



LIFETIME USE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

WITHOUT A PRESCRIPTION, BY NEW JERSEY MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Statewide

According to the *New Jersey Middle School Risk and Protective Factor Survey*, the use of a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription was the substance used third most often by New Jersey adolescents in 2012. The statewide mean for lifetime use of prescription drugs was 5.6%, meaning that just over one-in-twenty students reported having used a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription at some point in their lives. This percentage is roughly similar to the rates that were reported in 2010 and 2007 (5.8% and 6.0%, respectively).

Countywide

In 2012, Cumberland and Hudson counties (9.0% and 8.9%, respectively) reported the highest lifetime rates of prescription drug use without a prescription, while the lowest lifetime rate was found in Warren County (0.7%). However, because of low response rates in some counties, caution must be used when interpreting county-level findings. Full results for lifetime use of prescription drugs by county, sorted from high to low, can be found in Table 1 and a visual representation of county variation is available on the next page.

Table 1

County	%
Cumberland	9.0%
Hudson	8.9%
Camden	6.9%
Passaic	6.8%
Bergen	6.3%
Mercer	6.3%
Salem	6.0%
Monmouth	5.9%
Statewide	5.6%
Burlington	5.0%
Essex	5.0%
Middlesex	5.0%
Gloucester	4.4%
Sussex	4.4%
Somerset	3.6%
Atlantic	3.5%
Morris	3.0%
Ocean	3.0%
Cape May	2.4%
Warren	0.7%
Hunterdon*	n/a
Union*	n/a

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 antisocial behaviors, and document risk and protective factors among New Jersey youth. It was administered by the Bloustein Center for Survey Research (BCSR), at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. The survey contained 6,544 respondents statewide, with county samples ranging between 105 and 403 respondents.

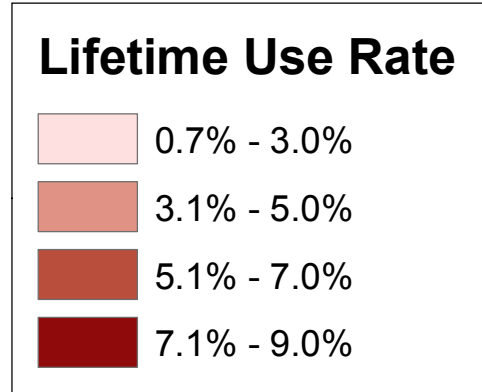
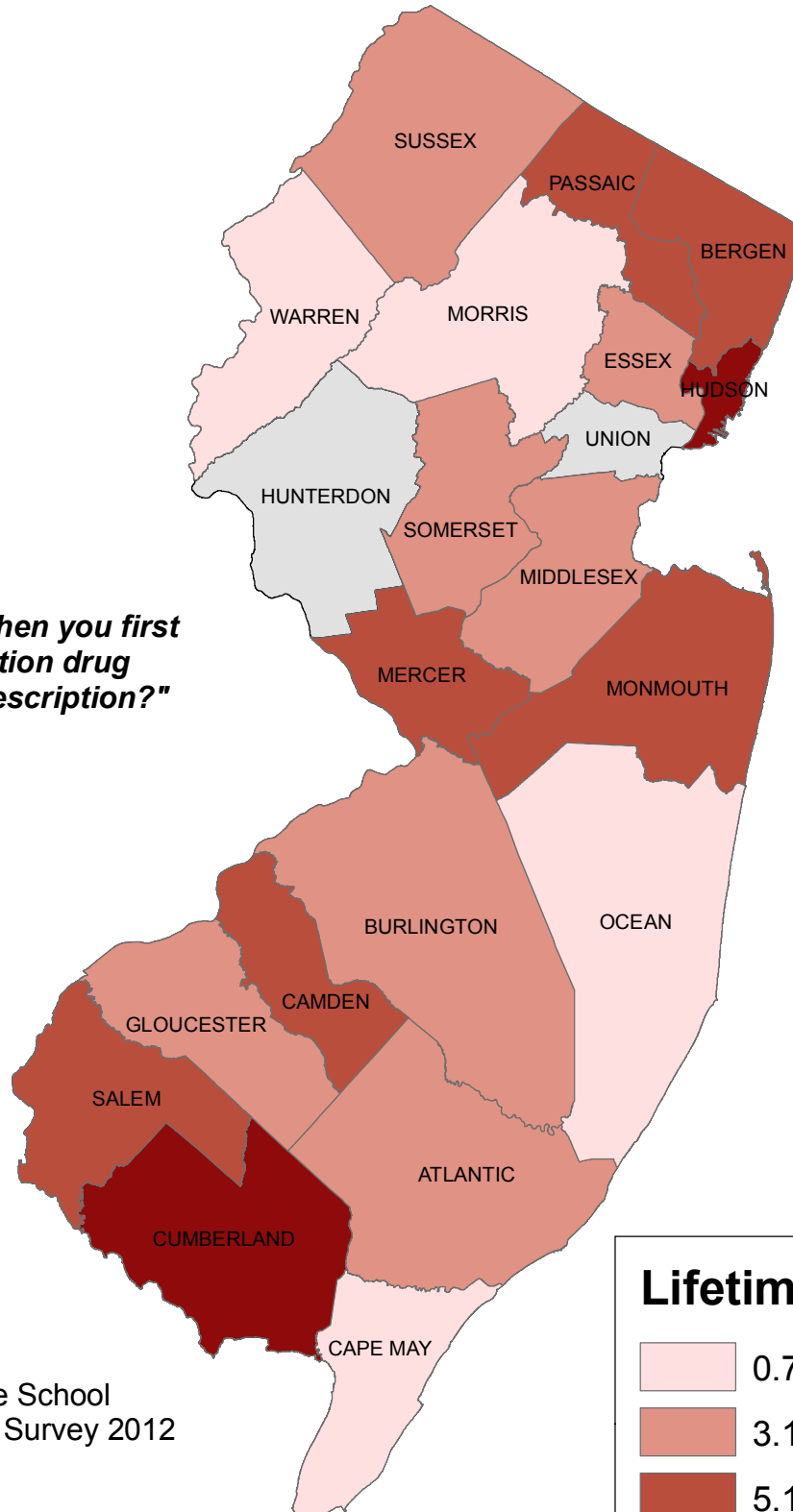
*Please note that Hunterdon and Union Counties are not represented here because their sample sizes were too small to be considered reliable.

LIFETIME USE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS WITHOUT A PRESCRIPTION

By New Jersey Middle School Students

Min: 0.7%
Max: 9.0%
Mean: 5.6%

"How old were you when you first used any prescription drug without a doctor's prescription?"



Source: New Jersey Middle School Risk and Protective Factor Survey 2012

**Note: Hunterdon and Union County estimates are not depicted here due to small sample sizes*