

Alcohol and other drug use

Among Oklahoma Public High School Students

What is the problem?

The 2015 Oklahoma Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicates that among public high school students:

Alcohol Use

- 64% have ever drank alcohol
- 15% drank alcohol for the first time before 13 years of age
- 27% drank alcohol during the 30 days before the survey
- 17% drank five or more drinks in a row within a couple of hours during the 30 days before the survey

Other Drug Use

- 32% have ever used marijuana
- 17% used marijuana during the 30 days before the survey
- 14% have ever taken prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription
- 15% were offered, sold, or given an illegal drug on school property during the 12 months before the survey

What are the solutions?

- Reduce youth access to alcohol and drugs by supporting local and state policies that restrict easy availability to adolescents
- Train and utilize peer leadership groups, such as Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), 2Much2Lose (2M2L), and others
- Educate students on the harmful effects alcohol has on their maturing minds and bodies and the consequences that could affect their future plans.
- Educate parents and community members about adolescent development and the effects of alcohol and drug use
- Support enforcement of underage drinking laws such as “Social Host” and retailer compliance policies
- Encourage schools to participate in surveys, such as the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) and the Oklahoma Prevention Needs Assessment, that assess risk-taking behaviors among youth

For more information contact the Maternal and Child Health Service, MCH Assessment at (405) 271-6761 or visit URL: <http://yrbs.health.ok.gov>

