

## Fairfield County seniors in 2016 were very likely to know how to obtain alcohol

In 2016, fewer than 25% of high school seniors did not know where to obtain alcohol, but nearly three-quarters (73.3%) described alcoholic beverages as very easy or somewhat easy to get. Only 2.6% described it as very difficult to obtain.

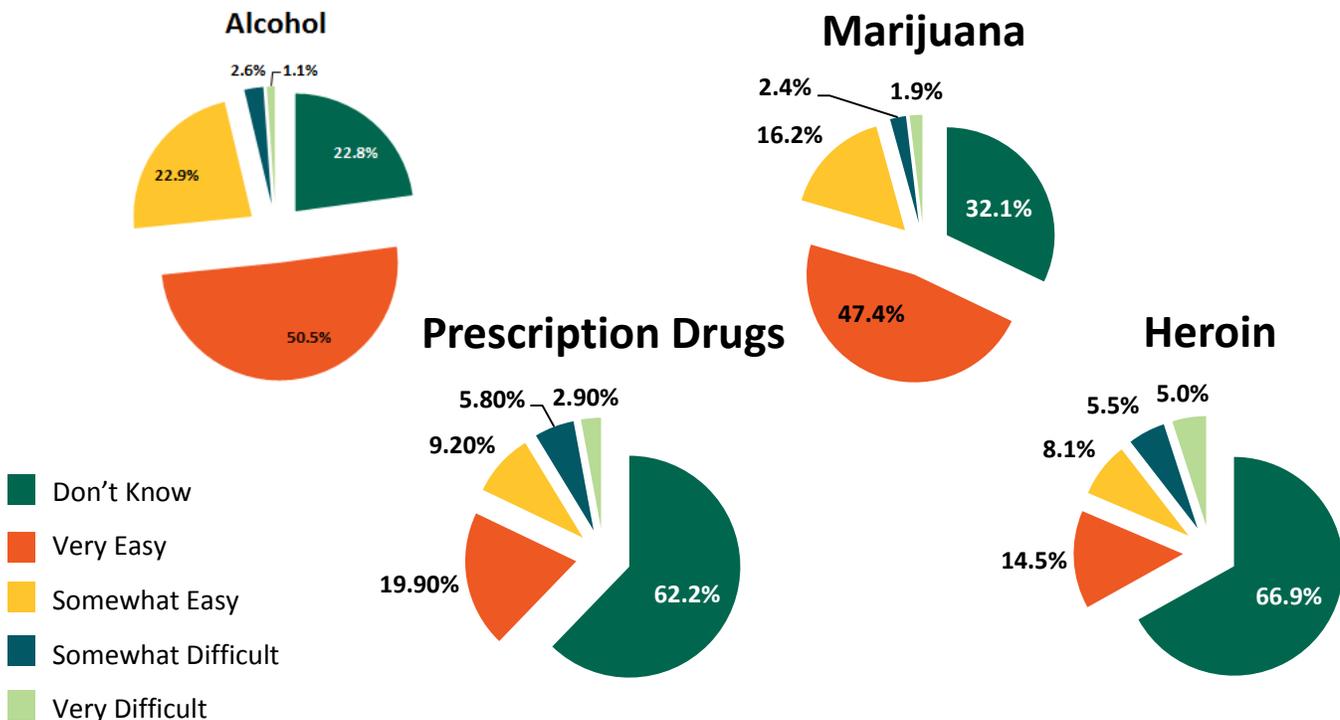
Marijuana was also identified by 47.4% of senior students as very easy to obtain and another 16.2% as easy to obtain. Most seniors, on the other hand, did not know where to obtain heroin (66.9%) or other people's prescription medications (62.2%) Those drugs were described as very difficult to obtain by 5.0% and 2.9% of senior students, respectively, in 2016.

Student responses other than "don't know" mean that the student has heard about, seen or inquired about that substance.

Percentage of Fairfield County youth reporting the ease of obtaining alcohol and drugs, seniors 2016

Results from the Youth Behavior Survey in Fairfield County

Not quite one-quarter of high school seniors described heroin as somewhat easy or very easy to obtain in 2016.

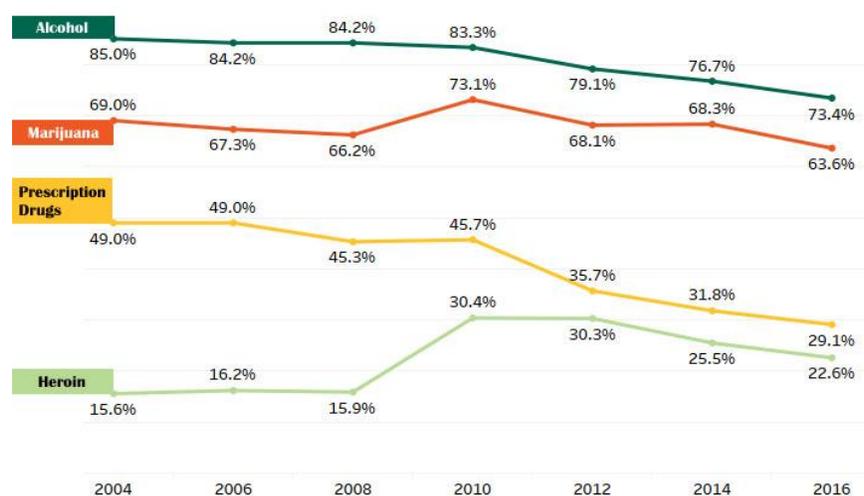


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## Over the past decade, students have generally reported decreasing access to alcohol and prescription drugs

In each Youth Behavior Survey since 2004, students have reported their perceptions about the ease with which they can access drugs and alcohol. The percentages of seniors reporting that alcohol and prescription medications were very easy or somewhat easy to get has declined, and the proportion reporting that marijuana was very easy or somewhat easy to get has remained fairly steady. The percentage reporting easy access to heroin peaked in 2010 at 30.4% but has steadily decreased since then though still higher than in 2004.

### Percentage of seniors reporting substances as very easy or somewhat easy to access 2004-2016



For more information, contact

Fairfield County ADAMH  
108 West Main Street  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130  
740-654-0829 (p)  
740-654-7621 (f)

**Mental health crisis hotline:  
740-687-8255 (24 hr.)**

For more information about alcohol, drug, and mental health community indicators, please visit our interactive website where you can create your own data queries about Fairfield County:

[BHIndicators.FairfieldADAMH.org](http://BHIndicators.FairfieldADAMH.org)

### How were these data gathered?

The Fairfield County Youth Behavior Survey (YBS) has been conducted every two years since 2004 in an effort to monitor behaviors of the county's youth in the following priority areas: substance abuse, mental health, sexual behavior, and risk and protective factors.<sup>1</sup> The most recent biennial survey was implemented in all public schools and one parochial school in May 2016. Students in grades 10 and 12 participated each time.

### How can we address this community issue?

Preventing teen drug and alcohol use takes a full community effort. The Youth Behavior Survey is one of the key elements used by local community-based organizations and partners to identify root causes of youth substance abuse and as a tool to create systems-level change. The results of the biennial survey help to plan focused prevention and intervention efforts, target school-based programs, evaluate progress toward reducing youth alcohol and substance abuse, and identify trends and emerging issues.

*Cover graphic: Data from the Fairfield County Youth Behavior Survey.*

*Source: Fairfield County biennial Youth Behavior Surveys, 2004-2016.*

<sup>1</sup>A total of 2405 students in grades 10 and 12 from 10 schools participated in the 2016 survey. The 2004-2010 surveys were conducted as a partnership between the Fairfield County ADAMH Board and the Fairfield County Family, Adult & Children First Council (FACFC). The 2012-2016 surveys

were conducted by Ohio University Voinovich Center in partnership with the FACFC and Prevention Works for a Drug Free Fairfield County. All materials related to the Fairfield County Youth Behavior Survey from 2004 through 2016 can be located and downloaded at the FACFC website, [www.facfc.org](http://www.facfc.org), or from the ADAMH Board website, [www.FairfieldADAMH.org](http://www.FairfieldADAMH.org).