



Prescription Drugs

The 2022-23 Tennessee Together Student Survey was administered to public school students in 8th, 10th, and 12th grade. There were 186 schools across 35 counties that opted to participate.

The final sample included 23,011 students with final results weighted to represent the statewide population in surveyed grades.

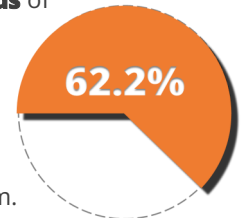
The survey measured youth behaviors, attitudes and social norms related to alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use, including the misuse of prescription medications.

One in fifteen students in Tennessee, or 6.0%, reported ever misusing prescription drugs.



AVERAGE AGE OF INITIATION **12.7** years old

Almost two-thirds of students reported that it was either "very" or "fairly difficult" to obtain drugs not prescribed to them.

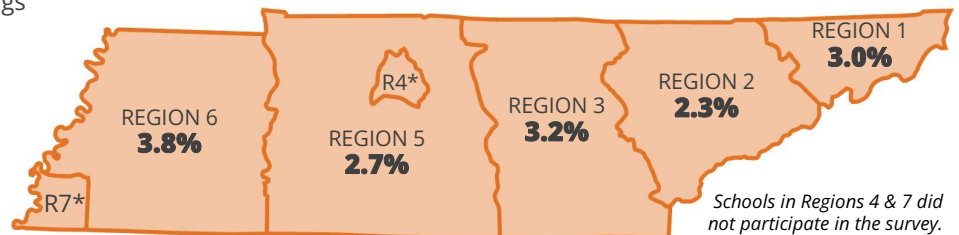


PAST 30-DAY USE

2.9% of students reported misusing prescription drugs in the past 30 days.

42.0% of the students who misused in the past 30 days reported use on six or more days, defined as **high-frequency** use.

PAST 30-DAY USE BY TDMHSAS PLANNING AND POLICY REGION



PEER MISUSE

8.5% of students reported that **at least one of their closest friends** had used prescription drugs not prescribed to them in the past year.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

38.6% of students reported **speaking with their parents** specifically about the dangers of nonmedical use of prescription medications in the past year.

PARENT, PERSONAL, AND PEER APPROVAL

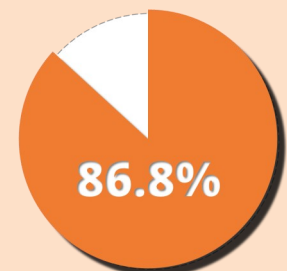
97.0% of students perceived that their **parents** feel it would be "wrong" or "very wrong" to misuse prescription drugs.

92.5% of **students** felt it would be "wrong" or "very wrong" for someone their age to misuse prescription drugs.

86.3% of students perceived that their **friends** feel it would be "wrong" or "very wrong" to misuse prescription drugs.

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

PERCEIVED RISK



of students perceived "moderate" or "great risk" associated with prescription drug misuse.