

Baseline Data Highlights

Substance Use Survey

October 2020

Methods

An online survey was conducted among residents in Martha's Vineyard to examine knowledge, attitudes and behaviors toward various substances.

Recruitment for the survey was conducted through several methods, including: links distributed through community organizations, panel recruitment, and through social media ads on platforms like Facebook and Instagram. The survey was conducted in both English and Portuguese.

The results presented in this report represent a topline overview of priority questions asked throughout the survey. Results are provided among the overall sample, and are stratified to understand variations by age. In particular, results are shown for those aged 18-30, 31-45, 46-65, and 66+.

Demographics

Total Sample		
Males	69.0%	
Females	29.3%	
Age Groups (in years)	18-25	6.0%
	26-35	13.6%
	36-45	14.4%
	46-55	14.1%
	56-65	22.1%
	66+	29.8%

Total Sample	
Hispanic	2.5%
White	89.6%
African American/ Black	4.0%
Asian	0.2%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.7%
Brazilian/ Portuguese	3.5%
Other	0.2%

Substance Use Risk Perceptions*

Those 18-30 showed the lowest risk perceptions toward all substance use scenarios presented. The largest difference was observed in risk perceptions of vaping. Compared age 66+, age 46-65 showed lower risk perceptions toward daily binge drinking, recreational painkillers, and marijuana.

	18-30 yrs	31-45 yrs	46-65 yrs	66+ yrs	Total Sample
5 alcoholic drinks every day	64.6%	78.7%	82.9%	88.3%	81.4%
Heroin once/twice (ever)	70.8%	80.9%	84.9%	75.0%	79.4%
Recreational painkillers one/twice (ever)	35.4%	55.1%	55.5%	58.3%	53.8%
Recreational painkillers one/twice a week	72.9%	75.3%	77.4%	83.3%	78.2%
Smoke marijuana once/twice a week	0.0%	10.1%	6.8%	10.8%	7.9%
Vape e-cigs once/twice a week	27.1%	49.4%	52.1%	47.5%	47.1%
Use benzodiazepines once/twice a week	35.4%	44.9%	59.6%	49.2%	50.4%

*Percent of respondents who consider use of each substance to be of "great risk."

Agreement with Questions: Alcohol*

Respondents ages 18-30 more commonly feel that underage drinking is normalized, and that most parents allow people under 21 to drink at home. Those 45+ show a higher percent who feel that driving while buzzed is dangerous, and a lower percentage that people in their community think it's ok to drink 5+ alcoholic drinks at one time.

	18-30 yrs	31-45 yrs	46-65 yrs	66+ yrs	Total Sample
Alcohol consumption is a serious problem in my community.	68.8%	83.1%	82.2%	81.7%	80.6%
Drinking and driving is a serious problem in my community.	70.8%	85.4%	77.4%	80.8%	79.4%
Driving while buzzed or tipsy is dangerous	72.9%	80.9%	87.7%	85.0%	83.6%
Most people in my community think it's NOT ok to drink and drive.	31.3%	37.1%	49.3%	55.0%	46.2%
Most parents think it's ok to allow people under age 21 to drink at home or at someone else's home.	54.2%	37.1%	43.2%	35.8%	40.9%
Most people in my community think it's ok to provide alcohol to people under age 21.	50.0%	36.0%	37.7%	24.2%	34.7%
Most people in my community think it's ok to drink 5+ alcoholic drinks at one time.	68.8%	58.4%	42.5%	15.8%	41.2%

*Throughout this analysis, all questions reporting agreement include data from those who "Strongly Agree" and "Agree"

Agreement with Questions: Opioids

While most respondents agree that prescription opioid abuse is a serious problem in the community, across all age groups a majority also believe that people in the community think prescription opioids are safer than heroin. Those age 31-45 years old most commonly believe that there are no treatment options.

	18-30 yrs	31-45 yrs	46-65 yrs	66+ yrs	Total Sample
Prescription opioid abuse (Vicodin, OxyContin, fentanyl) is a serious problem in my community.	75.0%	86.5%	89.7%	73.3%	82.4%
Heroin use is a serious problem in my community.	68.8%	80.9%	80.1%	61.7%	73.4%
The opioid epidemic is taking the lives of people in my community.	83.3%	89.9%	91.8%	80.8%	87.1%
Most people in my community think that people who use heroin are junkies.	56.3%	78.7%	67.1%	64.2%	67.5%
Most people in my community think that prescription opioids are safer than heroin.	58.3%	67.4%	57.5%	47.5%	56.8%
Most people in my community think that there are no effective treatment options for people who are addicted to opioids.	29.2%	44.9%	34.9%	25.0%	33.5%

Agreement with Questions: Marijuana, E-cigarettes & Benzodiazepines

Across all age groups marijuana was perceived as less serious a problem compared to vaping. The seriousness of benzodiazepine abuse was similar to the seriousness of marijuana.

	18-30 yrs	31-45 yrs	46-65 yrs	66+ yrs	Total Sample
Marijuana use is a serious problem in my community.	25.0%	39.3%	52.1%	44.2%	43.7%
Most people in my community support the legalization of recreational marijuana.	89.6%	88.8%	90.4%	81.7%	87.3%
Marijuana use is harmful to youth.	58.3%	80.9%	84.9%	82.5%	80.1%
Vaping is harmful to youth.	81.3%	89.9%	97.3%	91.7%	92.1%
Vaping is a serious problem in my community.	64.6%	64.0%	70.5%	48.3%	61.8%
Most people in my community support the regulation and ban of e-cigarettes.	47.9%	43.8%	47.9%	52.5%	48.4%
The abuse of benzodiazepines or ADHD medication in my community is a serious problem.	31.3%	43.8%	54.1%	30.8%	42.2%

Seasonal Use of Substances

Across substances and age groups, it is most common to use substances at the same levels during the summer and winter. Alcohol use showed the largest percent of respondents who report using more in the summer compared to winter. Respondents 18-30 showed higher usage of e-cigarettes and benzodiazepines in winter compared to summer.

		18-30 yrs	31-45 yrs	46-65 yrs	66+ yrs	Total Sample
Alcohol	Use more in summer	37.5%	14.6%	13.7%	4.2%	13.9%
	Use more in winter	6.3%	7.9%	4.8%	0.8%	4.5%
	Use same summer/winter	39.6%	43.8%	44.5%	65.8%	50.1%
Opioids	Use more in summer	2.1%	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Use more in winter	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	0.8%	1.2%
	Use same summer/ winter	8.3%	3.4%	3.4%	1.7%	3.5%
Marijuana	Use more in summer	8.3%	2.2%	0.0%	0.8%	1.7%
	Use more in winter	6.3%	3.4%	0.7%	0.8%	2.0%
	Use same summer/ winter	41.7%	21.3%	24.0%	23.3%	25.3%

		18-30 years	18-45 yrs	46-65 yrs	66+ yrs	Total Sample
E-cigarettes	Use more in summer	2.1%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%
	Use more in winter	6.3%	0.0%	1.4%	0.0%	1.2%
	Use same summer/winter	12.5%	6.7%	5.5%	1.7%	5.5%
Benzodiazepines	Use more in summer	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	.5%
	Use more in winter	6.3%	3.4%	0.7%	0.0%	1.7%
	Use same summer/ winter	20.8%	15.7%	9.6%	5.8%	11.2%

Thank you!