

# 2023 Addison County Youth Survey



## SUMMARY OF RESULTS

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# Acknowledgments

*The 2023 Addison County Youth Survey was conducted, and this report was prepared, for the United Way of Addison County (UWAC), by the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE). Funding was provided by UWAC's Drug Free Communities grant from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The time and willingness of Addison County school staff and students to participate in the survey is gratefully acknowledged.*

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# Background and Methods

## Purpose of this report...

The 2023 Addison County Youth Survey was conducted in order to provide data that can help inform and improve substance misuse prevention programs for Addison County youth and families. These data will also be used to support the evaluation of the United Way of Addison County's (UWAC) Drug Free Communities grant. A similar survey was conducted in 2021, and the 2021 results are also included in this report.

## Survey methods...

The survey, which was accessed and completed online, was conducted in five Addison County schools serving students in grades 7-12 during February and March of 2023 as a supplement to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), which is administered by the Vermont Department of Health. Participating schools included:

- Middlebury High School
- Mt. Abraham Union High School
- Mt. Abraham Union Middle School
- Vergennes Union High School
- Vergennes Union Middle School

Information about the survey and the opportunity to opt their students out of taking the survey was shared by participating schools with parents ahead of time. On the day that the YRBS was administered in each of the participating schools, a link to the survey was shared after students completed the YRBS and they were given additional time to complete the UWAC survey. Participation was voluntary and student responses were anonymous.

## What's included in this report...

Each table in this report contains data for one or more survey questions that all pertain to a specific topic. The tables show the response distributions, in terms of percentages, for all items included in the survey broken out by middle school and high school respondents. Most of the values in the tables are the percent of youth reporting each response listed. For items in tables A and D, response options have been combined and the values shown are the combined percent responding to those response options. For example, the prevalence rate for perceived risk of harm from the use of various substances was defined as the percent of respondents who perceived the risk of harm to be either moderate or great risk.

For questions that were also included in the 2021 survey, the data for those questions are provided here as well for comparisons purposes. Note that the 2021 survey was completed in the fall as opposed to the spring in 2023. Students completing the survey in 2021 were younger overall which could influence these estimates. In addition, students who completed the survey in 2021 were facing different educational and social circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which could also influence the results for that year. For these reasons, differences between the estimates for 2021 and 2023 should be interpreted with caution.

## Representativeness of the sample and data accuracy ...

PIRE ran consistency checks on the data to identify, and in some cases exclude, responses that were logically inconsistent or questionable. These internal reliability checks help identify the small percentage of students who may not have answered truthfully and can reduce some sources of error, but not all.

The data were also weighted by grade level, a mathematical procedure that makes data representative of the population from which it was drawn.

## Statistical Significance...

The statistical significance of the difference between the 2021 and 2023 values is indicated with yellow highlighting in the 2023 cell (i.e. if the cell is highlighted then there was a statistically significant difference between the values for 2021 and 2023 for that item at the  $p < .05$  level).

**TABLE A. Substance Use Risk Factor Prevalence Rates**

<b>Risk factor:</b>	<b>MS 2021</b>	<b>MS 2023</b>	<b>HS 2021</b>	<b>HS 2023</b>
<b>Think people have moderate or great risk of harming themselves if they...</b>	(n=273)	(n=252)	(n=803)	(n=656)
Have five or more drinks of an alcoholic beverage once or twice each weekend	70.9	73.8	76.3	71.6
Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes a day	87.8	84.5	87.8	84.5
Use electronic vapor products regularly	80.3	76.7	80.3	79.7
Smoke marijuana/cannabis once or twice a week	66.7	66.0	46.9	49.3
Use prescription drugs that are not prescribed to them	90.8	83.2	91.3	88.5
<b>Believe parents think it is wrong or very wrong for them to...</b>	(n=269)	(n=253)	(n=800)	(n=653)
Have one or two alcoholic beverages nearly every day	92.6	90.5	93.4	88.2
Smoke tobacco	95.9	91.7	95.8	92.0
Use electronic vapor products	94.4	92.9	94.4	91.9
Use marijuana/cannabis	92.2	88.9	79.4	79.5
Use prescription drugs that are not prescribed to them	97.1	92.8	97.8	95.1
<b>Believe friends think it is wrong or very wrong for them to...</b>	(n=272)	(n=252)	(n=799)	(n=651)
Have one or two alcoholic beverages nearly every day	85.0	82.9	70.1	67.9
Smoke tobacco	87.9	88.3	77.6	71.2
Use electronic vapor products	81.0	84.3	62.1	60.9
Use marijuana/cannabis	81.9	80.7	50.3	50.0
Use prescription drugs that are not prescribed to them	89.8	87.5	86.9	84.1

**TABLE B. Substance Use Prevalence Rates**

	MS 2021	MS 2023	HS 2021	HS 2023
<b>Any use in the past 30 days</b>	(n=272)	(n=254)	(n=802)	(n=652)
Alcohol	5.5	6.3	24.2	29.2
Cigarettes	0.4	2.0	5.1	6.2
Electronic vapor products	3.6	4.8	12.4	14.2
Marijuana/cannabis	2.2	3.2	17.0	20.4
Misuse of prescription drugs	0.7	1.2	2.5	2.4

**TABLE C. Parent Communication About Alcohol and Other Drug Use**

	MS 2021	MS 2023	HS 2021	HS 2023
<b>In the last 12 months, how many times did a parent or caregiver have a conversation with you about the potential risks of alcohol or other drug use?</b>	(n=271)	(n=254)	(n=800)	(n=652)
0 times	52.7	49.2	49.8	50.1
1 time	21.1	21.7	19.0	21.0
2 times	14.4	19.7	16.7	15.2
3 or more times	11.8	9.5	14.5	13.7

**TABLE D. Assets (new items in 2023)**

	MS 2021	MS 2023	HS 2021	HS 2023
<b>Somewhat or strongly agree...</b>		(n=254)		(n=647)
I am optimistic about my future		69.3		75.9
At my school, I feel like I belong		57.9		52.5
Students in my school respect each other's differences (for example, gender, race, culture, disability, sexual orientation, learning differences, etc.)		44.9		40.1
I feel valued by adults in my community.		63.2		62.5
I am given useful roles in my community.		50.4		54.0
I am able to find activities run by my school or community groups that are fun and interesting to me that I can do in my free time.		72.4		67.1

**TABLE E. Respondent Demographics**

	MS 2021	MS 2023	HS 2021	HS 2023
<b>Which school do you attend?</b>	(n=281)	(n=254)	(n=816)	(n=656)
Middlebury High School	---	---	47.7	42.8
Mt. Abraham Union High School	---	---	33.1	33.2
Mt. Abraham Union Middle School	66.2	62.2	---	---
Vergennes Union High School	---	---	19.2	23.9
Vergennes Union Middle School	33.8	36.6	---	---
Other	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.0
<b>How old are you?</b>	(n=281)	(n=253)	(n=815)	(n=658)
12 years or younger	40.2	22.9	0.0	0.0
13	53.7	50.2	0.4	0.0
14	5.7	26.9	22.7	13.8
15	0.4	0.0	28.2	27.5
16	0.0	0.0	25.4	26.3
17	0.0	0.0	20.9	22.6
18 years or older	0.0	0.0	2.5	9.7
<b>In what grade are you?</b>	(n=280)	(n=254)	(n=814)	(n=657)
6 <sup>th</sup>	0.7	0.0	---	---
7 <sup>th</sup>	46.8	52.4	---	---
8 <sup>th</sup>	52.5	47.6	---	---
9 <sup>th</sup>	---	---	29.1	27.9
10 <sup>th</sup>	---	---	24.6	28.5
11 <sup>th</sup>	---	---	26.2	22.2
12 <sup>th</sup>	---	---	20.2	21.5
Ungraded or other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>What is your gender?</b>	(n=272)	(n=250)	(n=798)	(n=647)
Female	41.5	44.8	45.9	46.8
Male	51.1	46.0	46.6	48.5
Non-binary	2.6	4.0	3.3	2.5
I prefer to self-describe	4.8	5.2	4.3	2.2



<b>Are you Hispanic or Latino/a?</b>	(n=267)	(n=249)	(n=789)	(n=644)
Yes	5.2	6.4	4.7	7.0
No	94.8	93.6	95.3	93.0
<b>What is your race?<sup>1</sup></b>	(n=267)	(n=246)	(n=795)	(n=643)
American Indian or Alaska Native	2.3	7.3	2.3	2.6
Asian	3.8	2.4	3.8	4.2
Black or African American	2.5	7.3	2.5	5.9
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.6	3.7	0.6	1.6
White	95.5	90.7	95.5	93.9
Two or more races <sup>2</sup>	3.8	8.1	3.8	5.9
<b>Which of the following best describes you?</b>	(n=270)	(n=252)	(n=796)	(n=646)
Heterosexual (straight)	75.6	73.4	70.7	71.1
Gay or lesbian	4.8	4.8	2.9	5.0
Bisexual	9.3	8.3	13.1	13.5
I describe my sexuality some other way	3.7	6.7	6.3	4.5
I am not sure about my sexual identify (questioning)	3.3	4.8	5.8	5.4
I do not know what this question is asking	3.3	2.0	1.3	0.6
<b>Are you transgender?</b>	(n=270)	(n=251)	(n=796)	(n=647)
No	95.2	89.6	93.0	93.0
Yes	2.2	6.0	3.9	3.9
I am not sure	1.1	3.2	2.8	2.3
I do not know what this question is asking	1.5	1.2	0.4	0.8

<sup>1</sup> Because this item was select all that apply, response options may sum to more than 100.

<sup>2</sup> This variable was calculated from respondents who selected two or more response options for this item.