

Community Needs Assessment

A Look at Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drug Use by Seminole County Youth



Seminole Prevention Coalition
Strengthening Seminole County's Future

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Introduction

The Seminole Prevention Coalition contracted with the Health Council of East Central Florida, Inc., to conduct a needs assessment focused on tobacco, alcohol and drug use by Seminole County youth. This document is intended to be used as a companion document to the newly released 2011 Community Agenda Snapshot for Seminole County.

Data for the *2011 Community Needs Assessment* was gathered from the Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS), U.S. Census Bureau, the Florida Legislative's Office of Economic and Demographic Research, and the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. The FYSAS is a collaborative effort between the Florida Departments of Health, Education, Children and Families, Juvenile Justice, and the Governor's Office of Drug Control. It is based on the "Communities That Care" survey, assessing risk and protective factors for substance abuse, in addition to substance abuse prevalence.

A brief demographic profile was included to familiarize the reader with the adult and youth population distribution. The assessment provides trended data for core indicators of county-level substance abuse. Comparison tables depict the scaled scores for protective and risk factors as perceived by Seminole County middle and high school students. A summary is included to highlight potential successes while drawing attention to threatening downward trends.

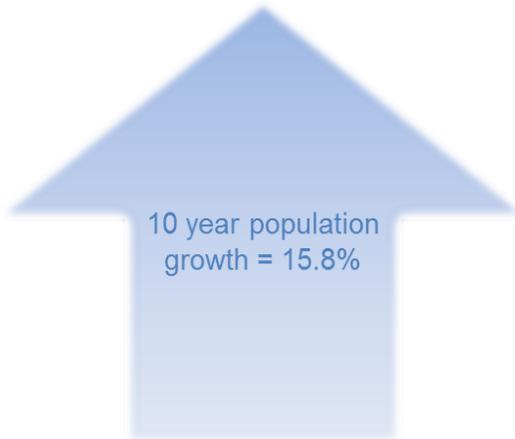


The document presentation was designed as a quick-read publication that relies on graphics more than text to convey the information in a timely and concise manner to the reader. Based on data availability, gender and age comparisons were made to provide additional insight into youth behavior. It is envisioned that the information can be used to enhance targeted interventions in Seminole County.

Demographics

Seminole County at a Glance

Census results from the 2010 Census and the 2009 American Community Survey are presented to demonstrate the population growth, median income and educational attainment in Seminole County.



Population Growth

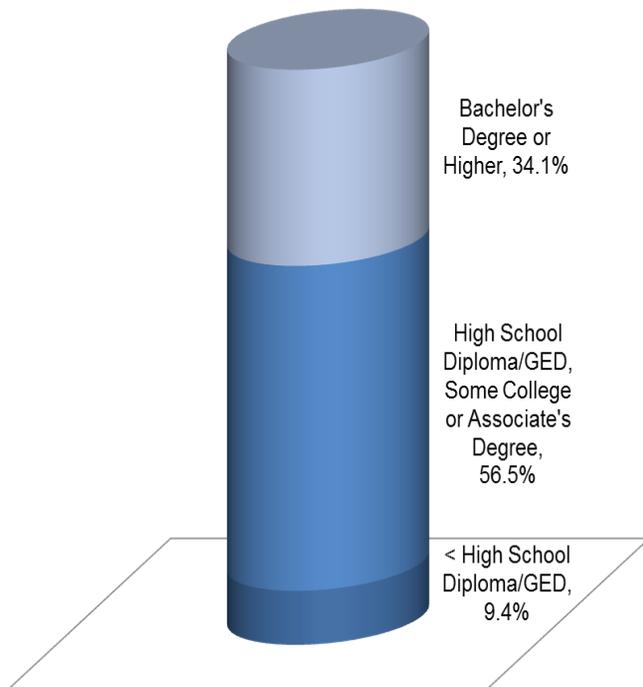
The population in Seminole has grown from 365,196 in 2000 to 422,718 in 2010, representing a 15.8 percent increase.

Median Household Income

The median household income in Seminole County is \$56,283, which is greater than the State median household income of \$44,736.



**Median HHI =
\$56,283**



Educational Attainment

According to the Institute for Behavior and Health, early drug and alcohol use is a primary risk factor for dropping out of school. Once a student drops out, it is much more difficult to attain a high school or equivalent diploma. Dropouts are at a higher risk for not achieving career success due to the limitation of their education.

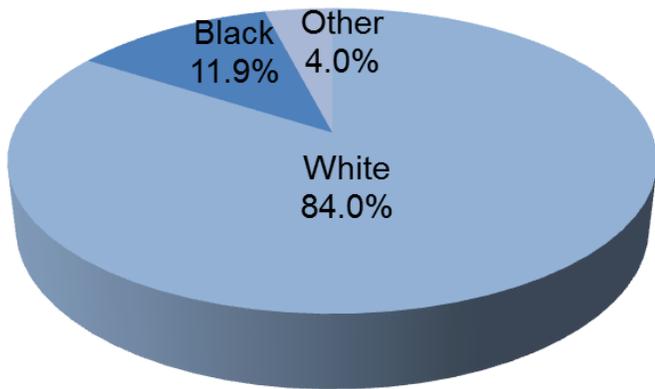
Over 90 percent of the population in Seminole County has attained a High School Diploma/GED or higher by age twenty-five.

Demographics

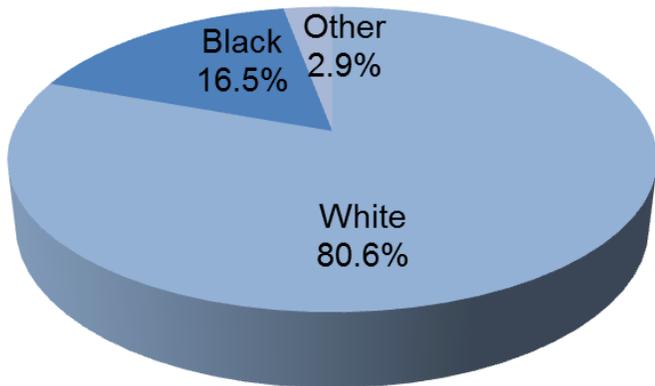
The Florida Legislature’s Office of Economic and Demographic Research provides population data estimates for gender, race and ethnicity. The following data represent demographics for the total population, including both adults and youth.

Gender	Seminole	Florida
Female	50.7%	51.0%
Male	49.3%	49.0%

Seminole County



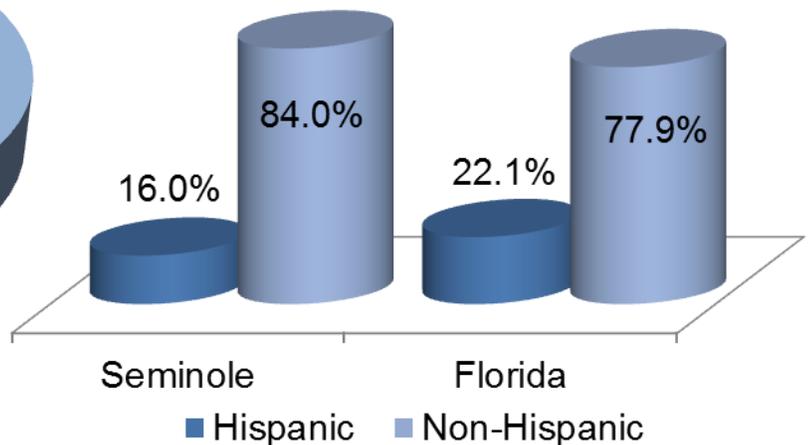
Florida n= 422,718



n=18,801,301

Race/Ethnicity

These charts compare Seminole County and Florida in terms of racial/ethnic composition for the entire population. Seminole County is similar in composition to the State, although slightly less diverse. The 10 year population growth for the minority population (Black and Other) was 36.4 percent in Seminole County and 50.8 percent in the State. The Hispanic population has increased at a faster rate in the County than in the State (4.9 percent and 3.6 percent, respectively) since 2004 (ethnicity data is not available through the EDR prior to 2004).

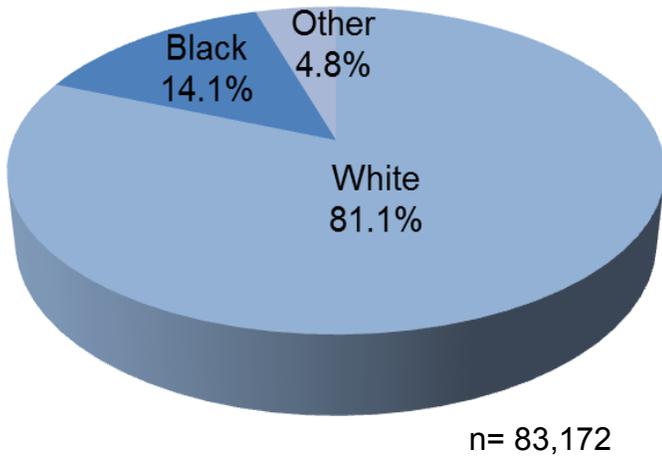


Demographics—Youth

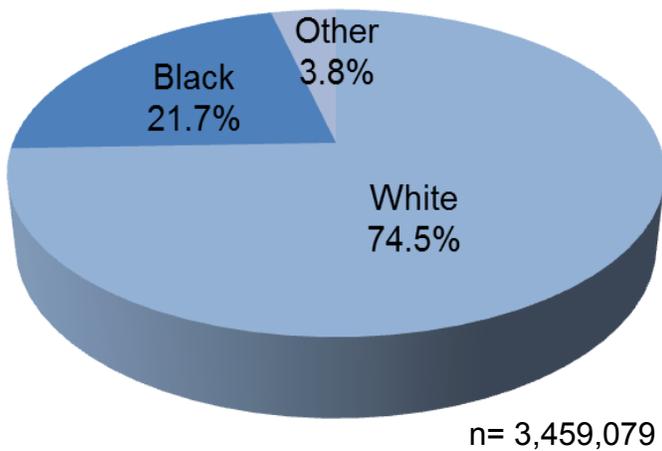
The Florida Legislature’s Office of Economic and Demographic Research provides population data estimates for age, gender, race and ethnicity. The following charts represent available data for youth ages 5 through 19 years.

Gender	Seminole	Florida
Female	48.8%	48.9%
Male	51.2%	51.1%

Seminole County



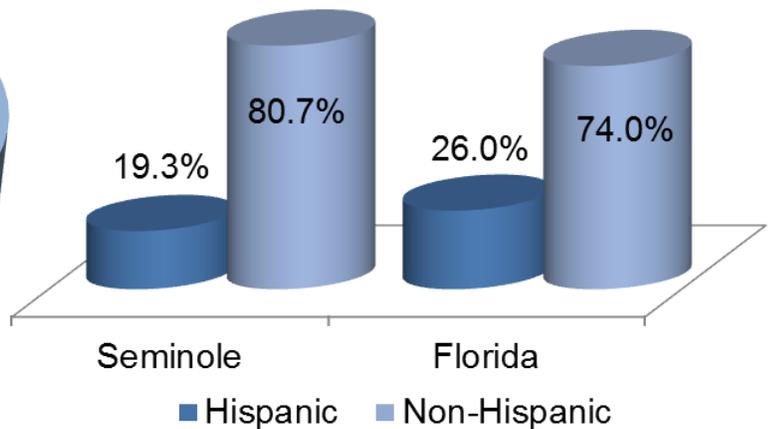
Florida



Race/Ethnicity

These charts compare Seminole County and Florida in terms of racial/ethnic composition for children ages 5 through 19 years. Seminole County is similar in composition to the State, although slightly less diverse.

The youth minority population (Black and Other) has increased in both the County and the State (11.2 percent and 11.8 percent, respectively) over the past 10 years. Since 2004, the Hispanic population has increased by 11.7 percent in Seminole County and by 19.1 percent in Florida.

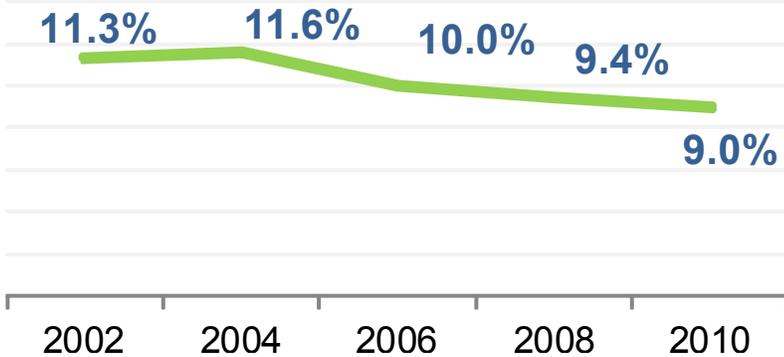
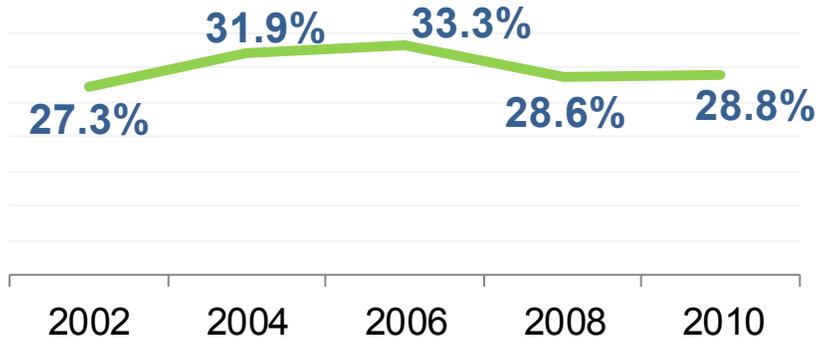


Monthly Use Rates

The FYSAS captures the percentage of respondents who reported using a substance at least once in the past 30 days. Overall, regular use is decreasing for alcohol and cigarettes and increasing for marijuana.

Monthly Use of Alcohol by Year

Although the monthly use rate of alcohol among Seminole youth ages 10-17 decreased from 33.3 percent in 2006 to 28.8 percent in 2010, the rate has remained steady for the past two years.

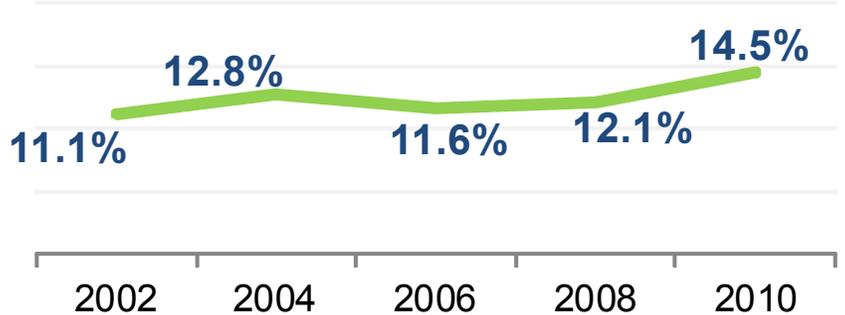


Monthly Use of Tobacco by Year

Survey results of the FYSAS reveal that cigarette smoking has decreased by 20.4 percent over the past five years.

Monthly Use of Marijuana by Year

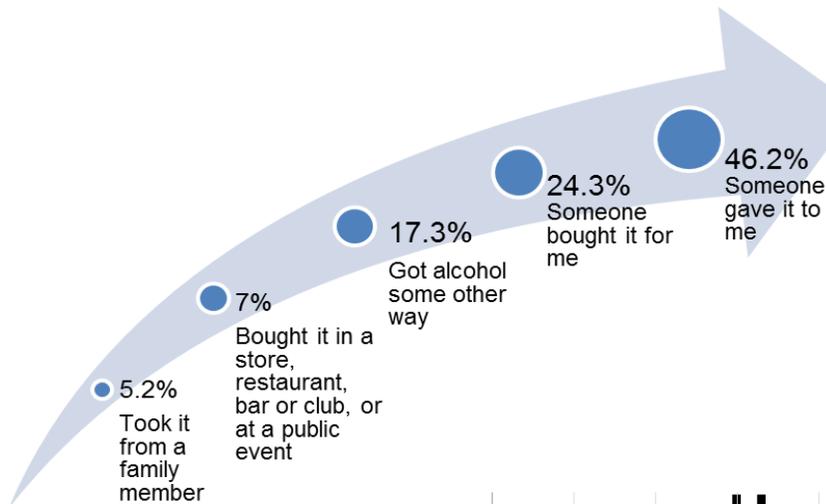
Marijuana use over the past five years has increased 30.6 percent from 11.1 percent in 2002 to 14.5 percent in 2010. This is reflective of a decrease in the perceived risk of harm associated with trying marijuana and regular marijuana use.



Monthly Use of Illicit Drugs

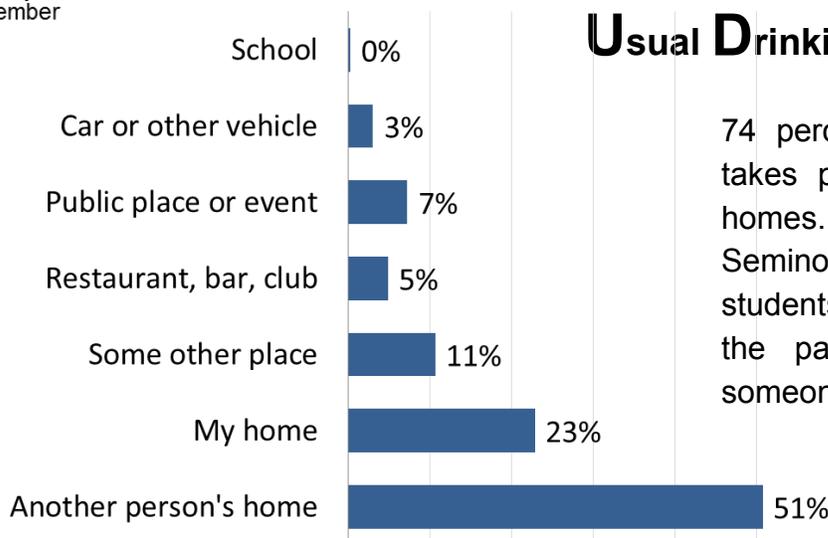
From 2002 to 2010, the monthly use rate for any illicit drug other than marijuana has nearly doubled from 5.8 percent to 10.4 percent. Since 2006, the use of depressants, prescription pain relievers and amphetamines has consistently decreased.

Access to Alcohol



The graphic depicts the usual source of alcohol among high school drinkers within the past 30 days. Additional probing will be needed to determine who is providing the alcohol to minors.

Usual Drinking Location



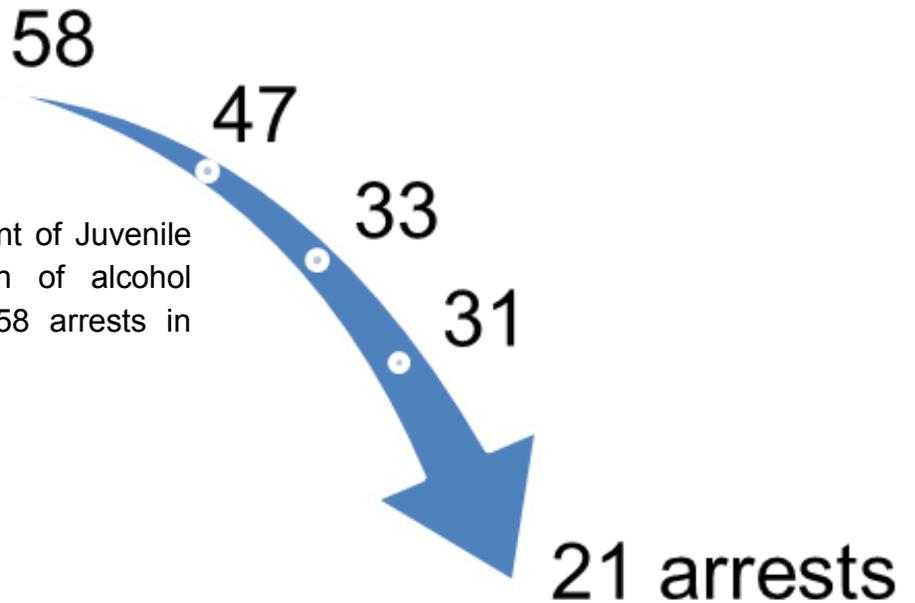
74 percent of underage drinking takes place in Seminole County homes. More than 50 percent of Seminole County high school students who used alcohol within the past 30 days, did so in someone's home.

The table below depicts the results from the 2010 High School Survey and the 2011 Middle School Survey of Seminole County students. Middle school students were just as likely to attend a house party where alcohol was served to minors, whether or not there was an adult present. High school students were more likely to attend a house party where alcohol was served and where an adult was not present (37.8 percent) compared to attending a party where an adult was present (27.1 percent).

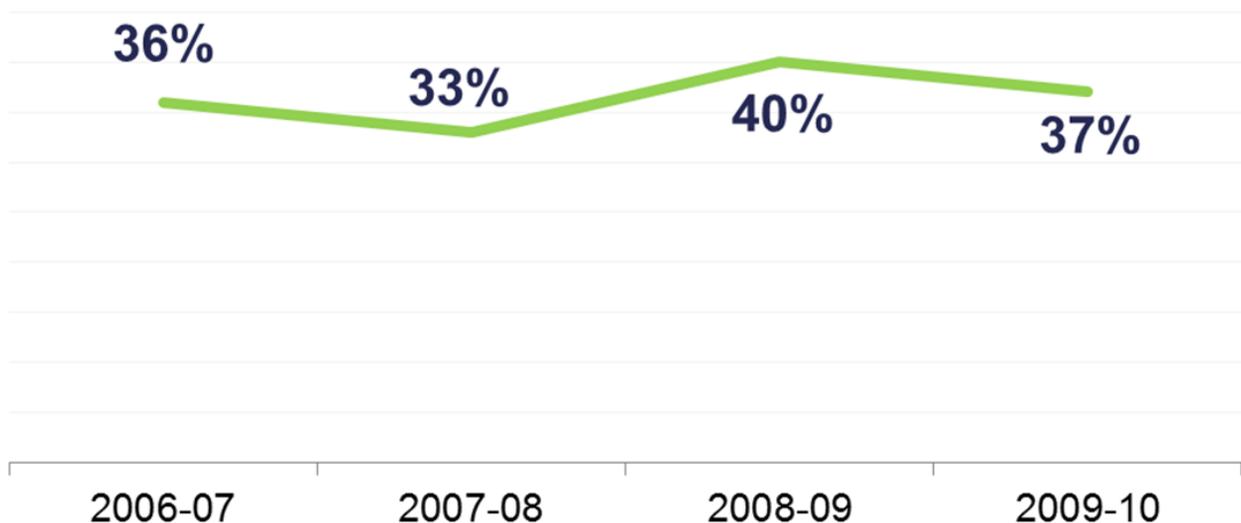
Alcohol Access	Middle School (2011)	High School (2010)
Attended a house party where adult(s) were present and alcohol was served to minors	9.8%	27.1%
Are aware of house parties where adult(s) were present and alcohol was served to minors	12.4%	51.0%
Attended a house party where adult(s) were not present and alcohol was served to minors	9.6%	37.8%
Are aware of house parties where adult(s) were not present and alcohol was served to minors	14.1%	67.3%

Alcohol and Juvenile Crime

According to the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (FDJJ), youth possession of alcohol (misdemeanors) decreased from 58 arrests in 2005-06 to 21 arrests in 2009-10.



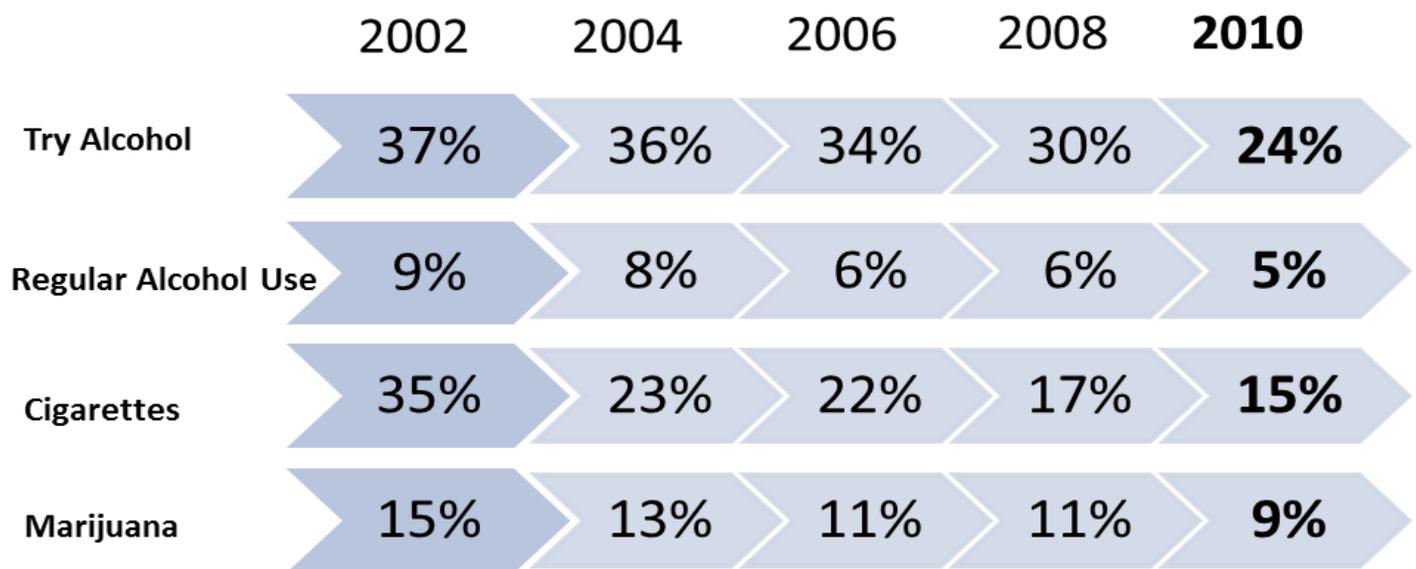
When youth enter into the juvenile justice system, they are screened for their risk to re-offend using the FDJJ's Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT). Alcohol use among assessed youth has remained somewhat stable over the past four years, fluctuating slightly between 33% and 40%.



Early Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Use

The Early Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug (ATOD) use is defined as the percentage of high school students who started using at 13 years of age or younger. Early initiation to ATOD use is linked to other risky behaviors and is also associated with abuse in adulthood.

Trend data from the FYSAS for Early ATOD use is presented below for 2002 through 2010.

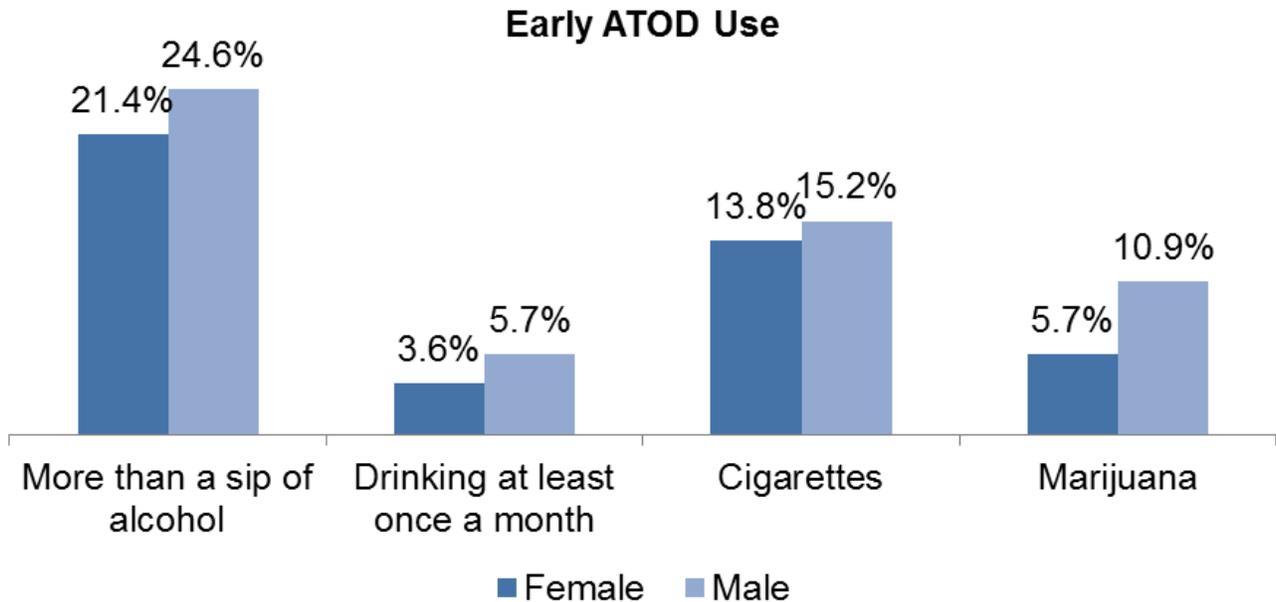


The graphic above depicts the percentage of students who reported using alcohol, tobacco, or marijuana, at age 13 or younger, over the past eight years. The declining percentages indicate that fewer students are using these substances at such an early age.

According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), early alcohol initiation is associated with increased risk for motor vehicle crashes, poor academic achievement, and abuse or dependency in adulthood. It can also lead to other risky behaviors such as unsafe sexual practices and injury to self or others. According to the National Institute for Drug Abuse (NIDA), early initiation to smoking can lead to respiratory symptoms, early function lung decline, reduced physical fitness and cancer.

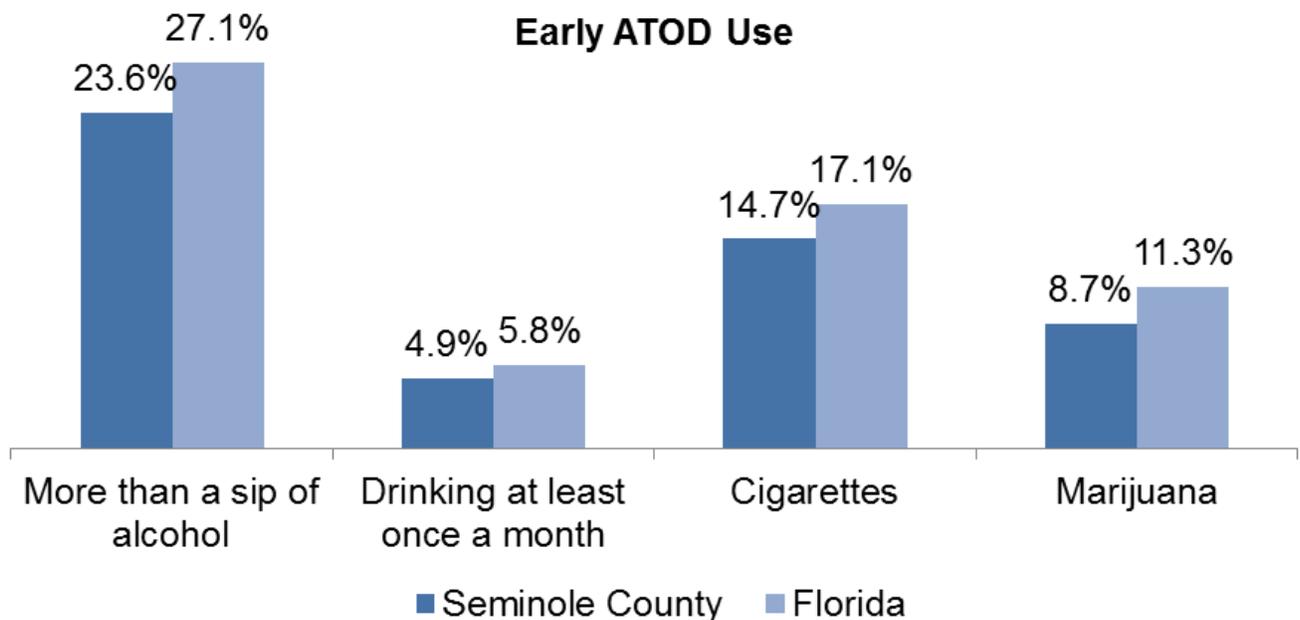
Early ATOD Use By Gender

In all categories, males have higher Early ATOD rates than females. The most notable example of this trend is for marijuana use in which almost twice as many males reported early marijuana use as compared to females.



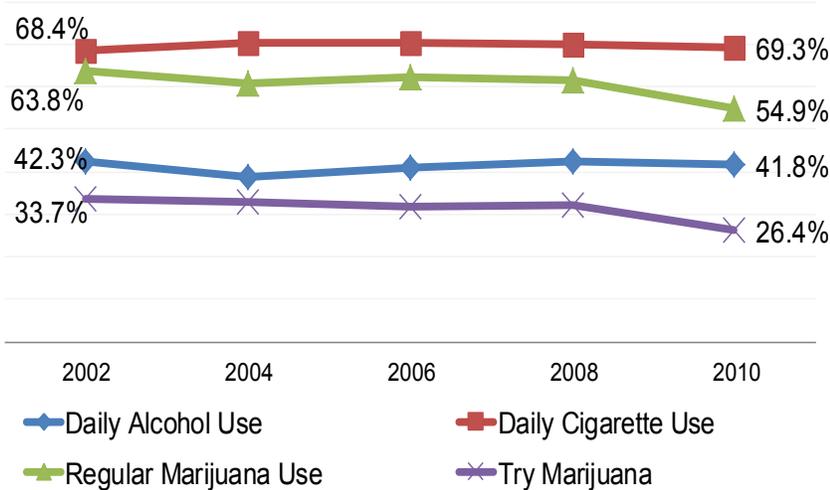
Early ATOD Use By County and State

The chart below compares Early ATOD use in Seminole County to the State. Seminole County has slightly lower rates in all categories. In terms of early alcohol use, there is only a small difference between the County and the State (4.9% compared to 5.8%).



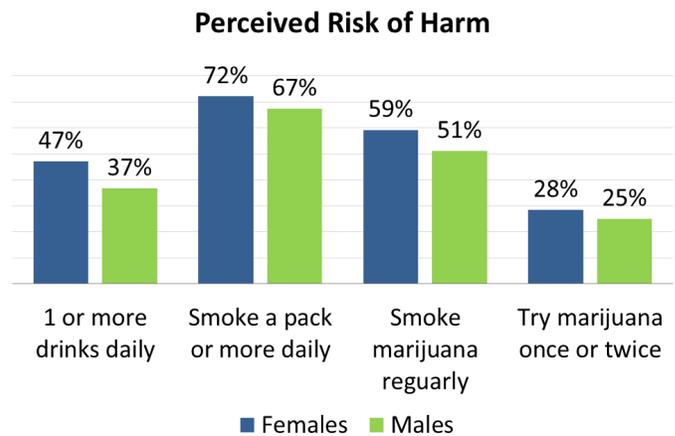
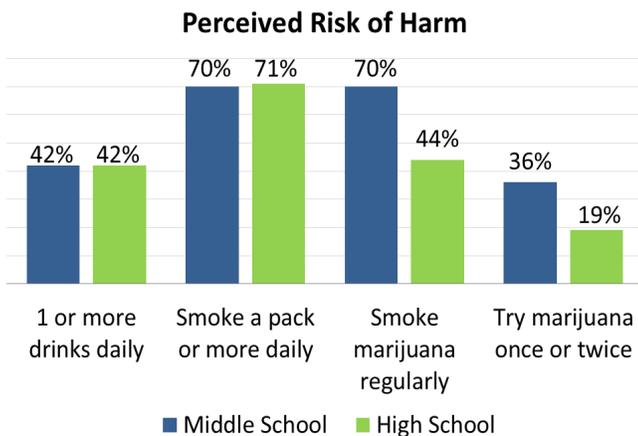
Perceived Risk of Harm

According to the National Survey of Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), adolescents' attitudes about the risks associated with substance use are often closely related to their substance use, with an inverse association between drug use and risk perceptions (i.e., as the prevalence of risk perceptions decreases, the prevalence of drug use increases).



The chart depicts the percentages of high school and middle school students who perceive great risk of harm associated with substance use. Since 2002, the prevalence of perceived harm has remained level for alcohol and tobacco use. Over the past two years the perceived harm associated with trying or regularly using marijuana has decreased 22 percent and 14 percent, respectively.

The charts below depict how the perception of risk associated with substance use varies by gender, age, and type of drug. Understanding the different patterns of risk perceptions that emerge during adolescent development may help to better target health communication messages and increase the effectiveness of prevention and intervention programs.



The perceived risk of harm associated with marijuana use differs significantly among middle and high school students. Risk perception among females was slightly higher for all drugs when compared to their male counterparts.

Protective Factors

The FYSAS defines protective factors as conditions that buffer children and youth from exposure to risk by either reducing the impact of the risks or changing the way young people respond to risks. There is evidence that supports exposure to a number of protective factors is associated with lower prevalence of behavioral problems that result from alcohol, tobacco and other drug use. Protective Factors are categorized into four domains: Peer and Individual, Family, Schools and Community. These broad categories of protective factors work together to promote positive youth development and healthy behaviors.

Data from the FYSAS surveys (2006, 2008 and 2010) was analyzed to identify trends in the percentage of middle school and high school students who reported elevated levels of protective factors for prosocial involvement and religiosity. The table below shows that the percentage of Seminole County students reporting elevated levels of protective factors is increasing across all domains with the exception of school opportunities among middle school students.

Domain	Protective Factors	Middle School % Change 2006-2010	High School % Change 2006-2010
Peer and Individual	Religiosity	↑6%	↑28%
Family	Family Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	↑17%	↑4%
	Family Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	↑11%	↑2%
School	School Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	↓5%	↑24%
	School Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	↑8%	↑30%
Community	Community Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	↑13%	↑28%

The greatest increases in elevated levels of protective factors was among high school students for school and community rewards as well as religiosity. Although only slight increases in elevated levels of protective factors were calculated for the family domain, the prevalence score for high school students, at 54 percent, was just below the State scale score of 55 percent. Modest increases were calculated for elevated levels among middle school students. Protective factor scores were below those of the State for all factors with the exception of religiosity.

Risk Factors

The FYSAS defines risk factors as conditions that increase the likelihood of a person getting involved in drug use, delinquency, school dropout and/or violence. There is substantial amount of research showing that adolescents' exposure to a greater number of risk factors is associated with more drug use and delinquency.

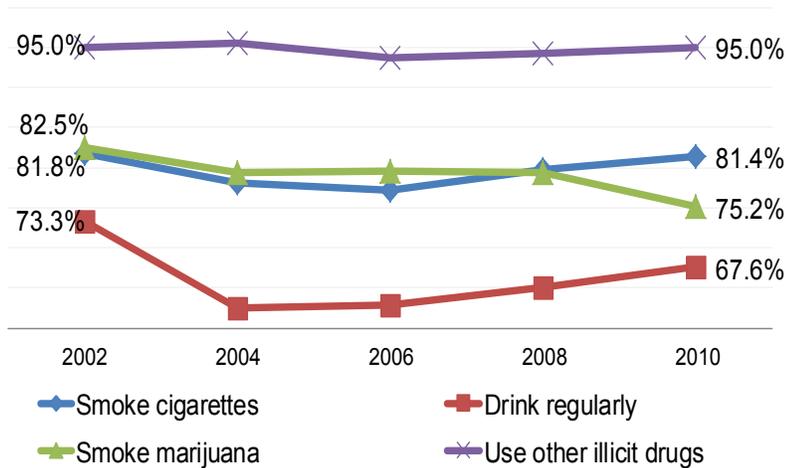
Data from the FYSAS surveys (2006, 2008 and 2010) was analyzed to identify trends in the percentage of middle school and high school students who reported elevated levels of risk factors. The table below illustrates that Seminole County students reported a decrease in risk factors across all subgroups with the exception of favorable attitudes toward ATOD among parents of middle school students.

The greatest decrease in risk factors was among parents of high school students (9 percent decline). All subcategories for favorable attitudes towards ATOD were slightly higher than the statewide prevalence with the exception of middle school youth attitudes (39 percent at the County level and 42 percent at the State level).

Risk Factors		Middle School % Change 2006-2010	High School % Change 2006-2010
Favorable Attitudes towards ATOD	Parents	↑4%	↓9%
	Youth	↓7%	↓5%

Personal Disapproval and Peer Approval of ATOD

Personal disapproval and peer approval have both been shown to be linked to ATOD. To determine personal disapproval, students were asked how “wrong” it would be for someone their age to engage in various activities. Peer approval is important because of the impact that social norms and group interaction have on the individual’s behavior. Peer approval was measured by asking students how likely it is that they would be perceived as “cool” if they engaged in ATOD use.



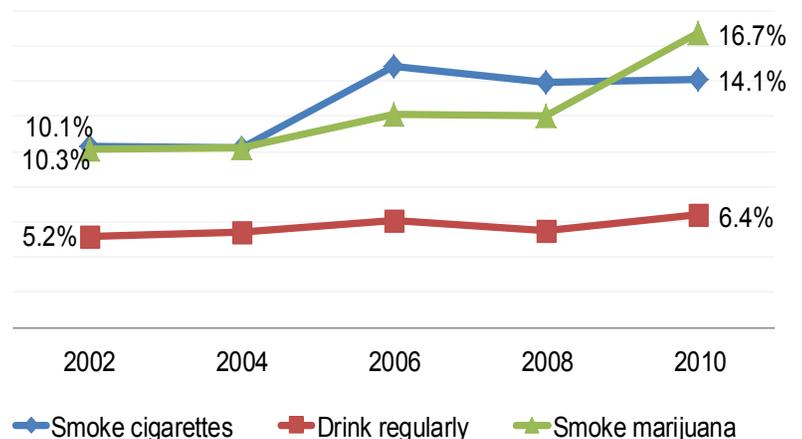
The chart depicts the percentages of high school and middle school students who perceive substance use to be wrong. Since 2002, the prevalence of personal disapproval has remained level for illicit drug and tobacco use, while disapproval of smoking marijuana has seen a slight decrease. The level of disapproval for alcohol use decreased sharply in 2004, but has been increasing steadily to 67.6 percent in 2010.

High school students generally have lower levels of personal disapproval as compared to middle school students. However, only high school students showed a slight increase in disapproval in any of the categories:

☹️ 92.5% agreed that it was wrong to use illicit drugs, compared to 94.3% in 2010.

☹️ 73.2% agreed that it was wrong to smoke cigarettes, compared to 75% in 2010.

The chart depicts the percentages of high school and middle school students who believe that a person would be seen as cool engaging in substance use. Since 2002, the peer approval has remained level for alcohol use, while approval of smoking cigarettes and marijuana has seen an increase.



Middle school students showed a steady increase from 2002 to 2010 in all categories, while high school students remain more level in all categories and even showed a slight decrease in peer approval of drinking (from 6 percent in 2002 to 5.1 percent in 2010).

Summary

- Monthly alcohol use has remained stable over the past two years
- Monthly tobacco use has steadily decreased since 2002
- Monthly marijuana use has steadily increased since 2006
- Monthly use rate of any illicit drug use has doubled in the past eight years
- Over 70% of underage drinking occurs in Seminole County homes
- Early ATOD use has decreased over the past eight years
- The number of arrests due to alcohol possession has decreased over the past four years.
- Early marijuana use among males was twice that of their female counterparts
- Lower rates of early ATOD were observed in Seminole County when compared to the State
- The perceived harm in trying or using marijuana has decreased since 2002
- Middle school students were more likely than high school students to perceive using or trying marijuana as harmful
- For all ATOD, females were more likely than males to perceive risk of harm
- For high school students, there has been an increase in protective factors such as school and community rewards for prosocial involvement and religiosity
- For middle school students, there has been an increase in the parental favorable attitudes toward ATOD
- Personal disapproval for other illicit drugs has remained high for the past eight years, while disapproval of marijuana use has decreased
- Peer approval for cigarette and marijuana use has increased over the past four years.

Problem Statement

Underage alcohol continues to be a problem in Seminole County. In 2010, more than one third of high school students (38.2 percent) reported past-30-day alcohol use.

From 2008 to 2010:

- past-30-day binge drinking prevalence increased among middle school students (5.6 percent to 7.2 percent)
- there was minimal change in perceived risk of harm of daily alcohol use among middle and high school students (42.3 percent to 41.8 percent)
- middle school students' parents had a 9.1 percent increase in favorable attitudes towards alcohol, tobacco and other drugs (ATOD).

Resources

Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey: www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/samh/publications/fysas/

Florida Department of Juvenile Justice: www.djj.state.fl.us/

Florida Legislative's Office of Economic Research and Development: Data gathered through Florida CHARTS, <http://www.floridacharts.com/charts/chart.aspx>

Institute for Behavior and Health:

www.ibhinc.pdfs.connectingsubstanceabuseandhighschooldropoutrates022310.pdf

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism: www.niaaa.nih.gov/

National Institute for Drug Abuse: www.nida.nih.gov/

National Survey for Drug Use and Health: <http://oas.samhsa.gov/nsduhLatest.htm>

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