

## Summary: 2013 Barrington Youth Data (August 2013)

Student surveys are administered to all 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in the Barrington School District every other year in the spring since 2009. This nationally developed survey assesses the risk and protective factors associated with underage substance use. The data is used by the BAY Team to monitor trends and direct future strategies. The full report may be viewed on our website at [www.thebayteam.org](http://www.thebayteam.org). Further information may be obtained by contacting Kristen Westmoreland, Program Manager of The BAY Team at [kwestmoreland@barrington.ri.gov](mailto:kwestmoreland@barrington.ri.gov).

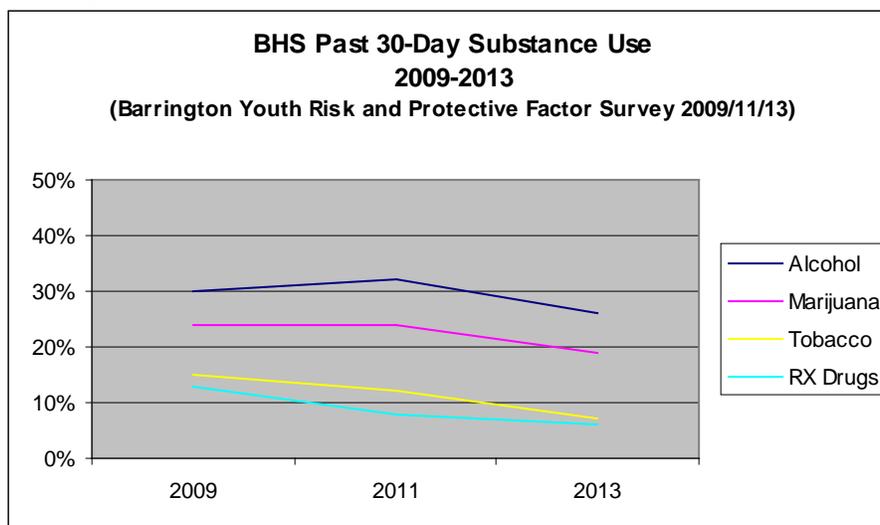
Total number surveyed: Barrington Middle School: 699/ Barrington High School: 822  
 Grades surveyed: 6-12  
 Gender: 51% female, 49% male

### 1. 30-day substance use:

Usage decreased for all substances over the five year period 2009-2013.

Grade/School	Alcohol		Marijuana		Cigarettes		Rx drugs	
	2009	2013	2009	2013	2009	2013	2009	2013
6	1%	1%	1%	1%	0	1%	3%	2%
7	3%	3%	0	0	0	0	4%	0
8	11%	7%	4%	10%	4%	5%	5%	3%
<b>Barrington Middle School</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>2%</b>
9	15%	6%	9%	9%	5%	3%	11%	4%
10	27%	17%	18%	11%	15%	3%	11%	5%
11	28%	35%	28%	27%	19%	8%	12%	7%
12	51%	48%	44%	28%	22%	13%	18%	6%
<b>Barrington High School</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>6%</b>

While the majority of high school students do not use any substances, more students use alcohol than any other substance, with marijuana the second most used substance.



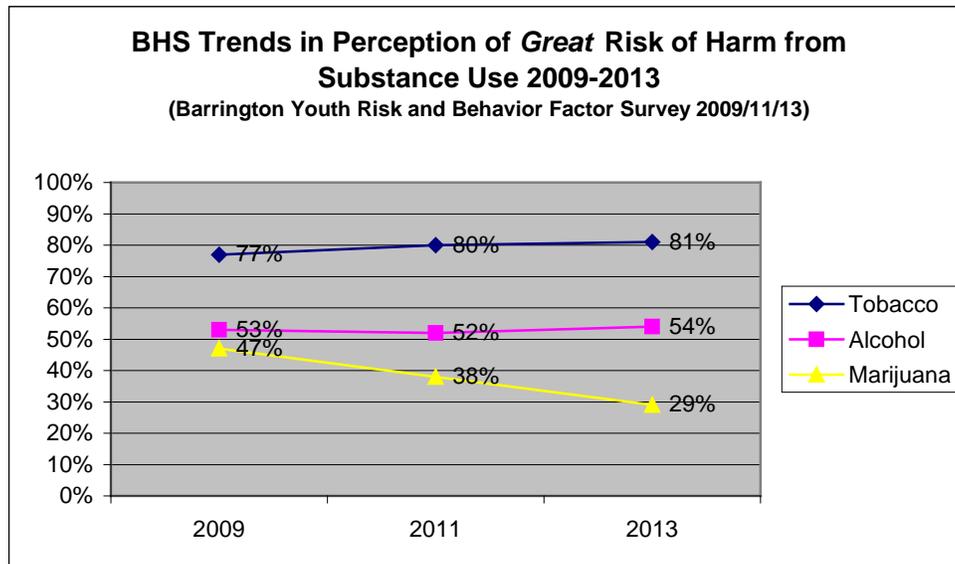
### 2. Perception of Harm:

More students perceive *great* risk of harm from using tobacco, alcohol, and prescription drugs without a doctor's order than from using marijuana. Furthermore, the

perception of harm has remained fairly constant for alcohol, and actually increased for tobacco over the past five years whereas the opposite has occurred for marijuana. Forty-seven percent of students in 2009 believed marijuana use causes great harm but by 2013 it had plummeted to only 29% of students. When the perception of harm for marijuana decreases, use is expected to increase.

Percent of students who perceive *great* risk of harm from drinking one to two drinks nearly every day/smoking marijuana once or twice a week/using tobacco cigarettes/using prescription medications without a doctor’s order

School	Alcohol		Marijuana		Tobacco		RX meds w/o doctor order	
	2009	2013	2009	2013	2009	2013	2011	2013
BMS	61%	73%	85%	73%	81%	82%	N/A	78%
BHS	53%	54%	47%	29%	77%	81%	N/A	64%



Note: values are not directly comparable as they refer to different frequencies of substance use

### 3. Student perception of parental disapproval

Again, as with perception of harm, high school student perception of how much their parents disapprove of youth substance use has improved for alcohol, tobacco cigarettes, and prescription medications but declined in regards to marijuana. Parents who strongly disapprove of youth substance use greatly influence their children towards non-or low use of substances. It is concerning that the declining perception for marijuana may lead to more student use in the future.

Percent of students who perceive that their parents think it is *very wrong* for youth to use substances

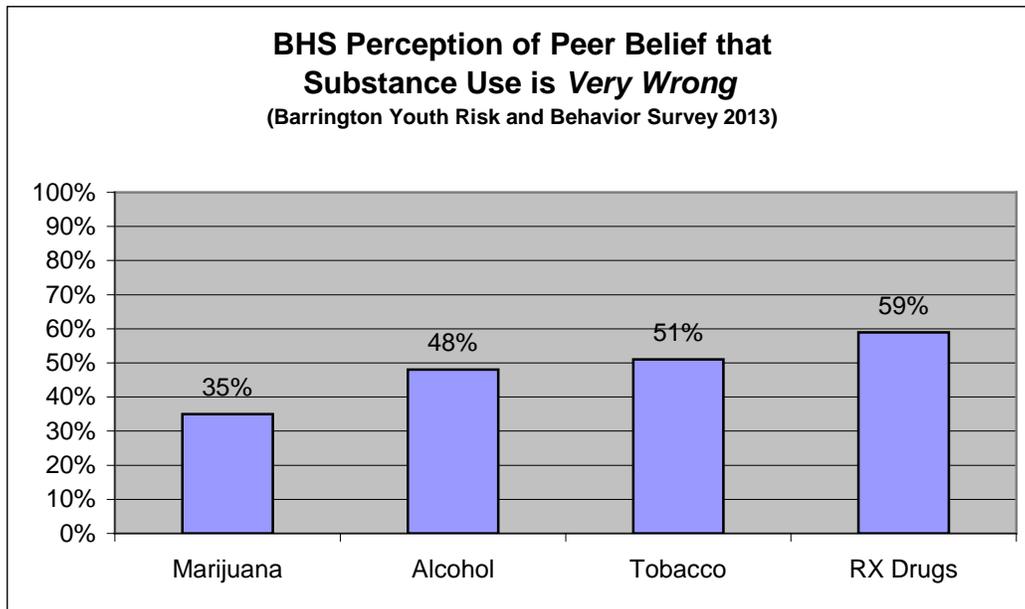
School	Alcohol		Marijuana		Tobacco		RX meds w/o doctor order	
	2009	2013	2009	2013	2009	2013	2011	2013
BMS	92%	88%	97%	91%	95%	92%	80%	91%
BHS	73%	78%	79%	73%	82%	84%	74%	88%

#### 4. Perception of peer disapproval

This is a new question in 2013 so no trend data is available. There is less perception of peer disapproval of youth substance use for high school than middle school students and that; again, the baseline for high school students is significantly lower for marijuana than it is for all other substances. It is also worth noting that for all substances there is a significant difference in perception between males and females. More females than males report perceiving their peers to think substance use is very wrong.

Percent of students who believe their peers believe it is *very wrong* for youth to use substances

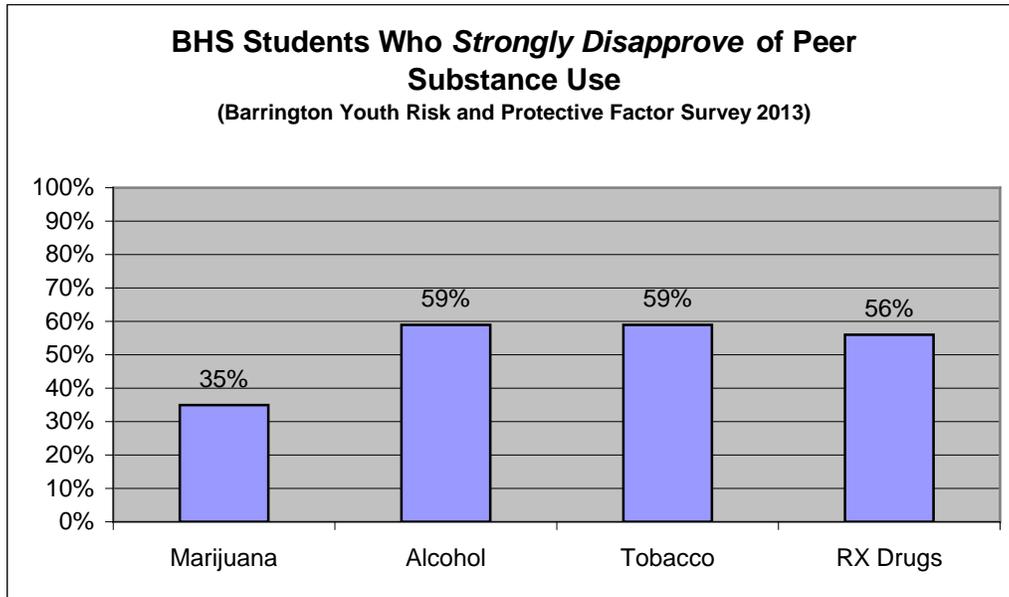
School	Alcohol		Marijuana		Tobacco		RX meds w/o doctor order	
	2009	2013	2009	2013	2009	2013	2011	2013
BMS	N/A	82%	N/A	81%	N/A	83%	N/A	83%
BHS	N/A	48%	N/A	35%	N/A	51%	N/A	59%



#### 5. Student attitude towards peer use of substances

Another new question for 2013, we asked students how they would feel if their classmates were using particular substances. It is interesting to compare the actual beliefs of those who would *strongly disapprove* below with the perceptions above to see if they align. It appears that more high school students actually strongly disapprove of youth alcohol use than their peers believe; slightly more students disapprove of tobacco cigarette smoking than peers believe. For marijuana and prescription drugs the actual beliefs were in line with the perceptions. Again, note that for high school students, marijuana falls far below the other substances despite the fact that it is at the same level of disapproval as the other substances amongst middle school students.

School	Alcohol		Marijuana		Tobacco		RX meds w/o doctor order	
	2009	2013	2009	2013	2009	2013	2011	2013
BMS	N/A	70%	N/A	70%	N/A	71%	N/A	67%
BHS	N/A	59%	N/A	35%	N/A	59%	N/A	56%



### 6. Ease of access to substances

Students report that all substances are harder to obtain in 2013 than in previous years. Alcohol and marijuana are the easiest with tobacco cigarettes and prescription medications without a doctor's order becoming increasingly difficult to access.

Percent of students who believe it is *easy* or *very easy* to obtain substances:

School	Alcohol		Marijuana		Tobacco		Pain meds no doctor order		Stimulants no doctor order	
	2009	2013	2009	2013	2009	2013	2011	2013	2011	2013
BMS/BHS	46%	40%	42%	40%	41%	33%	22%	13%	30%	22%

