

2024 Addison County Youth Survey



SUMMARY OF RESULTS

JULY 2024

Prepared by: Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation

Acknowledgments

The 2024 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.

Questions regarding the survey or the data presented here should be directed to Amy Livingston at 802-490-5071, or alivingston@pire.org. For more information on youth substance use prevention, please contact Celia Heath, Public Health and Advocacy Coordinator, at the United Way of Addison County at (802) 388-7189 or celia@unitedwayaddisoncounty.org.

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Background and Methods

Purpose of this report...

The 2024 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. This 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 2023 and these results are also included in this report.

Survey methods...

The survey, which was accessed and completed online, was conducted in six Addison County schools serving students in grades 7-12 during February and March of 2024. Participating schools included:

- Middlebury High School
- Middlebury Middle School¹
- 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. Participation was voluntary and student responses were anonymous.

What's included in this report...

Findings from the 2024 survey have been summarized in two sets of tables below:

- Tables A-F include countywide rates for all survey items broken out by middle school and high school respondents, including comparisons to 2021 and 2023 when available.
- Tables G-U included countywide rates for survey items by demographic subgroups (as defined by gender, race/ethnicity, and sexual and gender minority status), for 2024.

Most of the values in the tables are the percent of youth reporting each response listed. For some items (e.g. tables A and D), response options have been combined and the values shown are the combined percent responding to those response options. For example, in the first section of table A, the prevalence rate for perceived risk of harm from the use of various substances is 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 and 2023 surveys, 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 and 2024). 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

¹ 2024 is the first year of participation for Middlebury Middle School

influence the results for that year. For these reasons, differences between the estimates for 2021 and 2023, 2024 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...

In all sets of tables, statistically significant differences for prevalence rates between years or between subgroups being compared are noted with yellow shading. In the first group of tables showing countywide rates by year, the cell containing the rate for 2024 is shaded yellow if there is a difference at the $p < .05$ level from the 2023 rate. For the second group of tables comparing rates for subgroups of respondents, estimates are provided for 2024 only and cells are shaded when the difference between the groups is significant at the $p < .05$ level. Significance tests for cross-year or subgroup differences were conducted for all survey items reported in each table except those pertaining to demographic characteristics or in cases in which the survey item was not asked in 2024 (for cross-year comparisons).

TABLE A. Substance Use Risk Factor Prevalence Rates

Risk factor:	MS 2021	MS 2023	MS 2024	HS 2021	HS 2023	HS 2024
Think people have moderate or great risk of harming themselves if they...	(n=273)	(n=252)	(n=483)	(n=803)	(n=656)	(n=588)
Have five or more drinks of an alcoholic beverage once or twice each weekend	70.9	73.8	64.2	76.3	71.6	70.3
Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes a day	87.8	84.5	72.0	87.8	84.5	78.9
Use electronic vapor products regularly	80.3	76.7	75.7	80.3	79.7	81.8
Smoke marijuana/cannabis once or twice a week	66.7	66.0	60.3	46.9	49.3	51.7
Use prescription drugs that are not prescribed to them	90.8	83.2	73.4	91.3	88.5	81.5
Believe parents think it is wrong or very wrong for them to...	(n=269)	(n=253)	(n=482)	(n=800)	(n=653)	(n=587)
Have one or two alcoholic beverages nearly every day	92.6	90.5	90.9	93.4	88.2	88.8
Smoke tobacco	95.9	91.7	92.9	95.8	92.0	93.1
Use electronic vapor products	94.4	92.9	92.9	94.4	91.9	93.6
Use marijuana/cannabis	92.2	88.9	90.7	79.4	79.5	79.6
Use prescription drugs that are not prescribed to them	97.1	92.8	93.1	97.8	95.1	95.6
Believe friends think it is wrong or very wrong for them to...	(n=272)	(n=252)	(n=482)	(n=799)	(n=651)	(n=585)
Have one or two alcoholic beverages nearly every day	85.0	82.9	84.0	70.1	67.9	71.6
Smoke tobacco	87.9	88.3	90.4	77.6	71.2	75.3
Use electronic vapor products	81.0	84.3	88.5	62.1	60.9	69.8
Use marijuana/cannabis	81.9	80.7	88.0	50.3	50.0	55.3
Use prescription drugs that are not prescribed to them	89.8	87.5	92.1	86.9	84.1	86.1

TABLE B. Substance Use Prevalence Rates

	MS 2021	MS 2023	MS 2024	HS 2021	HS 2023	HS 2024
Any use in the past 30 days	(n=272)	(n=254)	(n=482)	(n=802)	(n=652)	(n=585)
Alcohol	5.5	6.3	6.5	24.2	29.2	19.5
Cigarettes	0.4	2.0	1.3	5.1	6.2	5.6
Electronic vapor products	3.6	4.8	4.0	12.4	14.2	9.5
Marijuana/cannabis	2.2	3.2	3.6	17.0	20.4	14.6
Misuse of prescription drugs	0.7	1.2	1.9	2.5	2.4	1.8

TABLE C. Parent Communication About Alcohol and Other Drug Use

	MS 2021	MS 2023	MS 2024	HS 2021	HS 2023	HS 2024
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?	(n=271)	(n=254)	(n=481)	(n=800)	(n=652)	(n=584)
0 times	52.7	49.2	43.0	49.8	50.1	48.0
1 time	21.1	21.7	20.4	19.0	21.0	18.8
2 times	14.4	19.7	16.7	16.7	15.2	16.5
3 or more times	11.8	9.5	19.9	14.5	13.7	16.7

TABLE D. Assets

	MS 2021	MS 2023	MS 2024	HS 2021	HS 2023	HS 2024
Somewhat or strongly agree...		(n=254)	(n=478)		(n=647)	(n=577)
I am optimistic about my future		69.3	73.4		75.9	73.7
At my school, I feel like I belong		57.9	62.1		52.5	58.3
Students in my school respect each other's differences (for example, gender, race, culture, disability, sexual orientation, learning differences, etc.)		44.9	43.8		40.1	44.1
I feel valued by adults in my community.		63.2	64.4		62.5	67.4

I am given useful roles in my community.	50.4	55.6		54.0	59.3
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	69.8		67.1	63.8

TABLE E. Issues that students are concerned about (new in 2024)

	MS 2024	HS 2024
Feel that the following issues are a <u>big concern</u> for youth in their school and/or community.	(n=474)	(n=572)
Bullying	21.2	16.2
Dating violence (violence in relationships)	18.1	18.9
Racism	33.3	24.3
Sexism	29.0	24.1
Homophobia/transphobia	29.7	29.8
Religious discrimination	17.8	13.5
Xenophobia	18.7	13.5
Ableism and barriers to accessibility	18.4	19.0
Body shaming	38.7	27.4
Alcohol use	19.8	24.4
Marijuana/cannabis use	22.5	26.4
Vaping	39.4	46.4
Other drug use	23.6	23.7
Mental health	38.1	42.0
Suicide	31.1	22.2
Having enough money	23.0	19.2
Having enough food	21.1	15.9

*Other responses included (n=53): Sexual assault/domestic violence, quality education/grades/student input/fair treatment from teachers, social judgement/sense of belonging/friendships, violence/safety, self-harm, respect/politeness, laced drugs, drug dealers, methamphetamine use, tobacco/cigarettes, skipping class, physical health/eating disorders, and bathroom safety.

TABLE F. Respondent Demographics

	MS 2021	MS 2023	MS 2024	HS 2021	HS 2023	HS 2024
Which school do you attend?	(n=281)	(n=254)	(n=482)	(n=816)	(n=656)	(n=592)
Middlebury High School	---	---	---	47.7	42.8	48.8
Middlebury Middle School (did not participate in 2021 or 2023)	---	---	46.3	---	---	---
Mt. Abraham Union High School	---	---	---	33.1	33.2	27.2
Mt. Abraham Union Middle School	66.2	62.2	33.2	---	---	---
Vergennes Union High School	---	---	---	19.2	23.9	23.1
Vergennes Union Middle School	33.8	36.6	20.3	---	---	---
Other	---	---	---	---	---	---
How old are you?	(n=281)	(n=253)	(n=484)	(n=815)	(n=658)	(n=590)
12 years or younger	40.2	22.9	21.7	---	---	---
13	53.7	50.2	52.3	---	---	---
14	5.7	26.9	24.4	22.7	13.8	13.4
15	---	---	1.2	28.2	27.5	28.0
16	---	---	---	25.4	26.3	23.2
17	---	---	---	20.9	22.6	23.6
18 years or older	---	---	---	2.5	9.7	11.9
In what grade are you?	(n=280)	(n=254)	(n=485)	(n=814)	(n=657)	(n=592)
6 th	---	---	---	---	---	---
7 th	46.8	52.4	50.1	---	---	---
8 th	52.5	47.6	49.9	---	---	---
9 th	---	---	---	29.1	27.9	29.9
10 th	---	---	---	24.6	28.5	23.8
11 th	---	---	---	26.2	22.2	25.3
12 th	---	---	---	20.2	21.5	20.9
Ungraded or other	---	---	---	---	---	---
What is your gender?	(n=272)	(n=250)	(n=474)	(n=798)	(n=647)	(n=565)
Female	41.5	44.8	52.5	45.9	46.8	46.9

Male	51.1	46.0	42.4	46.6	48.5	46.0
Non-binary	2.6	4.0	1.1	3.3	2.5	4.1
I prefer to self-describe	4.8	5.2	4.0	4.3	2.2	3.0

Are you Hispanic or Latino/a?	(n=267)	(n=249)	(n=472)	(n=789)	(n=644)	(n=563)
Yes	5.2	6.4	5.3	4.7	7.0	6.4
No	94.8	93.6	94.7	95.3	93.0	93.6

What is your race?²	(n=267)	(n=246)	(n=461)	(n=795)	(n=643)	(n=560)
American Indian or Alaska Native	2.3	7.3	5.6	2.3	2.6	4.5
Asian	3.8	2.4	5.4	3.8	4.2	5.7
Black or African American	2.5	7.3	4.8	2.5	5.9	4.1
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	---	3.7	1.5	0.6	1.6	2.0
White	95.5	90.7	92.8	95.5	93.9	93.8
Two or more races ³	3.8	8.1	6.9	3.8	5.9	6.3

Which of the following best describes you?	(n=270)	(n=252)	(n=472)	(n=796)	(n=646)	(n=559)
Heterosexual (straight)	75.6	73.4	71.8	70.7	71.1	72.6
Gay or lesbian	4.8	4.8	4.2	2.9	5.0	4.5
Bisexual	9.3	8.3	9.3	13.1	13.5	11.6
I describe my sexuality some other way	3.7	6.7	5.3	6.3	4.5	5.4
I am not sure about my sexual identify (questioning)	3.3	4.8	3.6	5.8	5.4	3.2
I do not know what this question is asking	3.3	2.0	5.7	1.3	0.6	2.7

Are you transgender?	(n=270)	(n=251)	(n=475)	(n=796)	(n=647)	(n=566)
No	95.2	89.6	92.4	93.0	93.0	89.8
Yes	2.2	6.0	2.9	3.9	3.9	5.5
I am not sure	---	3.2	3.2	2.8	2.3	3.0
I do not know what this question is asking	---	---	1.5	---	0.8	1.8

² Because this item was select all that apply, response options may sum to more than 100.

³ This variable was calculated from respondents who selected two or more response options for this item.

