

# 2002 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey



## Gadsden County Report



**Executive Office  
of the Governor**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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**T**he Florida Legislature's 1999 Drug Control Summit recommended the establishment of an annual, multi-agency-directed, statewide school-based survey effort, combining several survey instruments, with specific variations in odd and even years. The *Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS)*, one of these instruments and the focus of this report, is administered to a county-level sample of students in even years, and a smaller statewide sample in odd years.

The *FYSAS* is based on the *Communities That Care<sup>®</sup> Youth Survey*, developed from the nationally recognized work of Dr. J. David Hawkins and Dr. Richard F. Catalano. It not only measures the prevalence of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use and delinquent behavior, but also measures the risk and protective factors related to these behaviors.

The 2002 *FYSAS* was administered to 769 Gadsden County students in grades 6 through 12 in the spring of 2002. The results supply a valuable source of information to help reduce and prevent the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs by school-aged youth.

## Key Survey Results

### ***Comparisons to Statewide Drug Use***

- Surveyed Gadsden County students reported less drug-use experimentation than their peers from across Florida. In particular, lifetime prevalence-of-use rates for alcohol (43.5% in Gadsden County and 56.5% statewide), marijuana (16.2% in Gadsden County and 23.6% statewide) and Ecstasy (2.9% in Gadsden County and 6.5% statewide) are lower in Gadsden County compared to the state as a whole.

### ***Drug-Use Trends, 2000-2002***

- Cigarette and inhalant use among Gadsden County students have shown little change over the past two years. In 2000, 8.6% of surveyed students reported some use of cigarettes over the past 30 days, compared to 9.0% in 2002. Similarly, 2.9% of surveyed students reported some use of inhalants over the past 30 days in 2000, compared to 2.5% in 2002.
- Contrary to the statewide trend, alcohol and marijuana use among Gadsden County students has actually increased over the past two years. In 2000, 20.1% of surveyed students reported some use of alcohol over the past 30 days, compared to 24.4% in 2002. Similarly, 6.3% of surveyed students reported some use of marijuana over the past 30 days in 2000, compared to 9.9% in 2002.

### ***Drug-Use Prevalence Rates***

- With prevalence rates of 43.5% for lifetime use and 24.4% for past-30-day use, alcohol is the most commonly used drug among Gadsden County students.
- With a rate of 10.9%, binge drinking (defined as the consumption of five or more drinks in a row in the last two weeks) is more prevalent than past-30-day tobacco, marijuana, inhalant or other illicit drug use.
- After alcohol, Gadsden County students reported cigarettes (32.0% lifetime and 9.0% past-30-day) and marijuana (16.2% lifetime and 9.9% past-30-day) as the most commonly used drugs. Prevalence rates for most other drugs are substantially lower.
- Reflecting patterns from across the state, 1.2% of surveyed students reported use of Ecstasy in the past 30 days. Experimentation, however, is higher, with an overall lifetime prevalence-of-use rate of 2.9% and a peak rate of 3.9% among high school students.

- Use of other club drugs is very low. Only 0.9% of Gadsden County students have used GHB in the past 30 days, 0.1% have used Rohypnol® and 0.4% have used ketamine.
- For the use of OxyContin® without a doctor's orders, surveyed students reported a lifetime prevalence rate of 1.8% and a past-30-day prevalence of 0.6%.

#### ***Attitudes toward Drug Use***

- Over one half of surveyed Gadsden County students (54.7%) reported that daily use of cigarettes poses a “great risk” of harm.
- Relatively few respondents reported that drinking alcohol (7.8%), smoking marijuana (11.0%) or smoking cigarettes (5.9%) would be seen as cool by their peers.
- Fear of cigarette use increases as students get older. While 46.0% of surveyed middle school students believe daily use of cigarettes poses a great risk of harm, this number rises to 62.3% among middle school students. In contrast, fear of marijuana use (47.3% in middle school versus 51.3% in high school) and alcohol use (33.9% in middle school versus 38.3% in high school) appear relatively stable across grade-cohorts.
- Disapproval of substance use appears to decline as students get older. For instance, disapproval of alcohol use (82.7% in middle school and 62.8% in high school), disapproval of cigarette use (89.0% in middle school and 75.8% in high school) and disapproval of marijuana use (90.7% in middle school and 75.4% in high school) all decline between middle school and high school.

#### ***Other Antisocial Behaviors***

- Prevalence rates for gun-related antisocial behavior were low. Among surveyed Gadsden County students, only 4.5% reported *Carrying a Handgun*, and only 1.6% reported *Taking a Handgun to School*.
- Among surveyed Gadsden County students, 12.3% reported *Being Drunk or High at School*. However, only 3.8% reported *Selling Drugs*.
- Reported violence also was among the most prevalent antisocial behaviors: 14.9% of surveyed students reported *Attacking Someone with Intent to Harm*.

#### ***Risk and Protective Factors***

- Surveyed students reported lower scores on the *School Rewards for Prosocial Involvement* (42) and *Family Attachment* (43) protective factor scales, compared to the national average of 50. This means that Gadsden County students don't feel appreciated or rewarded for their involvement in school, and don't feel bonded or attached to other members of their family relative to students in other parts of the country.
- Surveyed students reported higher scores on the *Low Neighborhood Attachment* (62) and *Friends' Delinquent Behavior* (62) risk factor scales, compared to the national average of 50. This means that students in Gadsden County are at greater risk for involvement in drug use and other antisocial behaviors due to a lack of attachment to the community, and due to students spending time with peers who engage in delinquent behavior.

These key findings illustrate the complexity of drug use and antisocial behavior among Gadsden County's youth and the possible factors that may contribute to these activities. While some of the findings compare favorably to the national findings, Gadsden County youth are still reporting drug use and delinquent behavior that will negatively affect their lives and our society.

The *FYSAS* establishes baseline data by which progress toward the prevention goals of the Florida Drug Control Summit can be measured. These survey data will also enable Gadsden County's planners to learn which prevention, intervention and treatment programs best meet the goal of preventing alcohol and other drug use and antisocial behavior among our young people.

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# 2002 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

## Gadsden County Report

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**T**he 2002 *Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS)* provides scientifically sound information to communities on the prevalence of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, and risk and protective factors among 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. This information is essential to support effective substance abuse needs-assessment and services planning, and to measure performance outcomes at local and state levels.

This report is one in a series of reports that describes the findings from the *FYSAS*. As part of the 2002 Florida Youth Survey effort, the *FYSAS* was administered to select Florida youth jointly with the *Florida Youth Tobacco Survey* in May of 2002. The Florida Youth Survey effort was a collaboration among Florida Departments of Health, Education, Children and Families, Juvenile Justice, and the Florida Office of Drug Control. This report was prepared by Channing Bete Company, Inc.

The *FYSAS* was previously administered to Gadsden County students in December of 1999 and January of 2000. While the survey form has been updated with some additions to the ATOD question battery, the majority of the instrument has remained unchanged. As a result, the present report includes both an analysis of current survey results and comparisons with the 2000 survey findings.

Comparison data for risk and protective factors come from research (the Six-State Study) funded by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services. This project collected school survey data from six states and provided the normative data on risk and protective factor prevalence used here.

This report contains only a brief discussion of methodology. More extensive information on survey administration, methodology and statewide findings

can be found in the statewide report, available online at:

[www5.myflorida.com/cf\\_web/myflorida2/healthhuman/substanceabusementalhealth/publications/fyasas/](http://www5.myflorida.com/cf_web/myflorida2/healthhuman/substanceabusementalhealth/publications/fyasas/)

### ***Methodology***

The sampling strategy was designed to produce survey results that are representative at both the state and county levels, with a minimal margin of error. In Gadsden County, this method resulted in a sample target of 753 middle school students and 807 high school students. After invalid responses were removed, valid questionnaires from 400 middle school students and 365 high school students were included in the dataset. This final sample includes 53% of the target middle school sample and 45% of the target high school sample.

### ***Validity of Survey Data***

Three strategies were used to assess the validity of survey responses. Data were eliminated from the analysis for youth who appeared to exaggerate their substance use, reported use of a fictitious drug, or reported logically inconsistent patterns of substance use. These three strategies have been shown to consistently identify most surveys that were completed in a random fashion, those that were not taken seriously, and/or those that are not valid for other reasons.

Gadsden County students produced a higher than average percentage (12.0%) of invalid surveys. Of the 874 completed surveys, 105 were removed from the dataset prior to analysis.

### ***Weighting***

In statewide school-based survey projects like the *FYSAS*, nonrandom variations in participation across grade levels are common. Grade-level sampling bias



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is especially problematic because ATOD use is strongly associated with age.

In order to generate drug use prevalence estimates and risk and protective factor scale scores that more accurately represent 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in Gadsden County, it is necessary to adjust the grade distribution of the sample to match the population. This is achieved with a statistical technique called weighting. Through this process, responses from the grades that were underrepresented relative to the true population are given more weight in the data analysis, while responses from the grades that were overrepresented are given less weight. This creates a sample that proportionately matches student enrollments across grade levels.

The 2000 dataset, however, poses an additional challenge. While the 2002 survey was administered in May, the 2000 *FYSAS* was administered in December and January. As a result, the students who participated in the 2000 survey were five months younger than those who participated in the 2002 survey. This age difference introduces a major source of error to any trend analysis that makes a comparison to 2000. In order to facilitate an “apples to apples” comparison for the *FYSAS* trend analysis, additional weights were developed to adjust the age distribution of the 2000 survey to match the May survey administration date of the 2002 survey. Details of the weighting strategies can be found in Appendix A of the statewide report.

### ***Confidence Intervals***

For the full sample of Gadsden County respondents, the maximum 95% confidence interval estimate (“the margin of error”) is  $\pm 3.5$  percentage points for prevalence rates approximating 50% (such as alcohol or tobacco). The maximum 95% confidence interval estimate is  $\pm 2.1$  percentage points for prevalence rates of 10% or lower (such as Ecstasy or cocaine). The level of certainty, in this case 95%, means that 95 out of 100 times the “true” population value will fall within the range of the confidence interval. For example, if 40% of the sample indicate using alcohol and the confidence interval is  $\pm 2.0\%$ , then the population value should fall within a range of 38% to 42%.

For subgroup analyses, confidence intervals are larger. Estimates for Gadsden County middle school students have confidence intervals ranging from  $\pm 4.9$  percentage points (50% prevalence rates) to  $\pm 2.9$  percentage points (10% prevalence rates). Estimates for high school students have confidence intervals

ranging from  $\pm 5.1$  percentage points (50% prevalence rates) to  $\pm 3.1$  percentage points (10% prevalence rates).

### ***Demographics***

The survey measures a variety of demographic characteristics. The first two data columns of Table 1 (see Appendix A for data tables) describe the demographic profile of the Gadsden County sample before weights were applied. Please note that some categories do not sum to 100% due to missing values.

Despite covering only three out of seven surveyed grades, middle school students constituted slightly more than one half of the sample (52.0% middle school versus 47.5% high school). A higher percentage of the respondents were female (56.3% female versus 41.0% male). African American students represent 78.4% of the sample. The largest minority population is Hispanic/Latino students (8.7%), followed by White, non-Hispanic students (6.1%). The rest of the ethnic breakdown ranges from 0.5% for Asian students to 4.0% for students who indicated Other/Multiple ethnic backgrounds.

The second set of data columns in Table 1 presents the demographic profile information for the statewide sample.

### ***Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Use***

Alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) use is measured by a set of 43 items on the 2002 *FYSAS*. While most of the survey items are identical to those used in the 2000 and 2001 surveys, several key changes have been made over the past two years.

Starting in 2001, the survey included items measuring: (a) the use of so-called “club drugs” such as Ecstasy, GHB, ketamine and Rohypnol<sup>®</sup>, (b) the use of hallucinogenic mushrooms, and (c) the use of amphetamines, including Ritalin<sup>®</sup> and Adderall<sup>®</sup>. In addition, the use of marijuana and the use of hashish were combined into a single item, and the use of “LSD and other psychedelics” was reworded to read “LSD or PCP.”

The 2002 questionnaire incorporates three additional changes: (a) a new item measuring the use of OxyContin<sup>®</sup> without a doctor’s orders, (b) the prescription drug Xanax<sup>®</sup> was added to the list of examples given in the “depressants and downers” question, and (c) the “other narcotics” item was replaced by a new question measuring the use of

“prescription pain relievers” without a doctor’s orders.

Tables 2 and 3 and Graphs 1 and 2 show the percentage of surveyed Gadsden County students who reported using ATODs. These results are presented for both lifetime and past-30-day prevalence of use periods. Lifetime prevalence of use (whether the student has ever used the drug) is a good measure of student experimentation. Past-30-day prevalence of use (whether the student has used the drug within the last month) is a good measure of current use. In addition to the standard lifetime and past-30-day prevalence rates for alcohol use, binge drinking behavior (defined as a report of five or more drinks in a row within the past two weeks) is also measured.

Comparisons to the statewide results of the 2002 survey are presented in Tables 2 and 3 and Graphs 3 through 8. Trend comparisons to Gadsden County results from the 2000 survey are presented in Table 4 and Graphs 3 through 6.

#### ***Alcohol***

It is typical for almost all adolescent populations that alcohol is the most often used drug. As Graph 1 shows, this is indeed the case in Gadsden County.

*Prevalence of Use.* Of the students surveyed in

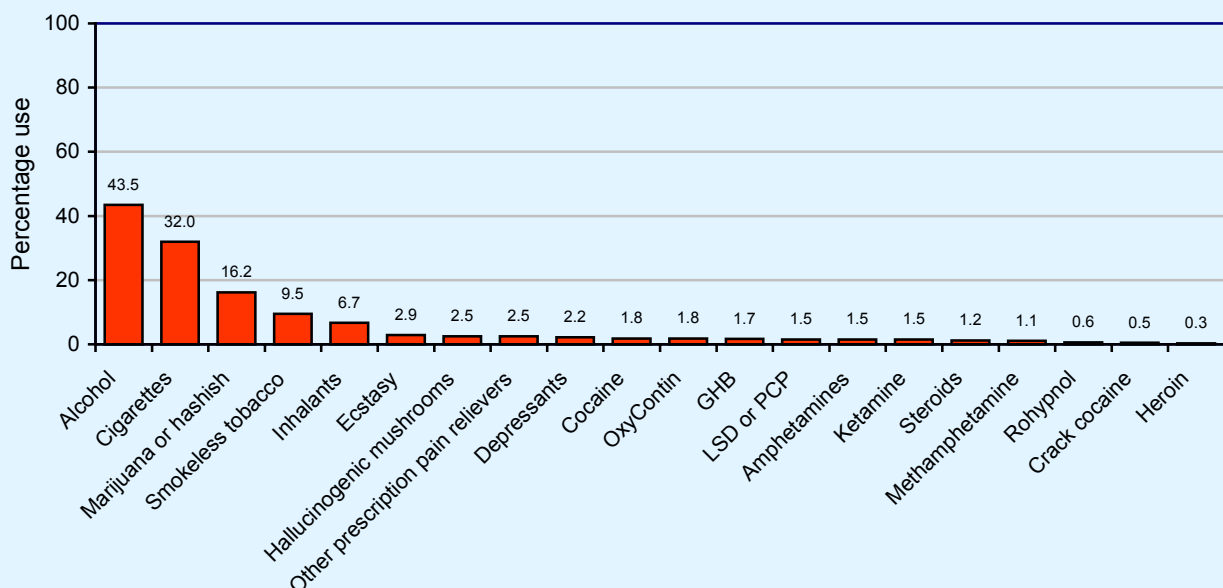
Gadsden County in 2002, 43.5% have used alcohol on at least one occasion in their lifetimes. This corresponds to a rate of 31.8% among middle school students and 53.7% among high school students. Current use is substantially lower. Overall, 24.4% of surveyed Gadsden County students reported the use of alcohol in the past 30 days, with grade-cohort averages of 15.0% for middle school students and 32.6% for high school students.

*Statewide Comparison.* As Graph 3 shows, the prevalence of past-30-day alcohol use for 2002 is lower in Gadsden County compared to the state of Florida as a whole. Overall, 24.4% of surveyed Gadsden County students reported the use of alcohol in the past 30 days compared to 31.2% of surveyed students statewide. This lower rate of use applies both to middle school (15.0% for Gadsden County versus 19.7% statewide) and high school (32.6% for Gadsden County versus 40.8% statewide) grade-cohorts.

*2000-2002 Trend.* Contrary to the trend seen at the state level, past-30-day prevalence of alcohol use reported by Gadsden County students increased between 2000 and 2002. As Graph 3 illustrates, use in the overall sample increased 4.3 percentage points. This increase is reflected in both middle school, where use rose 4.2 points, and high school, where use

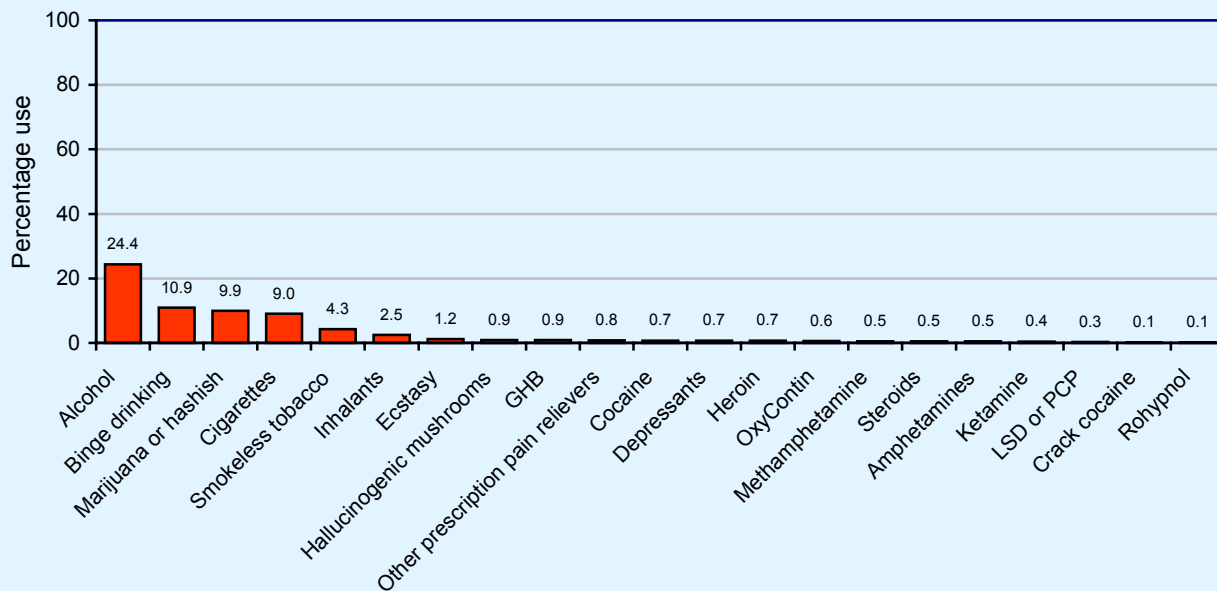
**Graph  
1**

**Lifetime use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs by Gadsden County youth, 2002**



**Graph 2**

## Past-30-day use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs by Gadsden County youth, 2002



rose 5.1 points.

**Binge Drinking.** Findings on binge drinking (defined as consuming five or more drinks in a row within the past two weeks) are likely to be among the most important findings related to alcohol use (Johnston, O'Malley and Bachman, 2002). In Gadsden County, 10.9% of surveyed students reported binge drinking, with corresponding rates of 8.8% among middle school students and 12.8% among high school students. While this represents a similar rate of middle school binge drinking compared to the state as a whole (8.6%), Gadsden County high school students reported a lower rate compared to results from across Florida (22.3%).

### Tobacco

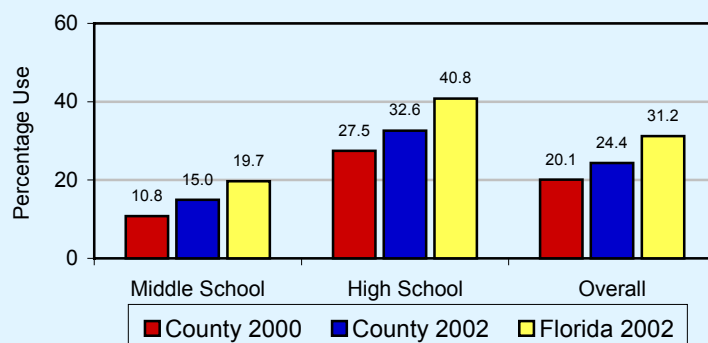
This section of the report discusses the prevalence of tobacco use as measured by the 2002 FYSAS. Another survey, the 2002 Florida Youth Tobacco Survey (Florida Department of Health), was administered simultaneously with the 2002 FYSAS, and was specifically tobacco related. That survey is Florida's official source for youth tobacco use information. The information presented in this report is consistent with findings reported in the 2002 Florida Youth Tobacco Survey.

**Prevalence of Use.** Of the students surveyed in Gadsden County in 2002, 32.0% have used cigarettes on at least one occasion in their lifetimes. This corresponds to a rate of 27.5% among middle school students and 36.1% among high school students. Current use is substantially lower. Overall, 9.0% of surveyed Gadsden County students reported the use of cigarettes in the past 30 days, with grade-cohort averages of 6.8% for middle school students and 11.0% for high school students.

**Statewide Comparison.** As Graph 4 shows, the prevalence of past-30-day cigarette use for 2002 is lower in Gadsden County compared to the state of Florida as a whole. Overall, 9.0% of surveyed

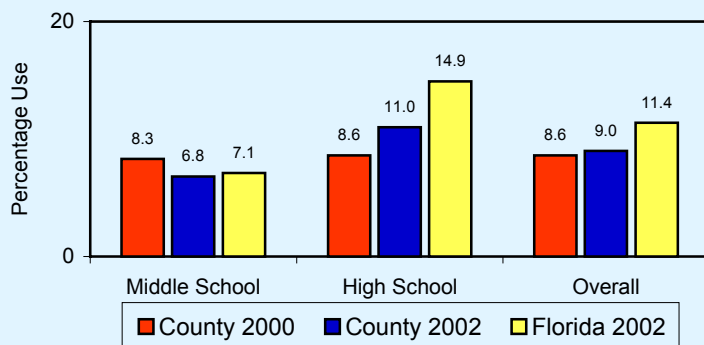
**Graph 3**

## Past-30-Day alcohol use, Gadsden County 2000-2002 and Florida 2002



**Graph 4**

Past-30-Day cigarette use, Gadsden County 2000-2002 and Florida 2002



Gadsden County students reported the use of cigarettes in the past 30 days compared to 11.4% of surveyed students statewide. Grade-cohort analysis shows that this overall lower rate of use is concentrated in high school (11.0% for Gadsden County versus 14.9% statewide) rather than middle school (6.8% for Gadsden County versus 7.1% statewide).

**2000-2002 Trend.** Contrary to the trend seen at the state level, past-30-day use of cigarettes by Gadsden County students was largely unchanged between 2000 and 2002. As Graph 4 illustrates, use in the overall sample only increased 0.4 percentage points. There were larger grade-cohort differences, however. Usage in middle school fell 1.5 percentage points, while usage in high school rose 2.4 percentage points.

**Smokeless Tobacco.** The prevalence of current use of smokeless tobacco is lower than the rate of cigarette use in Gadsden County. Overall, 9.5% of surveyed Gadsden County students reported using smokeless tobacco in their lifetimes, with corresponding rates of 8.1% among middle school students and 10.9% among high school students. The overall prevalence for past-30-day use is 4.3%, with corresponding rates of 4.3% among middle school students and 4.3% among high school students.

### ***Marijuana or Hashish***

During the 1990s, there were major changes in trends of marijuana use throughout the United States. After a dramatic increase in the early 1990s—when rates for 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders doubled or nearly doubled—the lifetime and past-30-day prevalence of marijuana use by students stabilized at the higher rate

(Johnston et al., 2002). These rates have remained relatively stable for the last six years.

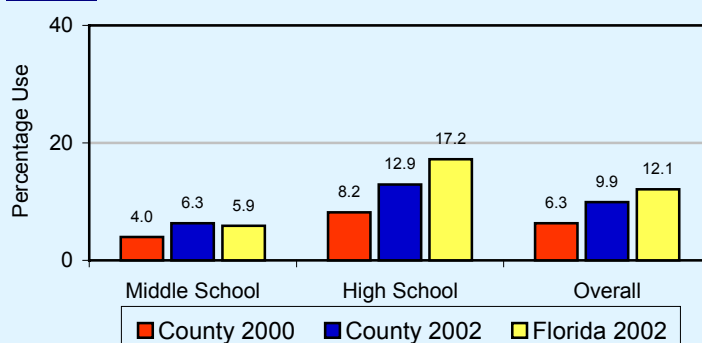
**Prevalence of Use.** Of the students surveyed in Gadsden County in 2002, 16.2% have used marijuana or hashish on at least one occasion in their lifetimes. This corresponds to a rate of 10.2% among middle school students and 21.4% among high school students. Current use is substantially lower. Overall, 9.9% of surveyed Gadsden County students reported the use of marijuana or hashish in the past 30 days, with grade-cohort averages of 6.3% for middle school students and 12.9% for high school students.

**Statewide Comparison.** As Graph 5 shows, the prevalence of past-30-day marijuana or hashish use for 2002 is lower in Gadsden County compared to the state of Florida as a whole. Overall, 9.9% of surveyed Gadsden County students reported the use of marijuana or hashish in the past 30 days compared to 12.1% of surveyed students statewide. Grade-cohort analysis shows that this overall lower rate of use is due to the lower rate of usage in high school (12.9% for Gadsden County versus 17.2% statewide). Usage in middle school is actually higher in Gadsden County than the state as a whole (6.3% for Gadsden County versus 5.9% statewide).

**2000-2002 Trend.** Contrary to the trend seen at the state level, past-30-day prevalence of marijuana or hashish use reported by Gadsden County students increased between 2000 and 2002. As Graph 5 illustrates, use in the overall sample increased 3.6 percentage points. This increase is reflected in both middle school, where use rose 2.3 points, and high

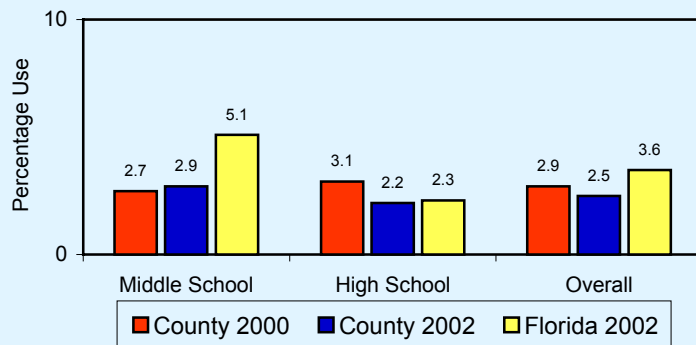
**Graph 5**

Past-30-Day marijuana or hashish use, Gadsden County 2000-2002 and Florida 2002



**Graph 6**

Past-30-Day inhalant use, Gadsden County 2000-2002 and Florida 2002



school, where use rose 4.7 points.

### Inhalants

After alcohol, tobacco and marijuana, the most commonly used drug among Florida students was inhalants. In contrast to other ATODs, inhalant use is more prevalent with younger students, perhaps because it is often the easiest drug for them to obtain. This finding is typical of most youth substance use surveys.

**Prevalence of Use.** Of the students surveyed in Gadsden County in 2002, 6.7% have used inhalants on at least one occasion in their lifetimes. This corresponds to a rate of 5.8% among middle school students and 7.6% among high school students. Current use is substantially lower. Overall, 2.5% of surveyed Gadsden County students reported the use of inhalants in the past 30 days, with grade-cohort averages of 2.9% for middle school students and 2.2% for high school students.

**Statewide Comparison.** As Graph 6 shows, the prevalence of past-30-day inhalant use for 2002 is lower in Gadsden County compared to the state of Florida as a whole. Across all surveyed grades, 2.5% of surveyed Gadsden County students reported the use of inhalants in the past 30 days compared to 3.6% of surveyed students statewide. This lower rate of use also applies to middle school students (2.9% for Gadsden County versus 5.1% statewide), while rates in high school were similar (2.2% for Gadsden County versus 2.3% statewide).

**2000-2002 Trend.** Although the reduction is not substantial, past-30-day prevalence of inhalant use reported by Gadsden County students declined between 2000

and 2002. As Graph 6 illustrates, use in the overall sample declined 0.4 percentage points.

### Club Drugs

Club drugs are a broad category of illicit substances that are classified together because their use started at dance clubs and “raves,” not because they are of a similar chemical class (like amphetamines). Their use, however, has expanded beyond these settings. For the purpose of the 2002 FYSAS, club drugs include Ecstasy, GHB, ketamine and Rohypnol®. Note that this list is not meant to be exclusive, as other drugs

are used at clubs and raves. Because club drugs were not included in the 2000 FYSAS, no data are available for trend comparisons.

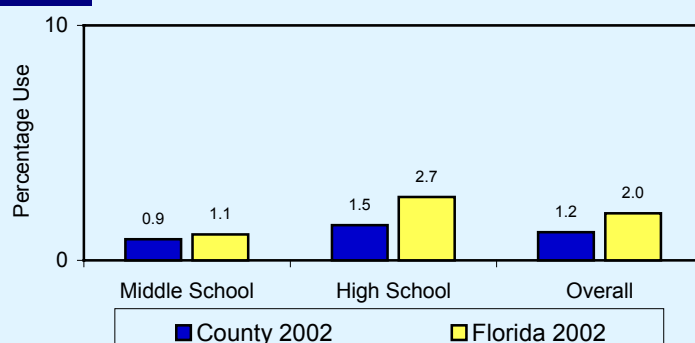
### Ecstasy

**Prevalence of Use.** As it is across the state as a whole, Ecstasy is the most commonly used club drug in Gadsden County. Overall, 2.9% of surveyed Gadsden County students have used Ecstasy on at least one occasion in their lifetimes. This corresponds to a rate of 1.8% among middle school students and 3.9% among high school students. Current use is substantially lower. Overall, 1.2% of surveyed Gadsden County students reported the use of Ecstasy in the past 30 days, with grade-cohort averages of 0.9% for middle school students and 1.5% for high school students.

**Statewide Comparison.** As Graph 7 shows, the prevalence of past-30-day Ecstasy use for 2002 in Gadsden County is similar to the rate for the state of Florida as a whole. Across all surveyed grades, 1.2% of surveyed Gadsden County students reported the use of Ecstasy in the past 30 days compared to 2.0% statewide.

**Graph 7**

Past-30-Day Ecstasy use, Gadsden County 2002 and Florida 2002





of surveyed students statewide. This similarity in the rates of use applies both to middle school (0.9% for Gadsden County versus 1.1% statewide) and high school (1.5% for Gadsden County versus 2.7% statewide) grade-cohorts.

### **Other Club Drugs**

The remaining club drugs—Rohypnol®, GHB and ketamine—all have lower levels of use. In 2002, surveyed Gadsden County students reported overall lifetime prevalence rates for Rohypnol®, GHB and ketamine of 0.6%, 1.7% and 1.5%, respectively. The past-30-day use rates for these same drugs were 0.1%, 0.9% and 0.4%, respectively. Very few students are experimenting with or currently using these drugs.

### **Other Illicit Drugs**

The 2002 FYSAS also measured the prevalence of use of a variety of other illicit drugs among Gadsden County students. This includes use of the following: LSD or PCP, hallucinogenic mushrooms, cocaine, crack cocaine, methamphetamine, depressants, heroin, OxyContin®, other prescription pain relievers, steroids without a doctor's orders, and amphetamines. Results for these illicit drugs are presented on Tables 2 through 4.

Prevalence of Use. As is typical of adolescent populations, the prevalence-of-use rates in Gadsden County for these other illicit drugs are much lower than the rates for alcohol, tobacco and marijuana. Lifetime prevalence-of-use rates for this group of drugs range from highs of 2.5% for hallucinogenic mushrooms, 2.5% for other prescription pain relievers, and 2.2% for depressants, to lows of just 1.1% for methamphetamine, 0.5% for crack cocaine, and 0.3% for heroin. The prevalence of use within the past 30 days is lower. None of the rates of current use reported by Gadsden County students is above 2.0%.

Statewide Comparison. On average, lifetime prevalence rates for other illicit drug use are lower in Gadsden County than in the state of Florida as a whole. In particular, Gadsden County students reported lower rates of other prescription pain reliever use (2.5% in Gadsden County versus 7.5% in Florida) and use of depressants (2.2% in Gadsden County versus 7.0% in Florida) than their counterparts from across the state. Past-30-day prevalence rates are too low to allow a meaningful comparison between the samples.

### **Drug Combination Rates**

Prevalence-of-use rates for combinations of drugs provide a helpful summary of drug use behavior. Tables 2 and 3 present lifetime and past-30-day prevalence rates for combinations of drugs. That is, the use of one or more drugs from a set of illicit drugs. Illicit drugs are substances that are illegal for adults to use, so they include all drugs on the survey except alcohol, cigarettes and smokeless tobacco. This list includes: marijuana or hashish, inhalants, LSD or PCP, cocaine, crack cocaine, methamphetamine, depressants, heroin and steroids. In order to provide comparability with previous reports, only drugs that were included on all three waves (2000, 2001 and 2002) of the FYSAS were included.

Five types of drug combination rates are presented here:

**Any illicit drug** – Use of at least one illicit drug

**Any illicit drug other than marijuana** – Use of at least one illicit drug other than marijuana

**Alcohol only** – The use of alcohol and no illicit drugs

**Alcohol or any illicit drug** – Use of alcohol or at least one illicit drug

**Any illicit drug, but no alcohol** – Use of at least one illicit drug, without any use of alcohol

Statewide comparative data are presented in Tables 2 and 3 and Graph 8. Trend comparisons to Gadsden County results from the 2000 survey are presented in Table 4.

### **Any Illicit Drug**

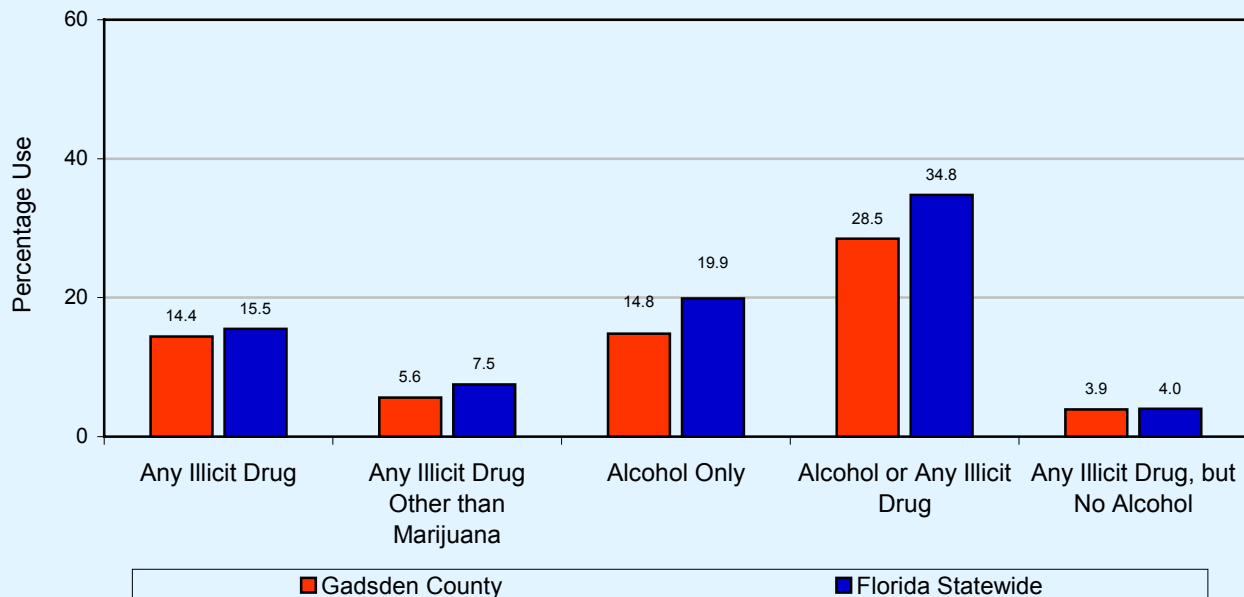
Overall, 21.1% of surveyed Gadsden County students reported at least one use of *any illicit drug* in their lifetimes, and 14.4% reported use in the past 30 days. The past-30-day prevalence rate corresponds to 11.1% among middle school students and 17.3% among high school students. As Graph 8 shows, use of *any illicit drug* in the past 30 days is lower in Gadsden County than across the state of Florida as a whole (14.4% for Gadsden County versus 15.5% statewide).

### **Any Illicit Drug Other than Marijuana**

The purpose of this drug combination rate is to provide prevention planners with an overall indicator of so-called “hard” drug use (Johnston et al., 2002). Overall, 10.2% of surveyed Gadsden County students

**Graph  
8**

### Past-30-day drug combination rates for Gadsden County and Florida Statewide, 2002



reported at least one use of *any illicit drug other than marijuana* in their lifetimes, and 5.6% reported use in the past 30 days. The past-30-day prevalence rate corresponds to 6.2% among middle school students and 5.2% among high school students. As Graph 8 shows, use of *any illicit drug other than marijuana* in the past 30 days is lower in Gadsden County than across the state of Florida as a whole (5.6% for Gadsden County versus 7.5% statewide).

It is important to note that this measure—the current use of all illicit drugs other than marijuana *combined*—is less than the past-30-day prevalence of use of alcohol (24.4%), marijuana (9.9%) and cigarettes (9.0%), as well as the prevalence of binge drinking (10.9%).

#### Alcohol Only

Overall, 27.1% of surveyed Gadsden County students reported at least one use of *alcohol only*—the use of alcohol and no illicit drugs—in their lifetimes, and 14.8% reported use in the past 30 days. The past-30-day prevalence rate corresponds to 9.8% among middle school students and 19.0% among high school students. As Graph 8 shows, use of *alcohol only* in the past 30 days is notably lower in Gadsden County than across the state of Florida as a whole (14.8% for Gadsden County versus 19.9% statewide).

#### Alcohol or Any Illicit Drug

*Alcohol or any illicit drug* use is a summary measure that included all drugs from the 2002 survey, with the exception of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco. Overall, 47.4% of surveyed Gadsden County students reported at least one use of *alcohol or any illicit drug* in their lifetimes, and 28.5% reported use in the past 30 days. The past-30-day prevalence rate corresponds to 20.7% among middle school students and 35.5% among high school students. As Graph 8 shows, use of *alcohol or any illicit drug* in the past 30 days is notably lower in Gadsden County than across the state of Florida as a whole (28.5% for Gadsden County versus 34.8% statewide).

#### Any Illicit Drug, but No Alcohol

The final drug combination category measures the use of illicit drugs by students who are not using alcohol. As Tables 2 and 3 show, this combination is quite rare. Overall, 4.1% of surveyed Gadsden County students reported having used illicit drugs in their lifetimes but never using alcohol. Current use of illicit drugs (within the past 30 days) without the accompanying use of alcohol is also rare (3.9%). The past-30-day prevalence rate corresponds to 5.1% among middle school students and 3.0% among high school students. As Graph 8 shows, use of *any illicit drug, but no alcohol* in the past 30 days is similar in Gadsden County and the state (3.9% for Gadsden County versus 4.0% statewide).

## Other Antisocial Behaviors

The 2002 FYSAS also measures a series of eight other problem or antisocial behaviors—that is, behaviors that run counter to established norms of good behavior. Note that information on antisocial behaviors is collected only for a prevalence period of the past 12 months. The survey measured the following antisocial behaviors: *Carrying a Handgun*, *Selling Drugs*, *Attempting to Steal a Vehicle*, *Being Arrested*, *Taking a Handgun to School*, *Getting Suspended*, *Attacking Someone with Intent to Harm* and *Being Drunk or High at School*.

Prevalence rates for these behaviors among Gadsden County students, as well as comparison rates from the statewide survey, are presented in Table 5 and Graph 9. Trend comparisons to Gadsden County results from the 2000 survey are presented in Table 8.

As Table 5 shows, the prevalence rates reported by Gadsden County students differ substantially across the eight antisocial behaviors measured in the survey. Reports of *Taking a Handgun to School* (1.6%), *Attempting to Steal a Vehicle* (2.7%), and *Selling Drugs* (3.8%) are rare, while *Getting Suspended* (25.9%), *Attacking Someone with Intent to Harm* (14.9%), and *Being Drunk or High at School* (12.3%) are more common.

In general the rates reported by Gadsden County high school students are higher or similar to those reported by middle school students. For example, reports of *Being Drunk or High at School* peak in high school (15.6%) rather than middle school (7.8%). In contrast, 4.5% of middle school students reported *Being Arrested* compared to 5.8% of high school students.

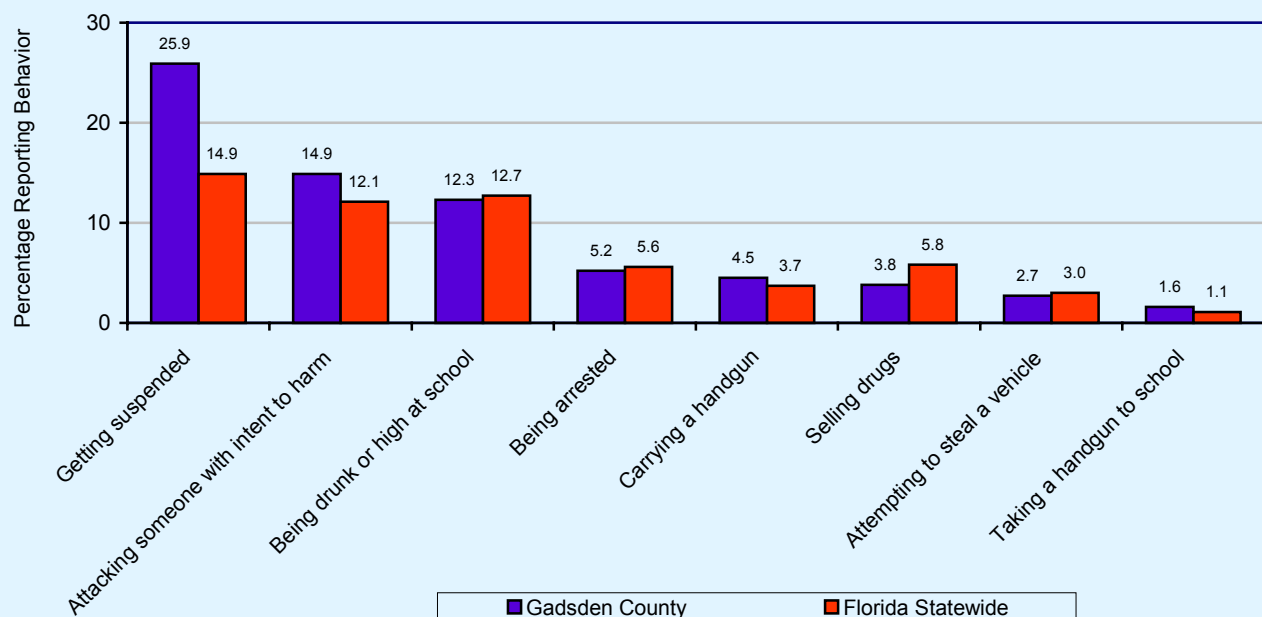
Differences between males and females also deserve special mention. To an even greater extent than with drug use, male students are more likely than female students to have reported other antisocial behavior. For example, 9.7% of surveyed male students in Gadsden County reported *Carrying a Handgun*, compared to 1.6% of female students. Similarly, 17.2% of male students reported *Being Drunk or High at School*, while just 9.5% of female students reported the behavior.

Comparisons between Gadsden County and the state of Florida as a whole reveal mixed results. *Getting Suspended* (25.9% in Gadsden County and 14.9% in Florida) and *Attacking Someone with Intent to Harm* (14.9% in Gadsden County and 12.1% in Florida) are higher in Gadsden County. In contrast, *Selling Drugs* (3.8% in Gadsden County and 5.8% in Florida) is higher in Florida.

Note, however, that the questionnaire item used to

**Graph  
9**

Comparisons of past-12-month delinquent behavior for Gadsden County and Florida Statewide, 2002





measure *Getting Suspended* does not define “suspension.” Rather, it is left to the individual respondent to define. Because suspension policies vary substantially from county to county, comparisons to statewide results should be interpreted with caution for this item.

## Risk and Protective Factors

Research during the past 30 years supports the view that delinquency; alcohol, tobacco and other drug use; school achievement; and other important outcomes in adolescence are associated with specific characteristics in the student’s community, school and family environments, as well as with characteristics of the individual (Hawkins, Catalano and Associates, 1992). In fact, these characteristics have been shown to be more important in understanding these behaviors than ethnicity, income or family structure (Blum et al., 2000).

Just as eating a high-fat diet and getting regular exercise are risk and protective factors for heart disease and other health problems, there are factors that can help protect youth from, or put them at risk for, drug use and other problem behaviors.

**Protective factors**, which can be considered assets, are conditions that buffer children and youth from exposure to risk by either reducing the impact of the risks or changing the way that young people respond to risks.

**Risk factors** are conditions that increase the likelihood of a young person becoming involved in drug use, delinquency, school dropout and/or violence.

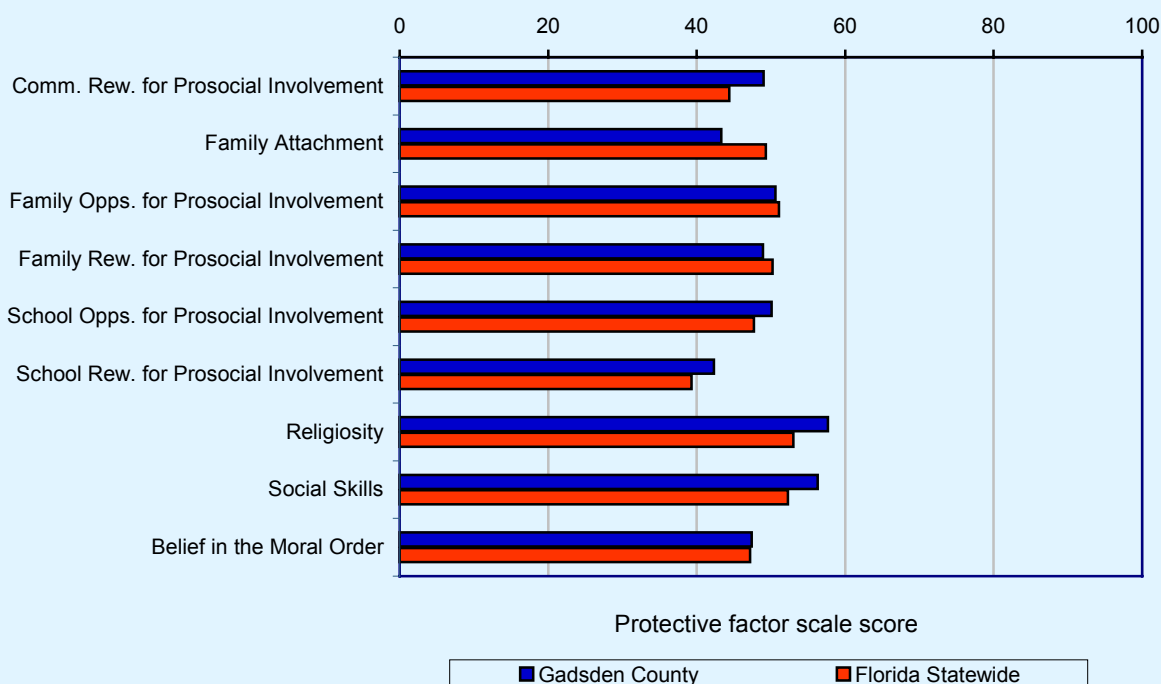
The analysis of risk and protective factors is the most powerful tool available for understanding what promotes both positive and negative adolescent behavior and for helping design successful prevention programs for young people.

## Measurement

Several risk and protective factors are measured by the *FYSAS*. Some of the risk factors are so broad that they can’t be measured and reported adequately by themselves. As a result, they are measured and reported using groups of questions called “scales.” Each scale addresses some aspect of the broader risk factor. See Appendix E in the 2002 *FYSAS* State Report for more details on these scales.

**Graph  
10**

**Comparisons of protective factor scales for Gadsden County and Florida Statewide, 2002**



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Risk and protective factor scale scores are compared against the *Communities That Care*® normative database. A student's risk or protective factor scale score is expressed as a number ranging from 0 to 100. A score of 50, which matches the median for the comparison database, indicates that 50% of the respondents in this comparative sample reported a higher score and 50% reported a lower score. Similarly, a score of 75 indicates that 25% of the comparative sample reported a higher score and 75% reported a lower score. Because risk is associated with negative behavioral outcomes, it is better to have lower risk factor scale scores, not higher. Conversely, because protective factors are associated with better behavioral outcomes, it is better to have higher protective factor scale scores, not lower.

The *FYSAS* measures a variety of risk and protective factor scales across four domains: Community Domain, Family Domain, School Domain, and Peer and Individual Domain. Scores for the 21 risk factor and nine protective factor scales for Gadsden County students, comparison scores from the statewide survey, and trend comparisons to Gadsden County results from the 2000 survey are presented in Table 10.

#### ***Protective Factor Profile***

In Gadsden County, scores across the nine protective factor scales range from a low of 42 to a high of 58, with an average score of 49, one point higher than the average for the state of Florida as a whole. The most suppressed protective factor scale is *School Rewards for Prosocial Involvement*. While policies that target any protective factor could potentially be an important resource for students in Gadsden County, focusing prevention planning in this area could be especially beneficial. The most elevated protective factor scale is *Religiosity*. The high score reported by students in this area represents a strength that communities in Gadsden County can build on.

A description of these two protective factors is provided below. Please refer to the statewide survey report for a complete discussion of all nine protective factor scales.

#### **School Rewards for Prosocial Involvement**

Making students feel appreciated and rewarded for their involvement at school helps reduce the likelihood of their involvement in drug use and other

problem behaviors. This is because students who feel acknowledged for their activity at school bond to their school. This protective factor is measured by such statements as "The school lets my parents know when I have done something well."

Gadsden County students reported a score of 42 on the *School Rewards for Prosocial Involvement* scale, three points higher than the statewide average of 39, and eight points lower than the national average of 50.

#### **Religiosity**

Religious institutions can help students develop firm prosocial beliefs. Students who have preconceived ideas about certain activities are less vulnerable to becoming involved with antisocial behaviors because they have already adopted a social norm against those activities. *Religiosity* is measured by one survey item, "How often do you attend religious services or activities?"

Gadsden County students reported a score of 58 on the *Religiosity* scale, five points higher than the statewide average of 53, and eight points higher than the national average of 50.

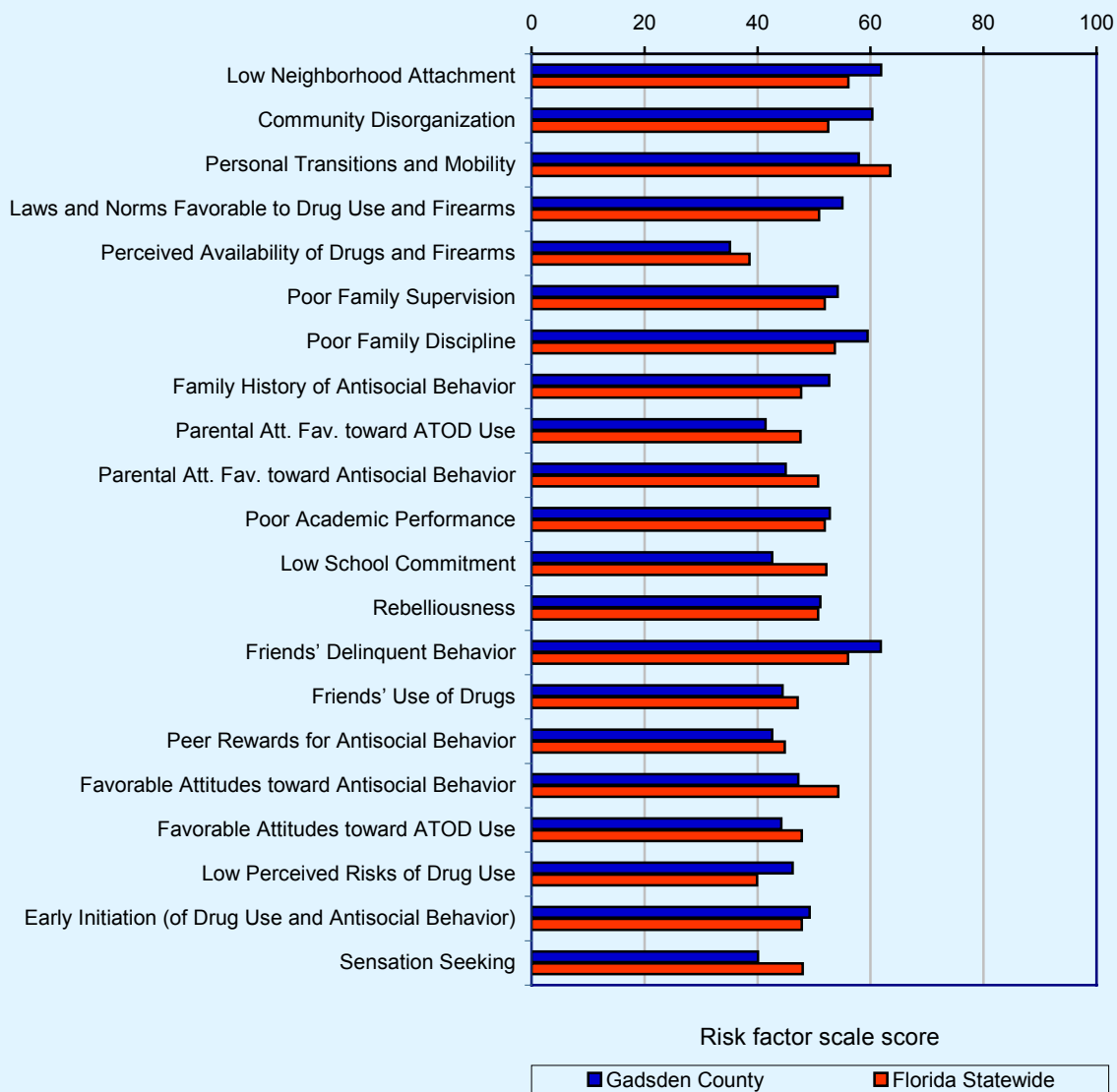
#### ***Risk Factor Profile***

In Gadsden County, scores across the 21 risk factor scales range from a low of 35 to a high of 62, with an average score of 50, the same as the average for the state of Florida as a whole. The two most elevated risk factor scales are *Low Neighborhood Attachment* and *Friends' Delinquent Behavior*. While policies that target any risk factor could potentially be an important resource for students in Gadsden County, the high scores on these two scales suggest that directing prevention programming in these areas could be especially beneficial. The two most suppressed risk factor scales are *Perceived Availability of Drugs and Firearms* and *Sensation Seeking*. The low scores reported by students in these areas represent strengths that communities in Gadsden County can build on.

A description of these four risk factors is provided below. Please refer to the statewide survey report for a complete discussion of all 21 risk factor scales.

**Graph  
11**

Comparisons of risk factor scales for Gadsden County and Florida Statewide, 2002



### Low Neighborhood Attachment

Higher rates of drug problems, delinquency and violence occur in communities or neighborhoods where people feel little attachment to the community. Perhaps the most significant issue affecting community attachment is whether residents feel they can make a difference in their lives. If the key players in the neighborhood—such as merchants, teachers, clergy, police and social services personnel—live outside the neighborhood, residents' sense of commitment will be lower. This low sense of commitment may be reflected in lower rates of voter participation and parental involvement in schools.

The *Low Neighborhood Attachment* scale on the survey uses three items to measure the level of attachment that students feel to their neighborhoods. This risk factor is measured by items such as "I'd like to get out of my neighborhood" and "If I had to move, I would miss the neighborhood I now live in." Responses include NO!, no, yes, and YES!

Gadsden County students reported a score of 62 on the *Low Neighborhood Attachment* scale, six points higher than the statewide average of 56, and 12 points higher than the national average of 50.

### **Friends' Delinquent Behavior**

Young people who associate with peers who engage in delinquent behavior are much more likely to engage in delinquent behavior themselves. This is one of the most consistent predictors identified by research. Even when young people come from well-managed families and do not experience other risk factors, spending time with peers who engage in delinquent behavior greatly increases the risk of their becoming involved in delinquent behavior.

This scale is measured by survey items such as “In the past year, how many of your four best friends have been suspended from school?” Elevated scores can indicate that students are interacting with more antisocial peers than average. Low scores can suggest that students’ delinquent behavior is not strongly influenced by their peers.

Gadsden County students reported a score of 62 on the *Friends' Delinquent Behavior* scale, six points higher than the statewide average of 56, and 12 points higher than the national average of 50.

### **Perceived Availability of Drugs and Firearms**

The perceived availability of drugs, alcohol and firearms in a community is directly related to the prevalence of delinquent behaviors. The perception of availability of drugs is also associated with increased risk. In schools where children believe that drugs are more available, a higher rate of drug use occurs.

The *Perceived Availability of Drugs and Firearms* scale on the survey is designed to assess students’ feelings about how easily they can get alcohol, other drugs or firearms. Four items on the survey measure the perceived availability of drugs. An example item is “If you wanted to get some marijuana, how easy would it be for you to get some?” Possible responses include Very Hard, Sort of Hard, Sort of Easy and Very Easy. The fifth item on the scale measures the perceived availability of firearms.

Elevation of this risk factor scale may indicate the need to make alcohol, tobacco and other drugs more difficult for students to acquire. For instance, a number of policy changes have been shown to reduce the availability of alcohol and cigarettes. Minimum-age requirements, taxation and responsible beverage service have all been shown to affect the perception of availability of alcohol.

Gadsden County students reported a score of 35 on the *Perceived Availability of Drugs and Firearms*

scale, four points lower than the statewide average of 39, and 15 points lower than the national average of 50.

### **Sensation Seeking**

Constitutional factors are individual characteristics that may have a biological or physiological basis. Constitutional factors that increase risk are often seen as sensation seeking, low harm avoidance and lack of impulse control. They appear to increase the risk of young people using drugs, engaging in delinquent behavior and/or committing violent acts.

Gadsden County students reported a score of 40 on the *Sensation Seeking* scale, eight points lower than the statewide average of 48, and 10 points lower than the national average of 50.

### **Special Topics**

Several analyses were conducted to investigate alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) use results. These include age of onset of gateway drug use and attitudes toward ATOD use (perceived risk of harm, personal disapproval and peer approval).

#### ***Age of Onset of ATOD Use***

Students were asked to report on when they began using alcohol, cigarettes and marijuana. These drugs are generally considered to be the major gateway drugs, usually preceding the use of harder drugs. The question related to cigarettes is “How old were you when you first smoked a cigarette, even just a puff?” The question about marijuana is “How old were you when you first smoked marijuana?” Two questions about alcohol were asked, one asking when the student first “had more than a sip or two of beer, wine or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey or gin)” and one asking the student when he or she “began drinking alcoholic beverages regularly, that is, at least once or twice a month.”

Tables 6 and 9 present the average age students reported first engaging in any alcohol use, regular alcohol use, any use of cigarettes, and any use of marijuana. For most items on this survey, averaging the scores of all respondents provides the best overall description of the behavior or attitude under investigation. In contrast, the question “When do Florida students first start using ATODs?” is best answered by examining the responses of high school students. This is because scores for this question are based only on students who reported engaging in the behavior. Consequently, younger students who will eventually experiment with ATODs as they enter

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higher grades are excluded from the analysis, resulting in an artificial lowering of age of onset scores. Note that in the statewide report, age of onset of ATOD use is discussed for 12<sup>th</sup> graders rather than high school students.

The earliest age of onset reported by Gadsden County's surveyed high school students was for cigarette use (12.4 years of age), followed by "more than a sip or two" of alcohol (13.3 years of age), marijuana use (13.7 years of age) and drinking at least once a month (14.3 years of age).

### ***Perceived Risk of Harm***

Perception of risk is an important determinant in the decision-making process young people go through when deciding whether or not to use alcohol, tobacco or other drugs. Evidence also suggests that the perceptions of the risks and benefits associated with drug use sometimes serve as a leading indicator of future drug use patterns in a community (Bachman, Johnson, O'Malley and Humphrey, 1986). Tables 7 and 9 present prevalence rates for surveyed Gadsden County students assigning "great risk" of harm to four drug use behaviors: near daily use of alcohol, daily use of cigarettes, regular use of marijuana, and trying marijuana once or twice.

Surveyed Gadsden County students assigned the highest risk of harm to daily use of cigarettes (54.7%), followed by regular use of marijuana (49.3%), near daily use of alcohol (36.2%) and trying marijuana once or twice (33.4%).

Perceptions of harm associated with cigarette use increase as students get older (46.0% in middle school versus 62.3% in high school). In contrast, fear of marijuana use (47.3% in middle school versus 51.3% in high school) and alcohol use (33.9% in middle school versus 38.3% in high school) appear relatively stable across grade-cohorts.

### ***Personal Disapproval***

In addition to perceptions of risk, personal approval or disapproval of drugs has been linked to the prevalence of ATOD use (Bachman, Johnston and O'Malley, 1996). Personal disapproval was measured by asking students how wrong it would be for someone their age to drink alcohol regularly, smoke cigarettes, smoke marijuana, or use other illicit drugs ("LSD, cocaine, amphetamines or another illegal drug"). The rates presented in Tables 7 and 9 represent the percentages of students who thought it would be "wrong" or "very wrong" to use each drug.

Surveyed Gadsden County students were most likely to disapprove of other illicit drug use (93.7%), followed by smoking marijuana (82.6%), smoking cigarettes (82.0%) and drinking alcohol regularly (72.2%).

While disapproval of other illicit drug use remains above 91% for both middle and high school respondents, the other three categories show reductions as students enter high school. For example, disapproval of drinking alcohol regularly declines from 82.7% among middle school students to 62.8% among high school students.

### ***Peer Approval***

In addition to perceived risk of harm and disapproval, expectations of how one's peer group might react has an impact on whether or not young people choose to use drugs. The data presented in Tables 7 and 9 show the percentage of students who said that there is a "pretty good" or "very good" chance that they would be seen as cool if they smoked cigarettes, drank alcohol regularly or smoked marijuana.

Relatively few of the surveyed Gadsden County students reported that drug use would be seen as cool. For example, only 11.0% of students felt that marijuana use would be seen as cool, only 7.8% felt that drinking alcohol regularly would be seen as cool, and only 5.9% felt that smoking cigarettes would be seen as cool.

Differences between grade cohorts for alcohol and marijuana follow a similar pattern. Peer approval of marijuana use increases from 8.1% among middle school students to 13.8% among high school students. Similarly, peer approval of drinking alcohol regularly increases from 5.4% to 10.0%. However, peer approval of smoking cigarettes appears relatively stable across grade levels (5.7% in middle school versus 6.1% in high school).

# Appendix A

## Detailed Tables

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**Table 1. Major demographic characteristics of surveyed Gadsden County youth and Florida Statewide youth**

	Gadsden County		Florida Statewide	
	N	%	N	%
<b>Sex</b>				
Female	433	56.3	32,534	51.7
Male	315	41.0	28,411	45.1
<b>Race/Ethnic group</b>				
African American	603	78.4	12,100	19.2
American Indian	9	1.2	1,208	1.9
Asian	4	0.5	1,257	2.0
Hispanic/Latino	67	8.7	11,786	18.7
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0.0	238	0.4
Other/Multiple	31	4.0	7,313	11.6
White, non-Hispanic	47	6.1	27,644	43.9
<b>Age</b>				
10	0	0.0	94	0.1
11	21	2.7	2,342	3.7
12	101	13.1	8,767	13.9
13	138	17.9	9,552	15.2
14	134	17.4	9,835	15.6
15	131	17.0	10,912	17.3
16	122	15.9	8,763	13.9
17	78	10.1	7,251	11.5
18	36	4.7	4,531	7.2
19 or older	7	0.9	547	0.9
<b>Grade</b>				
6th	143	18.6	9,751	15.5
7th	141	18.3	9,700	15.4
8th	116	15.1	9,319	14.8
9th	119	15.5	11,932	19.0
10th	130	16.9	8,302	13.2
11th	71	9.2	7,211	11.5
12th	45	5.9	6,163	9.8
Overall Middle School	400	52.0	28,771	45.7
Overall High School	365	47.5	33,608	53.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>62,934</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note: Some categories do not sum to 100% of the total due to missing values (e.g., not all survey questions were answered). In addition, rounding can produce totals that do not equal 100%. "N" represents the number of valid cases.



**Table 2. Percentages of Gadsden County youth and Florida Statewide youth who reported having used various drugs in their lifetimes, by grade, sex and age**

	Gadsden County						Florida Statewide							
	Middle School	High School	Female	Male	Ages 10-14	Ages 15-17	Total	Middle School	High School	Female	Male	Ages 10-14	Ages 15-17	Total
Alcohol	31.8	53.7	44.4	42.0	31.7	52.7	43.5	42.3	68.5	57.3	55.8	43.2	68.2	56.5
Cigarettes	27.5	36.1	29.9	35.7	25.8	36.5	32.0	26.7	44.2	36.5	35.9	26.6	44.4	36.2
Smokeless tobacco	8.1	10.9	7.9	12.7	7.9	9.4	9.5	7.8	12.4	5.6	15.9	7.3	12.6	10.4
Marijuana or hashish	10.2	21.4	14.0	19.3	9.1	20.0	16.2	11.6	33.6	21.5	26.2	11.6	33.7	23.6
Inhalants	5.8	7.6	4.8	9.7	5.8	4.9	6.7	13.6	10.0	11.8	11.6	13.2	10.4	11.6
Ecstasy	1.8	3.9	0.7	6.6	1.5	2.2	2.9	2.9	9.4	6.8	6.1	2.9	9.0	6.5
Rohypnol®	0.3	0.8	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.6	0.6	1.3	2.1	1.6	1.8	1.2	2.0	1.7
GHB	3.1	0.6	0.7	2.9	2.5	1.2	1.7	1.8	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.3	1.5
Ketamine	1.2	1.7	0.0	3.5	0.6	1.2	1.5	0.9	1.7	1.2	1.4	0.9	1.6	1.3
LSD or PCP	0.3	2.5	0.2	3.7	0.7	0.0	1.5	1.4	5.2	3.1	3.9	1.4	4.9	3.5
Hallucinogenic mushrooms	1.6	3.3	1.5	3.9	1.6	2.6	2.5	3.0	6.0	3.7	5.9	2.7	6.1	4.7
Cocaine	2.1	1.6	0.5	3.9	1.2	1.5	1.8	2.2	5.4	3.7	4.2	2.0	5.4	3.9
Crack cocaine	0.9	0.2	0.0	1.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.6	2.0	1.8
Methamphetamine	2.1	0.3	0.5	2.1	1.2	1.2	1.1	2.3	3.0	2.6	2.9	2.1	3.2	2.7
Depressants	0.3	3.7	0.8	4.5	0.7	1.4	2.2	3.1	10.2	7.2	6.6	3.2	10.2	7.0
Heroin	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.3	1.0	1.3	1.0	1.5	1.0	1.4	1.2
OxyContin®	2.3	1.4	0.5	3.9	1.9	0.6	1.8	1.4	3.5	2.4	2.7	1.3	3.6	2.5
Other prescription pain relievers	1.3	3.4	1.3	4.6	1.3	1.3	2.5	4.5	10.0	7.9	7.0	4.5	9.9	7.5
Steroids without a doctor's order	0.7	1.6	0.5	2.4	1.0	0.9	1.2	1.5	1.4	0.9	2.0	1.4	1.4	1.4
Amphetamines	1.3	1.6	0.5	2.8	0.3	1.5	1.5	2.4	5.6	3.9	4.5	2.5	5.7	4.1
Any illicit drug	16.1	25.5	18.6	24.8	14.1	24.7	21.1	22.4	38.0	29.4	32.7	22.0	38.4	30.9
Any illicit drug other than marijuana	9.7	10.8	7.3	14.5	8.6	9.5	10.2	17.2	20.2	18.4	19.4	16.7	20.5	18.8
Alcohol only	21.1	32.3	29.6	23.6	22.5	32.4	27.1	24.8	33.1	31.0	27.4	25.9	32.6	29.3
Alcohol or any illicit drug	36.6	56.9	47.3	47.5	36.0	55.8	47.4	46.8	70.7	60.1	59.6	47.5	70.6	59.7
Any illicit drug, but no alcohol	4.7	3.6	3.0	6.1	4.2	3.8	4.1	4.9	2.6	3.2	4.2	4.7	2.8	3.7

Note: In order to provide comparability with previous reports, only drugs that were included on all three waves of the *FYS4S* were included in the drug combination rates.



**Table 3. Percentages of Gadsden County youth and Florida Statewide youth who reported having used various drugs in the past 30 days, by grade, sex and age**

	Gadsden County					Florida Statewide								
	Middle School	High School	Female	Male	Ages 10-14	Ages 15-17	Total	Middle School	High School	Female	Male	Ages 10-14	Ages 15-17	Total
Alcohol	15.0	32.6	23.6	24.6	15.1	29.6	24.4	19.7	40.8	31.4	31.0	20.1	40.0	31.2
Binge Drinking	8.8	12.8	8.3	14.5	6.9	14.3	10.9	8.6	22.3	14.8	17.5	8.5	21.4	16.0
Cigarettes	6.8	11.0	6.1	13.4	5.3	10.6	9.0	7.1	14.9	11.5	11.2	6.9	14.7	11.4
Smokeless tobacco	4.3	4.3	2.9	6.2	3.4	3.4	4.3	2.9	4.6	1.7	6.3	2.7	4.7	3.9
Marijuana or hashish	6.3	12.9	8.0	12.2	5.3	13.3	9.9	5.9	17.2	10.5	13.9	5.9	17.4	12.1
Inhalants	2.9	2.2	1.7	3.5	2.6	2.2	2.5	5.1	2.3	3.8	3.5	4.9	2.5	3.6
Ecstasy	0.9	1.5	0.2	3.0	1.0	0.4	1.2	1.1	2.7	1.8	2.2	1.1	2.6	2.0
Rohypnol®	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.5
GHB	2.0	0.0	0.8	1.1	1.7	0.3	0.9	1.3	0.5	0.7	1.1	1.2	0.6	0.9
Ketamine	0.6	0.3	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.9	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.4
LSD or PCP	0.7	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.9	0.6	1.1	0.6	1.0	0.8
Hallucinogenic mushrooms	1.0	0.8	0.3	2.0	0.7	1.2	0.9	1.0	1.4	0.8	1.8	0.9	1.5	1.2
Cocaine	0.6	0.8	0.2	1.6	0.6	0.3	0.7	0.7	1.5	1.1	1.3	0.6	1.5	1.2
Crack cocaine	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5
Methamphetamine	1.2	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.6	0.6	0.5	1.0	0.8	0.7	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.9
Depressants	0.4	1.0	0.6	0.9	0.0	0.8	0.7	1.2	4.2	2.8	3.0	1.3	4.3	2.9
Heroin	1.1	0.4	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.4
OxyContin®	0.3	0.9	0.2	1.3	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.5	1.1	0.6	1.0	0.5	1.1	0.8
Other prescription pain relievers	0.0	1.5	0.8	0.9	0.0	1.1	0.8	2.2	4.1	3.4	3.1	2.2	4.3	3.2
Steroids without a doctor's order	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.6
Amphetamines	1.0	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	1.1	1.7	1.3	1.5	1.1	1.7	1.4
Any illicit drug	11.1	17.3	11.3	18.3	9.3	17.1	14.4	10.9	19.3	14.2	17.0	10.7	19.6	15.5
Any illicit drug other than marijuana	6.2	5.2	3.5	8.6	5.0	4.9	5.6	7.4	7.6	7.0	7.9	7.0	7.7	7.5
Alcohol only	9.8	19.0	16.0	13.0	10.5	17.6	14.8	13.3	25.4	20.7	19.0	13.7	24.8	19.9
Alcohol or any illicit drug	20.7	35.5	26.6	30.1	19.7	33.7	28.5	23.8	44.1	34.5	35.4	24.0	43.7	34.8
Any illicit drug, but no alcohol	5.1	3.0	2.7	5.8	3.8	4.4	3.9	4.4	3.7	3.3	4.8	4.2	4.0	4.0

Note: In order to provide comparability with previous reports, only drugs that were included on all three waves of the *FYSAAS* were included in the drug combination rates.

**Table 4. Trends in alcohol, tobacco and other drug use for Gadsden County youth, 2000 to 2002**

	Lifetime Prevalence Rates				30-Day Prevalence Rates				
	2000		2002		2000		2002		
	Middle School	High School	Total	Middle School	High School	Total	Middle School	High School	Total
Alcohol	22.0	46.3	35.2	31.8	53.7	43.5	10.8	27.5	20.1
Binge drinking	--	--	--	--	--	--	8.5	17.9	13.9
Cigarettes	24.9	42.3	34.4	27.5	36.1	32.0	8.3	8.6	8.6
Smokeless tobacco	11.0	9.1	9.9	8.1	10.9	9.5	5.8	5.1	5.6
Marijuana or hashish	7.9	20.1	14.8	10.2	21.4	16.2	4.0	8.2	6.3
Inhalants	6.7	6.3	6.5	5.8	7.6	6.7	2.7	3.1	2.9
Ecstasy	--	--	--	1.8	3.9	2.9	--	--	--
Rohypnol®	--	--	--	0.3	0.8	0.6	--	--	--
GHB	--	--	--	3.1	0.6	1.7	--	--	--
Ketamine	--	--	--	1.2	1.7	1.5	--	--	--
LSD or PCP¹	3.4	2.8	3.1	0.3	2.5	1.5	1.0	1.8	1.5
Hallucinogenic mushrooms	--	--	--	1.6	3.3	2.5	--	--	--
Cocaine	2.4	2.0	2.2	2.1	1.6	1.8	0.0	0.5	0.3
Crack cocaine	0.5	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.8	0.4
Methamphetamine	3.7	1.2	2.3	2.1	0.3	1.1	0.0	1.3	0.7
Depressants²	2.7	0.3	1.5	0.3	3.7	2.2	0.3	0.3	0.5
Heroin	2.3	1.4	1.8	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
OxyContin®	--	--	--	2.3	1.4	1.8	--	--	--
Other prescription pain relievers	--	--	--	1.3	3.4	2.5	--	--	--
Steroids without a doctor's order	4.2	1.3	2.6	0.7	1.6	1.2	2.4	0.3	1.4
Amphetamines	--	--	--	1.3	1.6	1.5	--	--	--
Any illicit drug³	18.3	24.7	22.1	16.1	25.5	21.1	7.7	10.7	9.7
Any illicit drug other than marijuana³	14.5	10.6	12.7	9.7	10.8	10.2	5.0	4.3	5.0
Alcohol only³	14.0	26.6	20.8	21.1	32.3	27.1	8.3	19.3	14.3
Alcohol or any illicit drug³	31.6	50.6	42.1	36.6	56.9	47.4	15.9	30.0	23.8
Any illicit drug, but no alcohol³	9.5	5.0	7.0	4.7	3.6	4.1	5.0	3.0	3.9

Note: The symbol "--" indicates that data are not available.

<sup>1</sup> Measured as "LSD or other psychedelics" in the 2000 survey, and as "LSD or PCP" in the 2002 survey.

<sup>2</sup> In 2002, the prescription drug Xanax<sup>®</sup> was added to the list of examples given in the depressants question.

<sup>3</sup> In order to provide comparability with previous reports, only drugs that were included on all three waves of the FYSSAS were used in the drug combination rates.

**Table 5. Percentages of Gadsden County youth and Florida Statewide youth who reported engaging in delinquent behavior within the past 12 months, by grade, sex and age**

	Gadsden County					Florida Statewide								
	Middle School	High School	Female	Male	Ages 10-14	Ages 15-17	Total	Middle School	High School	Female	Male	Ages 10-14	Ages 15-17	Total
Carrying a handgun	3.4	5.3	1.6	9.7	3.8	4.5	4.5	3.2	4.1	1.3	6.6	2.9	4.3	3.7
Selling drugs	1.2	5.8	1.3	8.4	1.6	4.3	3.8	3.1	8.0	3.5	8.7	3.0	8.2	5.8
Attempting to steal a vehicle	1.6	3.6	1.1	5.2	2.0	3.1	2.7	2.7	3.2	1.9	4.3	2.6	3.4	3.0
Being arrested	4.5	5.8	3.1	9.0	4.6	6.0	5.2	4.9	6.2	3.8	7.7	4.3	6.8	5.6
Taking a handgun to school	0.7	2.3	0.8	3.2	1.1	1.7	1.6	0.9	1.1	0.5	1.7	0.8	1.1	1.1
Getting suspended	26.7	25.6	24.7	28.1	25.0	27.8	25.9	15.7	14.3	10.9	19.4	14.7	15.4	14.9
Attacking with intent to harm	13.9	15.7	13.8	16.9	13.5	17.3	14.9	11.5	12.5	9.5	15.3	11.1	13.6	12.1
Being drunk or high at school	7.8	15.6	9.5	17.2	7.4	15.9	12.3	7.6	16.7	11.1	14.6	7.5	17.4	12.7

**Table 6. Mean age of first substance use among Gadsden County youth and Florida Statewide youth, by grade, sex and age**

	Gadsden County				Florida Statewide					
	Middle School	High School	Female	Male	Ages 10-14	Ages 15-17	Total			
Age when first used...								Total		
More than a sip or two of alcohol	11.6	13.3	13.0	12.1	11.6	13.1	12.6	12.3	13.0	12.5
Drinking at least once a month	12.4	14.3	14.2	13.3	12.3	14.3	13.7	14.0	14.1	14.1
Cigarettes	11.5	12.4	12.4	11.6	11.4	12.4	12.1	12.2	12.0	12.1
Marijuana	12.7	13.7	14.1	12.8	12.6	13.6	13.4	13.7	13.3	13.5

**Table 7. Percentages of Gadsden County youth and Florida Statewide youth who reported a perceived risk of harm, personal disapproval, or peer approval, by grade, sex and age**

	Gadsden County				Florida Statewide			
	Middle School	High School	Female	Male	Ages 10-14	Ages 15-17	Total	
<b><i>Perceive great risk of harm if...</i></b>								
One or more drinks every day	33.9	38.3	36.8	34.6	34.7	39.2	36.2	38.5
Smoke a pack or more every day	46.0	62.3	56.5	52.8	48.5	59.1	54.7	63.7
Smoke marijuana regularly	47.3	51.3	51.6	46.8	49.5	50.0	49.3	58.1
Try marijuana once or twice	33.7	33.2	33.3	33.1	35.6	31.5	33.4	30.0
<b><i>Think it wrong if...</i></b>								
Smoke cigarettes	89.0	75.8	82.7	81.2	89.4	79.0	82.0	77.9
Drink alcohol regularly	82.7	62.8	74.9	69.1	82.5	64.9	72.2	66.4
Smoke marijuana	90.7	75.4	85.6	79.1	91.7	77.6	82.6	79.9
Use other illicit drugs	96.6	91.2	95.3	91.5	96.3	94.5	93.7	94.6
<b><i>Seen as cool if...</i></b>								
Drink alcohol regularly	5.4	10.0	7.1	8.6	4.6	10.7	7.8	10.2
Smoke cigarettes	5.7	6.1	3.4	9.4	5.0	6.3	5.9	5.6
Smoke marijuana	8.1	13.8	8.6	13.5	7.3	15.6	11.0	11.7

**Table 8. Trends in delinquent behaviors for Gadsden County youth, 2000 and 2002**

	2000			2002		
	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Total</i>
Carrying a handgun	3.6	6.0	4.9	3.4	5.3	4.5
Selling drugs	1.9	6.9	4.6	1.2	5.8	3.8
Attempting to steal a vehicle	2.1	3.1	2.6	1.6	3.6	2.7
Being arrested	4.5	8.2	6.5	4.5	5.8	5.2
Taking a handgun to school	0.4	2.7	1.7	0.7	2.3	1.6
Getting suspended	30.9	22.4	26.0	26.7	25.6	25.9
Attacking someone with intent to harm	16.0	17.2	16.7	13.9	15.7	14.9
Being drunk or high at school	6.9	11.4	9.5	7.8	15.6	12.3

**Table 9. Trends in mean age of first use and attitudes toward substance use for Gadsden County youth, 2000 and 2002**

	2000			2002		
	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b><i>Age when first used...</i></b>						
More than a sip or two of alcohol	11.6	13.5	12.9	11.6	13.3	12.6
Drinking at least once a month	11.7	14.3	13.7	12.4	14.3	13.7
Cigarettes	12.0	13.2	12.9	11.5	12.4	12.1
Marijuana	12.3	14.2	13.9	12.7	13.7	13.4
<b><i>Perceive great risk of harm if...</i></b>						
One or more drinks every day	33.1	39.0	36.2	33.9	38.3	36.2
Smoke a pack or more every day	44.5	55.5	50.4	46.0	62.3	54.7
Smoke marijuana regularly	41.9	53.7	48.4	47.3	51.3	49.3
Try marijuana once or twice	31.6	32.4	32.1	33.7	33.2	33.4
<b><i>Think it wrong if...</i></b>						
Smoke cigarettes	87.0	85.0	85.8	89.0	75.8	82.0
Drink alcohol regularly	85.3	75.6	79.8	82.7	62.8	72.2
Smoke marijuana	94.7	89.6	91.7	90.7	75.4	82.6
Use other illicit drugs	96.9	98.6	97.8	96.6	91.2	93.7
<b><i>Seen as cool if...</i></b>						
Drink alcohol regularly	7.3	11.2	9.6	5.4	10.0	7.8
Smoke cigarettes	6.7	8.9	7.8	5.7	6.1	5.9
Smoke marijuana	8.9	10.8	9.9	8.1	13.8	11.0

**Table 10. Protective and risk factor scale scores for Gadsden County youth, 2000 and 2002, and Florida Statewide youth, 2002, across the Community, Family, School, and Peer and Individual Domains**

**Protective Factors**

Domain	Scale	Gadsden County		Florida Statewide
		2000	2002	
<b>Community</b>	Community Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	53	49	44
<b>Family</b>	Family Attachment	49	43	49
	Family Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	54	51	51
	Family Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	53	49	50
<b>School</b>	School Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	51	50	48
	School Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	47	42	39
<b>Peer and Individual</b>	Religiosity	56	58	53
	Social Skills	57	56	52
	Belief in the Moral Order	49	47	47
<b>Average Protective Factor Scale Score</b>		<b>52</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>48</b>

**Risk Factors**

Domain	Scale	Gadsden County		Florida Statewide
		2000	2002	
<b>Community</b>	Low Neighborhood Attachment	59	62	56
	Community Disorganization	55	60	53
	Personal Transitions and Mobility	51	58	63
	Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use and Firearms	55	55	51
	Perceived Availability of Drugs and Firearms	32	35	39
<b>Family</b>	Poor Family Supervision	55	54	52
	Poor Family Discipline	62	60	54
	Family History of Antisocial Behavior	47	53	48
	Parental Attitudes Favorable toward ATOD Use	39	41	48
	Parental Attitudes Favorable toward Antisocial Behavior	43	45	51
<b>School</b>	Poor Academic Performance	60	53	52
	Low School Commitment	37	43	52
<b>Peer and Individual</b>	Rebelliousness	50	51	51
	Friends' Delinquent Behavior	59	62	56
	Friends' Use of Drugs	43	44	47
	Peer Rewards for Antisocial Behavior	39	43	45
	Favorable Attitudes toward Antisocial Behavior	43	47	54
	Favorable Attitudes toward ATOD Use	37	44	48
	Low Perceived Risks of Drug Use	50	46	40
	Early Initiation (of Drug Use and Antisocial Behavior)	45	49	48
	Sensation Seeking	41	40	48
<b>Average Risk Factor Scale Score</b>		<b>48</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>

Note: A score of 50 indicates the average for the normative population, with scores higher than 50 indicating above-average scores, and scores below 50 indicating below-average scores. Because risk is associated with negative behavioral outcomes, it is better to have lower risk factor scale scores, not higher. Conversely, because protective factors are associated with better student behavioral outcomes, it is better to have protective factor scale scores with high values.

# Appendix B

## References

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