

YRBS Report Card: Coos and Northern Grafton Counties

The Four Core Measures, as defined by the Drug Free Communities Support Program, are identified measures taken from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), a survey administered nationally to grades 9-12 every two years by the Centers of Disease Control (CDC) and by state agencies, including New Hampshire.

All high schools residing in Coos and Northern Grafton County, an area defined as the "North Country," took the YRBS in both 2007 & 2009. This allows each measure to be compared in order to define trends and changes in risk behavior by North Country youth over time.

The four core measures, determined for each substance-alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana, are:

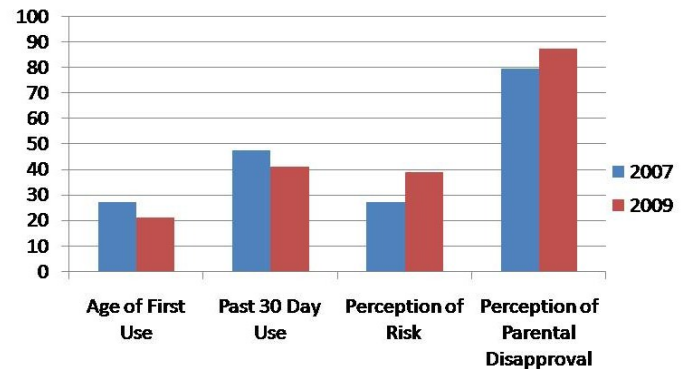
- Age of onset, or age of first use by youth;
- Past 30 day use;
- Youth perception of risk;
- Youth perception of parental disapproval.

The last two measures are considered protective as there is a positive relationship between high perception of risk by youth and known parental disapproval, typically resulting in lower rates of abuse by youth.

Historically, youth substance abuse rates in rural areas, including the North Country, have been higher than average urban or suburban usage rates.

For the following, be advised that the first two core measures, Age of onset and Past 30 day use, show declines, which is the desired trend, while the last two measures, Perception of risk and Perception of parental disapproval, show increases, which is also a desired trend.

Alcohol Four Core Measures



Alcohol: 2007-2009 Usage Rates

Age of Onset:

-In 2007, 27% of North Country youth (NH average-19.7%) had taken their first drink of alcohol (more than a sip) prior to age 13 which, in 2009, had decreased to 21.1% (NH-15.5%), a **decrease of 5.9%**.

Past 30 Day Use:

-In 2007, 47.4% of North Country youth (NH-44%) had drunk alcohol in the past 30 days. In 2009, the rate had decreased to 41.1% (NH-37.6%), a **decrease of 6.3%**.

Perception of Risk:

-In 2007, 27.1% of North Country youth (NH-32%) perceived those who drank 1-2 drinks of alcohol every day as putting themselves at great risk. In 2009, the rate had increased to 38.8% (NH-42.3%), an **increase of 11.7%**.

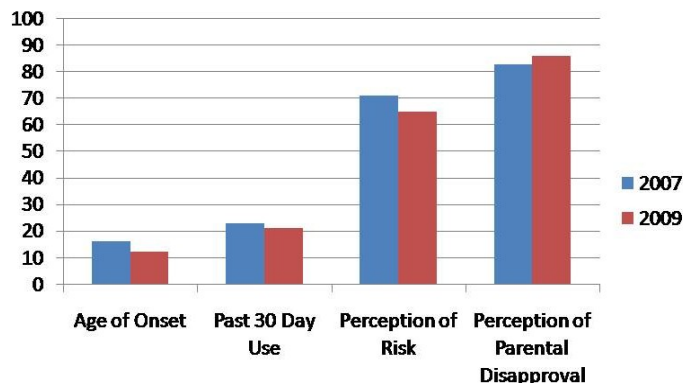
Perception of Parental Disapproval:

-In 2007, 79.5% of North Country youth (NH-83.8%) reported having parents who think it is wrong or very wrong if someone the student's age drinks beer, wine, or hard liquor regularly. In 2009, this rate increased slightly to 80.7% (NH-83.5%), an **increase of 1.2%**.

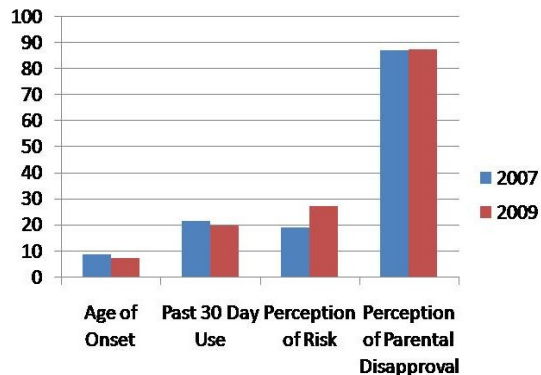
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Cigarettes Four Core Measures



Marijuana Four Core Measures



Tobacco: 2007-2009 Usage Rates

Age of Onset:

-In 2007, 16.1% of North Country youth (NH average-12.1%) had smoked a whole cigarette prior to age 13. In 2009, this number decreased to 12.2% (NH-9.7%), a **decrease of 3.9%**.

Past 30 Day Use:

-In 2007, 22.7% of North Country youth (NH-19.6%) had smoked cigarettes in the past 30 days. In 2009, the rate had decreased to 21.2% (NH-18.6%), a **decrease of 1.5%**.

Perception of Risk:

-In 2007, 70.9% of North Country youth (NH-71.3%) perceived those who smoke one or more packs of cigarettes every day as putting themselves at great risk. In 2009, the rate had decreased to 65.1% (NH-65.5%), a **decrease of 5.8%**.

Perception of Parental Disapproval:

-In 2007, 82.7% of North Country youth (NH-86.6%) reported having parents who think it is wrong or very wrong if someone the student's age smokes cigarettes. In 2009, this had increased to 86.2% (NH-87.5%), an **increase of 3.5%**.

Marijuana: 2007-2009 Usage Rates

Age of Onset:

-In 2007, 8.5% of North Country youth (NH average-8.8%) had tried marijuana prior to age 13. In 2009, the rate had decreased to 7.1% (NH-6.8%), a **decrease of 1.4%**.

Past 30 Day Use:

-In 2007, 21.6% of North Country youth (NH-25.1%) had smoked marijuana in the past 30 days. In 2009, the rate had decreased to 19.8% (NH-25.5%), a **decrease of 1.8%**.

Perception of Risk:

-In 2007, 19% of North Country youth (NH-15.9%) think that people are at great risk of harming themselves if they use marijuana. In 2009, the rate had increased to 27.3% (NH-23.9%), an **increase of 8.3%**.

Perception of Parental Disapproval:

In 2007, 87.3% of North Country youth (NH-87.4%) reported having parents who think it is wrong or very wrong if someone the student's age used marijuana. In 2009, this had increased slightly to 87.4% (NH-86%), an **increase of 0.1%**.

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