

During the 2008-2009 school year, 18 public junior and senior high schools in Clinton and Warren Counties administered the Ohio Youth Survey to 6th-12th graders. This survey included questions on attitudes, activities, assets, and risk-taking. A total of 7,969 students responded. Of these, 3,345 were Clinton County students and 4,624 were Warren County students. Unless otherwise noted, there were no statistically significant differences between the two counties in terms of student responses.

For more information about the survey, visit [www.mhrsonline.org/ohioyouthsurvey](http://www.mhrsonline.org/ohioyouthsurvey).

The Clinton County Family and Children First Council, the Warren County Family and Children First Council, and Mental Health Recovery Services of Warren and Clinton Counties would like to thank the administrators, teachers, school staff, and students of the Clinton and Warren Schools who participated.

We would also like to thank Minuteman Press of Lebanon and The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati for partnering with us to create these summaries.



# Characteristics of Clinton and Warren County Youth who Smoke Tobacco

2010

Nearly one in six 6th-12th graders in Clinton and Warren Counties (15%) smoked all or part of a cigarette during the last 30 days, according to a survey conducted by the Warren and Clinton County Families and Children First Councils and Mental Health and Recovery Services of Warren and Clinton Counties.

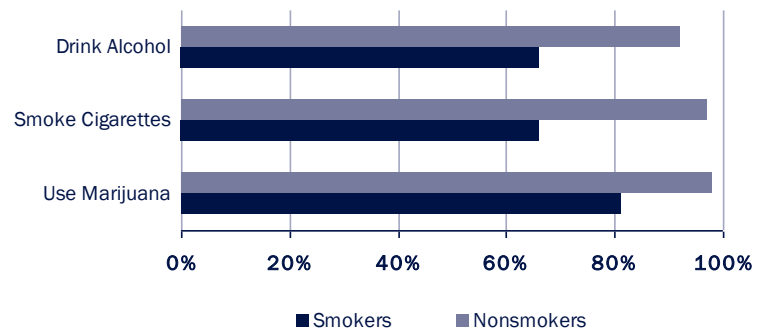
There was no gender difference in cigarette use among youth. However, the likelihood of cigarette usage increased in older students: nearly 1 in 5 students in 12th grade (21%) compared to 1 in 20 students in 7th grade (6%). The most commonly reported age of first use for all smokers was 11-12 years old.

Over 30% of smokers indicated they had smoked at least part of a cigarette on school property in the prior 30 days.

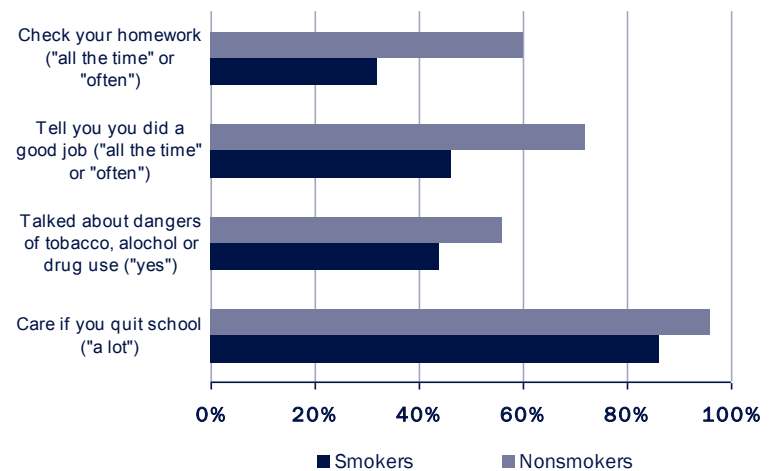
## Youth who Smoke Less Likely to Perceive Parents as Disapproving of Substance Use

Smokers were less likely to report their parents believe it

How wrong do your parents feel it would be for you to (Graph presents youth who answered "very wrong" or "wrong") ...



In the past 12 months, how often did your parents. . .



is wrong for youth to drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes, or use marijuana. Additionally, youth who smoke cigarettes report less support from their parents in checking their homework, giving praise, and supporting their continued education. However, it does not appear that parents talking about the dangers of

substance use is enough to prevent this behavior as there was not a significant difference between the smoker and nonsmoker groups.

Likewise, the community's opinion matters. Smokers were substantially less likely (40% vs. 85%) to report adults in their communities believe it is wrong for youth to smoke cigarettes.

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## Youth who Smoke More Likely to Have Friends who Engage in Risky Behaviors

Youth who smoke cigarettes were 2 to 5 times more likely than those who did not smoke to report their best friends engaged in risky behaviors such as:

- Smoking cigarettes
- Trying alcohol and/or marijuana or other drugs
- Being suspended from or dropping out of school
- Selling illegal drugs, being arrested or stealing or trying to steal a motor vehicle

Conversely, nonsmokers were more likely to have peers who engaged in positive behaviors such as:

- Committing to a drug-free lifestyle
- Attending religious services

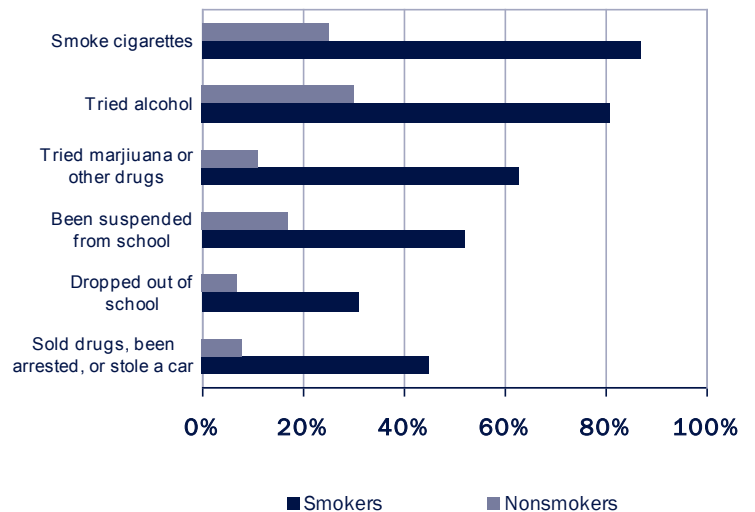
## Youth who Smoke Less Likely to Perceive Risks of Substance Use

Youth who smoke cigarettes were less likely to indicate frequent substance use was a great risk to physical or other harm (cigarettes, binge drinking and marijuana). Interestingly, both smokers and nonsmokers report that cigarette usage was more harmful than alcohol and marijuana usage.

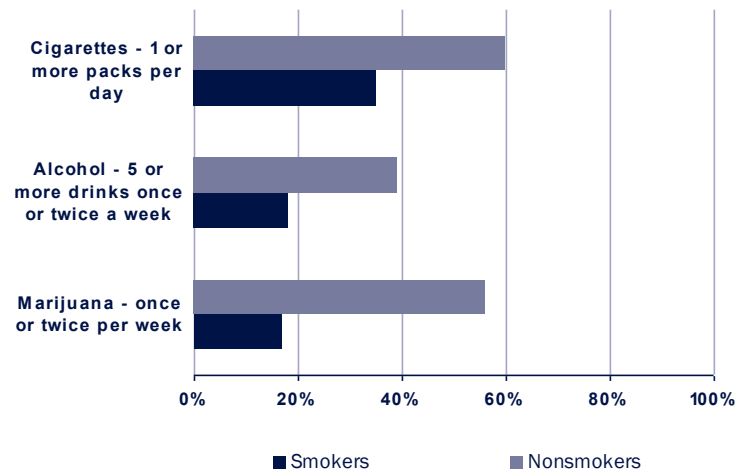
## What this Means for Parents and Adults

- Parents should know who their child’s friends are, how their child spends his or her time, and be aware of potential influences.
- Parents should support their child in a variety of ways and for many reasons, such as to help their child with personal development or school performance.
- Parents should talk early and often to their children about substance use risks.
- Parents should set and enforce rules that show they care about their children’s well being and safety.

In the past 12 months, how many of your best friends have . . .



How much do you think people risk harming themselves physically or in other ways when they do the following: (Graph presents youth who answered “great risk”)



- Adults should monitor youth’s access to cigarettes.
- A community should support young people making positive decisions.
- A community should create a culture where substance abuse is not acceptable.
- A community should create additional prevention messages to convey the risks posed by substance abuse.