

Summary of LOL 2011 Youth Survey Report

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We as a community have made significant progress
in reducing overall substance use rates among LOL youth.

FAMILY & PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

A significant majority of youth report positive self concepts, receive strong support at home, and believe their lives are going in a positive direction.

Concerns include getting enough sleep (especially juniors and seniors) and often feeling stressed (majority of 10-12 graders).

TOBACCO

Rates remain below those for region and nation and are decreasing. **6%** of LOLHS youth reported no recent tobacco use in 2011 compared with **16%** in 2009.

ALCOHOL

85% of all LOLHS youth reported no recent drinking compared to **65%** in 2009.

Lifetime drinking: continued decrease in lifetime alcohol use in all high school grades, dropping well below regional and national rates for grades 9, 10 and 11, and remaining so for 7th and 8th. However, alcohol remains our #1 youth substance use challenge.

Recent drinking: significant decrease in recent drinking for all high school grades. There was a substantial decrease comparing 10th graders to past surveys. There was no spike between 9th and 10th, as in past years; there was essentially no change between

current 10th graders and their 8th grade rate. Our recent drinking rates are now below those for the region and nation for ALL grades, for the first time.

Perception of Harm: likely increase. (The wording of the question changed so we cannot compare our past rates with 2011.)

Parent Disapproval: Youth continue to perceive their parents as being more permissive about their alcohol use than for marijuana or tobacco. However, more 10th grade youth report that their families have clear rules discouraging their use of alcohol than they did when they were in 8th.

Decrease in the rate of sophomores and juniors who report riding as a passenger in a car with a driver who has been drinking or using drugs; 23% of seniors said they had done so in the past year.

Increase in perception of clear consequences for possession in school.

MARIJUANA

89% of all LOLHS youth reported no recent marijuana use, compared to **81%** in 2009.

Lifetime Use: Rates at LOL 2006 levels for grades 7, 9, and 11. Rates below for grade 10. Rates above for grade 8 and 12.

Recent Use: Rates below region and nation, except for grades 8 and 12; rates for region and nation increasing.

Perception of Harm: Lower than 2006 for grades 7, 8 and 9; higher for grades 10 & 11. National rates for perception of harm are softening; this usually predicts an increase in use.

Parental Disapproval: Somewhat higher than 2006 for grades 7, 9 and 10; at same rate for grades 8 and 11 (12 not surveyed in 2006). “Family has clear rules” question asked for first time in 2011—weakest in grades 8 (58%) and 12 (51%).

BULLYING

70% or more of youth in grades 9 and 10 report never being bullied, 60-66% report the same in grades 11 and 12. 32-42% report never being bullied in grades 8 and 7, respectively.

The most common types of bullying are 1) being left out, excluded, ignored and 2) others spread lies or rumors.

The most common places for bullying are in school hallways and stairways, in the lunchroom, in a class where no teacher present, and online or text messaging (especially for 7th and 8th graders).

SUMMARY OF CONCERNS

- Marijuana use rising nationally
- Risk of harm perceptions for marijuana, alcohol and prescription drugs
- Clear family rules for 7th and 8th and seniors
- Alcohol parties at homes with no adults, when with friends, and at other persons' homes
- Illegal drug use among some older teens (including marijuana)
- Alternative activities for high school youth needed
- Energy drinks