

During the 2008-2009 school year, 18 public junior and senior high schools in Clinton and Warren Counties administered the Ohio Youth Survey to 6th-12th graders. This survey included questions on attitudes, activities, assets, and risk-taking. A total of 7,969 students responded. Of these, 3,345 were Clinton County students and 4,624 were Warren County students. Unless otherwise noted, there were no statistically significant differences between the two counties in terms of student responses.

For more information about the survey, visit [www.mhrsonline.org/ohioyouthsurvey](http://www.mhrsonline.org/ohioyouthsurvey).

The Clinton County Family and Children First Council, the Warren County Family and Children First Council, and Mental Health Recovery Services of Warren and Clinton Counties would like to thank the administrators, teachers, school staff, and students of the Clinton and Warren Schools who participated.

We would also like to thank Minuteman Press of Lebanon and The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati for partnering with us to create these summaries.



# Peer, Family, and Community Influences on Clinton and Warren County Youth who Drink Alcohol

2010

One in five 6th-12th graders in Clinton and Warren Counties (21%) drank alcohol in the last 30 days, according to a survey conducted by the Warren and Clinton County Families and Children First Councils and Mental Health and Recovery Services of Warren and Clinton Counties.

## Youth who Drink More Likely to Have Friends Who Use

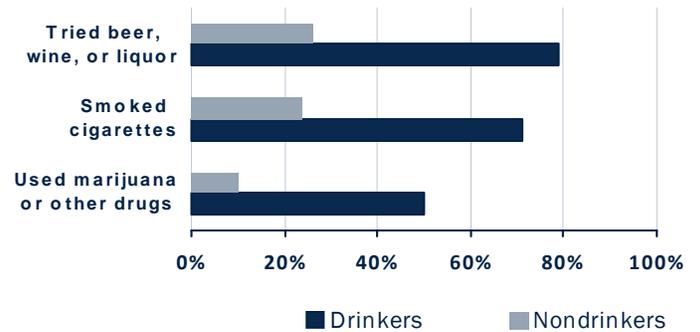
Youth who drank were more likely to also use other substances such as cigarettes, marijuana, or stimulants, and to abuse prescription drugs, which is defined as using a prescription drug that has not been prescribed to you.

Youth who drank alcohol in the past 30 days were 3 times more likely than youth who did not drink to admit that 1 or more of their best friends had used alcohol, cigarettes, or other drugs.

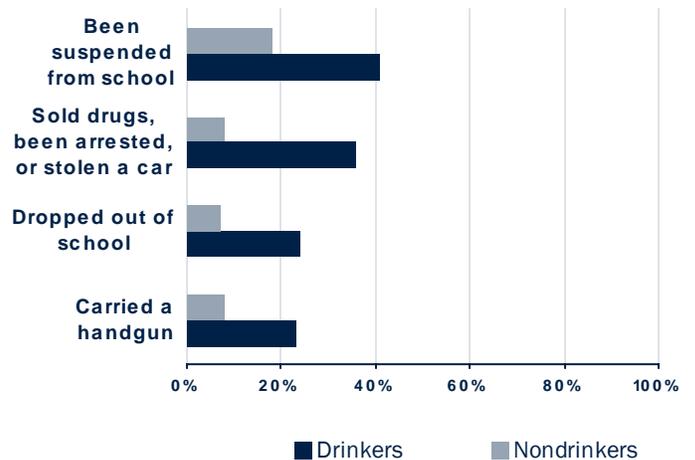
## Youth who Drink More Likely to Have Friends who Engage in Risky Behaviors

Youth who drank were 3-4 times more likely than youth who did not drink to

In the past 12 months, how many of your best friends have...



In the past 12 months, how many of your best friends have...



report that their best friends engaged in risky behaviors such as:

- Being suspended from school;
- Dropping out of school;
- Carrying a handgun; or
- Selling illegal drugs, being arrested, or stealing or trying to steal a motor vehicle.

## Youth who Drink More Likely to Ride with Driver who has Been Drinking, Report Easier Access to Handguns

This alcohol use by Clinton and Warren County youth raises many safety concerns, including concerns about

(continued on back)

driving and access to guns. Youth who drank were 4 times more likely than youth who did not drink to report that they had ridden in a vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol. And, drinkers were twice as likely as nondrinkers to report easy access to handguns.

### Youth who Drink Less Likely to Report Clear Rules at Home or Parental Support

Youth who drank alcohol in the last 30 days were less likely than youth who hadn't drank to agree with the statement that their family had clear rules about what they can or cannot do.

Youth who drank alcohol were less likely to report that their parents:

- Praise them for a good job or say they are proud of them
- Check their homework regularly
- Limit TV time or time with friends on school nights

Only 1 in 10 youth who drank alcohol in the prior 30 days perceived their parents as feeling it was wrong for the youth to use alcohol versus 1 in 100 non-drinkers.

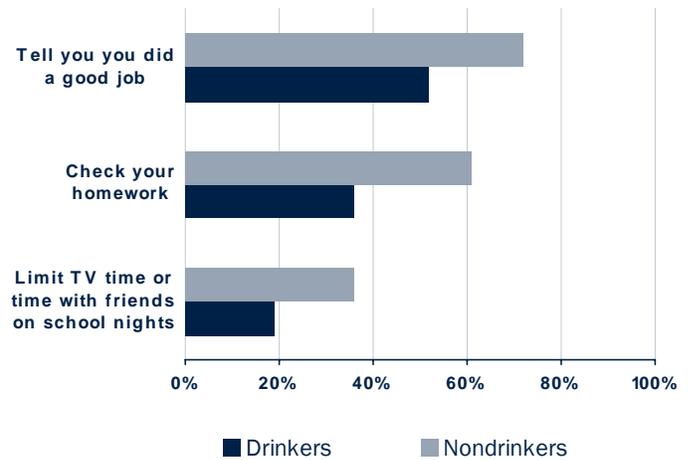
### Youth who Drink Less Likely to Perceive Community as Disapproving of Substance Abuse

The influences on youth who drink are not limited to peers and families. Rather, they extend into the community. Drinkers were substantially less likely to perceive that adults in their communities feel it is wrong for youth to use marijuana, drink alcohol, or smoke cigarettes.

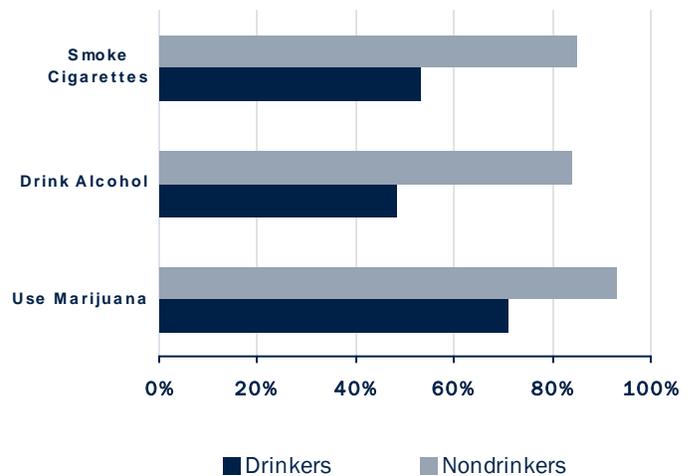
### What this Means for Parents and Adults

- Parents should know who their child's friends are, how their child spends his or her time, and be aware of potential influences.
- Parents can support their child in a variety of ways and for many reasons, such as to

In the past 12 months, how often did your parents... (Graph presents youth who answered "all the time" or "often")



How wrong would most adults (over 21) in your neighborhood think it was for kids your age to... (Graph presents youth who answered "very wrong" or "wrong")



help their child with personal development or school performance.

- Parents and adults should express that underage drinking is unacceptable and dangerous.
- Parents should talk about the hazards of riding with an individual who has been drinking and create a safety plan with their child, giving options for what the child can do if he or she finds him- or herself in a situation where the driver has been drinking.
- Parents and adults should monitor youth's access to alcohol in their homes as well as in the community.
- The community should support young people making positive decisions.
- The community should create a culture where substance abuse is not acceptable.