

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT:

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SAFE Glen Cove Coalition: Prescription Opioid Misuse and Use of Alcohol and Other Substances Among High School Students -Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2019

Adolescence is an important period of risk for substance use initiation and substance use–related adverse outcomes. To examine youth substance use trends and patterns, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) analyzed data from the 2009–2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey. This report presents estimated prevalence of current (i.e., previous 30-days) marijuana use, prescription opioid misuse, alcohol use, and binge drinking and lifetime prevalence of marijuana, synthetic marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, injection drug use, and prescription opioid misuse among U.S. high school students.

Research assessed 2009–2019 trends in the following areas: Prevalence of current and lifetime substance use by demographics, frequency of use, and prevalence of co-occurrence of selected substances among students reporting current prescription opioid misuse. Results indicate the following:

Substance use was common among U.S. high school students and varied by substance, year, and demographic groups; Among current substance use measures, the highest prevalence estimates were for alcohol (29.2%) and marijuana use (21.7%).

Current binge drinking was reported by 13.7% of high school students

7.2% reported current prescription opioid misuse.

Among lifetime use measures, marijuana use was reported by 36.8% of high school students, followed by misuse of prescription opioids (14.3%) and use of synthetic marijuana (7.3%), cocaine (3.9%), methamphetamine (2.1%), or heroin (1.8%). Lifetime injection drug use was reported by 1.6% of high school students.

Substance use varied by sex, race/ethnicity, grade, and sexual minority status (lesbian, gay, or bisexual).

Use of other substances, particularly current use of alcohol (59.4%) and marijuana (43.5%), was common among students currently misusing prescription opioids.

These findings highlight opportunities for expanding evidence-based prevention policies, programs, and practices that aim to reduce risk factors and strengthen protective factors related to youth substance use, in conjunction with ongoing initiatives for combating the opioid crisis.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is a federal agency that conducts and supports health promotion, prevention and preparedness activities in the United States, with the goal of improving overall public health. To learn more about the CDC please visit www.cdc.gov.

The SAFE Glen Cove Coalition is conducting an opioid prevention awareness campaign entitled. "Keeping Glen Cove SAFE," in order to educate and update the community regarding opioid use and its consequences. To learn more about the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition please follow us on www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition or visit SAFE's website to learn more about the Opioid and COVID -19 Epidemics at www.safeglencove.org.