

## 8. Attitudes and Beliefs

Older adolescent Kentuckians are more likely to view smoking, alcohol use, and marijuana use positively than younger adolescents. Participants were asked if they thought they would be seen as “cool” in the eyes of their peers if they smoked cigarettes, started drinking once or twice per month, or started smoking marijuana. Figure 8.1 presents the percent of adolescents who answered “pretty good chance” or “very good chance” to these questions by age groups. Adolescents who use cigarettes, alcohol, and marijuana are more likely to think they would be cool than adolescents who do not use that substance. Table 8.1 presents the percent of adolescents who answered “pretty good chance” or “very good chance” to these questions based on their use of that substance.

Figure 8.1: Percent of adolescent Kentuckians who believe they would be seen as “cool” if they used cigarettes, alcohol, or marijuana by age group (Survey questions q131-q133)

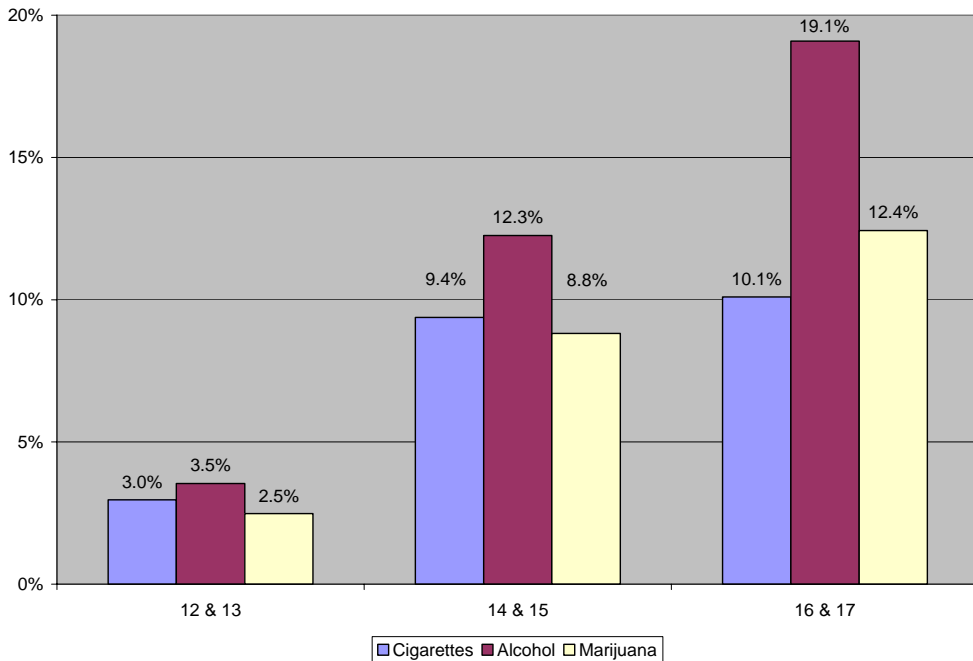


Table 8.1: Percent of adolescent Kentuckians who believe they would be seen as “cool” if they used cigarettes, alcohol, or marijuana by those who have and have not used that substance (Survey questions q131-q133)

	Cigarettes	Alcohol	Marijuana
Used	14.3%	20.8%	30.1%
Not used	5.5%	7.7%	5.6%

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Participants were asked about their perception of risk for drug and alcohol use. Response choices included “great risk,” “moderate risk,” “slight risk,” and “no risk.” Table 8.2 presents the risk areas and perceptions. Very few respondents answered “no risk” in any area. The highest percent for no risk responses was 5.5% for trying marijuana once or twice. The highest percent of great risk was 89.2% for drinking four or five drinks a day.

Table 8.2: Perception of risk for cigarette, alcohol, and drug use among adolescent Kentuckians (Survey questions q144-q153)

	Great Risk	No Risk
Smoking one or more packs of cigarettes per day	73.2%	1.5%
Trying marijuana once or twice	50.6%	5.5%
Smoking marijuana once a month	54.3%	4.5%
Smoking marijuana once or twice a week	79.4%	2.1%
Drinking one or two drinks a day	63.3%	2.4%
Drinking four or five drinks a day	89.2%	1.2%
Drinking five or more drinks once or twice a week	69.4%	1.3%
Trying cocaine in powder form once or twice	73.1%	1.3%
Trying crack cocaine once or twice	76.0%	1.3%
Trying hallucinogens once or twice	73.4%	1.4%

Peer influence to experiment with and use drugs has been documented.<sup>19,20</sup> Participants were asked how many of their three closest friends use drugs or alcohol. Adolescents with friends who drink were more likely to drink than adolescents without friends who drink. Similarly, adolescents with friends who use drugs were more likely to use drugs than adolescents without friends who use. Adolescents with at least one close friend who drinks were 5.2 times more likely to have ever used alcohol compared to adolescents with no close friends who drink. Adolescents with at least one close friend who uses drugs were 10 times more likely to have ever used a drug compared to adolescents with no close friends who use drugs. Relative risk is the probability of an event or outcome in an exposed group compared to a non-exposed group. The relative risk for adolescents to use drugs or alcohol increases with the number of friends who use drugs or alcohol compared to adolescents who do not have close friends who use drugs or alcohol. Using this way of thinking, Kentucky adolescents whose three closest friends use drugs are 17.1 times more

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likely to ever try drugs compared to adolescents with no close friends who use drugs. Table 8.3 presents the relative risk for adolescents to use drugs or alcohol compared to the number of close friends who drank or used drugs.

Table 8.3: Relative risk for adolescent Kentuckians to ever use drugs or alcohol by the number of close friends who drink or use drugs (Survey questions q134-q135)

Number of close friends	Alcohol	Drugs
0 of 3	1.0	1.0
1 of 3	3.6	6.3
2 of 3	5.5	12.2
3 of 3	7.1	17.1

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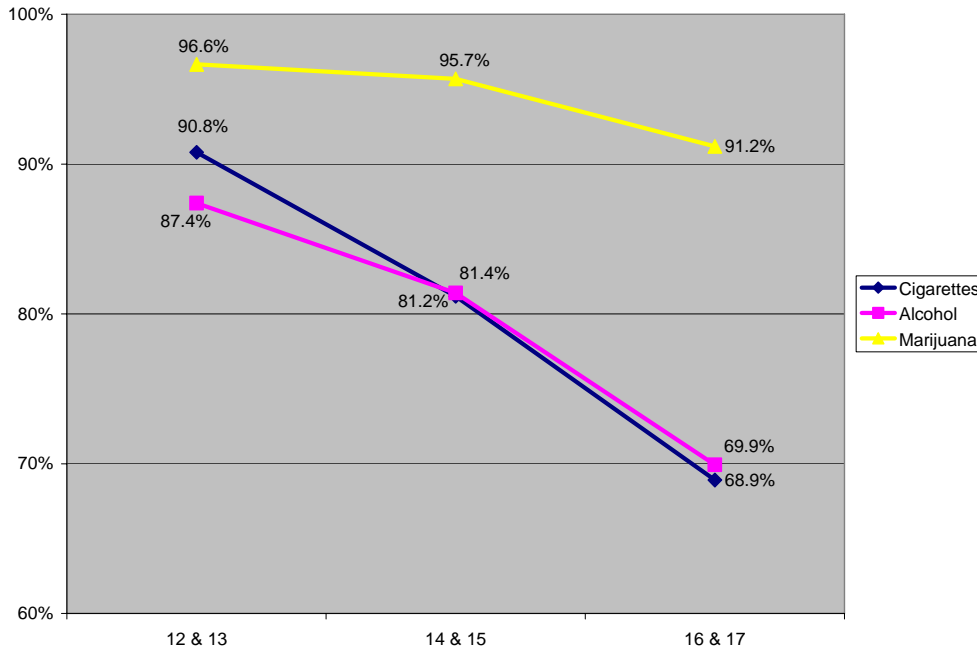
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Adolescents were also asked how wrong their parents would think it was if he/she smoked cigarettes, drank alcohol, or smoked marijuana. Response choices included “very wrong,” “wrong,” “a little bit wrong,” and “not wrong at all.” The majority of adolescents believed their parents would think using cigarettes, alcohol, and marijuana regularly would be very wrong. Very few adolescents indicated their parents would think using any of these substances was not wrong at all. Table 8.4 presents the degree to which adolescents believed their parents would think using cigarettes, alcohol, and marijuana regularly was wrong. There were no significant gender differences in perception of their parents’ disapproval. However, older adolescents were less likely to believe their parents would think it is wrong for them to smoke cigarettes regularly, drink alcohol regularly, and smoke marijuana regularly. Figure 8.2 presents the percent of adolescents who believed their parents would think it is very wrong for them to use cigarettes, alcohol, or marijuana.

Table 8.4: Adolescent Kentuckians’ perception of parents’ disapproval of using cigarettes, alcohol, or marijuana regularly (Survey questions q136-q138)

	Very Wrong	Wrong	A Little Bit Wrong	Not Wrong at All
Smoking cigarettes regularly	80.5%	13.9%	4.0%	1.6%
Drinking regularly	79.7%	14.4%	5.1%	0.8%
Smoking marijuana regularly	94.5%	3.9%	0.9%	0.6%

Figure 8.2: Percent of adolescent Kentuckians who believe their parents think it is very wrong to use cigarettes, alcohol, or marijuana regularly by age group (Survey questions q136-q138)



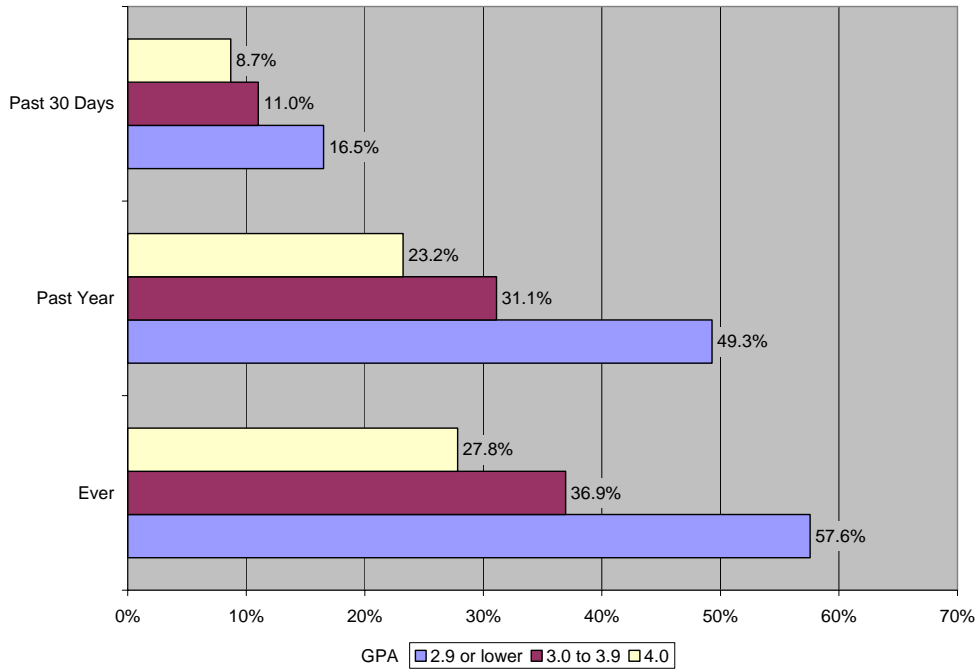
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Grade point average (GPA) was negatively correlated with alcohol use, drug use, and meeting more DSM-IV-TR abuse and dependence criteria. Figure 8.3 presents the percent of adolescent Kentuckians who use alcohol by GPA. Figure 8.4 presents the percent of adolescent Kentuckians who use drugs by GPA. Figure 8.5 presents the percent of adolescent Kentuckians meeting abuse or dependence\* criteria by GPA.

Figure 8.3: Percent of adolescent Kentuckians who drink by grade point average (Survey question q14)



\* The term dependence in this report is not meant to be interpreted as a formal diagnosis. Any person who reported three or more DSM-IV-TR lifetime criteria is included as dependent.

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Figure 8.4: Percent of adolescent Kentuckians who use drugs by grade point average (Survey question q14)

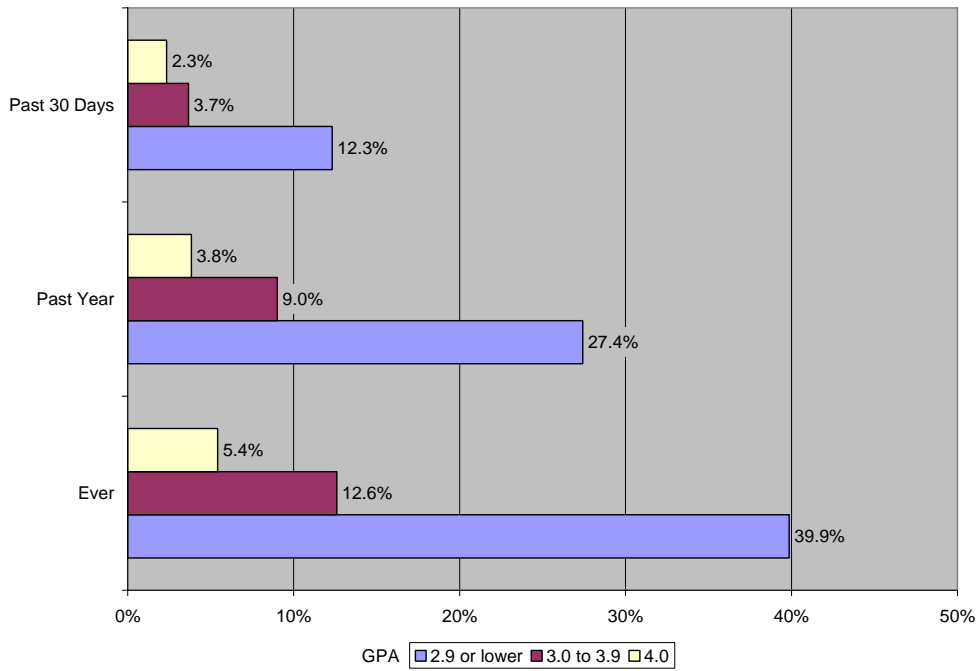
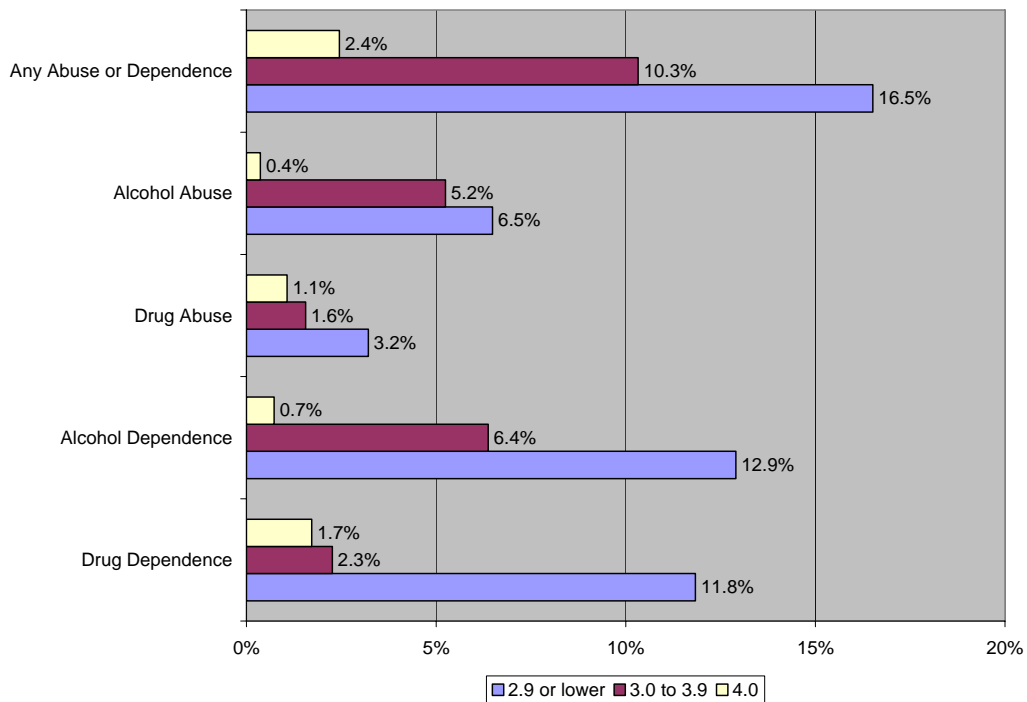


Figure 8.5: Percent of adolescent Kentuckians meeting abuse or dependence\* criteria by grade point average (Survey question q14)



\* The term dependence in this report is not meant to be interpreted as a formal diagnosis. Any person who reported three or more DSM-IV-TR lifetime criteria is included as dependent.

**Alcohol and Drug Use Correlates**

A relationship was found between adolescent Kentuckian nicotine use and the use of alcohol and other drugs. Specifically, adolescents who smoked cigarettes were 4.4 times more likely to drink and 14.4 times more likely to use drugs than adolescents who never smoked. Adolescents who smoked at least 100 cigarettes were more likely to drink and use drugs compared to adolescents who smoked less than 100 cigarettes. Adolescents who used smokeless tobacco were 3.0 times more likely to drink and 4.5 times more likely to use drugs than adolescents who never used smokeless tobacco. Table 8.5 presents the percent of adolescents who drink or use drugs by nicotine use. Table 8.6 presents the risk for adolescent users of nicotine to use alcohol or other drugs compared to non-nicotine users.

Table 8.5: Percent of adolescent Kentuckians who drink or use drugs by nicotine use (Survey questions q29-q63)

<u>Risk Factor</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	
	<u>Ever Drink</u>	<u>Ever Use Drugs</u>
Never Smoked	16.5%	2.8%
Smoked $\geq$ 1 Cigarette	72.7%	40.4%
Smoked 1-99	67.2%	28.1%
Smoked 100+	88.3%	74.7%
Ever Use Smokeless Tobacco	75.0%	40.2%

Table 8.6: Relative risk for adolescent Kentuckians who use nicotine to drink or use drugs compared to adolescents who do not use nicotine (Survey questions q29-q63)

<u>Risk Factor</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	
	<u>Alcohol Use</u>	<u>Drug Use</u>
Smoked $\geq$ 1 Cigarette	4.4	14.4
Smoked 1-99	4.1	10.0
Smoked 100+	5.3	26.6
Used Smokeless Tobacco‡	3.0	4.5

‡ compared to “never used smokeless tobacco”

Adolescent Kentuckians who drink are 14.4 times more likely to use other drugs compared to adolescents who do not drink. Adolescents who smoke marijuana are 31.8 times more likely to use drugs other than marijuana compared to adolescents who do not smoke marijuana.

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Adolescent Kentuckians with a driver's license or cell phone were slightly more likely to drink than others but less likely to use drugs than adolescents without a license or a cell phone. Adolescents who had a job outside of the home were also more likely to drink and use drugs compared to adolescents who did not have a job. When relative risk ratios were computed using the Mantel-Haenszel<sup>21</sup> statistic to account for age differences, none of these results were statistically significant. Table 8.7 presents the lifetime prevalence of alcohol and drug use and relative risk ratio for adolescents with a driver's license, cell phone, and job outside of the home.

Table 8.7: Percent and relative risk ratio for lifetime alcohol and drug use for adolescents with a driver's license, cell phone, and job outside of the home (Survey questions q15, q22-q23, q35-q63)

	Alcohol		Drugs	
	Percent	RR	Percent	RR
Driver's License*	47.5%	1.1	19.3%	0.8
Cell Phone	30.2%	1.2	12.6%	0.9
Employed	40.0%	1.1	17.6%	1.1

\* 16 & 17 year old adolescents only