

PAYS in PA and Lower Dauphin

Participation Rates

69.5% of PA students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 participated in 2021!

1,000 valid LD surveys in 2019

949 valid LD surveys in 2021

81.5% of all LD eligible students in grades 6, 8, 10, & 12 participated in the 2021 survey!

500 PA School Districts in Total

396 School Districts Participated

46 Other Schools Participated

= 69.5% Participation Rate

5 Validity Checks

Used a fictitious drug

High level of multiple drug use

30-Day use higher than lifetime use

Age inconsistent with their grade

Age for joining a gang older than their age



Protective Factors

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

In 2021, the highest levels of protection in the Lower Dauphin community were found in the

Family Domain

- Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement (58)
- Family Attachment (59)
- Rewards for Prosocial Involvement (55)



TOP RISK FACTORS OF CONCERN (All Grades Combined)

Risk Factor = "conditions that increase the likelihood of a young person becoming involved in drug use, delinquency, school dropout, and/or violence."	2017 PAYS	2019 PAYS	2021 PAYS	Bach Harrison (BH) Norm
Low Commitment to School	42.5%	48.9%	52.9%	50.3%
Parental Attitudes Favorable to Anti-Social Behavior	41.8%	42.8%	48.8%	33.3%
Perceived Risk of Drug Use	43.3%	43.4%	45.4%	51.4%
Depressive Symptoms	32.7%	37.5%	45.4%	38.7%

TOP RISK FACTORS OF CONCERN (By Grade Level)

6th Grade

- Parental Attitudes Favorable to Anti-Social Behavior (59.0 up from 45.9 in 2019)
- Low Commitment to School (53.7 up from 40.9 in 2019 and 32.6 in 2017)
- Poor Family Management (49.8 up from 37.0 in 2019)

8th Grade

- Low Commitment to School (53.3 up from 49.1 in 2019 and 38.5 in 2017)
- Parental Attitudes Favorable toward Anti-Social Behavior (47.1 up from 36.9 in 2019)
- Perceived Risk of Drug Use (47.1 up from 35.1 in 2019 and 34.0 in 2017)

10th Grade

- Low Commitment to School (60.1 up from 55.9 in 2019 and 58.3 in 2017)
- Depressive Symptoms (50.6 up from 45.3 in 2019 and 40.8 in 2017)
- Parental Attitudes Favorable to Anti-Social Behavior (46.4 up from 44.1 in 2019)

12th Grade

- Perceived Risk of Drug Use (49.2 down from 60.1 in 2019 and 54.5 in 2017)
- Depressive Symptoms (46.2 down from 50.5 in 2019 and up from 35.9 in 2017)
- Parental Attitudes Favorable to Anti-Social Behavior (42.5 down from 44.1 in 2019)

Tobacco and Marijuana

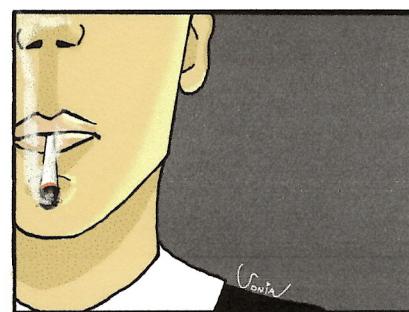
Tobacco:

Lifetime Use of Cigarettes Declines for 10 th and 12 th graders:	8 th	10 th	12 th
2017	8.3%	25.3%	29.5%
2019	4.5%	10.4%	32.3%
2021	4.7%	9.0%	17.2%

30-Day Use of Cigarettes Declines for 10 th and 12 th graders:	8 th	10 th	12 th
2017	3.1%	10.0%	18.4%
2019	0.3%	4.4%	16.4%
2021	0.9%	1.6%	6.1%

Smokeless Tobacco (30-day use) decreased across all grades:

- 6th grade (0.3% in 2017 to 0.0% in 2021)
- 8th grade (2.1% in 2017 to 0.4% in 2021)
- 10th grade (6.8% in 2017 to 0.8% in 2021)
- 12th grade (10.2% in 2017 to 2.0% in 2021)



Marijuana:



Marijuana Use		8 th	10 th	12 th
Lifetime	2019	6.9%	18.5%	49.5%
	2021	3.9%	19.7%	31.5%
30-Day	2019	2.8%	8.4%	24.6%
	2021	2.1%	10.2%	14.6%

- **Lifetime use** by 6th, 8th, and 10th grade students is below the state average. Lifetime use by 12th graders is slightly above the state average but has decreased from 49.5% to 31.5% between 2019 and 2021.
- 10th graders report **30-Day use** at a slightly higher rate (10.2%) than the state average (8.0%) and 30-Day use has decreased from 2019 to 2021 across all grades.
- 4.1% of 12th graders report **driving after marijuana use** in the past year, down from 10.5% in 2019 and 11.5% in 2017.
- More students in 10th and 12th grade report using marijuana than cigarettes for both lifetime use and 30-day use.
- 23.0% of 12th graders reported a **willingness to try marijuana before age 21**, down from 37.6% in 2019.

Alcohol



Usage Behaviors

LIFETIME USE - % of students who tried alcohol at least once in their lifetime

- ↑ Lower Dauphin lifetime use is higher than the National Average across all grades:
8th (30.2% to 26.9%); 10th (45.5% to 34.7%); 12th (55.0% to 54.1%)
- ↓ Lower Dauphin lifetime use saw a decrease across all grades (2019 to 2021):
6th (12.5% to 11.0%); 8th (31.5% to 30.2%); 10th (55.0% to 45.5%); 12th (72.2% to 55.0%)

PAST 30-DAY USE

- ↑ Lower Dauphin is higher than the State Average in Past 30-Day Use across all grades:
6th (3.8% to 3.1%); 8th (10.3% to 6.9%); 10th (18.4% to 16.1%); 12th (30.2% to 27.4%)
- ↓ The rate of 12th graders who reported driving a vehicle after drinking alcohol during the past year declined every year since 2017, from 6.3% in 2017 to 2.5% in 2021.
- ↓ The rate of 12th graders who reported driving a vehicle after using marijuana during the past year declined every year since 2017, from 11.6% in 2017 to 4.1% in 2021.
- ↓ Binge Drinking rates also decreased in grade 12 (from 18.0% in 2017 to 27.3% in 2019 to 15.1% in 2021) and grade 10 (from 10.8% in 2017 to 13.3% in 2019 to 7.0% in 2021).

Attitudes & Perceptions

12 th Grade Perceptions	2017	2019	2021
Willing to try alcohol before 21?	46.5%	53.1%	40.1%
Would be sort of easy or very easy to obtain alcohol	68.3%	71.2%	60.5%
Would not be caught by the police for underage drinking	80.2%	84.8%	78.9%

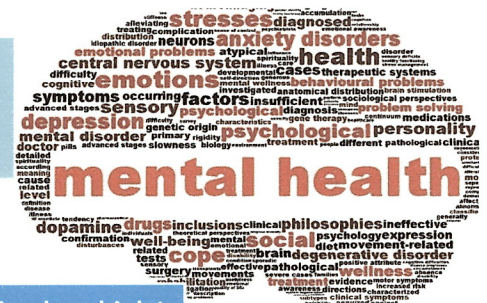


72.2% of 10th graders reported that they would not be caught by the police for underage drinking.

Sources for Obtaining Alcohol

- **34.3%** of students reported that their parents gave them alcohol (up from 19.5% in 2019).
- Primary source for obtaining alcohol for 12th graders (**38.4%**) was “Friends, brothers or sisters over 21 provided it to me” (2019 rate was 39.8%). Rate for LD 10th graders was **23.9%** (21.1% in 2019).
- **44.8%** 10th graders reported that their primary source for obtaining alcohol was “took it without permission (from my home, friend’s home, store, etc)”.
- **55.6%** of 6th graders and **45%** of 8th graders reported their primary source for alcohol was parents provided it to them.

Mental Health & Wellness



Feelings, Emotions, and Thoughts

	Felt depressed or sad most days	At times I think I am no good at all	Sometimes I think that life is not worth it	Inclined to think I am a failure
6 th	2021 – 27.0%	2021 – 28.3%	2021 – 14.5%	2021 – 13.6%
	2019 – 27.9%	2019 – 29.4%	2019 – 15.8%	2019 – 16.4%
	2017 – 16.6%	2017 – 20.7%	2017 – 9.3%	2017 – 6.7%
8 th	2021 – 33.0%	2021 – 30.7%	2021 – 20.6%	2021 – 20.6%
	2019 – 27.8%	2019 – 26.7%	2019 – 20.6%	2019 – 19.6%
	2017 – 33.5%	2017 – 36.7%	2017 – 23.9%	2017 – 19.2%
10 th	2021 – 47.9%	2021 – 45.6%	2021 – 36.4%	2021 – 35.7%
	2019 – 40.7%	2019 – 43.3%	2019 – 30.5%	2019 – 29.6%
	2017 – 37.7%	2017 – 36.3%	2017 – 29.0%	2017 – 23.0%
12 th	2021 – 41.6%	2021 – 42.4%	2021 – 29.2%	2021 – 28.8%
	2019 – 45.7%	2019 – 47.3%	2019 – 34.0%	2019 – 32.6%
	2017 – 32.1%	2017 – 36.8%	2017 – 25.4%	2017 – 19.7%

- ❖ 34.9% of 12th graders and 40.7% of 10th graders reported **being so sad they ceased doing their usual activities.**
- ❖ 37.2% of students **experienced death of a friend/family member in the past year** (down from 40.2 in 2019).
- ❖ 7.7% of students **worried that food would run out one or more times in the past year** (down from 10.3% 2019) and 4.9% reported **skipping a meal because of family finances.**

Behaviors, Self-Harm, and Suicide

- 16.4% of students reported **self-harm (such as cutting, scraping, burning)**, with the highest numbers reported by 10th graders (20.1%) and 8th graders (18.9%).
- 21.6% of 12th graders and 24.6% of 10th graders reported **seriously considered suicide** and 6.9% and 12.7%, respectively, **attempted suicide.**
- *Of students who indicated they had been cyberbullied:*
 - 61.2% indicated **feeling so sad or hopeless every day for at least 2 weeks that they stopped doing their usual activities;**
 - 41.5% of those students had **seriously considered suicide in the past year;**
 - 33.8% **had made a suicide plan;** and 30.1% **had attempted suicide.**

Mental Health & Wellness (Continued)

Energy and Sleep

37.0% of students



reported **sleeping LESS THAN 7 HOURS** a night on **school nights** including 47.7% of 10th graders and 46.7% of 12th graders.

70.3% of students

reported **FEELING TIRED OR SLEEPY** during the day “every day” or “several times” during the past two weeks, including 77.7% of 10th graders and 78.8% of 12th graders.

Activities and Employment

- 61.3% of all students reported **engaging in school sponsored activities**.
- 81.7% of seniors reported **having a job or employment**; 40.3% reported **volunteering**; and 13.2% said they **do not participate**.

Within the Family

- 95.1% of students in all grades reported that **their parents knew where they were and who they were with**.
- 85.5% of students reported that there are **clear family rules about alcohol and drug use**. This ranges from 88.5% of 6th graders to 83.4% of 12th graders.

