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Edward J. Bloustein School
of Planning and Public Policy

Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services
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Comparison Between Bergen County and New Jersey Middle School Students
2012 New Jersey Middle School Risk and Protective Factor Survey

The 2012 New Jersey Middle School Risk and Protective Factor Survey was commissioned by the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to assess the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (ATOD), track anti-social behaviors and document risk and protective factors among New Jersey youth. Administration of the survey was carried out by the Bloustein Center for Survey Research (BCSR), Bloustein School of Public Policy at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. The survey contained 6,544 respondents statewide, yielding a random sample with a margin of error of +- 0.8%. The Bergen County portion of the sample contained 303 respondents in 2007, 422 in 2010, and 342 in 2012; therefore, county estimates have a margin of error of approximately +- 3.4%, +- 2.8%, and +- 3.2%, respectively. Selected comparisons between Bergen County and New Jersey as well as Bergen County in 2007, 2010, and 2012 are presented below. In 2012, the overall response rate in New Jersey was 40.6%, compared to 34.4% for Bergen County.

	County vs. State (2012)			County Trends		
	Bergen County %	New Jersey %	Difference %	2007 %	2010 %	2012 %
Alcohol Use						
Lifetime use of alcohol (Used alcohol one or more times during their life.)	23.2	23.1	0.1	*	25.5	23.2
Annual use of alcohol (Used alcohol one or more times during the past year.)	17.8	17.3	0.5	*	19.0	17.8
Past 30 day use of alcohol (Used alcohol one or more times during the past 30 days.)	7.4	9.0	-1.6	*	8.9	7.4
Early onset of alcohol use (Used alcohol for the first time at age 11 or younger.)	7.1	7.8	-0.7	*	9.3	7.1
Lifetime binge use of alcohol (Having 3 or more drinks of alcohol in a row within a couple of hours during their life.)	5.8	7.6	-1.8	*	7.2	5.8
Annual binge use of alcohol (Having 3 or more drinks of alcohol in a row within a couple of hours during the past year.)	5.2	6.3	-1.1	*	4.5	5.2
Cigarette Use						
Lifetime use of cigarettes (Used cigarettes one or more times during their life.)	6.8	7.6	-0.8	10.4	7.8	6.8
Annual use of cigarettes (Used cigarettes one or more times during the past year.)	5.1	5.7	-0.6	7.9	5.5	5.1
Past 30 day use of cigarettes (Used cigarettes one or more times during the past 30 days.)	3.7	3.2	0.5	5.4	2.5	3.7
Early onset of cigarette use (Used cigarettes for the first time at age 11 or younger.)	2.3	2.7	-0.4	2.2	2.1	2.3

Red denotes a statistically significant deviation above the state estimate, and Green denotes a statistically significant deviation below the state estimate, at 95% confidence.

* Item was either not measured this year, or the question wording differed, making comparison unreliable.

	County vs. State (2012)			County Trends		
	Bergen County %	New Jersey %	Difference %	2007 %	2010 %	2012 %
Prescription Drug Use						
Lifetime use of prescription drugs (Used prescription drugs one or more times during their life.)	6.3	5.6	0.7	6.6	5.0	6.3
Annual use of prescription drugs (Used prescription drugs one or more times during the past year.)	4.8	3.9	0.9	4.5	3.2	4.8
Past 30 day use of prescription drugs (Used prescription drugs one or more times during the past 30 days.)	2.9	2.0	0.9	*	2.2	2.9
Early onset of prescription drug use (Used prescription drugs for the first time at age 11 or younger.)	4.6	2.7	**1.9**	3.4	2.5	4.6
Marijuana Use						
Lifetime use of marijuana (Used marijuana one or more times during their life.)	3.3	5.4	-2.1	5.3	4.7	3.3
Annual use of marijuana (Used marijuana one or more times during the past year.)	3.2	4.9	-1.7	4.6	3.7	3.2
Past 30 day use of marijuana (Used marijuana one or more times during the past 30 days.)	1.9	3.3	-1.4	2.8	2.4	1.9
Early onset of marijuana use (Used marijuana for the first time at age 11 or younger.)	0.3	0.6	-0.3	1.1	0.3	0.3
Inhalant Use						
Lifetime use of inhalants (Used inhalants one or more times during their life.)	3.5	4.1	-0.6	4.6	4.5	3.5
Annual use of inhalants (Used inhalants one or more times during the past year.)	3.1	2.7	0.4	2.4	2.5	3.1
Past 30 day use of inhalants (Used inhalants one or more times during the past 30 days.)	2.5	1.6	0.9	*	1.0	2.5
Early onset of inhalant use (Used inhalants for the first time at age 11 or younger.)	1.9	1.6	0.3	0.7	1.0	1.9
Use of Other Illicit Drugs						
Lifetime use of any other illicit drug (Used any other illicit drug one or more times during their life.)	2.3	2.5	-0.2	1.9	1.4	2.3
Annual use of any other illicit drug (Used any other illicit drug one or more times during the past year.)	2.1	1.6	0.5	0.7	0.7	2.1
Early onset of any other illicit drug (Used any other illicit drug for the first time at age 11 or younger.)	0.3	0.9	-0.6	0.5	0.7	0.3

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	County vs. State (2012)			County Trends		
	Bergen County %	New Jersey %	Difference %	2007 %	2010 %	2012 %
Gambling						
Gambling in the past year (Engaged in gambling at least one time during the past year.)	17.1	15.6	1.5	**	22.5	17.1
Anti-Social Behaviors						
Getting suspended (At least one time during the past year.)	6.3	9.6	**-3.3**	11.1	10.4	6.3
Attacking someone with intent to harm (At least one time during the past year.)	7.3	7.9	-0.6	8.0	8.5	7.3
Being drunk or high at school (At least one time during the past year.)	2.0	3.3	-1.3	4.8	3.2	2.0
Being involved in a gang, with or without a name (At least one time during their lifetime.)	2.4	2.3	0.1	3.6	2.6	2.4
Being arrested (At least one time during the past year.)	1.9	2.0	-0.1	3.5	2.0	1.9
Carrying a handgun (At least one time during the past year.)	1.7	1.6	0.1	1.0	0.9	1.7
Selling drugs (At least one time during the past year.)	2.1	1.3	0.8	1.7	0.7	2.1
Attempting to steal a vehicle (At least one time during the past year.)	0.2	0.5	-0.3	0.5	0.3	0.2
Taking a handgun to school (At least one time during the past year.)	0.0	0.3	-0.3	0.5	0.3	0.0

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