WEPA
We Engage in Prevention Awareness

COMMUNITY DATA, STRATEGY & REPORTS

Youth Survey Findings 2026

What 107 Bronx youth told us about substance use, perceived risk, and how their friends and families view it, collected through selected WEPA partner schools and community programs.

Area	Presented	Surveys
Bronx, NY	September 2026	107 youth

THE BIG PICTURE

Main finding

Reported substance use was low in most groups, while protective attitudes were generally strong. Parent and caregiver disapproval was consistently high. Marijuana was the area where protective attitudes were weakest.

WHO TOOK PART

Survey participation

61	17	2	8	14	5
Grades 6–8	9th grade	10th grade*	11th grade	12th grade	Grade not reported

*To protect privacy, results for groups with fewer than 5 respondents (10th grade) are not shown. These surveys are still counted in the total of 107. Surveys with no grade reported are counted in the total but not in grade-level results.

WHAT YOUTH REPORTED

Past 30-day use

Percentage of youth reporting any use in the past 30 days. The number of valid responses (n) is shown beside each percentage.

SUBSTANCE	GRADES 6–8	9TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE
Alcohol	3.3% n=60	5.9% n=17	0.0% n=7	7.1% n=14
Tobacco	0.0% n=60	0.0% n=17	0.0% n=8	7.1% n=14
Marijuana	5.0% n=60	0.0% n=17	25.0% n=8	21.4% n=14
Prescription drugs	1.7% n=60	6.7% n=15	0.0% n=8	7.1% n=14

- Middle-school use ranged from 0% for tobacco to 5.0% for marijuana.
- Marijuana had the highest reported use among 11th graders (25.0%, 2 of 8) and 12th graders (21.4%, 3 of 14).

HOW TO READ THESE FINDINGS

- Percentages use only youth who gave a valid answer to that question, so sample sizes vary and may not add up to 107.
- Findings describe youth reached through selected partner sites and do not represent every young person in the Bronx.
- Smaller groups (such as 11th grade, with 8 respondents) can shift a lot with a single answer. Read them with care.

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NYS OASAS HOPEline: **1-877-8-HOPENY** (1-877-846-7369) or text **HOPENY** (467369)

PROTECTIVE ATTITUDES

How youth view risk and disapproval

Higher percentages are better: they mean more youth see the behavior as risky or believe friends and families disapprove. The number of valid responses (n) is shown beside each percentage.

Perception of risk

Youth who said using the substance carries moderate or great risk.

SUBSTANCE	GRADES 6–8	9TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE
Alcohol	86.7% n=60	75.0% n=16	87.5% n=8	78.6% n=14
Tobacco	90.0% n=60	70.6% n=17	75.0% n=8	78.6% n=14
Marijuana	81.4% n=59	58.8% n=17	62.5% n=8	71.4% n=14
Prescription drugs	88.1% n=59	64.7% n=17	87.5% n=8	71.4% n=14

Peer disapproval

Youth who said their friends would think using the substance is wrong or very wrong.

SUBSTANCE	GRADES 6–8	9TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE
Alcohol	85.0% n=60	81.2% n=16	75.0% n=8	85.7% n=14
Tobacco	85.0% n=60	88.2% n=17	87.5% n=8	85.7% n=14
Marijuana	85.0% n=60	68.8% n=16	37.5% n=8	71.4% n=14
Prescription drugs	91.7% n=60	82.4% n=17	100.0% n=8	85.7% n=14

Parent, guardian, and caregiver disapproval

Youth who said a parent, guardian, or caregiver would think using the substance is wrong or very wrong.

SUBSTANCE	GRADES 6–8	9TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE
Alcohol	96.5% n=57	88.2% n=17	100.0% n=8	92.9% n=14
Tobacco	98.2% n=57	94.1% n=17	100.0% n=8	92.9% n=14
Marijuana	94.7% n=57	100.0% n=17	100.0% n=8	78.6% n=14
Prescription drugs	100.0% n=57	88.2% n=17	100.0% n=8	85.7% n=14

WHAT IT MEANS

Key takeaways

- **Families are a strength.** Parent and caregiver disapproval was consistently strong across grades.
- **Marijuana needs attention.** It was the weakest area for perceived risk and peer disapproval among 9th, 11th, and 12th graders.
- **More high school voices are needed.** Small high school groups limit comparisons over time.

WHAT WEPA WILL DO

Next steps

- Develop marijuana-focused messaging for youth and caregivers, without labeling or stigmatizing any grade.
- Reinforce family-facing prevention messages that build on strong caregiver disapproval.
- Increase high school survey participation, especially in 10th and 11th grades.

About this survey: WEPA Youth Core Measures Survey, 107 surveys collected through selected WEPA partner schools and community programs; findings presented September 2026. Heroin and methamphetamine were not included in the local survey.

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Learn more and get involved: **wepa-bronx.org**