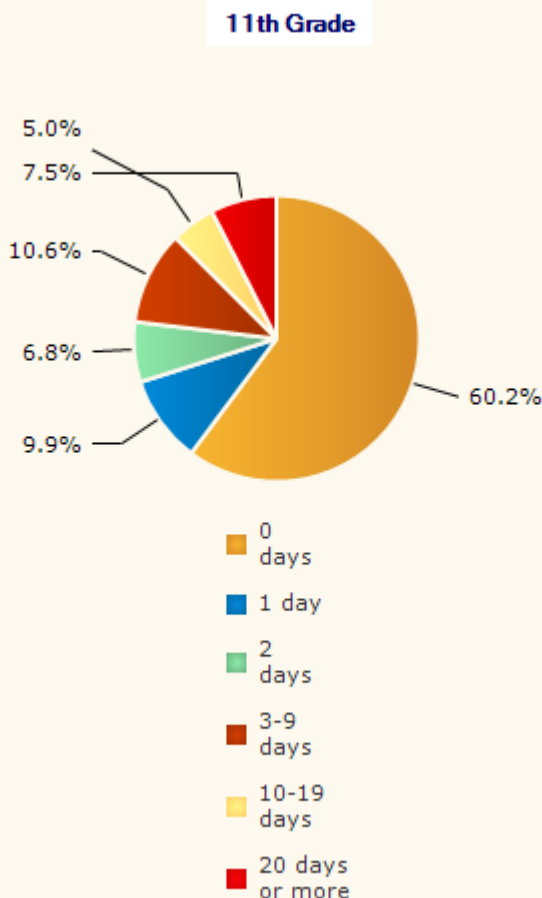


## Youth Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drug Use in CA

### 11th Graders' Use of Alcohol or Other Drugs in the Past Month: 2008-2010



**Definition:** Percentage of public school students in grades 7, 9, and 11 reporting the number of days in which they used alcohol or any illegal drug (excluding tobacco) in the past 30 days. The grade levels included in school district-level data depend on the grades offered in each district, e.g. high school districts do not include 7th grade data. "Non-Traditional" students are those enrolled in [Community Day Schools](#) or [Continuation Education](#). According to [EdSource](#), nearly 10% of public school students in California are enrolled in these programs.

**Data Source:** California Department of Education, California Healthy Kids Survey (WestEd). <http://www.wested.org/chks>

### Students Who Have Not Used Alcohol or Other Drugs in the Past Month, by Level of Connectedness to School: 2008-2010

California	Percent	Range: 0 - 95%
High	77.7%	
Medium	67.1%	
Low	57.2%	

**Definition:** Percentage of public school students in grades 7, 9, and 11 reporting the number of days in which they used alcohol or any illegal drug (excluding

### WHAT IT IS

On kidsdata.org, most indicators of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use come from the California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) through a partnership with [WestEd](#), which developed and administers the CHKS, and the [California Department of Education](#). These indicators include:

- Recent use of alcohol or other drugs, not including tobacco, [in the past month](#) and [on school property](#). In addition, kidsdata.org offers alcohol use [in the past month](#) and [on school property](#), binge drinking [in the past month](#), cigarette use [in the past month](#) and [on school property](#), and marijuana use [in the past month](#) and [on school property](#).
- Lifetime use of [alcohol](#), [cigarettes](#), [inhalants](#), [marijuana](#), and [recreational use of prescription drugs](#)
- Reports of how much students drink [alcohol](#) or use [marijuana or other drugs](#)
- Reports of [drinking and driving or riding with a driver who had been drinking](#)

Most of these indicators are available by gender, grade (7th, 9th, and 11th), race/ethnicity, and level of connectedness to school. [School connectedness](#) is a summary measure that includes being treated fairly, feeling close to people, feeling happy, feeling part of school, and feeling safe at school.

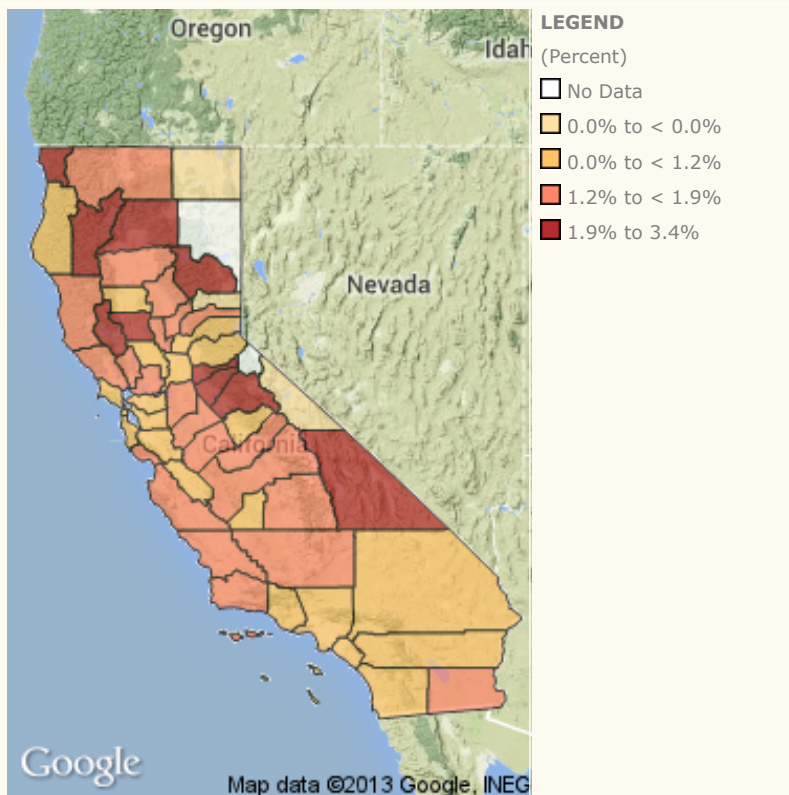
### WHY THIS TOPIC IS IMPORTANT

Youth alcohol, tobacco or other drug use is associated with a wide range of health, social and academic challenges. For example, teen alcohol use has been linked to risky health behaviors (e.g., unprotected sex), poor academic performance, physical and/or dating violence, motor vehicle accidents, crime, and suicide attempts (1, 2). Excessive alcohol

tobacco) in the past 30 days, by level of connectedness to school (e.g., in 2008-10, 77.7% of California 7th, 9th, and 11th grade students with high levels of connectedness to school reported that they had not used alcohol or any other illegal drug in the past month). The grade levels included in school district-level data depend on the grades offered in each district, e.g. high school districts do not include 7th grade data. School connectedness includes being treated fairly, feeling close to people, feeling happy, feeling part of, and feeling safe at school.

**Data Source:** California Department of Education, California Healthy Kids Survey (WestEd). <http://www.wested.org/chks>

### 9th Graders Who Smoked Cigarettes 10-19 Days in the Past Month: 2008-2010



**Definition:** Percentage of public school students in grades 7, 9, and 11 reporting the number of days in which they smoked cigarettes in the past 30 days. The grade levels included in school district-level data depend on the grades offered in each school district; for example, high school districts do not include 7th grade data. "Non-Traditional" students are those enrolled in [Community Day Schools](#) or [Continuation Education](#). According to EdSource, nearly 10% of public school students in California are enrolled in these programs.

**Data Source:** California Department of Education, California Healthy Kids Survey (WestEd). <http://www.wested.org/chks>

consumption that continues into adulthood can have long-term consequences as well, including liver disease, cancer, and cardiovascular disease (3, 4). Cigarette smoking during the teen years also is related to risky behaviors, such as drinking and other drug use; cigarette smoking that is sustained over time is related to a variety of physical health problems later in life (e.g., cancer, heart disease, and respiratory illness) (5, 6). Marijuana use can adversely affect health in both the short- and long-term. Specifically, smoking marijuana can cause anxiety attacks, memory impairment, coordination loss, increased heart rate, breathing problems, and/or cognitive deficits (7). The use of marijuana by teens also is associated with poorer academic performance and delinquent and aggressive behavior (7).

### HOW CHILDREN ARE FARING

Most 7th, 9th, and 11th graders in California say that they have not used alcohol, cigarettes, or marijuana in the past month. In 2008-10, about 25% of 9th graders and 34% of 11th graders reported using alcohol in the past 30 days. When asked if they had ever consumed alcohol, nearly half (46%) of 9th graders and almost two-thirds (62%) of 11th graders reported having at least one full drink in their lifetime, according to 2008-10 data.

Percentages typically are lower for reported cigarette use, marijuana use, and recreational use of prescription drugs. Non-traditional students, those enrolled in Community Day Schools or continuation education, are at highest risk for using these substances.

Students who report feeling less connected to their schools also report higher levels of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use.

*View references for this text and additional research on this topic:*

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## Marijuana Use in Past Month (Race/Ethnicity: All; Number of Days: 20 days or more)

California	Percent	Range: 0 - 11%
African American/Black	5.1%	
American Indian/Alaska Native	5.7%	
Asian	1.1%	
Hispanic/Latino	3.4%	
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	4.2%	
White	3.6%	
Multiracial	3.6%	
Other	3.3%	

Fresno County	Percent	Range: 0 - 11%
African American/Black	5.2%	
American Indian/Alaska Native	7.1%	
Asian	0.9%	
Hispanic/Latino	3.3%	
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	6.9%	
White	3.0%	
Multiracial	3.6%	
Other	2.1%	



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**Definition:** Percentage of public school students in grades 7, 9, and 11 reporting the number of days in which they used marijuana in the past 30 days, by race/ethnicity. The grade levels included in school district-level data depend on the grades offered in each school district; for example, high school districts do not include 7th grade data.

**Data Source:** California Department of Education, California Healthy Kids Survey (WestEd). <http://www.wested.org/chks>



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