

Youth Opioid Study: Attitudes and Usage

Young Adults Ages 18 to 24 in the United States

Conducted for:



The Christie Foundation

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Young Adults Ages 18 to 24 in the United States

Background

As leaders in the treatment of youth and young adult addiction, Hazelden is interested in obtaining proprietary national data on youth and young adult drug awareness and use. More specifically, Hazelden wants to uncover:

1. Young people's knowledge about opioids.
2. Youth perceptions around the dangers of opioids.
3. How young people perceive a link between prescription pain medications and heroin.
4. Degree to which young people view prescription opioids as easily obtainable.
5. Views youth have for prescription opioids as a problem among their peer group.

Survey Methodology

Data was collected using an email survey from respondents ages 18 to 24, who live in the United States. Responses were gathered from an approximately equal number of males and females as well as those who attend/have attended college and those who have not.

Data Collection

The survey was conducted from March 30th to April 17th, 2015.

1,151 responses were gathered that met the requirements outlined in the Survey Methodology section above.

Overall results obtained from the survey are statistically valid (at a 95% confidence level) to within +/- 2.8%.

Executive Summary

Youth and young adults say that opioids are easy to get and share

A third of respondents (32.7%) say that prescription opioids are easy to acquire, with half (49.5%) saying they could do so within 24 hours. The easiest source: parent's or friend's medicine cabinets. One-third of respondents (31.7%) said the cost of buying them is reasonable and although 84.9% say they know it is illegal to share prescription opioids, 23.6% say this knowledge wouldn't stop them from sharing.

Nearly one-third of respondents say they know of someone who has overdosed

Almost one-third (30.8%) of respondents say they know of someone who has overdosed on prescribed pain medication or heroin. Yet 37.2% said they would have no idea of where to go for help if they, or someone they know, experienced an overdose.

Misuse of pain medication is attributed to a need to reduce anxiety or stress, or to aid in sleeping, more than simply to "get high."

Respondents who have used prescribed pain pills in excess or have used prescription pain pill that were not prescribed to them said it was primarily to relieve anxiety or stress (61.2%), to help with sleep (52.8%) and, thirdly, to get high (34.8%).

Opioid knowledge and awareness are contradictory

In general, a majority of young people (54.6% vs. 45.4%) say they know what an opioid is, and the percent increases if the person knows of someone who has overdosed, is currently taking an opioid prescription, or is pursuing higher education. The biggest jump in knowledge occurs between age 18 and 19. Their knowledge is contradicted by the fact that 59.9% say prescription pain medicine is less risky than heroin even though prescription opioid narcotics have the same ingredients as heroin.

Despite knowledge of danger around opioids, many young people are opioid risk takers

While the vast majority (86.6%) of those surveyed know that certain pain medication is addictive, and 45.0% think that prescription opioid pain medications are similar to heroin in terms of their impact on the mind and body, nearly one in six (15.5%) would consider trying a pain pill not prescribed to them. While they rate heroin as extremely risky (4.44 on a 5 point scale), and 30.5% view the risk of heroin and prescription pain medicine as equally risky, one in 20 (4.9%) would consider trying a "heroin pill." At the same time, one in ten (11%) say they have taken a pill without knowing what it was. These contradictions are present despite the relatively high academic knowledge of the respondents: 80% of the respondents have a high-school or college GPA of 3.0 or higher.

One in six use of prescription pain pills not prescribed to them

15.9% of all respondents said they have used pain pills NOT prescribed to them. This number is particularly higher (37.1%) among those who currently are taking prescribed pain pills; 30.1% among those who know someone who has overdosed; and 22.5% of those who are or were in intercollegiate sports.

Most common pain medication used are Vicodin and morphine

The top five most common pain medications prescribed and the percent of respondents who received the prescription and used it in the past 30 days: Vicodin (6.8%); morphine (6.5%); codeine (5.9%); OxyContin (5.2%); Demerol (4.4%).

One in ten respondents takes a prescription pain medication

10.4% of all respondents report currently taking a prescription pain medication. This number jumps to 17.3% for Grad students and 15.8% for those who participated or are participating in Greek Life as part of their college experience. Of those taking prescribed pain pills, about one fifth (20.2%) report using the pills in excess of the dose prescribed. Of those taking prescribed pain pills, 29.0% report experiencing any problems (combination of those responding they have experienced moderate or significant problems).

Greatest reasons for obtaining the prescription are for surgeries or pain

The top two reasons youth and young adults receive pain medication prescriptions are for surgeries, including dental surgeries (55.8%) and for short-term or chronic pain (39.3%). Men are more likely to obtain a pain medication prescription for dental and other surgery, athletic injury, and chronic or long-term pain. Women are more likely to obtain a pain medication prescription for dental and other surgery, acute or short-term pain, and “other” injuries.

Youth and young adults categorize drugs into two classes of danger

Heroin, meth, cocaine and ecstasy (molly) were rated consistently higher in perceived danger than prescription pain medication, attention deficit medication, alcohol or marijuana. Marijuana was perceived as least dangerous.

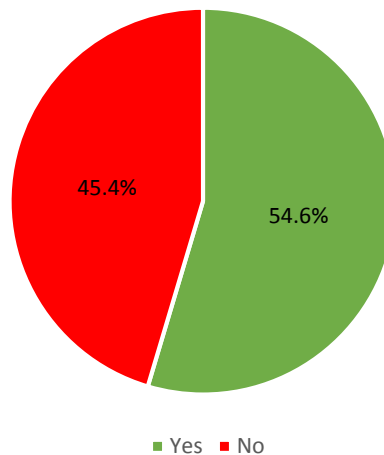
Detailed Findings

Young people's knowledge about opioids.

Respondents were asked if they know what an opioid is:

- 54.6% say that they know what an opioid is
- 45.4% say that they do not know what an opioid is

Do you know what an opioid is?



Groups that have more than average knowledge:

- In general those more involved in High School or College activities, the more likely they are to know what an opioid is
- 66.6% of those who know someone who has overdosed know what an opioid is vs 49.5% of those who don't know someone who has overdosed
- 65.2% of those who are currently taking prescription pain medication know what an opioid is vs 53.5% of those who aren't taking
- 63.8% of Grad Students know what an opioid is vs 56.8% of Undergrads
- 62.8% of those who attend(ed) Private College know what an opioid is vs 57.2% of those who attend(ed) a State College
- 76.0% of those who participate(d) in Greek Life in college know what an opioid is vs 52.6% of the rest

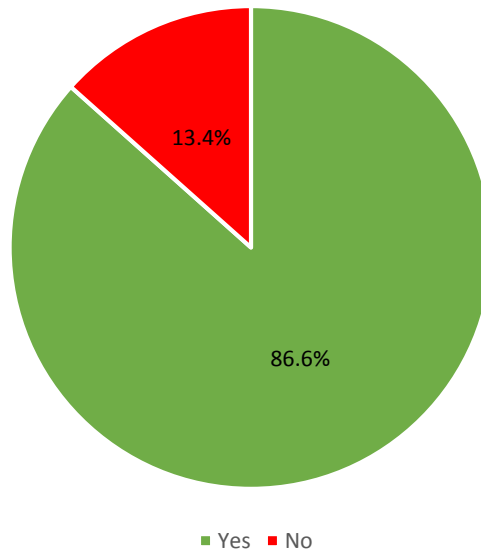
A group that has significantly less than average knowledge:

- 39.5% of 18 year olds know what an opioid is vs 54.6% overall

Respondents were asked if they were aware that certain pain medications are addictive:

- 86.6% are aware they are addictive
- 13.4% are not aware that they are addictive

Are you aware that certain pain medications are addictive?



Groups that are more aware than average that pain medication is addictive:

- 92.4% of those who know someone who has OD'd are aware certain pain meds are addictive
- 91.8% of those who know what an opioid is are aware certain pain medications are addictive
- 91.3% of Females are aware that certain pain medications are addictive

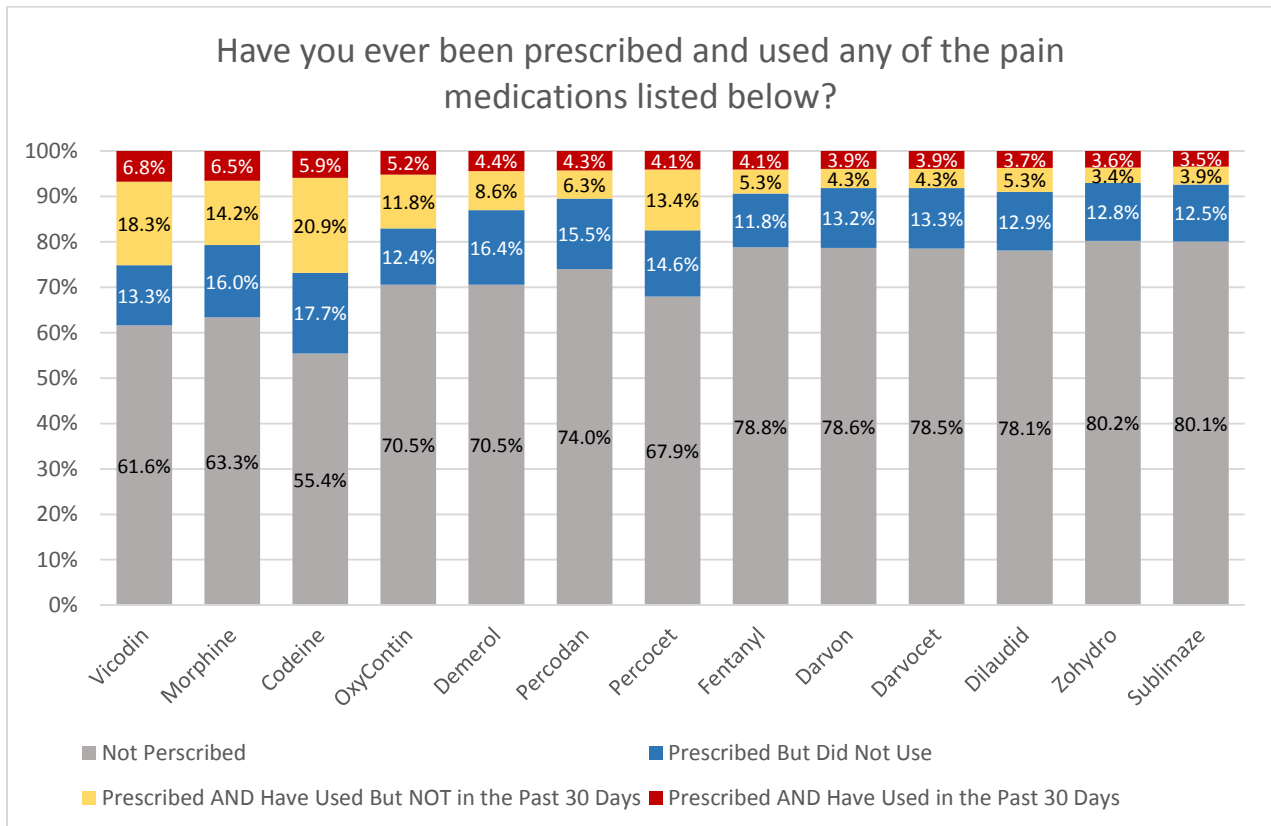
Groups that are less aware than average that pain medication is addictive:

- 72.9% who left High School before graduating are aware that certain pain medications are addictive
- 80.8% of those who don't know what an opioid is are not aware that certain pain medications are addictive
- 81.6% of Males are aware that certain pain medications are addictive
- 81.8% of those in/were in intercollegiate sports are aware that certain pain meds are addictive

Young People's Usage of Pain Medications

Respondents were asked if they have ever been prescribed and used any of the pain medications that are listed below:

- Codeine
- Morphine
- Demerol
- Percodan
- Percocet
- Vicodin
- Darvon
- Darvocet
- OxyContin
- Dilaudid
- Sublimaze
- Fentanyl
- Zohydro



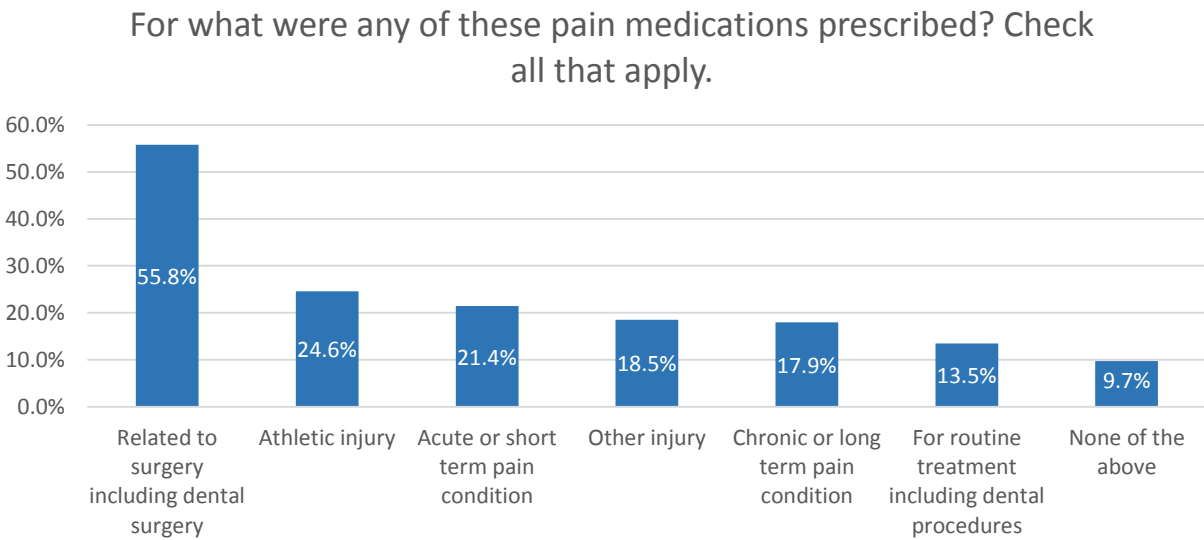
An interesting trend showed by this graph is that many of those who are prescribed pain medications do not take them. On average 14.0% (between 11.8% and 17.7% depending on the medication) indicated that they were prescribed prescription pain medications that they did not use. This may be a contributing factor as to why there is an excess supply of these medicines in homes (which also happens to be the place respondents indicated prescription pain medications are most readily available to them).

Groups that have higher percentages who have taken the listed pain medications are:

- Males
- Graduate Students
- Those who participated in intercollegiate sports

Respondents that indicated they have taken any of the pain medications that were listed above were asked why they were prescribed:

- 55.8% related to surgery including dental surgery
- 24.6% for an athletic injury
- 21.4% for an acute or short term pain condition
- 18.5% for an 'other' injury
- 17.9% for chronic or long term pain condition
- 13.5% for routine treatment including dental procedures
- 9.7% None of the above



Notable findings

Male/Female

- 70.2% of Females used the prescribed medications listed because of surgery vs 43.5% of Males
- 32.7% of Males used the prescribed medications listed because of athletic injury vs 14.9% of Females
- 29.8% of Females used the prescribed medications listed because of acute or short term pain vs 14.4% of Males

Educational level

- 62.8% of those in College and 78.1% College Grads have used the prescribed medications listed for surgery vs 17.6% of those who left High School and 47.2% High School Grads
- 40.6% of College Grads have used the prescribed medications listed for Athletic injury vs 14.7% of those who left High School, 19.3% High School Grads, and 26.1% of those in College
- 71.4% of Undergrads have used the prescribed medications listed for surgery vs 53.2% of Grad Students
- 40.3% of Grad Students have used the prescribed medications listed for athletic injuries vs 25.6% Undergrads
- 19.5% of Grad Students have used the prescribed medications listed for routine treatment vs 9.4% of Undergrads

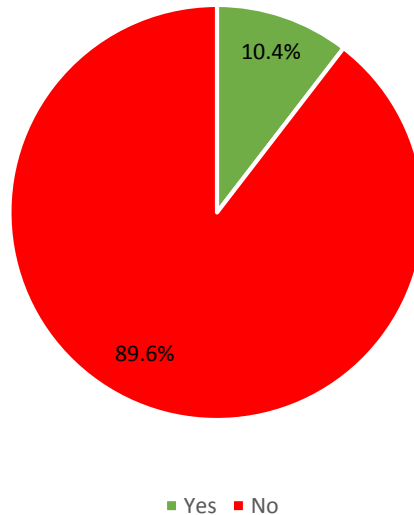
College life

- 87.8% of those who went to a Private College have used the prescribed medications listed for surgery vs 61.9% of those who went to a State College
- Those who participated in intercollegiate sports are much more likely to have used prescribed pain medication because of athletic injury 55.7% vs 20.4%

Respondents were asked if they are currently taking prescription pain medication:

- 10.4% are currently taking prescription pain medication
- 89.6% are not currently taking prescription pain medication

Are you currently taking prescription pain medication?



Notable findings

Groups that have higher percentages of respondents that are currently taking prescription pain medications are:

Male/Female

- 12.0% of Males are currently taking prescription pain medication vs 9.0% of Females

Geography

- 7.4% of the South West are currently taking prescription pain medication vs 12.2% of the West, 9.5% of the Mid West, 10.9% of the South, and 10.5% of the North East

Education Level

- 14.8% of those who left High School are currently taking prescription pain medication vs 10.4% of High School Grads, 10.1% of those in College, & 9.9% of College Grads
- 17.3% of Grad Students are currently taking prescription pain medication vs 8.2% of Undergrads

College Life

- 11.8% of State College students are currently using prescription pain medication vs 4.8% of Private College students
- 15.8% of those who were/are part of the Greek community are currently taking prescription pain medication vs 10.0% of the rest

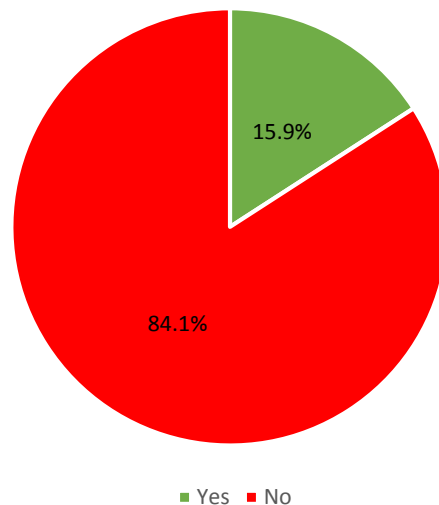
Other

- 12.1% of those who know what an opioid is are more likely to be taking prescribed prescription pain medication vs 7.8% of those who don't know
- 15.6% of those who know someone who has overdosed are currently taking prescription pain medication vs 8.1% of those who don't know someone who has

Respondents were asked if they have used prescription pain pills that were not prescribed to them:

- 15.9% have used prescription pain pills not prescribed to them
- 84.1% have not used prescription pain pills not prescribed to them

Have you used prescription pain pills that were not prescribed to you?



Notable findings

Groups that have higher percentages of respondents that have used prescription pain pills not prescribed to them are:

Male/Female

- 18.4% of Males have used prescription pain pills that were not prescribed to them vs 13.6% of Females

Educational Level

- 20.0% of those who left High School and 19.7% of College Grads have used prescription pain pills not prescribed to them vs 15.2% High School Grads and 14.8% of those in College
- 20.0% of Grad Students have used prescription pain pills not prescribed to them vs 15.1% of Undergrads

- 17.8% of those who went to a State College have used prescription pain pills not prescribed to them vs 10.3% of those who went to a Private College

College Life

- 22.5% of those in/were in intercollegiate sports have used prescription pain pills not prescribed to them vs 15.1% of the rest
- 20.0% of those who were/are a part of the Greek community have used prescription pain pills not prescribed to them vs 15.5% of the rest

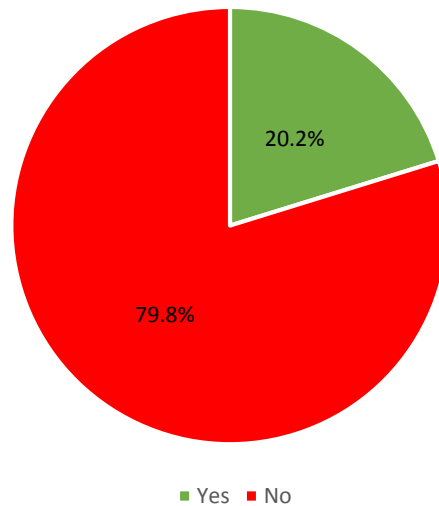
Other

- 19.8% of those who know what an opioid is have used prescription pain pills not prescribed to them vs 10.7% who don't know
- 37.1% of those who are currently taking prescription pain pills have used prescription pain pills that weren't prescribed for them vs 13.4% of those who aren't
- 30.1% of those who know someone who has overdosed have used prescription pain pills not prescribed to the vs 9.4% of those who don't

Respondents that indicated that they have been prescribed pain pills were asked if they have used prescription pain pills that was prescribed to them in excess of the dose provided to them:

- 20.2% have used a prescribed pain pills in excess
- 79.8% have not used a prescribed pain pills in excess

Have you used prescription pain pills that were prescribed to you in excess of the dose prescribed to you?



Notable findings

Groups that have higher percentages of respondents that have used prescribed pain pills in excess are:

Male/Female

- 26.4% of Males have used prescription pain pills that were prescribed to them in excess vs 14.5% of Females

Geography

- 26.0% West have used prescription pain pills prescribed to them in excess vs 23.3% Mid-West, 15.9% South, 16.7% South West, 18.5% North East

Education Level

- 21.7% of those who Left High School and 23.5% High School Grads have used prescription pain pills prescribed to them in excess vs 18.4% of those in College and 16.9% of College Grads
- 20.1% of those who went to a State College have used prescription pain pills they were prescribed in excess vs 10.8% of those who went to a Private College

College Life

- 22.0% of those who live on campus have used prescription pain pills in excess vs 14.0% of off campus and 17.0% of those who live at home

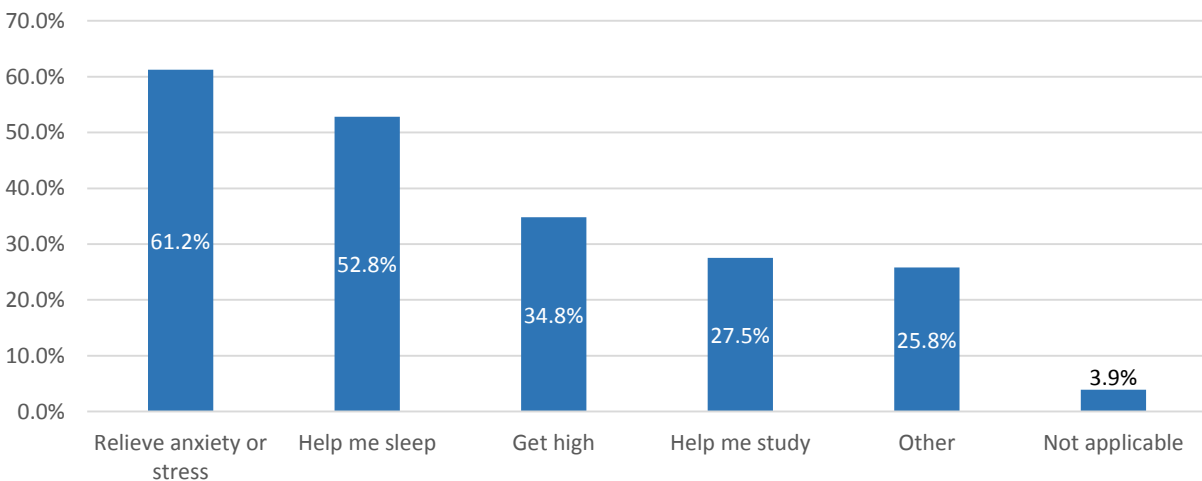
Other

- 23.4% of those who know what an opioid is have used prescription pain pills prescribed to them in excess vs 15.5% of those who don't know
- 33.3% of those who are currently taking prescription pain pills have used them in excess than prescribed vs 17.3% of those who aren't taking them
- 30.3% of those who know someone who has overdosed have used prescription pain pills prescribed to them in excess vs 13.7% of those who don't

Respondents who have used prescribed pain pills in excess or have used prescription pain pill that were not prescribed to them were asked why:

- Relieve anxiety or stress - 61.2%
- Help me sleep - 52.8%
- Get high - 34.8%
- Help me study - 27.5%
- Other - 25.8%
- Not applicable - 3.9%

Which of the following best describes the reason why you have used prescription pills that were not perscribed to you or in excess of what was perscribed to you?



Notable findings

Groups that have higher percentages of those who have taken prescription pain pills for the listed reasons are:

Male/Female

- Males more likely to use prescription pain pills not prescribed to them because of:
 - Help sleep 60.6% vs 43.0%
 - Get high 39.4% vs 29.1%
 - Help study 38.4% vs 13.9%
- Females more likely to use prescription pain pills not prescribed to them because of Other: 32.9% vs 20.2%

Geography

- Midwest 51.0% and South West 58.3% most likely to use prescription pain pills not prescribed or prescribed PPM in excess to get high

Educational Level

- College Grads 6.9% are least likely to use prescription pain pills not prescribed or prescribed prescription pain pills in excess to get high vs 33.3% of those who Left High School, 42.4% of High School Grads, 39.4% of those in College
- 61.3% of Undergrads who use prescription pain pills in excess or that are not prescribed to them for anxiety relief vs 44.0% of Grad Students
- 76.0% of Grad Students who use prescription pain pills in excess or that are not prescribed to them for to help them sleep vs 50.7% of Undergrads
- 56.0% of Grad Students who use prescription pain pills in excess or that are not prescribed to them for to help them study vs 25.3% of Undergrads

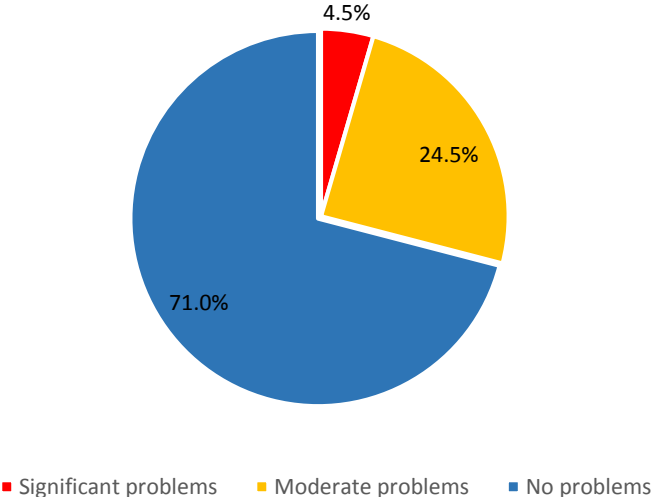
College Life

- 40.0% of those who went to a Private College who use prescription pain pills in excess or that are not prescribed to them for to help them study vs 31.8% of those who went to a State College
- 44.0% of those in/were in intercollegiate sports who have used prescription pain pills not prescribed to them used them to help them study vs 24.8% of the rest

Respondents that indicated they had used prescription pain pills were asked to describe the level of problems they have experienced from using prescription pain pills:

- 4.5% have had significant problems
- 24.5% have had moderate problems
- 71.0% have had no problems

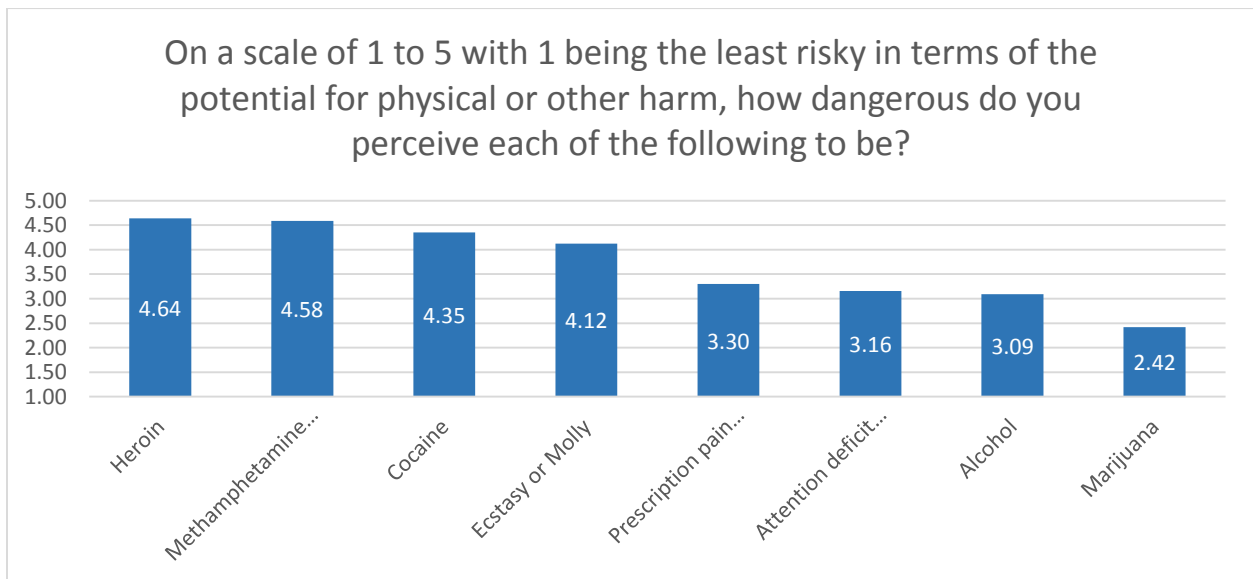
How would you describe the level of problems that you have experienced as a result of using prescription pain pills?



Youth and young adult perceptions around the dangers of opioids.

Respondents were asked to rate the following drugs on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being the least risky in terms of the potential for physical or other harm, how dangerous they perceive them to be:

- Heroin - 4.64
- Methamphetamine (Meth) - 4.58
- Cocaine - 4.35
- Ecstasy or Molly - 4.12
- Prescription pain medication - 3.30
- Attention deficit medications such as Ritalin Dexedrine or Adderall - 3.16
- Alcohol - 3.09
- Marijuana - 2.42



Groups that think the following drugs are less risky are:

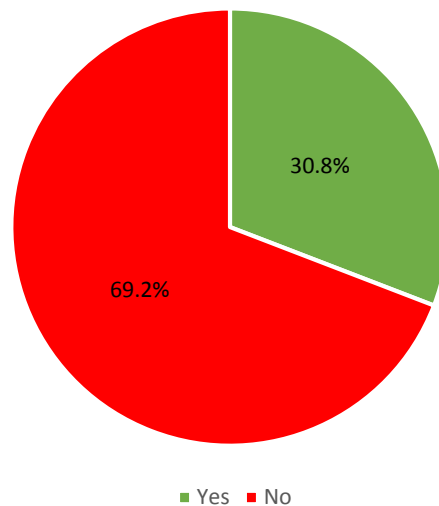
- In general, males think each drug is less risky than females
- Those who are currently taking prescription pain medication view prescription pain medications and “Adderall type” drugs as less dangerous than those who aren’t currently taking prescription pain medications

Young adults view on prescription opioids as a problem among their peer group.

Respondents were asked if they know anyone who has overdosed on prescription pain pills or heroin:

- 30.8% said that they know someone who has overdosed
- 69.2% said that they do not know someone who has overdosed

Do you know anyone who has overdosed on prescription pain pills or heroin?



Notable findings

Groups that have higher percentages of respondents that know someone who has overdosed on prescription pain pills or heroin are:

Male/Female

- 34.2% of Females know someone who has overdosed on prescription pain pills or heroin vs 27.2% of Males

Geography

- 36.3% of those in the North East know of someone who has overdosed on prescription pain pills or heroin vs 29.7% West, 31.3% Mid-West, 30.5% South, 23.4% South West

College Life

- 37.3% of those who were/are a member of the Greek community know someone who has overdosed on prescription pain pills or heroin vs 30.3% of the rest

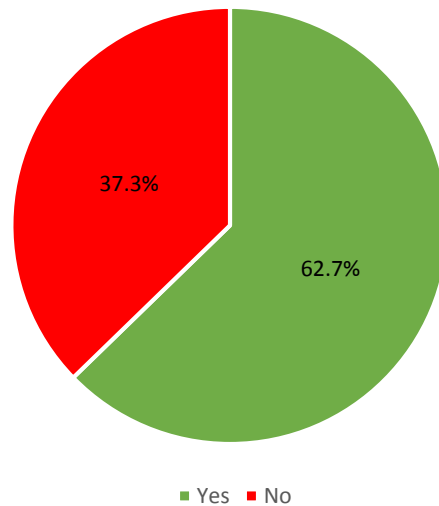
Other

- 37.8% of those who know what an opioid is know someone who has overdosed on prescription pain pills or heroin vs 22.8% of those who don't know what one is
- 46.2% of those who are currently taking prescription pain medication know someone who has overdosed on prescription pain pills or heroin vs 29.1% of those who aren't

Respondents were asked if they know where to go for help if you or a friend experience problems with prescription pain pills or heroin:

- 62.7% say that they know where to go
- 37.2% say that they do not know where to go

Do you know where to go for help if you or a friend experiences problems with prescription pain pills or heroin?



Notable findings

Groups that have higher percentages of respondents that do not where to go for help are:

College Life

- 73.7% of those who were/are a member of the Greek community know where to go to get help for prescription pain pills or heroin vs 61.7% of the rest

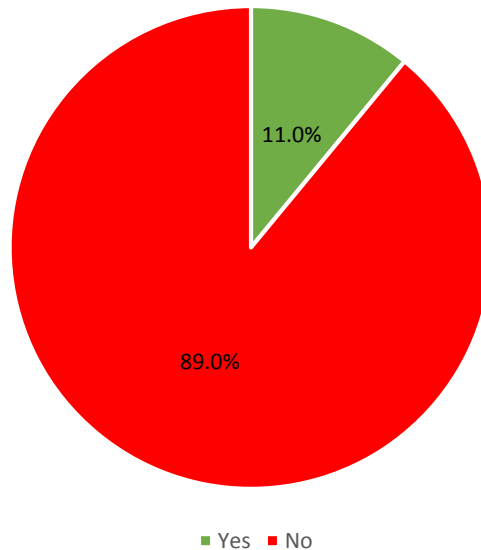
Other

- The more involved the higher percent know where to go for help if they or a friend experiences problems with prescription pain pills or heroin
- 70.1% of those who know what an opioid is know where to go for help for prescription pain pills or heroin vs 54.1% of those who do not know what one is
- 75.7% of those who know someone who has overdosed on prescription pain pills or heroin know where to go for help vs 57.1% of those who don't
- 71.8% of those who are currently taking prescription pain medication know where to go for help for prescription pain pills or heroin vs 61.8% of those who aren't

Respondents were asked if they had ever taken a pill when they did not know what it was:

- 11.0% said that they had taken a pill when they didn't know what it was
- 89.0% said they had not

Have you ever taken a pill when you didn't know what it was?



Notable findings

Groups that have higher percentages of respondents that have taken a pill when they didn't know what was are:

Male/Female

- 13.9% of Males have taken a pill they didn't know what it was vs 8.3% of Females

Educational Level

- 15.0% of those who left High School and 12.5% High School Grads have taken a pill when they didn't know what it was vs 9.9% of those in College and 8.2% of College Grads
- 13.5% of Grad Students have taken a pill that they didn't know what it was vs 8.4% of Undergrads

College Life

- 10.6% of those who went to a State College have taken a pill that they didn't know what it was vs 6.3% of those who went to a Private College
- 13.5% of those who live(d) on campus have taken a pill when they didn't know what it was vs 5.6% of those who live(d) off campus and 8.6% of those who live(d) at home

- 18.8% of those in/were in intercollegiate sports have taken a pill that they didn't know what it was vs 10.1% of the rest

Other

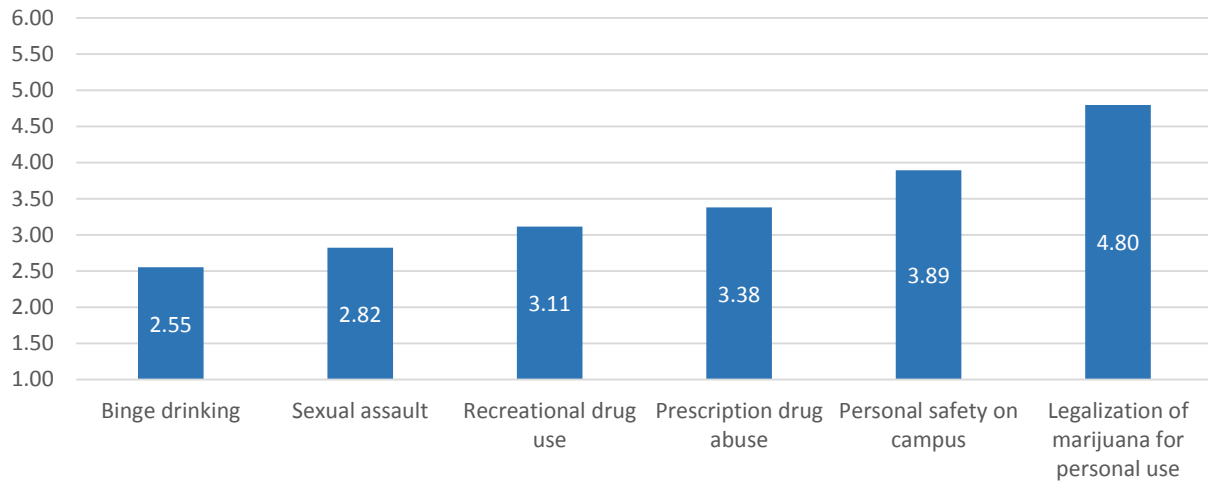
- 12.7% of those who know what an opioid is say they have taken a pill when they didn't know what it was vs 8.9% of those who don't know
- 27.1% of those who are currently taking prescription pain medications have tried a pill when they didn't know what it was vs 9.0% of those who aren't
- 19.8% of those who know someone who has overdosed on prescription pain pills or heroin have taken a pill that they didn't know what it was vs 7.0% of those who don't

Respondents were asked to rank where each of the following issues is in terms of the risk associated to them and among their peer group:

(the average rank is listed, the lower the number the more significant risk)

- Binge drinking - 2.55
- Sexual assault - 2.82
- Recreational drug use - 3.11
- Prescription drug abuse - 3.38
- Personal safety on campus - 3.89
- Legalization of marijuana for personal use - 4.80

Considering health safety and wellbeing which of the following issues are the most significant risks to your peer group in terms of the potential for physical or other harm?



Notable findings

Groups that have variation in this order are:

Male/Female

- Females view Sexual Assault as more risky for their well-being than Males

Education Level

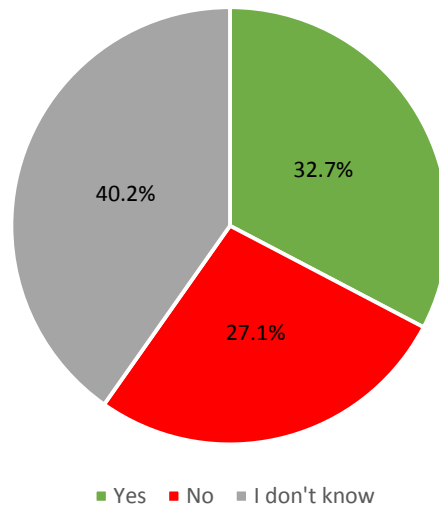
- Sexual Assault is the biggest concern for safety for those who left High School, the rest think binge drinking is the biggest concern

Degree to which young people view prescription opioids as easily obtainable.

Respondents were asked if prescription pain pills are easy to acquire where they live:

- 32.7% say they are easy to acquire
- 27.1% say they are not easy to acquire
- 40.2% do not know

Are prescription pain pills easy for you to acquire where you live?



Notable findings

Groups that have higher percentages of respondents that say prescription pain pills are easy to acquire where they live are:

Educational Level

- 40.2% of Grad Students say that prescription pain pills are easy to acquire where they live vs 33.2% of Undergrads

College Life

- 36.9% of those who went to a State College say that prescription pain pills are easy to acquire where they live vs 27.6% of those who went to a Private College
- 38.1% of those who live(d) on campus say prescription pain pills are easy to acquire vs 34.8% of those who live(d) off campus and 31.7% of those who live(d) at home
- 39.3% of those in/were in intercollegiate sports say prescription pain pills are easy to acquire where they live vs 32.0% of the rest
- The more involved in High School and in College the easier prescription pain pills are to acquire where they live

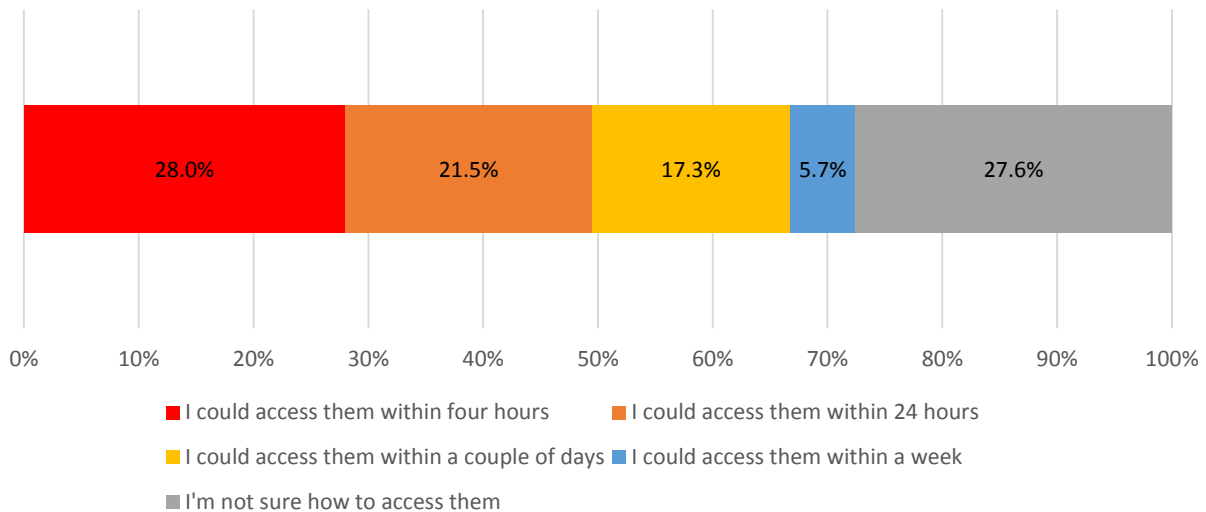
Other

- 37.6% of those who know what an opioid is say prescription pain pills are easy to acquire where they live vs 27.0% of those who don't know
- 51.9% of those who know someone who has overdosed on prescription pain pills or heroin say prescription pain pills are easy to acquire where they live vs 24.1% of those who don't
- 57.6% of those who are currently taking prescription pain medication say they are easy to acquire where they live vs 29.8% of those who aren't

Respondents were asked if how easy it is for them to access prescription pain pills where they live:

- I could access them within four hours - 28.0%
- I could access them within 24 hours - 21.5%
- I could access them within a couple of days - 17.3%
- I could access them within a week - 5.7%
- I'm not sure how to access them - 27.6%

How easy is it for you to access prescription pain pills where you live?



Notable findings

Groups that have higher percentages of respondents that say they can access prescription pain pills within four hours are:

Educational Level

- 33.3% of grad students say that they can access within 4 hours

College Life

- 31.1% of State College students say they can access PPM within 4 hours vs 13.9% of Private College students
- The more involved the easier pain pills are to access within 24 hours where they live (in general)
- The more involved the easier pain pills are to access within 24 hours where they live (in general)

- 31.1% of those who live on campus say they can access within 4 hours vs 24.1% of those who live off campus and 26.8% of those who live at home
- 32.5% of those in/were in intercollegiate sports say they can access within 4 hours vs 28.5% of the rest

Other

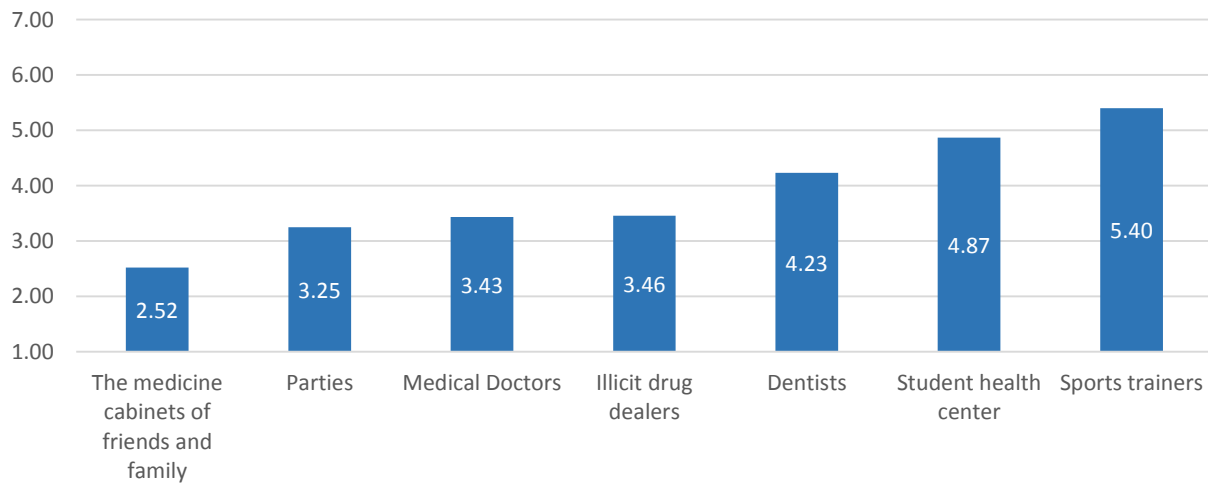
- 30.8% of those who know what an opioid is say they could access within 4 hours vs 23.7% of those who don't know what they are
- 43.3% of those who are currently taking prescription pain medication say they can access them within 4 hours vs 25.4% of those who aren't
- 39.4% of those who know someone who has overdosed on prescription pain pills or heroin say they could access within 4 hours vs 21.1% of those who don't

Respondents were asked to rank where prescription pain pills are most readily available and accessed among their peer group:

(the average rank is listed, the lower the number the more readily available)

- The medicine cabinets of friends and family - 2.52
- Parties - 3.25
- Medical Doctors - 3.43
- Illicit drug dealers - 3.46
- Dentists - 4.23
- Student health center - 4.87
- Sports trainers - 5.40

Where do you think prescription pain pills are most readily available and accessed among your peer group based on your own experiences and those of others you've observed?



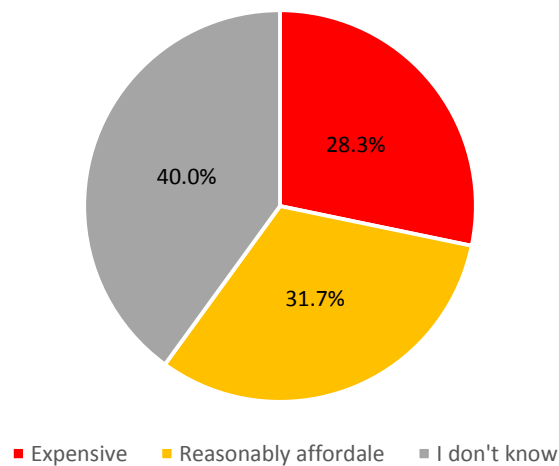
Groups that have variation in this order are:

- Males think dentists are easier to get prescription pain pills from than Females

Respondents were asked how expensive they perceive prescription pain pills not purchased from a pharmacy:

- 28.3% say they are expensive
- 31.7% say they are reasonably affordable
- 40.0% don't know

Based on your own knowledge or perceptions how would you describe the affordability of prescription pain pills purchased from sources other than a pharmacy?



Notable findings

Groups that have higher percentages of respondents that say prescription pain pills are reasonably affordable are:

College Life

- Those who live(d) at home view PPM as more expensive 31.8% than those who live(d) on campus (26.0%) or off campus (27.8%)

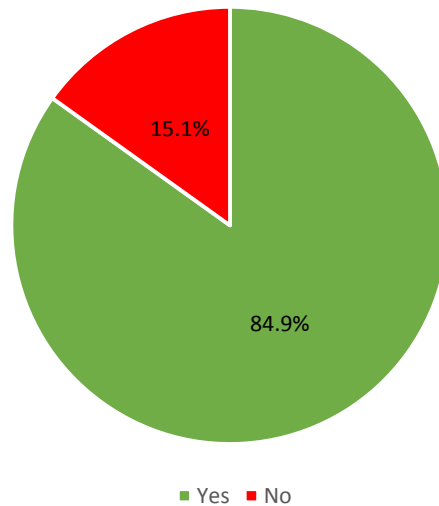
Other

- 31.3% of those who know what an opioid is say that they are more expensive vs 23.6% of those who don't
- 38.8% of those who are currently taking prescription pain medication say they are expensive vs 26.9% of those who aren't
- 37.6% of those who know someone who has overdosed on prescription pain pills or heroin say PPM are more expensive vs 24.2% of those who don't

Respondents were asked if they knew it was illegal to share prescribed pain medication with others:

- 84.9% are aware it is illegal
- 15.1% are not aware

Do you know that it's illegal to share prescribed pain medication with others?



Notable findings

Groups that had higher percentages of respondents who are not aware it is illegal to share prescribed pain medication are:

Males/Females

- 89.0% of Females know it's illegal to share prescription pain medication vs 80.5% of Males

Education Level

- 72.4% of those who left High School know it's illegal to share prescription pain medication vs 83.4% of High School Grads, 87.4% of those in College, and 85.8% of College Grads who know this
- 89.9% of Undergrads know it's illegal to share prescription pain medication vs 78.4% of Grad Students

College Life

- 90.4% of those who were/are a member of the Greek community know it's illegal to share prescription pain medication with others vs 84.4% of the rest

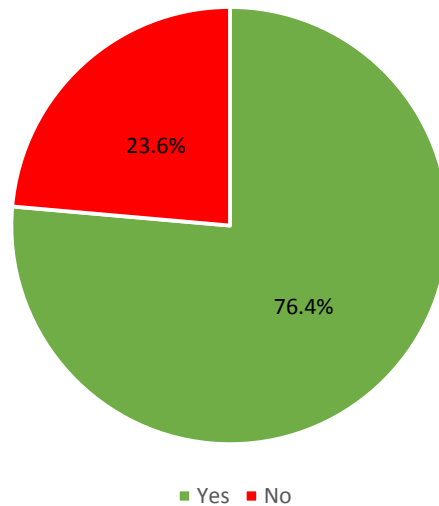
Other

- 89.9% of those who know what an opioid is know it's illegal to share prescription pain medication with others vs 79.0% of those who don't
- 91.8% of those who know someone who has overdosed on prescription pain pills or heroin know it's illegal to share prescription pain medication vs 81.9% of those who don't

Respondents were asked if they know sharing prescription pain pills is illegal, would it stop you from sharing with others:

- 76.4% said it would stop them
- 23.6% said it would not stop them

If you know that sharing prescription pain pills is illegal would that stop you from sharing with others?



Notable findings

Groups that have higher percentages of respondents it would not stop are:

Education

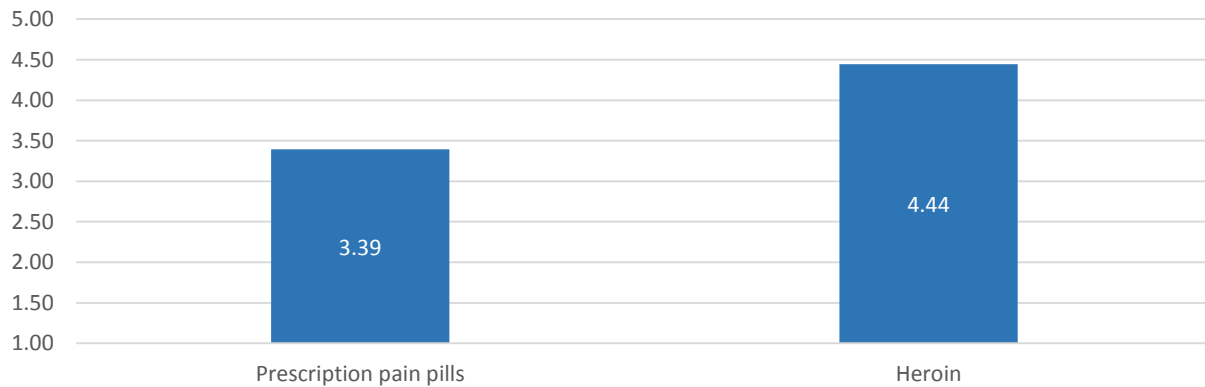
- Higher the GPA the more likely knowing sharing prescription pain pills is illegal would stop them from sharing

Perceived links between prescription pain medications and heroin.

Respondents were asked to rate on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being the least risky in terms of the potential for physical or other harm how risky or dangerous do you perceive the following to be:

- Prescription pain pills – 3.39
- Heroin – 4.44

On a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being the least risky in terms of the potential for physical or other harm how risky or dangerous do you perceive the following to be?



Notable findings

Groups that rated prescription pain pills as more risky than heroin are:

Male/Female

- Males think prescription pain pills are less risky than Females: 3.30 vs 3.48
- Males think heroin is less risky than Females: 4.26 vs 4.62

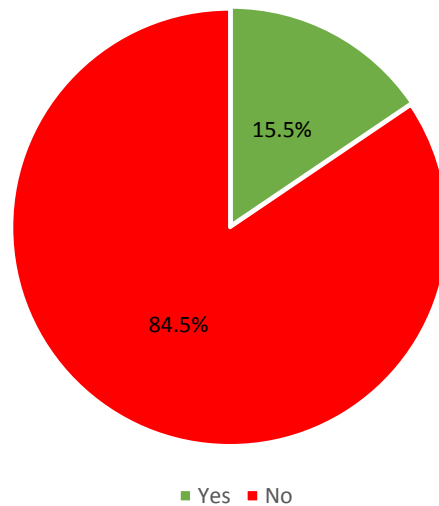
Other

- 18 year olds view risk of prescription pain pills as 3.08 vs 3.39 overall
- Those who are currently taking prescription pain medication think prescription pain pills are less risky: 3.11 vs 3.42
- Those who are currently taking prescription pain medication think heroin is less risky: 3.92 vs 4.51

Respondents were asked if they were offered prescription pain pills not prescribed to them would they consider trying them:

- 15.5% said they would consider trying them
- 84.5% said they would not consider trying them

If you were offered prescription pain pills that were not prescribed to you would you consider trying them?



Notable findings

Groups that have higher percentages of respondents that would consider trying them are:

Male/Female

- 19.7% of Males would consider trying prescription pain pills if offered to them vs 11.6% of Females

College Life

- 17.1% of those who live(d) on campus would consider trying prescription pain pills if offered to them vs 11.9% of those who live(d) off campus and 15.6% of those who live(d) at home
- The higher the College or High School GPA the lower the percentage of those who be willing to try to prescription pain pills not prescribed to them

Other

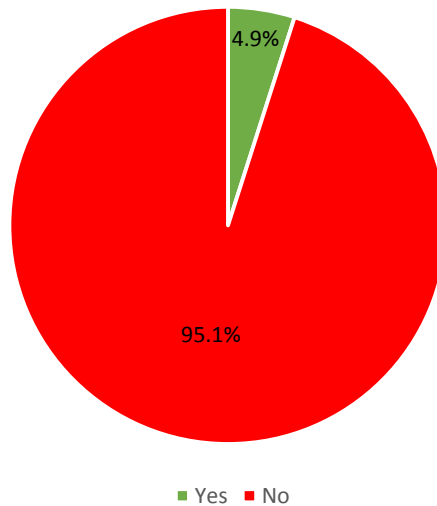
- 18.8% of those who know what an opioid is say they would consider trying prescription pain pills that were offered to them vs 11.4% of those who don't know
- 32.5% of those who are currently taking prescription pain medication would consider trying prescription pain pills not prescribed to them vs 13.6% of those who aren't

- 23.8% of those who know someone who has overdosed on prescription pain pills or heroin would consider trying prescription pain pills not prescribed to them if offered vs 11.8% of those who don't

Respondents were asked if they were offered something called “heroin pills” would they consider trying them:

- 4.9% said they would consider trying “heroin pills”
- 95.1% said that they would not be consider trying them

If you were offered something called “heroin pills” would you consider trying them?



Notable findings

Groups that had higher percentages of respondents who would consider trying “heroin pills” are:

Male/Female

- 7.4% of Males would consider trying “heroin pills” if offered vs 2.6% of Females

Geography

- 7.2% of those in the South would consider taking “heroin pills” vs 4.1% West, 4.2% Mid-West, 1.1% South West, 5.3% North East

Education Level

- 8.2% College Grads would consider trying “heroin pills” vs 5.0% of those who left High School, 5.8% of High School Grads, and 3.1% of those in College
- 7.9% of Grad Students would consider trying “heroin pills” vs 3.0% of Undergrads

College Life

- The higher the GPA the less likely that they would be willing to try “heroin pills”
- 7.1% of those in/were in intercollegiate sports would consider “heroin pills” if offered vs 4.7% of the rest

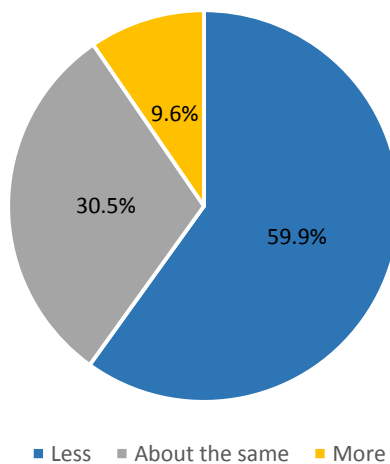
Other

- 6.7% of those who know what an opioid is say they would consider trying “heroin pills” vs 2.0% of those who don’t know
- 20.5% of those who are currently taking prescription pain medication would consider trying “heroin pills” vs 3.0% of those who aren’t
- 10.0% of those who know someone who has overdosed on prescription pain pills or heroin would consider trying “heroin pills” if offered vs 2.7% of those who don’t

Respondents were asked if they view prescription pain medication as more or less dangerous/risky as heroin:

- Less risky - 59.9%
- About the same - 30.5%
- More risky - 9.6%

Do you view prescription pain medications as more or less dangerous/risky than heroin in terms of the potential for physical or other harm?



Notable findings

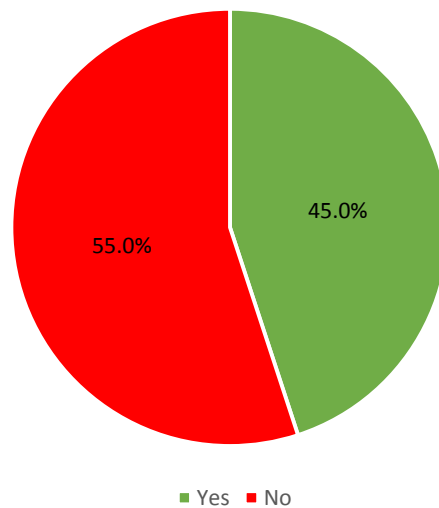
Groups that had higher percentages of respondents who view prescription pain medication as less risky than heroin are:

- 66.9% of College Grads and 62.4% of those in College view prescription pain medications as less dangerous than heroin vs 56.9% of those who left High School and 55.2% High School Grads who think this
- 70.8% of those who went to Private College think prescription pain medications are less risky than heroin vs 61.1% of those who went to State College

Respondents were asked if they knew that prescription opioid pain medications are similar to heroin in terms of their impact on the mind and body:

- 45.0% knew that they are similar
- 55.0% did not know they are similar

Did you know that prescription opioid pain medications are similar to heroin in terms of their impact on the mind and body?



Notable findings

Groups that have higher percentages of respondents do not know they are similar are:

Geography

- 38.6% of those in the West know prescription opioid pain medications are similar to heroin in terms of impact to the mind and body vs 44.2% of Mid-West, 49.7% South, 50.0% South West, 44.1% North East

Education Level

- 39.7% of those who left High School know prescription opioid pain medications are similar to heroin in terms of impact to the mind and body vs 43.3% of High School Grads, 53.3% of those in College, and 53.7% of College Grads

High school or College Life

- The more involved in High School and College the larger percent know prescription opioid pain medications are similar to heroin in their effects to the mind and body (in general)
- The higher the GPA the less likely that they know prescription opioid pain medications have effects on the mind and body that are similar to heroin

- 57.0% of those who were/are a member of the Greek community know prescription opioid pain medications are similar to heroin in terms of their impact on the mind and body vs 43.9% of the rest

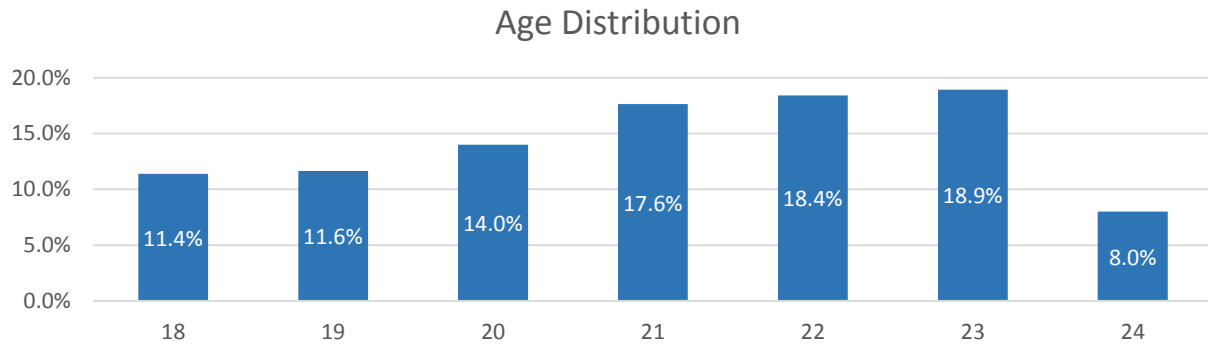
Other

- 62.6% of those who know what an opioid is know that the effects of prescription opioid pain medications are similar to heroin in terms of their impact on the mind and body vs 23.1% of those who don't know
- 57.3% of those who are currently taking prescription pain medication know prescription opioid pain medications are similar to heroin in terms of their impact on the mind and body vs 43.4% of those who aren't
- 58.3% of those who know someone who has overdosed on prescription pain pills or heroin know that prescription opioid pain medications are similar to heroin in terms of their impact on the mind and body vs 39.1% of those who don't

Demographics

Age

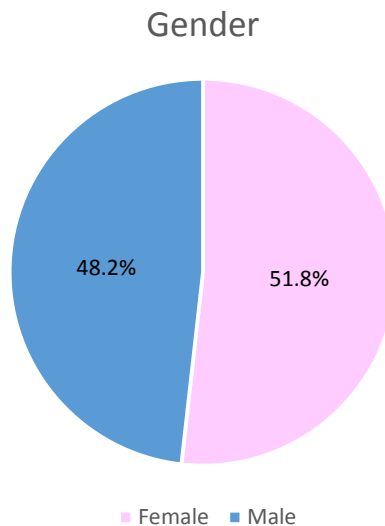
All those who responded to the survey were between the ages of 18 and 24. This was a predetermined filter on the group of people that were surveyed.



The average age of a respondent was age 21.1.

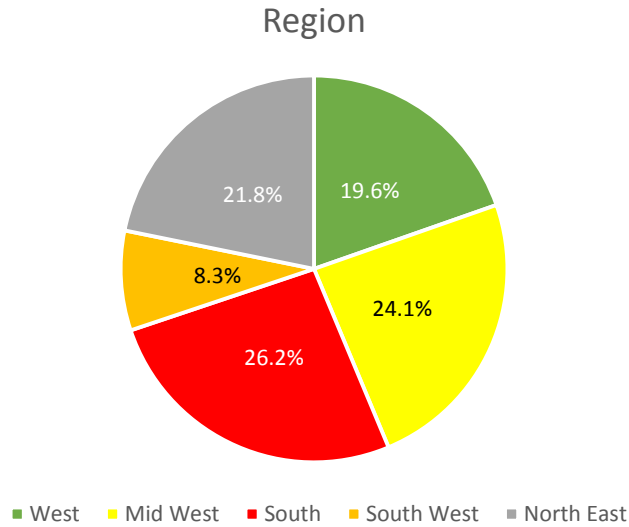
Gender

The graph below shows the male and female split of those who responded to the survey. This is very close to an even split.



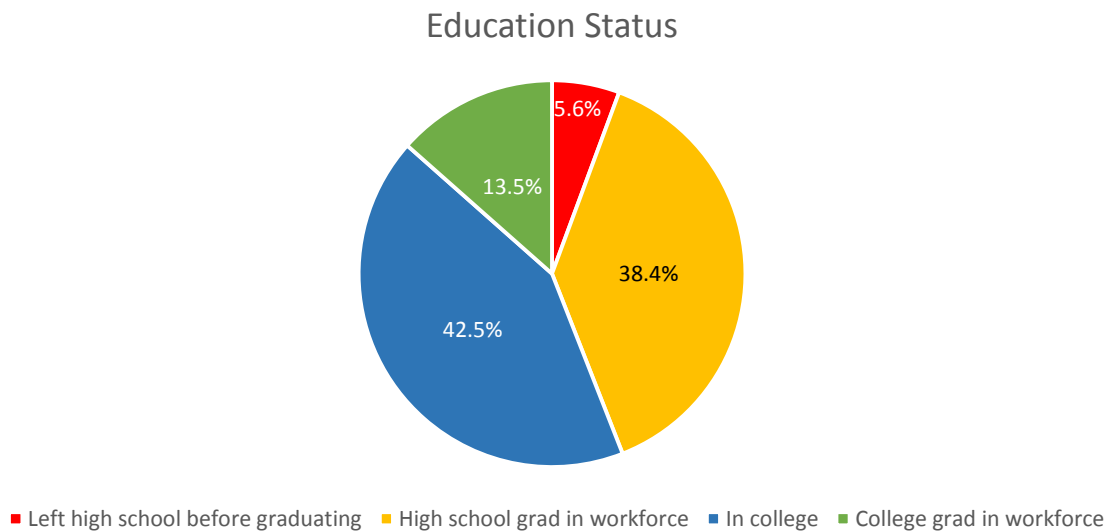
Region

There was a fairly even split between the West, South, Mid-West, and the North East. The South West had fewer responses, however their geographic area is smaller.



Education Status

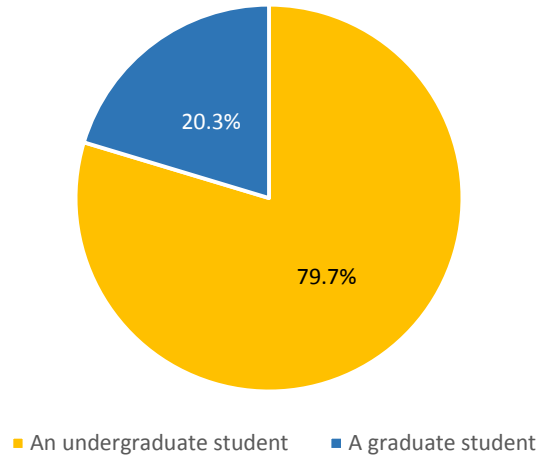
There was a fairly even split between those who attended college/university and those who did not attend a college/university.



College Enrollment

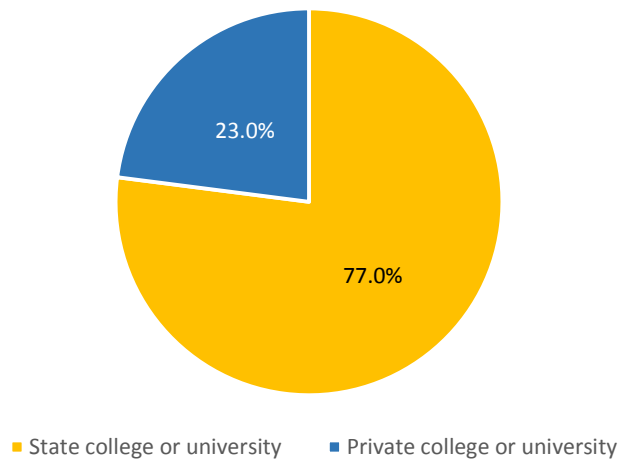
If the respondent was in college or was a college graduate in the workforce they were asked to select if they were most recently an undergraduate student or graduate student. The breakdown can be seen below:

Most Recently Enrolled as:



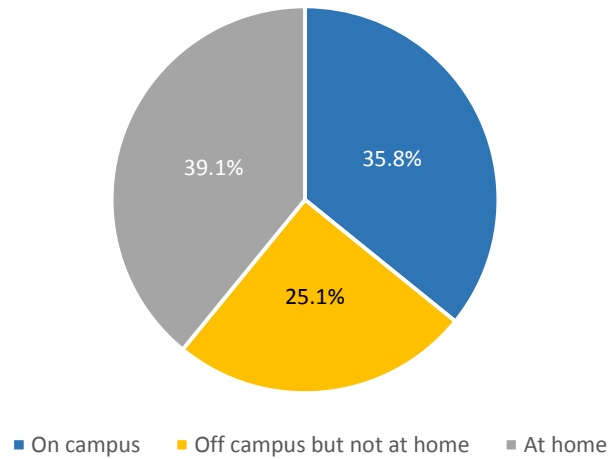
If the respondent was in college or was a college graduate in the workforce they were asked to select if they attended a State college/university or a Private college/university. The breakdown can be seen below:

Kind of School Enrolled in:



Those who were in college or are college graduates who are in the workforce where they lived during the most recent academic year. The breakdown can be seen below:

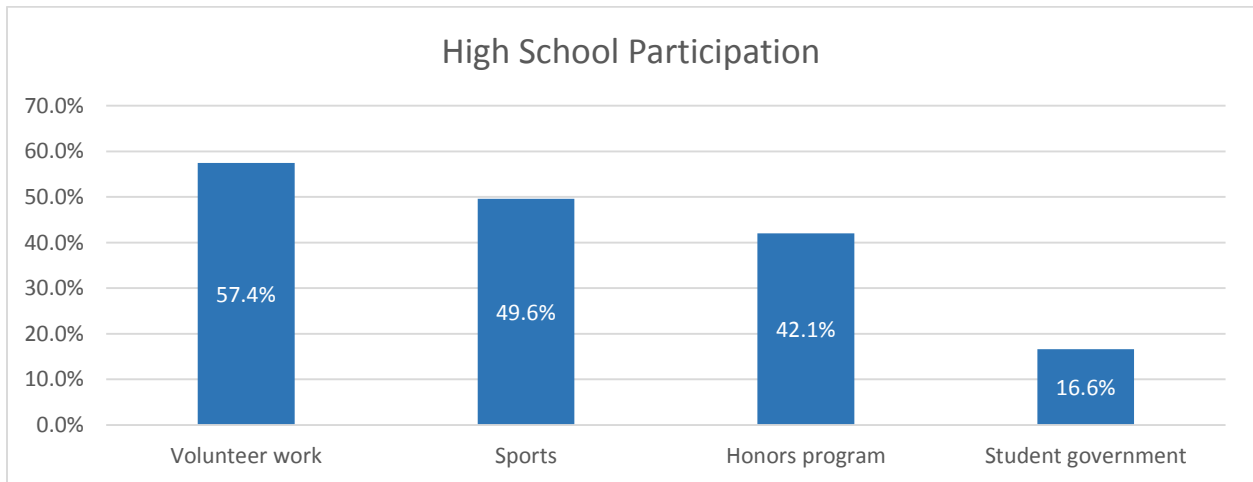
Where Lived During Most Recent Academic Year



Participation

High School Participation

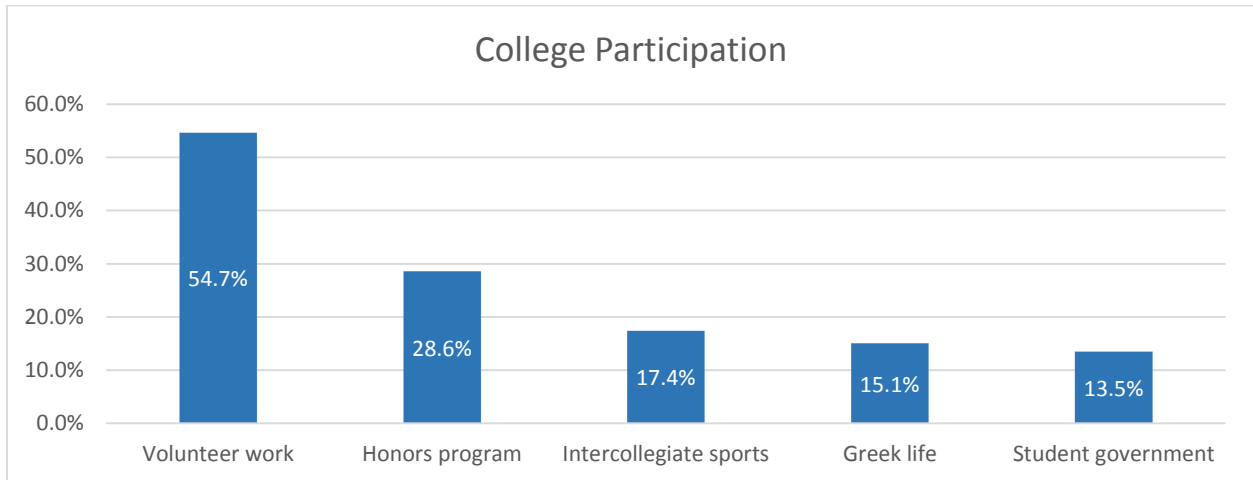
All respondents were asked to select which of the following they participated in in High School. The response breakdown can be seen below:



The average respondent participated in 1.29 of the listed activities.

College Participation

Respondents who are in college or have graduated college were asked to select which of the following they participated in in college. The response breakdown can be seen below:

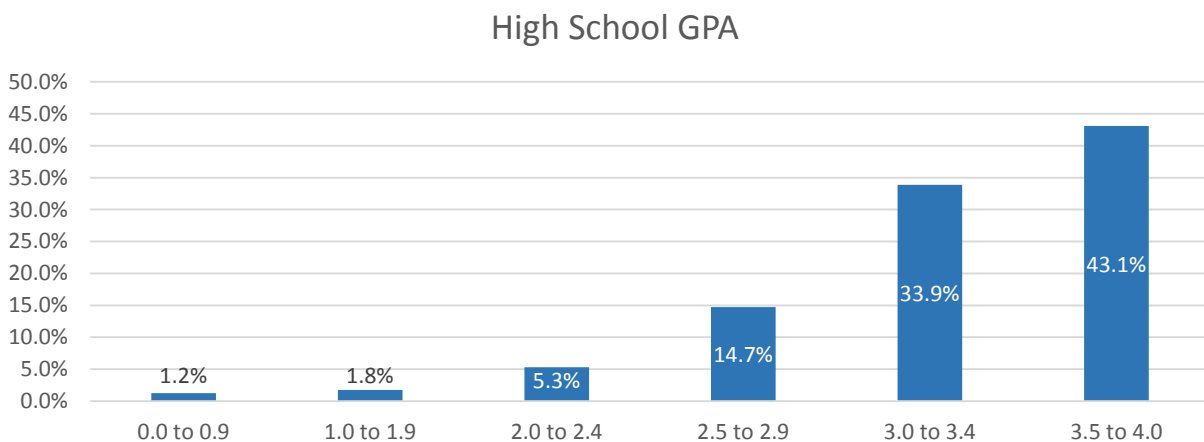


The average respondent who attended college participated in 1.66 of the listed activities.

Grade Point Average

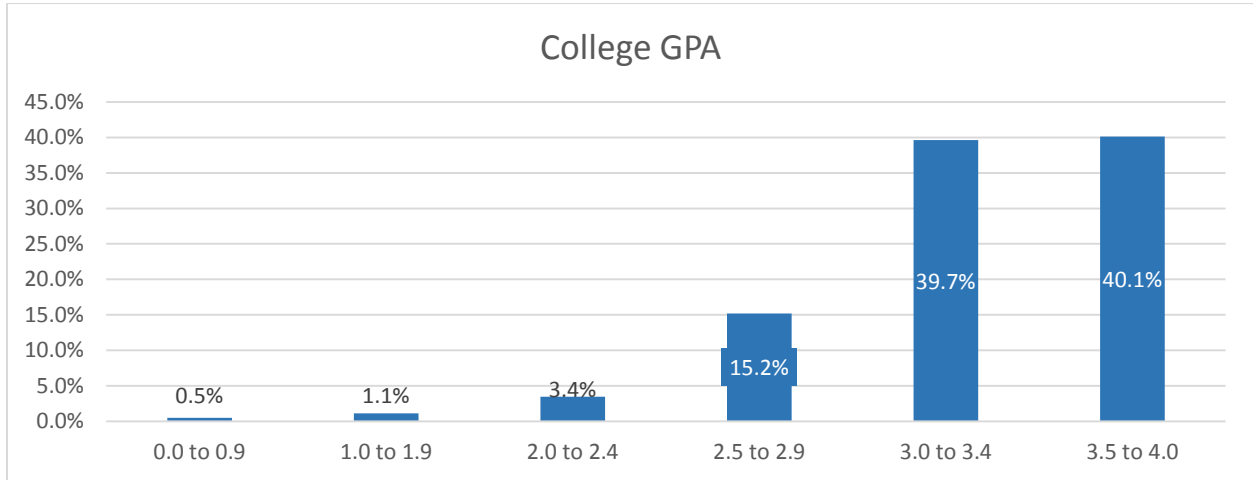
High School

All respondents were asked to select what their GPA was in High School. The response breakdown can be seen below:



College

Respondents who are in college or have graduated college were asked to select what their GPA is/was. The response breakdown can be seen below:



Appendices

Appendix I: Summary of Numerical Results

Appendix II: Survey