



Youth ATOD Survey

2016 Combined Report

A Summary of Key Findings

Rio Grande City Consolidated
Independent School District

Rio Grande City, Texas
Fall 2015 & Spring 2016

Basic Demographic Data on Survey Respondents

- A total of 513 middle school and high school students in Rio Grande City Consolidated Independent School District (RGCCISD) participated.
- More than one-half (58.3%) of the survey participants were students enrolled in middle school, while more than one-third (39.9%) of the students were enrolled in high school.
- About two-fifths (41.3%) were males, more than one-half (54.6%) were females, and twenty-one (4.1%) students did not indicate gender on their surveys.
- Of the total number of participants who completed the ATOD survey, 88.9% indicated their ethnicity to be White Hispanic ($n = 456$), sixteen students (3.1%) identified themselves as White non-Hispanic.

All Student Participants by School

School	Frequency	Percent
Fort Ringgold Middle School	87	17.0
Grulla Middle School	95	18.5
Veterans Middle School	118	23.0
Grulla High School	95	18.5
Rio Grande City High School	118	23.0
Total	513	100.0

Tobacco

- A little less than one-fifth (18.7%) of the 513 students surveyed in the Rio Grande City Consolidated Independent School District (RGCCISD) reported having smoked cigarettes at least once or more in their lifetimes, while approximately five percent (4.9%) reported having ever used smokeless tobacco (e.g., chewing tobacco).
- The average age that students began smoking cigarettes was 12.84 years, with 19.9% of students indicating that they had used cigarettes at some point in their lives on this particular survey item.
- More than one-half (59.5%) felt there was “great risk” if they smoked one or more packs of cigarettes per day, and 57.9% of the students thought it was very wrong for someone their age to smoke cigarettes.
- More than three-quarters (82.8%) of the students believed that their parents would consider cigarette smoking to be very wrong.

Tobacco - Continued

- In regards to tobacco use across the lifetime, statistical comparisons of male and female students revealed a statistically significant ($p < .01$) difference with males being more likely than their female counterparts to have smoked cigarettes at some point in their lifetimes. There was no gender difference on the use of smokeless tobacco.
- There were no significant gender differences on the risks associated with daily cigarette use.

Alcohol

- When asked if they had ever consumed alcoholic drinks on one or more occasions (more than a few sips), more than two-fifths of the students (43.3%) disclosed having consumed alcohol. One-fifth (19.0%) responded that they had been drunk or very high from alcohol once or more in their lifetimes; and one-fifth (19.0%) of the students reported drinking four to five drinks at a party at least once.
- The average age for students to begin drinking alcohol is 13.01 years; with 38.4% of students indicating that they had consumed alcohol at some point in their lives on this particular survey item.
- More than one-fourth (29.7%) of the students perceived “great risk” associated with the daily use of alcohol, and 38.6% reported that they thought it was “very wrong” for someone their age to use alcohol regularly.

Alcohol - Continued

- 68.5% of the students believed that their parents would consider the regular consumption of alcohol to be very wrong; while 4.0% said that their parents would consider alcohol use to not be wrong at all.
- It is interesting to note that male and female students differed significantly on all three alcohol-related items assessing lifetime experiences. Males were significantly ($p < .05$) more likely than females to have had an alcoholic drink, to have gotten drunk, and to have had four to five drinks at a party.
- However, there was no significant gender difference in the average age of first use of alcohol.

Marijuana

- About one-sixth (17.6%) of the RGCCISD youth reported using marijuana at least once or more in their lifetimes, and only 3.5% said that they had used synthetic marijuana at some point in their lifetimes.
- The average age of the first use of marijuana was 13.59 years, with 17.0% of students indicating that they had used marijuana at some point in their lives on this particular survey item. The average age of onset for marijuana use is older than the age for first use of alcohol and tobacco.
- The mean age of the first use of synthetic marijuana was 13.44 years, with 3.5% of students indicating that they had used synthetic marijuana at some point in their lives on this particular survey item.
- A little less than one-half (46.6%) of those students surveyed indicated that they felt there was “great risk” associated with regular use of marijuana, while only about one-fourth (26.1%) of the students felt there was “great risk” involved in “trying” marijuana.

Marijuana - Continued

- Trying synthetic marijuana once or twice was considered a great risk by more than one-half (59.2%) of the students, while more than three-quarters (78.5%) of the students considered regular use of synthetic marijuana to be a great risk.
- 60.6% of the students thought it was “very wrong” to smoke marijuana, while 82.7% felt that it was “very wrong” to use synthetic marijuana.
- 85.2% of the respondents believed that their parents would consider marijuana use as “very wrong,” while 91.6% felt that their parents would consider the use of synthetic marijuana to be “very wrong.”
- Males students were significantly ($p < .0001$) more likely than females to have used marijuana at some point in their lives. Furthermore, the boys were significantly ($p < .05$) more likely than the girls to have used synthetic marijuana at some point.

Prescription Drugs

- Less than one-tenth (8.4%) of the students surveyed reported using prescription drugs in their lifetimes in order to have fun or to get high.
- The average age that students began using prescription drugs for recreational purposes was 13.23 years; with 6.0% of students indicating that they had used prescription drugs at some point in their lives on this particular survey item. No significant gender differences were found on prescription drug use.
- 38.1% of the students believed there was “great risk” associated with “trying” prescription drugs for recreational purposes once or twice.
- When asked about the potential risk involved in the “regular” use of prescription drugs for recreational purposes, more than three-fifths (61.4%) of the students indicated that there was “great risk” involved.

Prescription Drugs - Continued

- More than two-thirds (69.0%) said that it was “very wrong” to use prescription drugs for recreational purposes (for fun or to get high).
- Students believed strongly that their parents would disapprove (86.6%) of their using prescription drugs for fun or to get high.

Frequencies of Lifetime Use

- The frequencies of **lifetime use** indicate that the three (3) most commonly used substances among the students in the school district resulted in the following order:
 - **Alcohol Consumption (43.3%)**
 - **Cigarette Smoking (18.7%)**
 - **Marijuana Use (17.6%)**

Mean Ages for First Use

- The **mean ages** for the first use of substances among the students in the school district resulted in the following order:
 - **Inhalant Use (12.31 years)**
 - **Cigarette Smoking (12.84 years)**
 - **Alcohol Consumption (13.01 years)**
 - **Prescription Drug Use (13.23 years)**
 - **Synthetic Marijuana Use (13.44 years)**
 - **Marijuana Use (13.59 years)**

Students' Perceived Risk of Use

- The high-low **classification of risk** across all students in the school district resulted in the following rank order of substances:
 - Regular use of synthetic marijuana (89.8%)
 - Regular use of prescription medications for recreation (84.5%)
 - Trying synthetic marijuana once or twice (83.9%)
 - **Daily use of cigarettes (82.4%)**
 - Trying prescription medications for recreational purposes once or twice (75.6%)
 - **Regular use of marijuana (71.4%)**
 - **Daily use of alcohol (60.0%)**
 - Trying marijuana once or twice (49.7%)