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ARIZONA CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION RELEASES 2018 ARIZONA YOUTH SURVEY RESULTS

***Responses from Over 48,000 8th, 10th and 12th grade Students Across State
Reveal Higher Drug Use Among Arizona Youth***

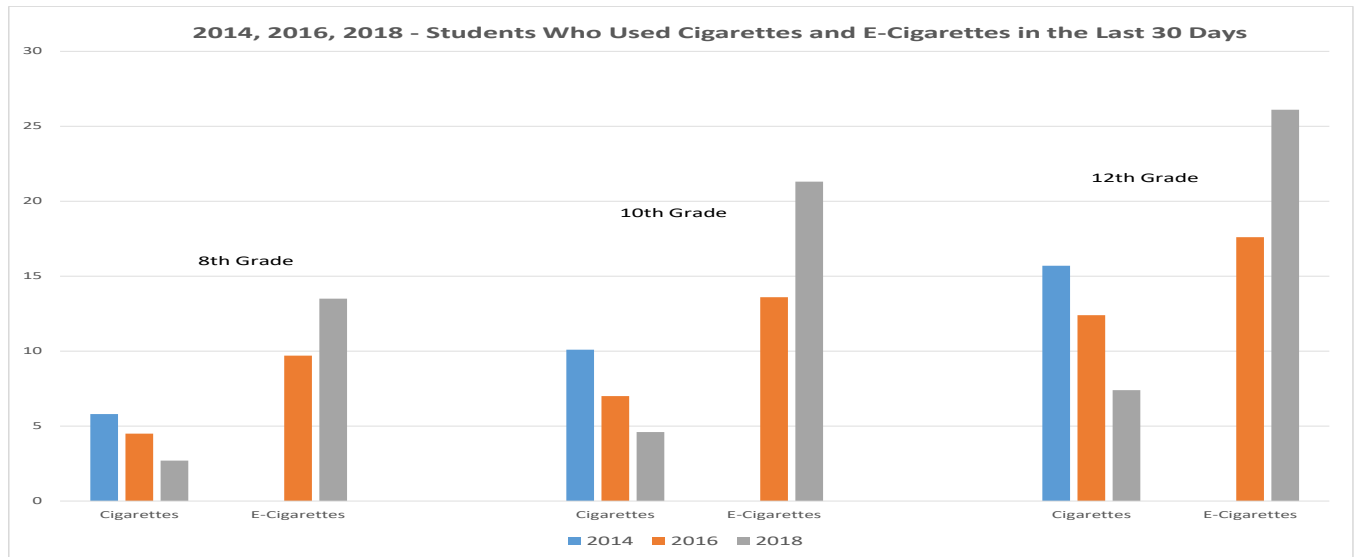
Phoenix, AZ, Monday, December 3, 2018 – Today, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC), the leading criminal justice resource agency in the state, released the results of a statewide survey that included more than 48,000 students in 8th, 10th and 12th grades from all 15 counties across Arizona. The Arizona Youth Survey (AYS) is the primary vehicle used in Arizona to collect data and provide one of the most in-depth and comprehensive looks at youth risks and behaviors in Arizona.

“On behalf of the members of the Commission, I would like to thank Governor Ducey and the legislature for continuing to appropriate the funding necessary to conduct this vital look at Arizona youth behavior and the circumstances under which they live,” said Andrew T. LeFevre, Executive Director of the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission. “Utilizing the data provided in the Arizona Youth Survey, state and local policymakers can make better-informed decisions in developing effective strategies to combat youth substance abuse and improve communities throughout Arizona.”

ACJC, in collaboration with Arizona State University’s School of Criminology & Criminal Justice, conducted the 2018 Arizona Youth Survey to assess health risk behaviors and measure the prevalence of substance abuse - including alcohol, tobacco and other dangerous drugs - among 8th, 10th and 12th graders. Additionally, the AYS assesses the prevalence and frequency of youth gang involvement, gambling, violence, bullying and other risky behaviors in Arizona, and helps stakeholders to better understand the risk and protective factors that are correlated with these behaviors.

“The Arizona Youth Survey provides one of the most in-depth and comprehensive looks at youth risks and behaviors in our state, and is an invaluable tool for those of us who work in the field of prevention,” stated Maria Cristina Fuentes, Director of the Governor’s Office of Youth, Faith and Family. “It helps us identify factors that put our youth at their most vulnerable and assists in designing programs to help every child succeed. When asked why they did not use alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs, 74 percent of students said because their parents would be disappointed – this just reinforces how important it is that we get parents engaged in positive conversations with their kids at an early age.”

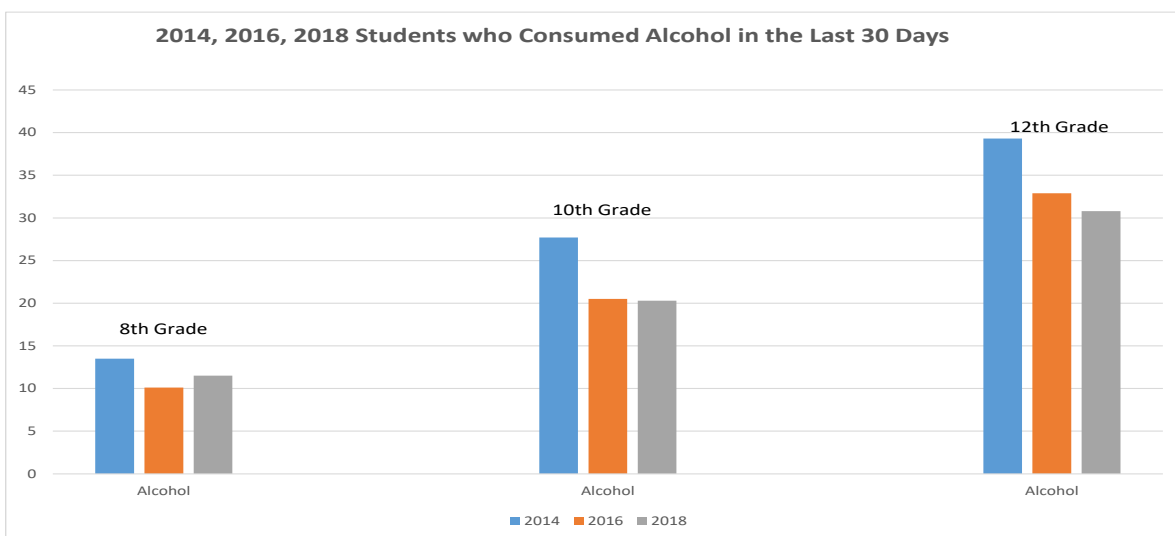
Key Data Highlights from the 2018 Arizona Youth Survey:



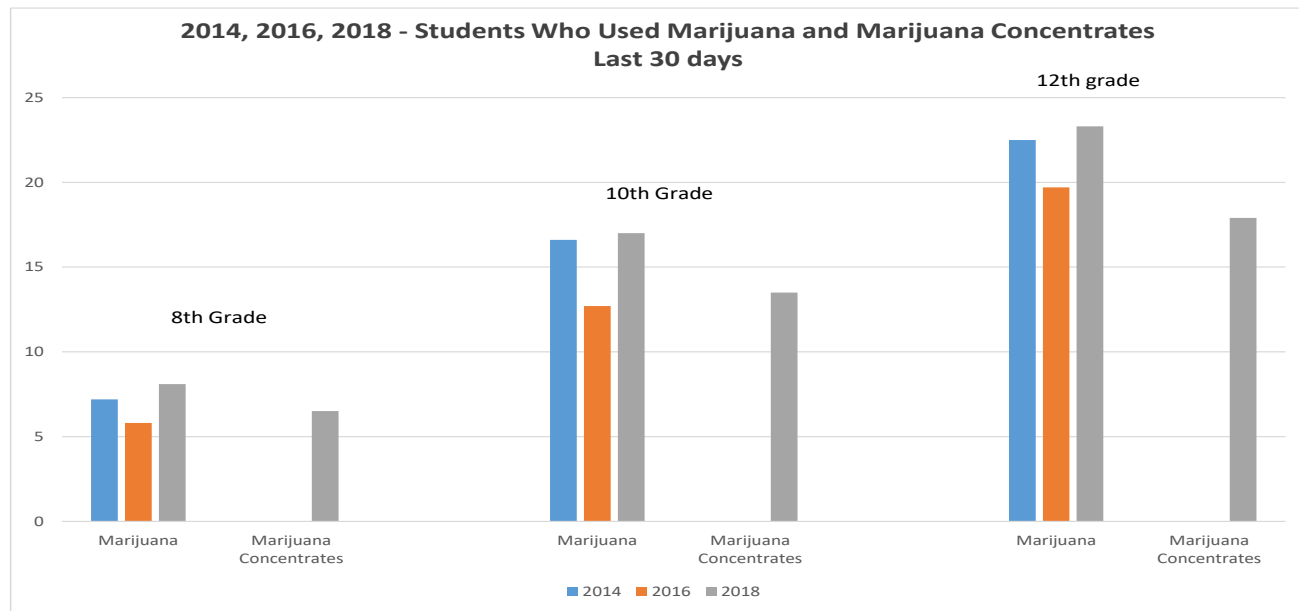
Cigarette Use 4.8 percent of youth reported smoking cigarettes in the past 30 days (7.4 percent of 12th graders). This rate has decreased across all grade levels since 2014.

E-Cigarette Use 19.9 percent of youth reported e-cigarette use in the past 30 days (26.1 percent of 12th graders). This rate has increased since it was first assessed in 2016.

“The Arizona Youth Survey provides critical insight for Arizona government, non-profits and coalitions to more effectively address high-risk adolescent behaviors across Arizona,” said ACJC Chairperson and Yavapai County Attorney Sheila Polk. “While we have made steady progress across the state in declining youth use rates of alcohol and cigarette use, we should be troubled with the meteoric rise in youth use of E-cigarettes which are now the most abused substance for 8th and 10th graders. At this rate, we will erase 30 years of work in smoking prevention efforts in just a few short years.”



Alcohol Use 20.2 percent of youth reported drinking alcohol during the past 30 days (30.8 percent of 12th graders), 9.6 percent of youth reported drinking five or more alcoholic drinks in a row during the past 30 days. In 2018, the most frequently reported source for youth obtaining alcohol was at a party (47.1 percent) and from a relative over 21 (22.6 percent).



Marijuana Use 15.7 percent of youth reported using marijuana in the past 30 days (23.3 percent of 12th graders), and 12.3 percent of youth reported smoking or vaping marijuana concentrates in the past 30 days (17.9 percent of 12th graders).

Where Marijuana was Obtained 24.8 percent of youth reported obtaining marijuana from someone with a medical marijuana card (29.7 percent of 12th graders). 10.6 percent of youth reported that they bought it from a dispensary with Arizona (11.4 percent of 12th graders).

“Data from the past three surveys makes it abundantly clear that more youth are reporting regular use of marijuana across all grade levels – with nearly a quarter of 12 graders indicating regular use over the past 30 days, and 18 percent reporting regular use of marijuana concentrates in the same period,” said Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery. “Even more troubling is obvious and intentional misuse of the Arizona Medical Marijuana Act that is allowing 25 percent of students to get their marijuana from someone with a medical marijuana card and 10 percent to buy it directly from an Arizona dispensary.”

The 2018 Arizona Youth Survey was administered in each of Arizona’s 15 counties representing a total sample of 48,708 valid survey respondents statewide. State and county profile reports are available on ACJC’s webpage

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Created in 1982, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) is a statutorily authorized entity mandated to carry out various coordinating, monitoring and reporting functions regarding the administration and management of criminal justice programs in Arizona. The ACJC serves as a resource and service organization for Arizona’s criminal justice community on a myriad of issues ranging from drugs, gangs and victim assistance to criminal history and crime laboratory enhancements.