



Health and Human Services

Lane County Coalition to Prevent Substance Abuse

Prevent substance abuse in Lane County by coordinating, collaborating and linking people to effective resources.

A snapshot of data from the 2005 Lane County Profile

Attitudes about Substance Use and Other Risk Behaviors

Some survey results

A strong majority of adults want/expect parents to guide their children not to use alcohol or drugs. A majority of youth know their parents would be disappointed if they were to use alcohol or other drugs. A majority of adults disapprove of high school youth to drink alcohol or smoking marijuana. Yet the majority of adults believe that young friends have more influence on adolescents' decisions to use alcohol or other drugs than parents do. And lastly, there is a notable percentage of Lane County 8th and 11th grade students who are drinking alcohol and smoking cigarettes and marijuana.

Interpretation of results

Parents either are not aware that they have powerful influence over how to guide their children, or they don't have the tools to effectively influence their children not to use alcohol and other drugs. The truth is that parents have enormous power over a child's well-being, but too many fail to appreciate and use this power*. Parental involvement makes a critical difference in children's lives**. Parents can influence their children if they reach them early and if they continue to reinforce strong values and a positive message throughout their teen years***.

* Partnership for a Drug-Free America [PDFFA], Partnership Attitude Tracking Study, 2002.

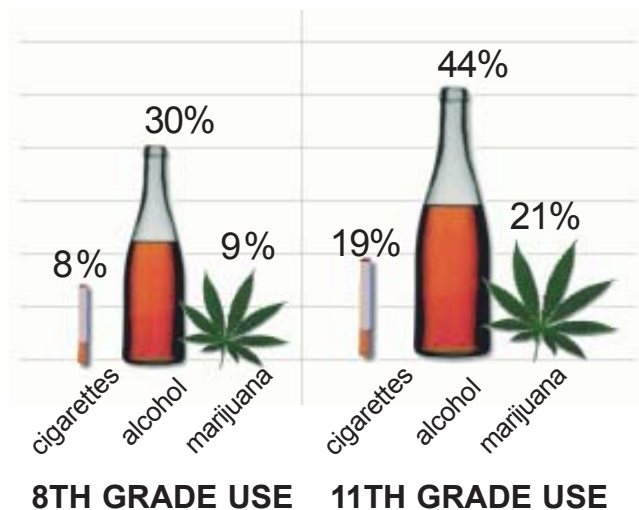
** US Department of Health and Human Services (1993). Parent Training is Prevention: Preventing Alcohol and other Drug Problems among Youth in the Family. Rockville, MD: Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.

*** Chen, C.; Storr, C.; and Anthony, J (2005). Influences of Parenting Practices on the Risk of Having a Chance to try Cannabis. Pediatrics, 115:1631-39.

*** Hawkins, J., Catalano, R., & Miller, J. ('92). Risk & protective factors for alcohol & other drug problems in adolescence and early adulthood: Implications for substance abuse prevention. Psychological Bulletin, 112, 64-105.

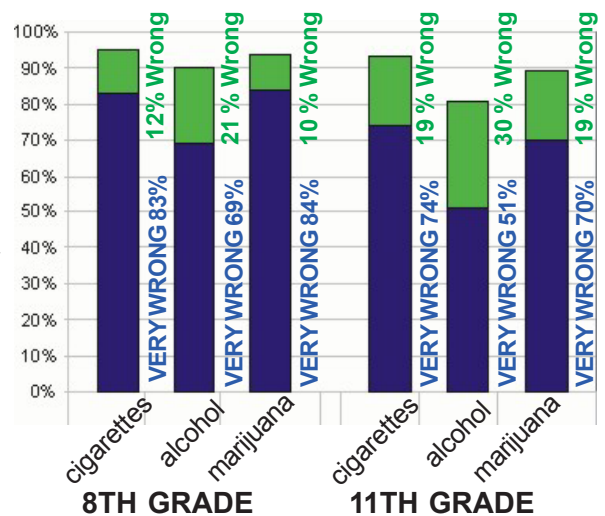
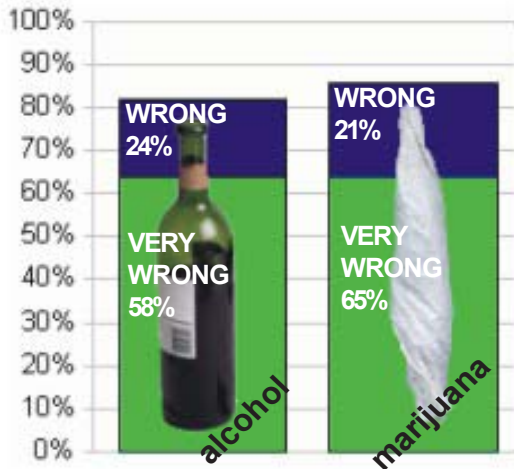
30-DAY USE OF 8TH and 11TH GRADERS SMOKING TOBACCO, MARIJUANA, AND DRINKING ALCOHOL

Lane County Oregon Healthy Teens survey respondents were asked about their use of tobacco, alcohol and marijuana during the previous 30 days. During 2004, alcohol is clearly the illicit drug of choice among 8th and 11th graders with tobacco and marijuana use about tied for second place.



Perceived Parental Disapproval of Substance Use

Lane County Oregon Healthy Teens survey respondents were asked the question, "How wrong do your parents feel it would be for you to smoke tobacco, drink beer, wine, or hard liquor regularly or smoke marijuana?" During 2004, a strong majority of youth believe their parents feel it would be 'wrong or very wrong' for them to smoke tobacco or marijuana. The scale dips a bit for alcohol use.

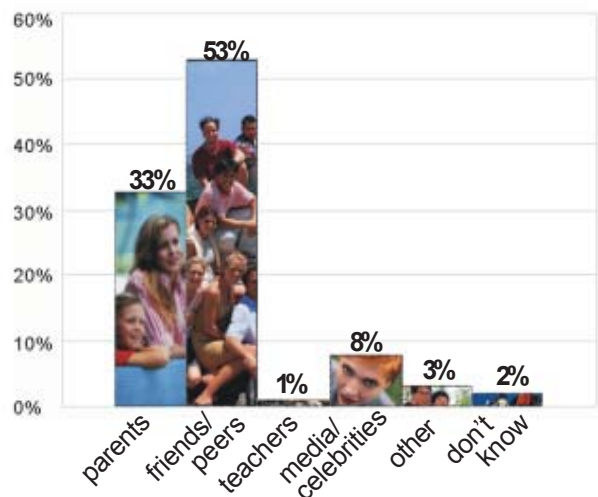
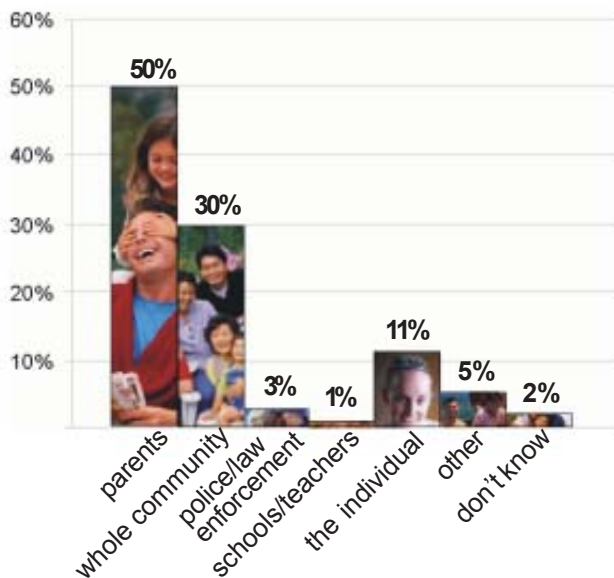


Adult Disapproval of Youth Substance Use

In 2005, Lane County adult survey respondents were asked their degree of disapproval of high school aged youth drinking alcohol or smoking marijuana. Eight-two percent of respondents indicated that it was *very wrong* or *wrong* for youth to drink alcohol; eighty-six per cent said that it was *very wrong* or *wrong* for youth to smoke marijuana.

Who Influences Youth is Substance Use Choices

In 2005, Lane County adult survey respondents were asked, "Who do you think influences adolescents the most when it comes to making choices about substance use?" The majority of respondents (53 per cent) felt that friends or peers were the most influential in adolescent substance use choices. One-third felt that parents were the most influential.



Who is Responsible for Substance Abuse Prevention

Lane County Adult Survey respondents were asked, "Who do you think should be primarily responsible for the prevention of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use in your community?" In 2005, 50 percent of adults surveyed say parents are the community members most responsible for substance use prevention. 30 per cent say the whole community is most responsible for prevention.