent of the 6th and 8th graders reported using hallucinogens in the past 30 days.
- The prevalence rates for students in grades 10 and 12 are also extremely low; however, lifetime rates for hallucinogens show that there are students in these grades experimenting with this drug. Nonetheless, in 2007, for both 10th and 12th graders, hallucinogens lifetime and 30-day use rates were lower than those reported in 2001.

**Table 9. Prevalence of hallucinogens use**

Hallucinogens use	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Lifetime use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2
8 <sup>th</sup>	1.8	2.9	1.4	0.9
10 <sup>th</sup>	6.3	6.1	4.9	5.0
12 <sup>th</sup>	12.7	10.9	9.9	7.3
All grades	4.9	4.9	4.0	3.4
<b>30-day use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
8 <sup>th</sup>	0.8	1.3	0.4	0.4
10 <sup>th</sup>	2.2	2.3	1.8	1.7
12 <sup>th</sup>	3.6	3.4	3.7	2.4
All grades	1.6	1.7	1.4	1.2

### Methamphetamines Use (Table 10)

- For students in all grades, both lifetime and 30-day use of methamphetamines remain low. Less than 1 percent of the students statewide use methamphetamines, and in some grades, the reported prevalence rates were less than one-half of a full percentage point.

**Table 10. Prevalence of methamphetamines use**

Methamphetamines use	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Lifetime use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.2
8 <sup>th</sup>	1.8	1.1	0.6	0.6
10 <sup>th</sup>	3.3	2.3	2.4	1.6
12 <sup>th</sup>	4.4	3.0	2.8	1.2
All grades	2.5	1.6	1.5	1.0
<b>30-day use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2
8 <sup>th</sup>	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.3
10 <sup>th</sup>	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.6
12 <sup>th</sup>	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.4
All grades	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.4

**Ecstasy Use (Table 11)**

- For students in grades 6 and 8, both lifetime and 30-day use of ecstasy remain extremely low. In most years, typically less than 1 percent of the 6th and 8th graders reported using ecstasy in the past 30 days.
- The prevalence rates for students in grades 10 and 12 are also extremely low; however, lifetime rates for ecstasy show that there are students in these grades experimenting with this drug. Nonetheless, in 2007, for both 10th and 12th graders, ecstasy lifetime and 30-day use rates were lower than those reported in 2003.

**Table 11. Prevalence of Ecstasy use**

Ecstasy use	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Lifetime use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	–	0.2	0.2	0.1
8 <sup>th</sup>	–	2.7	1.3	0.7
10 <sup>th</sup>	–	4.8	4.5	3.5
12 <sup>th</sup>	–	8.7	6.6	4.1
All grades	–	4.0	3.1	2.2
<b>30-day use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	–	0.0	0.0	0.0
8 <sup>th</sup>	–	0.9	0.5	0.4
10 <sup>th</sup>	–	1.3	0.8	1.1
12 <sup>th</sup>	–	1.5	1.1	0.9
All grades	–	0.9	0.6	0.6

NOTE: The symbol “–” indicates data are not available because the item was not included in the survey.

### Steroids Use (Table 12)

- For students in grade 6, both lifetime and 30-day use of steroids remain extremely low. In most years, typically less than 1 percent of the 6th graders reported using steroids in the past 30 days.
- The prevalence rates for students in grades 8, 10 and 12 are also extremely low; however, lifetime rates for steroids show that there are students in these grades experimenting with this drug—typically about 1 to 2 percent of the students in each grade.

**Table 12. Prevalence of steroids use**

Steroids use	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Lifetime use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	0.9	1.2	0.7	0.7
8 <sup>th</sup>	2.1	2.5	1.1	1.3
10 <sup>th</sup>	2.8	2.8	1.6	1.6
12 <sup>th</sup>	2.5	2.3	1.7	1.5
All grades	2.1	2.2	1.3	0.7
<b>30-day use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3
8 <sup>th</sup>	0.6	0.8	0.3	0.7
10 <sup>th</sup>	0.9	1.2	0.4	0.7
12 <sup>th</sup>	1.0	0.9	0.6	0.5
All grades	0.7	0.8	0.4	0.6

### Any Illicit Drug (Not Marijuana) Use (Table 13)

- Regardless of the grade, the lifetime prevalence rates of any illicit drug show that a fairly sizable number of students statewide experiment with illicit drugs. For example, in 2007, 12 percent of students statewide reported illicit drug use. However, regardless of the grade, lifetime prevalence rates for illicit drug use are on a downward trend and reported 2007 prevalence rates were much lower than rates reported in 2003.
- With the exception of 6th graders, the 30-day prevalence rates of any illicit drug show that about 5 percent of the students statewide use illicit drugs. However, regardless of the grade, 30-day prevalence rates for illicit drug use are on a downward trend, and 2007 rates were much lower than rates reported in 2003. For example, in 2003, 7.9 percent of the 12th graders reported using an illicit drug compared to 4.9 percent of the 12th graders in 2007.

**Table 13. Prevalence of any illicit drug (other than marijuana) use**

Any illicit drug use	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Lifetime use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	—	8.0	8.0	7.7
8 <sup>th</sup>	—	15.8	12.3	10.8
10 <sup>th</sup>	—	17.5	16.3	16.2
12 <sup>th</sup>	—	20.9	20.8	14.2
All grades	—	15.4	14.2	12.3
<b>30-day use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	—	3.1	2.7	2.9
8 <sup>th</sup>	—	6.7	4.7	4.6
10 <sup>th</sup>	—	6.8	6.9	6.1
12 <sup>th</sup>	—	7.9	8.5	4.9
All grades	—	6.1	5.6	4.7

NOTE: The symbol “—” indicates data are not available because the item was not included in the survey.



### Amphetamines Use<sup>4</sup> (Table 14)

- For students in grades 6 and 8, lifetime, 12-month, and 30-day use of amphetamines—a prescription drug—remain low. In 2005 and 2007, typically less than 1 percent of the 6th and 8th graders reported using amphetamines in the past 30 days.
- The prevalence rates for students in grades 10 and 12 are also low; however, lifetime and 12-month rates for amphetamines show that there are students in these grades experimenting with this prescription drug. For example, nearly 6 percent of the 12th graders in 2007 reported using amphetamines in the past year. Nonetheless, in 2007, for both 10th and 12th graders, amphetamines lifetime, 12-month, and 30-day use rates were lower than those reported in 2005.

**Table 14. Prevalence of prescription drug use—Amphetamines**

Amphetamine use	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Lifetime use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	1.6	1.7
8 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	3.5	3.3
10 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	10.8	6.6
12 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	13.3	7.8
All grades	—	—	7.3	4.9
<b>12-month use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	0.7	1.0
8 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	2.3	2.0
10 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	7.6	5.0
12 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	9.7	5.7
All grades	—	—	5.1	3.5
<b>30-day use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	0.3	0.5
8 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	1.0	0.7
10 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	4.4	2.5
12 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	4.4	2.7
All grades	—	—	2.5	1.6

NOTE: The symbol “—” indicates data are not available because the item was not included in the survey.

<sup>4</sup>Amphetamines refer to amphetamines prescribed by doctors but used without a doctor’s permission.

**Sedatives Use<sup>5</sup> (Table 15)**

- For students in grades 6 and 8, lifetime, 12-month, and 30-day use of sedatives—a prescription drug—remain low. In 2005 and 2007, typically less than 1 percent of the 6th and 8th graders reported using sedatives in the past 30 days.
- The prevalence rates for students in grades 10 and 12 are also low; however, lifetime and 12-month rates for sedatives show that there are students in these grades experimenting with this prescription drug. For example, nearly 6 percent of the 10th graders in 2007 reported using sedatives in the past year. Nonetheless, in 2007, for both 10th and 12th graders, sedatives lifetime, 12-month, and 30-day use rates were lower than those reported in 2005.

**Table 15. Prevalence of prescription drug use—Sedatives**

Sedative use	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Lifetime use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	1.9	2.0
8 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	4.8	4.4
10 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	9.2	6.7
12 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	12.0	7.5
All grades	—	—	7.0	5.2
<b>12-month use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	0.8	0.8
8 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	2.3	2.5
10 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	7.3	5.9
12 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	8.8	5.4
All grades	—	—	4.8	3.4
<b>30-day use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	0.4	0.3
8 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	1.0	1.2
10 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	4.2	2.5
12 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	4.2	2.6
All grades	—	—	2.6	1.6

NOTE: The symbol “—” indicates data are not available because the item was not included in the survey.

<sup>5</sup>Sedatives refer to sedatives prescribed by doctors but used without a doctor's permission.

**Tranquilizers Use<sup>6</sup> (Table 16)**

- For students in grades 6 and 8, lifetime, 12-month, and 30-day use of tranquilizers—a prescription drug—remain low. In 2005 and 2007, typically less than 1 percent of the 6th and 8th graders reported using tranquilizers in the past 30 days.
- The prevalence rates for students in grades 10 and 12 are also low; however, lifetime and 12-month rates for tranquilizers show that there are students in these grades experimenting with this prescription drug. For example, nearly 6 percent of the 12th graders in 2007 reported using tranquilizers in the past year. Nonetheless, in 2007, for both 10th and 12th graders, tranquilizers lifetime, 12-month, and 30-day use rates were lower than those reported in 2005.

**Table 16. Prevalence of prescription drug use—Tranquilizers**

Tranquilizer use	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Lifetime use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	1.1	0.6
8 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	2.0	1.8
10 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	6.9	5.6
12 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	11.2	7.4
All grades	—	—	5.3	3.9
<b>12-month use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	0.4	0.4
8 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	1.2	1.1
10 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	4.4	4.1
12 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	8.2	5.8
All grades	—	—	3.5	2.9
<b>30-day use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	0.2	0.2
8 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	0.4	0.6
10 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	2.4	2.2
12 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	3.7	2.4
All grades	—	—	1.7	1.4

NOTE: The symbol “—” indicates data are not available because the item was not included in the survey.

<sup>6</sup>Tranquilizers refer to tranquilizers prescribed by doctors but used without a doctor’s permission.

### Other Narcotics Use<sup>7</sup> (Table 17)

- For students in grades 6 and 8, lifetime, 12-month, and 30-day use of narcotics—a prescription drug—remain low. In 2005 and 2007, less than 1 percent of the 6th and 8th graders reported using narcotics in the past 30 days.
- The prevalence rates for students in grades 10 and 12 are also low; however, lifetime and 12-month rates for narcotics show that there are students in these grades experimenting with this prescription drug. For example, nearly 6 percent and 9 percent of the 10th and 12th graders, respectively, in 2007 reported using narcotics in the past year. Nonetheless, in 2007, for both 10th and 12th graders, narcotics lifetime, 12-month, and 30-day use rates were lower than those reported in 2005.

**Table 17. Prevalence of prescription drug use—Other narcotics**

Other narcotics use	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Lifetime use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	0.5	0.7
8 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	1.7	1.8
10 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	9.0	8.3
12 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	16.6	12.1
All grades	—	—	6.8	5.7
<b>12-month use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	0.2	0.3
8 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	0.9	1.3
10 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	6.9	6.1
12 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	11.6	8.7
All grades	—	—	4.8	4.1
<b>30-day use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	0.1	0.0
8 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	0.4	0.4
10 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	3.5	2.9
12 <sup>th</sup>	—	—	5.4	4.5
All grades	—	—	2.3	2.0

NOTE: The symbol “—” indicates data are not available because the item was not included in the survey.

<sup>7</sup>Other narcotics refer to narcotics prescribed by doctors but used without a doctor’s permission.

### Age of Onset for ATOD Use (Table 18)

- In general, in 2007, age of initiation means moved in a positive direction, with young people trying ATODs at slightly older ages.
- In 2007, age of onset ATOD numbers changed little when compared to the 2001, 2003, and 2005 means. For example, in 2007, Pennsylvanian youth, on average, reported having their first use of alcohol (having more than a sip or two of alcohol) at age 12.8, while the average of age of first regular use of alcohol (drinking alcoholic beverages regularly, or at least once or twice a month) was at age 14.5. In 2001, Pennsylvania youth, on average, reported having their first use of alcohol at age 12.5, while the average age of first regular use of alcohol was at age 14.4.

**Table 18. Average age of onset for ATOD use**

Average age	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Trying alcohol</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	10.4	10.5	10.5	10.5
8 <sup>th</sup>	11.5	11.5	11.6	11.7
10 <sup>th</sup>	12.8	12.9	12.8	12.9
12 <sup>th</sup>	13.8	13.9	13.9	14.1
All grades	12.5	12.7	12.8	12.8
<b>Drinking alcohol regularly</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	11.0	10.8	10.9	10.9
8 <sup>th</sup>	12.5	12.3	12.4	12.4
10 <sup>th</sup>	14.2	14.2	13.9	14.1
12 <sup>th</sup>	15.4	15.4	15.4	15.4
All grades	14.4	14.5	14.5	14.5
<b>Smoking cigarettes</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.4
8 <sup>th</sup>	11.5	11.4	11.5	11.5
10 <sup>th</sup>	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.7
12 <sup>th</sup>	13.1	13.2	13.4	13.6
All grades	12.3	12.3	12.5	12.7
<b>Smoking marijuana</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	11.2	10.9	10.9	11.0
8 <sup>th</sup>	12.4	12.2	12.3	12.3
10 <sup>th</sup>	13.6	13.6	13.4	13.6
12 <sup>th</sup>	14.5	14.5	14.6	14.7
All grades	13.8	13.8	13.9	14.0

**Willingness to Try ATODs (Table 19)**

- In general, in 2007, the percentage of students willing to try selected ATODs declined from previous PAYS cycles.
- In 2007, the percentage of students willing to try alcohol declined at every grade. For example, in 2001, 63.9 percent of the students in 10th grade said they were willing to try alcohol. In 2007, that percentage had declined to 56.3 percent.
- In 2007, the percentage of students willing to try drugs like marijuana and cocaine also declined at every grade. For example, in 2001, 40.5 percent of the students in 12th grade said they were willing to try marijuana. In 2007, that percentage had declined to 28.6 percent.

**Table 19. Percentage of students willing to try selected ATODs**

Students willing to try ATODs	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Alcohol</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	17.5	17.7	15.6	12.2
8 <sup>th</sup>	40.5	42.7	35.7	34.2
10 <sup>th</sup>	63.9	64.4	63.6	56.3
12 <sup>th</sup>	73.4	73.3	77.5	64.5
All grades	48.7	59.0	48.6	42.0
<b>Marijuana</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	2.2	2.0	1.3	1.2
8 <sup>th</sup>	13.8	13.2	9.8	8.4
10 <sup>th</sup>	32.1	27.5	25.1	24.2
12 <sup>th</sup>	40.5	34.6	35.7	28.6
All grades	21.9	18.9	18.2	15.7
<b>Cocaine</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	1.1	1.1	0.8	1.1
8 <sup>th</sup>	3.5	4.3	2.2	2.6
10 <sup>th</sup>	5.5	6.1	6.0	5.1
12 <sup>th</sup>	6.8	7.5	8.0	5.7
All grades	4.2	4.7	4.3	3.7
<b>Hallucinogens</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.7
8 <sup>th</sup>	4.4	5.1	2.9	3.3
10 <sup>th</sup>	10.4	9.8	8.2	4.8
12 <sup>th</sup>	14.3	12.8	13.3	3.2
All grades	7.4	7.0	6.3	3.2

### Driving a Car Under the Influence (Table 20)

- In general, in 2007, the percentage of students driving under the influence of alcohol or marijuana declined from previous PAYS cycles.
- In 2007, the percentage of high school seniors (12th graders) driving a car after using alcohol use declined. For example, in 2001, 21.5 percent of the students in 12th grade said they drove a car after alcohol use. In 2007, that percentage had dropped to 17.8 percent.
- In 2007, the percentage of high school seniors (12th graders) driving a car after marijuana use declined. For example, in 2001, 24.1 percent of the students in 12th grade said they drove a car after marijuana use. In 2007, that percentage had dropped to 16.4 percent.

**Table 20. Percentage of students driving under the influence**

Driving under influence	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Driving after alcohol use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3
8 <sup>th</sup>	1.5	1.8	1.5	1.2
10 <sup>th</sup>	3.8	4.1	4.8	3.7
12 <sup>th</sup>	21.5	21.4	23.9	17.8
All grades	6.1	6.4	7.2	5.6
<b>Driving after marijuana use</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2
8 <sup>th</sup>	1.3	1.5	1.1	0.8
10 <sup>th</sup>	4.3	4.3	4.5	3.7
12 <sup>th</sup>	24.1	20.3	22.9	16.4
All grades	6.8	6.1	6.8	5.1

## Antisocial Behaviors

### Age of Onset for Antisocial Behavior (Table 21)

- In general, in 2007, the mean ages of onset for being involved in antisocial behaviors moved slightly in the wrong direction, with young people becoming more involved in antisocial behaviors at younger ages.
- In 2007, the age of onset for carrying a handgun declined slightly when compared to the 2001, 2003, and 2005 means. For example, in 2007, Pennsylvanian youth, on average, reported carrying a handgun at age 12.4. In 2001, Pennsylvania youth, on average, reported carrying a handgun at age 12.5.

**Table 21. Average age of onset for selected antisocial behavior**

Selected antisocial behavior	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Getting suspended from school</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	10.5	10.6	10.6	10.5
8 <sup>th</sup>	11.7	11.7	11.6	11.6
10 <sup>th</sup>	12.8	12.8	12.8	12.7
12 <sup>th</sup>	13.9	13.8	13.8	13.4
All grades	12.5	12.5	12.6	12.4
<b>Being arrested</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	10.9	11.0	10.8	10.7
8 <sup>th</sup>	12.2	12.2	12.3	12.4
10 <sup>th</sup>	13.7	13.5	13.4	13.9
12 <sup>th</sup>	14.9	14.8	14.8	14.7
All grades	13.6	13.5	13.7	13.7
<b>Carrying a handgun</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.7
8 <sup>th</sup>	12.0	11.9	12.0	12.0
10 <sup>th</sup>	13.0	13.0	13.2	12.5
12 <sup>th</sup>	13.6	14.1	14.3	13.3
All grades	12.5	12.6	13.1	12.4
<b>Attacking someone with intent to harm</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	10.7	10.7	10.8	10.7
8 <sup>th</sup>	11.9	11.8	11.7	11.8
10 <sup>th</sup>	12.9	12.9	13.0	12.6
12 <sup>th</sup>	13.6	13.5	13.4	13.3
All grades	12.5	12.5	12.6	12.3



## Gang Membership (Table 22)

- In general, in 2007, slightly more students reported being involved with gangs compared to previous PAYS cycles (5.1 percent in 2001 versus 5.8 percent in 2007); however, in general, students joined gangs at an older age (12.2 mean age in 2001 versus 12.6 mean age in 2007).
- More students also indicated that the gang they belonged to has a name (3.9 percent in 2001 versus 4.9 percent in 2007). In 2007, more 10th graders than students in other grades seemed to belong to a gang with a name. In 2001, 3.8 percent of the 10th graders surveyed indicated that the gang they belonged to has a name. In 2007, 6.1 percent of the 10th graders reported the same.

**Table 22. Percentage of youth who indicated gang involvement**

Gang involvement	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Ever belonged to a gang</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	5.2	6.5	5.5	4.1
8 <sup>th</sup>	5.9	8.9	8.7	6.3
10 <sup>th</sup>	4.6	5.9	7.6	7.1
12 <sup>th</sup>	4.6	4.5	6.2	5.5
All grades	5.1	6.5	7.0	5.8
<b>Belonged to a gang with a name</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	3.4	4.0	5.5	2.6
8 <sup>th</sup>	4.5	7.3	8.7	5.5
10 <sup>th</sup>	3.8	4.9	7.6	6.1
12 <sup>th</sup>	3.9	3.8	6.2	5.4
All grades	3.9	5.1	7.0	4.9
<b>Belonging to a gang (mean age)</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	10.8	10.7	10.8	10.9
8 <sup>th</sup>	12.1	12.1	12.1	12.2
10 <sup>th</sup>	13.0	13.1	12.9	13.0
12 <sup>th</sup>	13.4	13.6	13.9	13.8
All grades	12.2	12.1	12.5	12.6

### Threatened or Attacked at School (Table 23)

- In general, in 2007, rates for students being threatened or attacked with a weapon at school were all lower than rates reported from previous PAYS cycles.
- In 2007, 4.5 percent of 8th graders surveyed reported being threatened with a weapon at school. However, in contrast, in 2003, the percentage was 6.2 percent, and in 2005, the percentage was 6.0 percent.

**Table 23. Percentage of students threatened or attacked on school property**

Threatened or attacked on school property	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Threatened to be hit/beaten</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	–	21.9	21.5	19.6
8 <sup>th</sup>	–	30.5	27.2	25.5
10 <sup>th</sup>	–	27.2	29.2	21.7
12 <sup>th</sup>	–	17.9	21.8	15.0
All grades	–	24.7	25.2	20.7
<b>Attacked or beaten</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	–	10.0	10.2	9.7
8 <sup>th</sup>	–	11.9	11.1	10.5
10 <sup>th</sup>	–	9.2	8.8	7.7
12 <sup>th</sup>	–	6.0	7.5	4.0
All grades	–	9.4	9.4	8.1
<b>Threatened with a weapon</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	–	3.5	3.7	3.4
8 <sup>th</sup>	–	6.2	6.0	4.5
10 <sup>th</sup>	–	5.3	5.2	4.7
12 <sup>th</sup>	–	3.9	4.4	3.2
All grades	–	4.8	4.9	4.0
<b>Attacked with a weapon</b>				
<b>Grade</b>				
6 <sup>th</sup>	–	1.5	1.0	1.0
8 <sup>th</sup>	–	2.7	2.9	1.8
10 <sup>th</sup>	–	2.6	2.1	2.5
12 <sup>th</sup>	–	2.0	2.2	1.8
All grades	–	2.2	2.1	1.8

NOTE: The symbol “–” indicates data are not available because the item was not included in the survey.

## Gambling (Table 24)

- In general, in 2007, gambling rates for students declined compared to the 2005 gambling rates. Also, in 2007, slightly fewer students were spending money on gambling.
- In 2007, statewide, 28.8 percent of the students statewide said they had gambled for money in the past year. In 2005, 35.7 percent of the students said they had gambled for money in the past year. In 2007, the 30-day gambling rate statewide was 14.3 percent compared to 19.3 percent in 2005.
- High school seniors tend to report higher gambling rates, and in both 2005 and in 2007 they indicated spending more on gambling in the past year than students in grades 6, 8, and 10. However, in 2007, fewer seniors spent more on gambling than they meant to in the past year. In 2005, 12.5 percent of the seniors spent more on gambling than they meant to in the past year compared to 7.5 percent of the seniors in 2007.

**Table 24. Percentage of students reporting gambling/gambling related problems**

Gambling/gambling related problems	2005	2007
<b>Gambled for money in past year</b>		
<b>Grade</b>		
6 <sup>th</sup>	21.4	19.3
8 <sup>th</sup>	31.7	31.0
10 <sup>th</sup>	43.0	32.0
12 <sup>th</sup>	44.5	32.8
All grades	35.7	28.8
<b>Gambled for money in last 30 days</b>		
<b>Grade</b>		
6 <sup>th</sup>	9.6	8.3
8 <sup>th</sup>	16.4	13.7
10 <sup>th</sup>	24.5	16.4
12 <sup>th</sup>	25.4	18.6
All grades	19.3	14.3
<b>Spent more on gambling in past year</b>		
<b>Grade</b>		
6 <sup>th</sup>	4.6	3.3
8 <sup>th</sup>	6.0	5.5
10 <sup>th</sup>	10.0	6.4
12 <sup>th</sup>	12.5	7.5
All grades	8.4	5.7
<b>Gambling led to lies to your family in past year</b>		
<b>Grade</b>		
6 <sup>th</sup>	2.5	1.9
8 <sup>th</sup>	3.5	2.8
10 <sup>th</sup>	5.8	3.6
12 <sup>th</sup>	4.1	4.1
All grades	4.1	3.1

## Symptoms of Depression (Table 25)

- In 2007, fewer students reported symptoms of depression; however, statewide, more than 30 percent of the students surveyed reported feeling depressed and worthless.
- In 2007, students in all grades reported fewer symptoms of depression than did students in 2005. For example, in 2005, 25.9 percent of the high school seniors surveyed said they think that life is not worth it. In 2007, 20.0 percent of seniors indicated feeling the same way. However, other changes in rates from 2005 to 2007 in nearly all grades are fairly small in terms of the size of the change.

**Table 25. Percentage of students reporting symptoms of depression**

<b>Gambling/gambling related problems</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>In the past year, felt depressed or sad most days</b>		
<b>Grade</b>		
6 <sup>th</sup>	31.8	31.2
8 <sup>th</sup>	33.1	33.0
10 <sup>th</sup>	37.4	33.0
12 <sup>th</sup>	33.9	32.2
All grades	34.1	32.5
<b>Sometimes I think that life is not worth it</b>		
<b>Grade</b>		
6 <sup>th</sup>	17.0	14.3
8 <sup>th</sup>	24.2	20.4
10 <sup>th</sup>	28.5	23.3
12 <sup>th</sup>	25.9	20.0
All grades	24.0	19.6
<b>At times I think I am no good at all</b>		
<b>Grade</b>		
6 <sup>th</sup>	28.7	26.4
8 <sup>th</sup>	29.9	27.9
10 <sup>th</sup>	35.7	29.9
12 <sup>th</sup>	31.7	28.7
All grades	31.5	28.3
<b>All in all, I am inclined to think I am a failure</b>		
<b>Grade</b>		
6 <sup>th</sup>	11.8	12.2
8 <sup>th</sup>	13.4	12.9
10 <sup>th</sup>	18.5	14.5
12 <sup>th</sup>	16.4	13.1
All grades	15.1	13.2

## Risk and Protective Factors

### Statewide Trends (Table 26)

- Statewide, since the 2001 cycle of PAYS, Pennsylvanian youth have maintained an overall positive profile of risk and protective factors. For the most part, protective factor scores remain high—above 50 percent, and risk factor scores remain low—below 50 percent. Because risk is associated with negative behavioral outcomes, it is best to have a low risk factor score; because protective factors are associated with better behavioral outcomes, it is best to have a high protective factor score.
- Statewide, a number of positive protective factor score trends stand out. Since 2001, scores for both *community opportunities for prosocial involvement* (60 percent) and a *belief in the moral order* (64 percent) climbed to or are above 60 percent. Conversely, there are a number of risk protective factor scores that consistently tracked downward. For example, in 2007, scores for *favorable attitudes toward antisocial behavior* (38 percent), *favorable attitudes toward ATOD use* (37 percent), and *early initiation of drug use* (38 percent) dropped for the first time below 40 percent—these trends bode well for protecting young people against drug use.

### Grade 6 Trends (Table 27)

- For 6th graders, a number of positive protective factor score trends stand out. Since 2001, scores for *community opportunities for prosocial involvement* (61 percent), *school rewards for prosocial involvement* (58 percent), and a *belief in the moral order* (64 percent) either climbed near or above 60 percent. Conversely, there are a number of risk protective factor scores that consistently tracked downward. For example, in 2007, scores for *favorable attitudes toward ATOD use* (39 percent) and *early initiation of drug use* (39 percent) dropped below 40 percent—these trends bode well for protecting young people against drug use and other related risky behaviors.

### Grade 8 Trends (Table 28)

- For 8th graders, a number of positive protective factor score trends stand out. Since 2001, scores for both *community opportunities for prosocial involvement* (60 percent) and a *belief in the moral order* (65 percent) climbed to or are above 60 percent. Conversely, there are a number of risk protective factor scores that consistently tracked downward. For example, in 2007, five different scores dropped below 40 percent. These trends bode well for protecting young people against drug use and other related risky behaviors, especially the low scores for *friends' use of drugs* (38 percent) and *early initiation of drug use* (37 percent).

### Grade 10 Trends (Table 29)

- For 10th graders, a number of positive protective factor score trends stand out. Since 2001, scores for both *community opportunities for prosocial involvement* (59 percent) and a *belief in the moral order* (62 percent) climbed near or above 60 percent. Conversely, there are a number of risk protective factor scores that consistently tracked downward. For example, in 2007, *sensation seeking* (43 percent) dropped to close to 40 percent. In 2001, this factor recorded the highest risk score (54 percent). This trend bodes well for protecting young people against drug use and other related risky behaviors.

### Grade 12 Trends (Table 30)

- For 12th graders, a number of positive protective factor score trends stand out. Since 2001, scores for both *community opportunities for prosocial involvement* (61 percent) and a *belief in the moral order* (64 percent) climbed above 60 percent. Conversely, there are a number of risk protective factor scores that consistently tracked downward. For example, in 2007, four different scores dropped below 40 percent. These trends bode well for protecting young people against drug use and other related risky behaviors, especially the low scores for *sensation seeking* (37 percent) and *early initiation of drug use* (38 percent).

**Table 26. Percent of risk and protective factors—Statewide**

	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Protective Factor</b>				
Community Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	55	61	61	60
Community Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	55	52	53	52
Family Attachment	55	53	55	54
Family Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	53	53	54	53
Family Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	54	54	54	54
School Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	55	55	55	56
School Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	53	54	55	54
Religiosity	54	51	48	49
Belief in the Moral Order	53	61	60	64
<b>Average</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Risk Factor</b>				
Low Neighborhood Attachment	44	45	44	44
Community Disorganization	42	50	52	50
Transitions and Mobility	39	49	52	51
Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use	46	50	49	47
Laws and Norms Favorable to Handguns	50	47	46	45
Perceived Availability of Drugs	48	48	45	42
Perceived Availability of Handguns	49	48	51	48
Poor Family Management	45	45	43	43
Family Conflict	47	52	50	49
Family History of Antisocial Behavior	42	46	45	42
Parental Attitudes Favorable toward ATOD Use	49	49	49	46
Parental Attitudes Favorable toward Antisocial Behavior	46	47	47	46
Poor Academic Performance	46	45	44	44
Lack of Commitment to School	49	47	46	43
Rebelliousness	48	44	46	44
Friends' Delinquent Behavior	45	44	45	44
Friends' Use of Drugs	48	46	44	41
Peer Rewards for Antisocial Behavior	50	53	51	49
Favorable Attitudes toward Antisocial Behavior	49	44	40	38
Favorable Attitudes toward ATOD Use	51	44	42	37
Low Perceived Risks of Drug Use	46	45	45	43
Early Initiation of Drug Use	47	45	43	38
Sensation Seeking	52	45	43	40
<b>Average</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>44</b>

**Table 27. Percent of risk and protective factors—Grade 6**

	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Protective Factor</b>				
Community Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	55	61	59	61
Community Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	54	55	55	56
Family Attachment	58	55	56	56
Family Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	56	54	56	53
Family Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	57	56	54	55
School Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	56	58	56	57
School Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	55	60	58	58
Religiosity	55	50	49	51
Belief in the Moral Order	58	62	63	64
<b>Average</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Risk Factor</b>				
Low Neighborhood Attachment	43	41	41	40
Community Disorganization	41	46	46	45
Transitions and Mobility	39	49	55	56
Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use	45	45	45	44
Laws and Norms Favorable to Handguns	47	42	43	42
Perceived Availability of Drugs	46	45	43	44
Perceived Availability of Handguns	47	48	50	50
Poor Family Management	42	41	43	43
Family Conflict	47	53	46	47
Family History of Antisocial Behavior	41	47	45	43
Parental Attitudes Favorable toward ATOD Use	46	46	45	45
Parental Attitudes Favorable toward Antisocial Behavior	47	46	43	42
Poor Academic Performance	46	46	44	44
Lack of Commitment to School	47	43	46	44
Rebelliousness	45	38	39	38
Friends' Delinquent Behavior	42	42	42	41
Friends' Use of Drugs	44	44	42	42
Peer Rewards for Antisocial Behavior	45	47	43	43
Favorable Attitudes toward Antisocial Behavior	45	39	36	35
Favorable Attitudes toward ATOD Use	45	42	40	39
Low Perceived Risks of Drug Use	44	44	46	43
Early Initiation of Drug Use	44	42	40	39
Sensation Seeking	50	44	41	39
<b>Average</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>43</b>



**Table 28. Percent of risk and protective factors—Grade 8**

	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Protective Factor</b>				
Community Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	55	61	63	60
Community Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	54	51	54	53
Family Attachment	58	53	57	55
Family Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	56	53	56	54
Family Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	57	53	58	56
School Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	56	55	58	57
School Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	55	52	58	53
Religiosity	55	51	48	47
Belief in the Moral Order	58	51	65	65
<b>Average</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Risk Factor</b>				
Low Neighborhood Attachment	43	46	44	44
Community Disorganization	41	50	49	48
Transitions and Mobility	39	51	53	49
Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use	45	49	45	45
Laws and Norms Favorable to Handguns	47	49	43	45
Perceived Availability of Drugs	46	47	42	41
Perceived Availability of Handguns	47	51	49	48
Poor Family Management	42	45	39	40
Family Conflict	47	51	52	50
Family History of Antisocial Behavior	41	46	44	43
Parental Attitudes Favorable toward ATOD Use	46	50	45	45
Parental Attitudes Favorable toward Antisocial Behavior	45	47	44	45
Poor Academic Performance	46	47	42	43
Lack of Commitment to School	47	50	42	43
Rebelliousness	45	44	42	43
Friends' Delinquent Behavior	42	44	44	42
Friends' Use of Drugs	44	45	38	38
Peer Rewards for Antisocial Behavior	45	51	45	44
Favorable Attitudes toward Antisocial Behavior	45	43	37	37
Favorable Attitudes toward ATOD Use	45	45	37	37
Low Perceived Risks of Drug Use	44	45	41	41
Early Initiation of Drug Use	44	45	39	37
Sensation Seeking	50	44	40	39
<b>Average</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>43</b>

**Table 29. Percent of risk and protective factors—Grade 10**

	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Protective Factor</b>				
Community Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	56	61	63	59
Community Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	56	51	53	52
Family Attachment	54	53	50	53
Family Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	53	52	50	53
Family Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	53	53	53	54
School Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	55	55	56	56
School Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	53	53	56	54
Religiosity	54	51	46	48
Belief in the Moral Order	50	61	59	62
<b>Average</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Risk Factor</b>				
Low Neighborhood Attachment	45	47	45	45
Community Disorganization	42	52	55	53
Transitions and Mobility	38	48	49	47
Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use	47	50	53	49
Laws and Norms Favorable to Handguns	52	48	50	47
Perceived Availability of Drugs	50	48	46	41
Perceived Availability of Handguns	49	48	51	48
Poor Family Management	46	46	44	44
Family Conflict	47	53	51	52
Family History of Antisocial Behavior	41	44	45	42
Parental Attitudes Favorable toward ATOD Use	49	51	51	44
Parental Attitudes Favorable toward Antisocial Behavior	48	48	49	46
Poor Academic Performance	46	44	44	43
Lack of Commitment to School	50	47	45	44
Rebelliousness	49	46	50	48
Friends' Delinquent Behavior	45	45	45	45
Friends' Use of Drugs	48	47	44	41
Peer Rewards for Antisocial Behavior	53	56	55	53
Favorable Attitudes toward Antisocial Behavior	51	44	42	40
Favorable Attitudes toward ATOD Use	53	45	43	38
Low Perceived Risks of Drug Use	48	45	44	45
Early Initiation of Drug Use	48	46	45	39
Sensation Seeking	54	46	44	43
<b>Average</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>45</b>

**Table 30. Percent of risk and protective factors—Grade 12**

	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Protective Factor</b>				
Community Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	53	60	59	61
Community Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	54	49	49	48
Family Attachment	53	52	54	52
Family Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	51	51	52	52
Family Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	53	52	52	51
School Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	52	51	48	53
School Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	50	51	48	51
Religiosity	52	51	49	48
Belief in the Moral Order	47	59	53	64
<b>Average</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Risk Factor</b>				
Low Neighborhood Attachment	46	46	48	47
Community Disorganization	45	53	58	53
Transitions and Mobility	39	47	49	51
Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use	48	54	54	47
Laws and Norms Favorable to Handguns	52	49	49	48
Perceived Availability of Drugs	51	50	51	40
Perceived Availability of Handguns	50	47	52	47
Poor Family Management	48	47	46	45
Family Conflict	48	49	50	48
Family History of Antisocial Behavior	44	46	45	41
Parental Attitudes Favorable toward ATOD Use	51	49	53	47
Parental Attitudes Favorable toward Antisocial Behavior	48	49	52	49
Poor Academic Performance	47	44	47	44
Lack of Commitment to School	50	49	53	41
Rebelliousness	51	46	54	44
Friends' Delinquent Behavior	49	46	50	47
Friends' Use of Drugs	53	48	51	41
Peer Rewards for Antisocial Behavior	52	57	60	54
Favorable Attitudes toward Antisocial Behavior	53	48	47	38
Favorable Attitudes toward ATOD Use	55	44	46	35
Low Perceived Risks of Drug Use	52	48	51	45
Early Initiation of Drug Use	51	46	47	38
Sensation Seeking	54	44	47	37
<b>Average</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>45</b>

## Appendix

### 2007 Monitoring the Future ATOD Rates<sup>8</sup>

	Lifetime ATOD Rates			30-Day ATOD Rates		
	8 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
Alcohol	38.9%	61.7%	72.2%	15.9%	33.4%	44.4%
Binge Drinking <sup>9</sup>	– <sup>10</sup>	–	–	10.3	21.9	25.9
Cigarettes	22.1	34.6	46.2	7.1	14.0	21.6
Smokeless Tobacco	9.1	15.1	15.1	3.2	6.1	6.6
Marijuana	14.2	31.0	41.8	5.7	14.2	18.8
Inhalants	15.6	13.6	10.5	3.9	2.5	1.2
Cocaine	3.1	5.3	7.8	0.9	1.3	2.0
Crack Cocaine	2.1	2.3	3.2	0.6	0.5	0.9
Heroin	1.3	1.5	1.5	0.4	0.4	0.4
Hallucinogens	3.1	6.4	8.4	1.0	1.7	1.7
Methamphetamine	1.8	2.8	3.0	0.6	0.4	0.6
Ecstasy	2.3	5.2	6.5	0.6	1.2	1.6
Steroids	1.5	1.8	2.2	0.4	0.5	1.0

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<sup>8</sup>Rates taken from National Institute on Drug Abuse (2007). *Overview of Key Findings 2007: Monitoring the Future National Results on Adolescent Drug Use*. Bethesda, MD: National Institutes of Health.

<sup>9</sup>Binge drinking is defined as a report of 5 or more drinks in a row within the past two weeks.

<sup>10</sup>Binge drinking is not a lifetime behavior as measured by the MTF or PAYS.