

**Danvers Public Schools
Youth Risk Behavior Survey Highlights
Middle and High School, 2010**

The survey was administered to 7th and 8th grade students, and 9th through 12th grade students in the spring of 2010. Of the 635 enrolled middle school students, 79% or 501 had valid surveys. Of the 1,015 enrolled high school students, there were 77% or 784 valid surveys. Comparisons are made with 2008 survey data, and, when available, 2006 data.

Core Measure Definitions for Substance Use Behaviors

1. Early Initiation -use before age 13
2. Lifetime Use -report ever having tried the substance
3. Current Use -use at least one time in the past 30 days
4. Heavy, Episodic Use -Binge Drinking, 5 or more drinks on one occasion, usually within a few hours
5. Student Perception of Harm for regular use of a substance
6. Student Perception of Parent Disapproval of regular use of substance

Middle School

Positive Results

- More students report consistently wearing seat belts.
- Fewer students attempted suicide.
- The average age that students first use alcohol is increasing (from age 12 to 15).
- Of students reporting sexual intercourse, more are likely to use a condom.
- Gambling behaviors such as playing the lottery and playing cards for money.
- are decreasing.
- More students are physically active (past 7 days)
- Fewer watch 3 or more hours of TV a day.
- Fewer students report playing video games for 3 or more hours per day.
- More middle school students report having at least one teacher, parent, or other adult to talk to.

Areas of Concern

- Over one quarter of middle school students report riding in a car with someone who had been drinking alcohol.
- Significantly more middle school students report carrying a weapon (19 to 26%).
- Over 1/3 report being bullied more than once in the past year.
- Current/regular use of tobacco as steadily increased over the past 4 years. (2% to 7%)
- Marijuana use among middle school students has jumped from 7 to 13%.
- Students perception of harm for tobacco, alcohol and marijuana use has decreased across each drug. Students perception of harm for drug use should be increasing!

Danvers High School

Positive Results

- The number of high school students that report always wearing a seat belt has increased and is above average rates for the state.
- Fewer HS students report being in a physical fight in the past 12 months, and Danvers rates are 5% below the state average for this risk behavior.
- Fewer students report suicide attempts.
- Tobacco use remains about the same, with slight decreases in current use.
- There is a continued decrease in binge drinking, as well as fewer students reporting alcohol use prior to age 13.
- More students perceive that smoking and drinking alcohol are harmful.

Areas of Concern

- Although student rates of wearing bicycle helmets have remained the same since 2008, the rate is below state average for this protective factor.
- The numbers of students that report riding in a car with someone who has been drinking have remained steady since 2008, but this risk behavior in Danvers is higher than the state average.
- The number of students considering suicide and the number of students who have make a plan to commit suicide rose slightly and is above state rates.
- Lifetime and current marijuana use has increased, and both remain above state averages.
- Average age of onset for marijuana use has decreased, meaning teens are using earlier, not postponing first use.
- Significantly fewer students perceive that marijuana use is harmful.