



# A Look at Kittitas County

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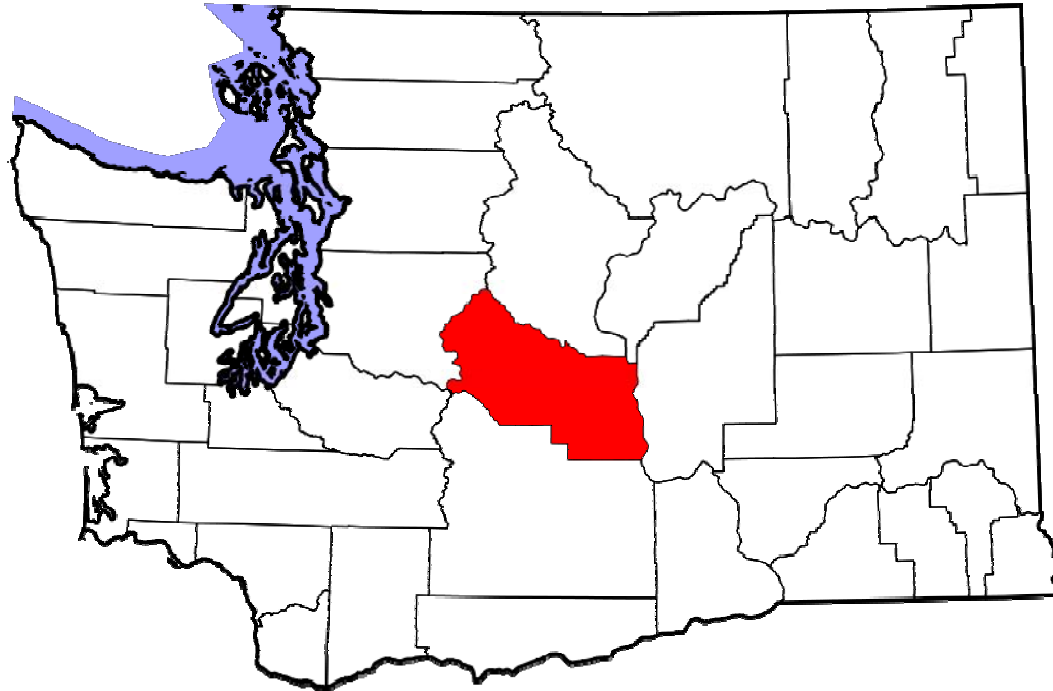
## Prevention, Intervention, Treatment, and Aftercare Strategic Planning for Substance Abuse

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Kittitas County Community Network  
March 2007



# Kittitas County

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Kittitas County, with a population of 36,600, is a small but rapidly growing county in the geographical center of Washington State.



## A Great Place to live

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- There are many reasons that people love to live in Kittitas County
  - Year-round recreational activities
  - Small town feel
- But like all communities, Kittitas County is not immune to the impact of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs



## Sharing in the Solution

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“... a shared strategic plan just makes sense!”

As part of a state funding requirement, substance use and abuse prevention, intervention, treatment, and aftercare professionals are developing a county-wide strategic plan for addressing alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use in our county



# We need your help!

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There are many different reasons why you may be viewing this - perhaps you are a parent, teacher, young person, law enforcement officer, prosecutor, healthcare provider, member of a faith community, business or civic leader, elected official or concerned citizens.

We are glad you are here. As a member of this community, your input is extremely valuable for the development of a plan that can actually be used.

By bringing together the entire community, we have the ability to transform our community and truly change the impact of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use.



# This presentation is...

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- Intended to give you highlights of what we know about substance abuse issues in Kittitas County
- Based on county level data collected by Federal Agencies, State Agencies and School Districts
- Part of a county-wide survey. Following this presentation you will have the option to complete the survey.

Disclaimer: Funding for this presentation was made possible (in part) by a Kittitas County Drug Free Communities Grant from ONDCP and SAMHSA. The views expressed in written materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services or the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy; nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.



# Looking at Risk Factors

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- Some of the following information is marked with an asterisk (\*), to identify it as a Risk Factor.
- **What are Risk Factors?** Risk factors are conditions or variables associated with a lower likelihood of positive outcomes and a higher likelihood of negative or socially undesirable outcomes.

**Risk Factors=**



Positive Outcomes

Negative Outcomes



# Risk Factors for Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use



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- Availability of drugs
- Extreme family economic deprivation
- Transition and mobility
- Alcohol and other drug problems
- Adult violent crimes
- Low neighborhood attachment and community disorganization
- Family problems
- High school drop-out rate
- Low school test scores
- Early criminal justice involvement



# Poverty in Kittitas County

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- Nearly 1 out of every 5 people in Kittitas County live below the Federal Poverty Level.<sup>8</sup>
- About 2 out of 5 single parent households headed by women live below the Federal Poverty Level.<sup>8</sup>
-  ○ Our Median Household Income of \$33,795 is over 30% less than the state average. (Ranking us 35<sup>th</sup> out of the 39 counties in our state.)<sup>2</sup>
-  ○ Nearly 30% of our children live in high poverty neighborhoods, 2.5 times higher than children living in the state.<sup>2</sup>



# Low Neighborhood Attachment and Community Disorganization

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- 30% of adult residents in Kittitas County are not registered to vote.<sup>5</sup>
- In the November 2005 election nearly 50% of registered voters in Kittitas County did not vote.<sup>5</sup>



# Growth in Kittitas County

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Between 1990 and 2000 our county population grew nearly 25%.<sup>6</sup>



In the next 5 years the county population is estimated to increase 15%.<sup>7</sup>



\*Over twice the amount of new residence construction is happening in Kittitas County than in the rest of the state.<sup>5</sup>



# County Population Migration

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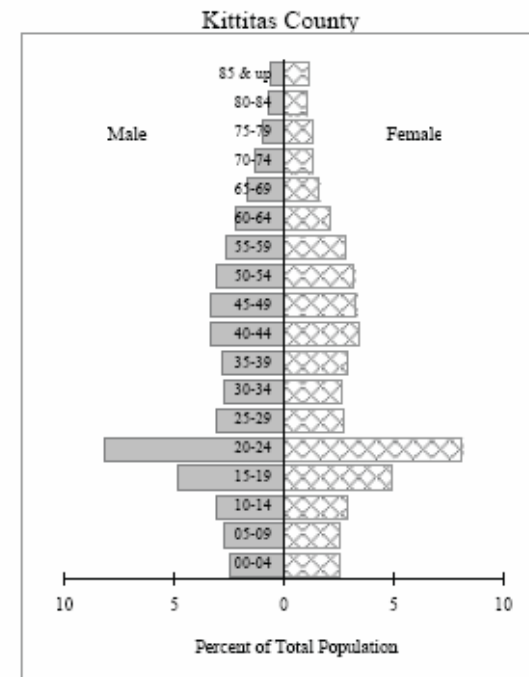
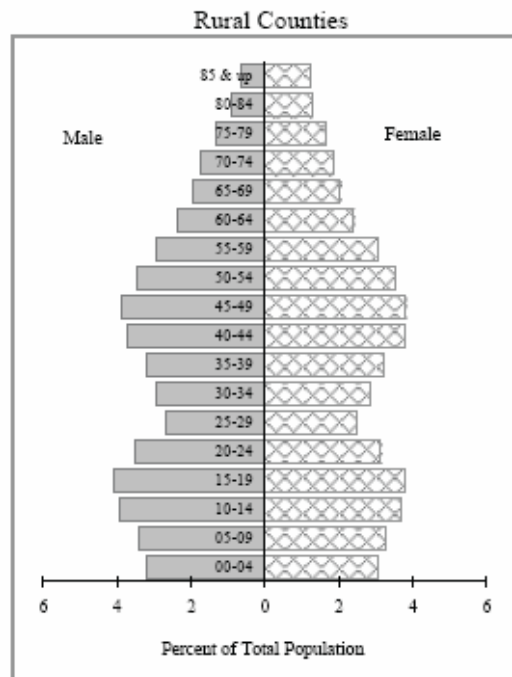
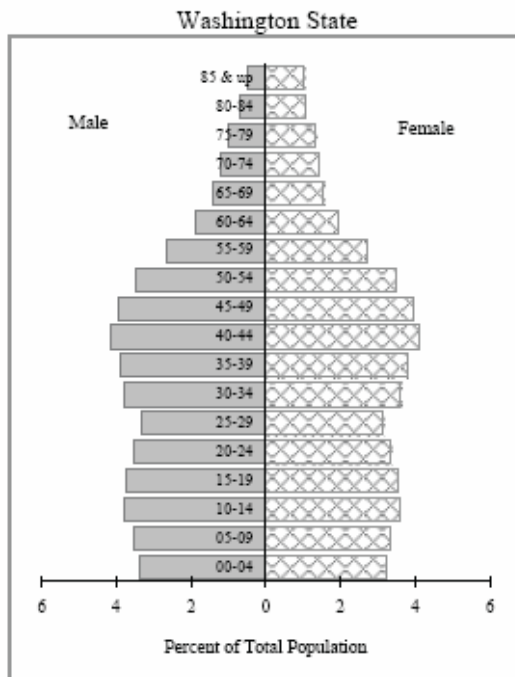
\* We have 60% higher rate of people moving in and out of our county than the State.<sup>5</sup>

An (\*) means that this is an indicator that is classified as a risk factor for substance abuse issues

# Age Distribution

We have a significantly higher rate of 20-24 year olds living in our county compared to other counties in the state and other ages in our county.<sup>2</sup>

2002 Population by Age and Gender





# Alcohol and Drug Related Deaths

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- \*Nearly 1 out of every 10 deaths in our county is attributed to alcohol or drugs.<sup>5</sup>



# Availability of Drugs

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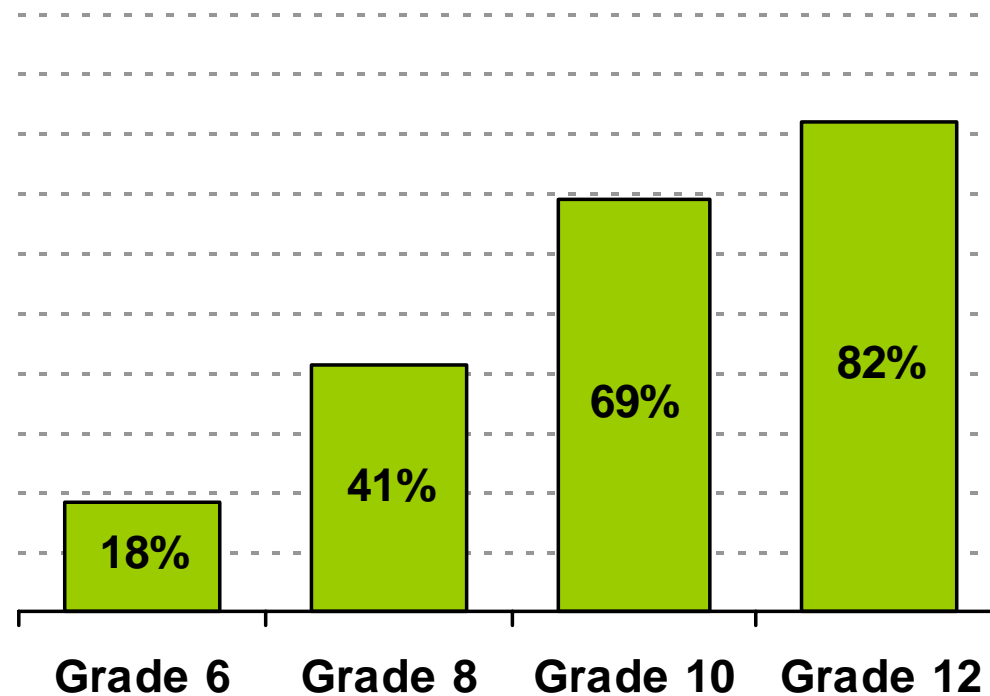
- There is 1 alcohol retail license for every 265 Kittitas County residents
  - that is nearly twice as high as the state average<sup>5</sup>
- There is 1 tobacco retail or vending machine license for every 435 Kittitas County residents
  - that is 75% more tobacco retail licenses in Kittitas County than the state average<sup>5</sup>



# Availability of Drugs

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**Youth Perceptions:** Percent of Kittitas County students who think it is easy to get alcohol when they want<sup>3</sup>

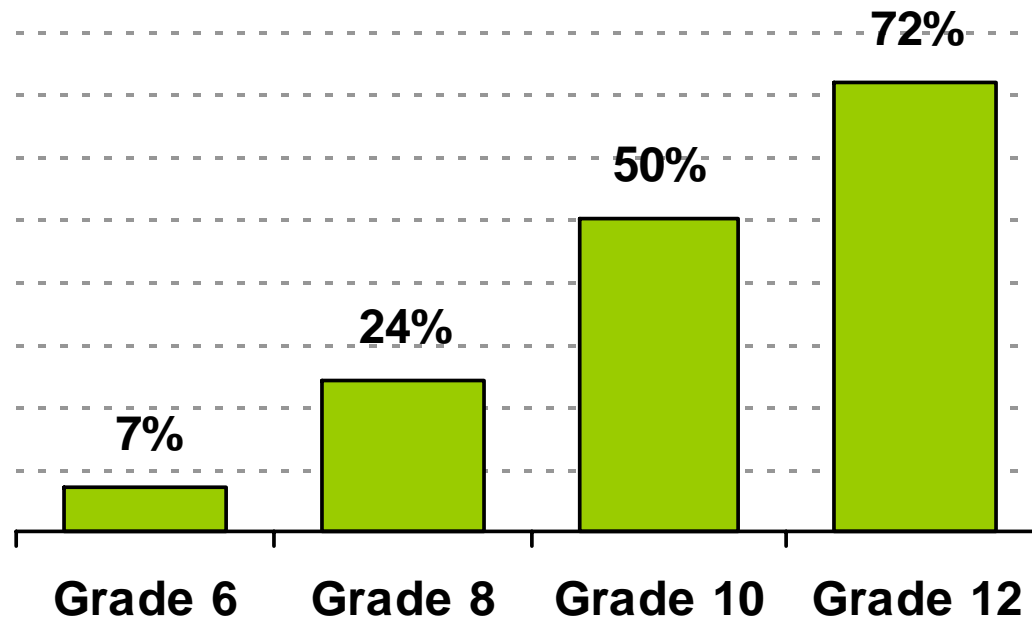


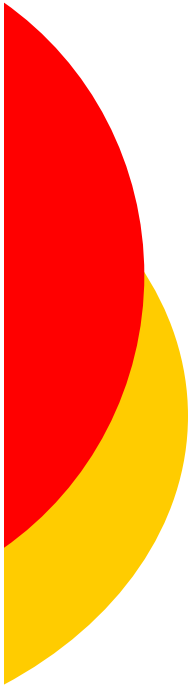


# Availability of Drugs

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**Youth Perceptions:** Percent of Kittitas County students who report that it is sort of easy or very easy to get marijuana<sup>3</sup>

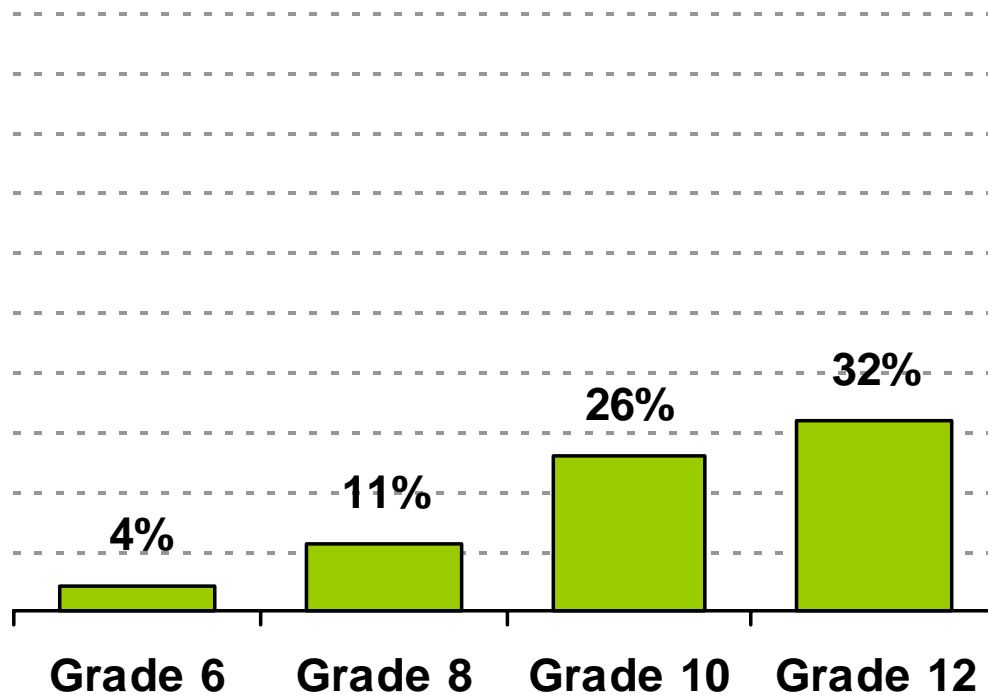




# Availability of Drugs

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**Youth Perceptions:** Percent of Kittitas County students who report it would be sort of easy or easy to get drugs like cocaine, LSD, or amphetamines<sup>3</sup>





# Alcohol and Drug Treatment

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- \*Annually about 3 out of every 200 adults in Kittitas County are a client of State-Funded Alcohol and Drug Services<sup>5</sup>
- Compared to the state average, our county has over 2.5 times as many outpatient treatment admissions<sup>4</sup>

# Alcohol and Drug Treatment



- There has been a 55% increase in Kittitas County outpatient admissions to treatment since 2000.<sup>4</sup>

Comparison of Outpatient Admissions Over Time							
	Primary Drug						
<i>Jan-June 2006 Compared to...</i>	Alcohol	Cocaine	Heroin	Marijuana	Meth	Other	Changes in All Admissions
Jan-June 2000	10% ↑	200% ↑	0%	28% ↑	625% ↑	350% ↑	55% ↑



# Alcohol and Drug Treatment

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## Youth in Treatment

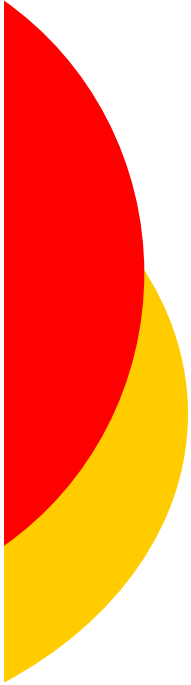
- Since 2005 youth admissions in Kittitas County for outpatient treatment have gone up 22% versus 2.5% increase in youth admissions in the state.<sup>4</sup>
- \*1 out of nearly every 50 youth (age 10-17) in Kittitas County were clients of State-Funded Alcohol or Drug Services in 2004.<sup>5</sup>



# Driving Under the Influence

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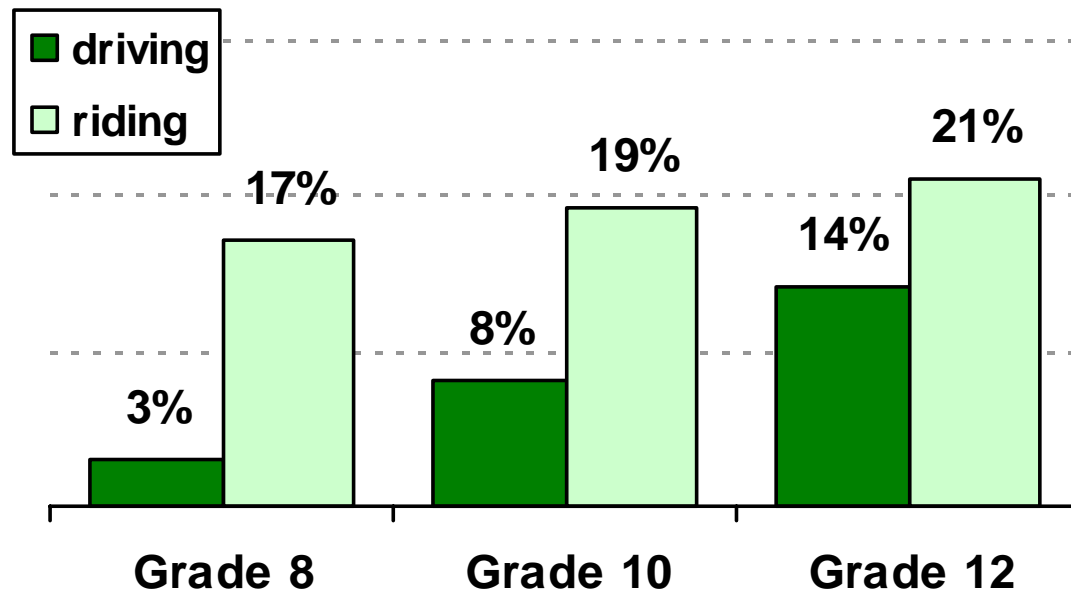
- In Kittitas County nearly one-third of all traffic fatalities are alcohol-related<sup>5</sup>
- DUI Charges have decreased by 15% in the last year. (626 DUI charges in 2005. 529 DUI Charges in 2006)<sup>9</sup>



# Driving Under the Influence

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**Percent of students in Kittitas County who report drinking and driving OR riding with a driver who had been drinking<sup>3</sup>**



# Kittitas County Arrests

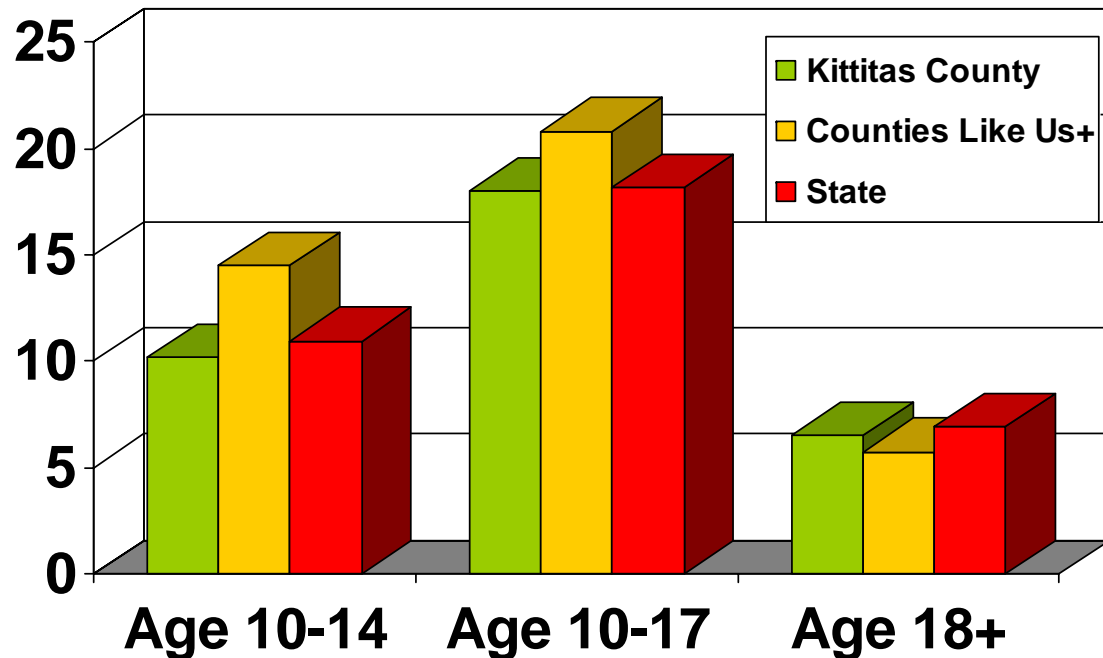


\*Kittitas County remains at or below the state rate for violent crime arrests<sup>5</sup>

\*Kittitas County remains at or below the state rate for property crime arrests<sup>5</sup>

**2004 Property  
Crime Arrests**  
(per 1,000 Adults 18+  
and 1,000 Youth 10-17)

+ "Counties Like Us":  
Kittitas is classified as Rural B  
– Adams, Asotin, Chelan,  
Columbia, Douglas, Garfield,  
Kittitas, Lincoln, Stevens,  
Walla Walla, and Whitman



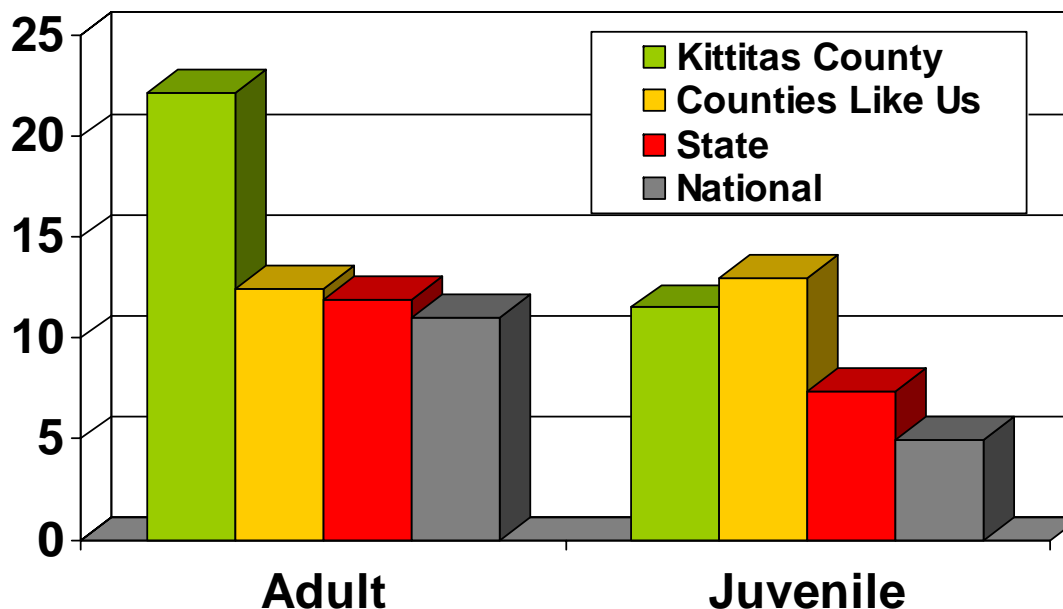
# Kittitas County Arrests

**\* Adult arrests for alcohol related crimes are higher than the state rate, the national rate and the rate of other Washington counties like us<sup>5</sup>**

**\* Juvenile arrests for alcohol related crimes are higher than the national rate, and the state rate<sup>5</sup>**

## Alcohol Related Arrests

(per 1,000 Adults 18+ and 1,000 Youth 10-17)



# Kittitas County Arrests

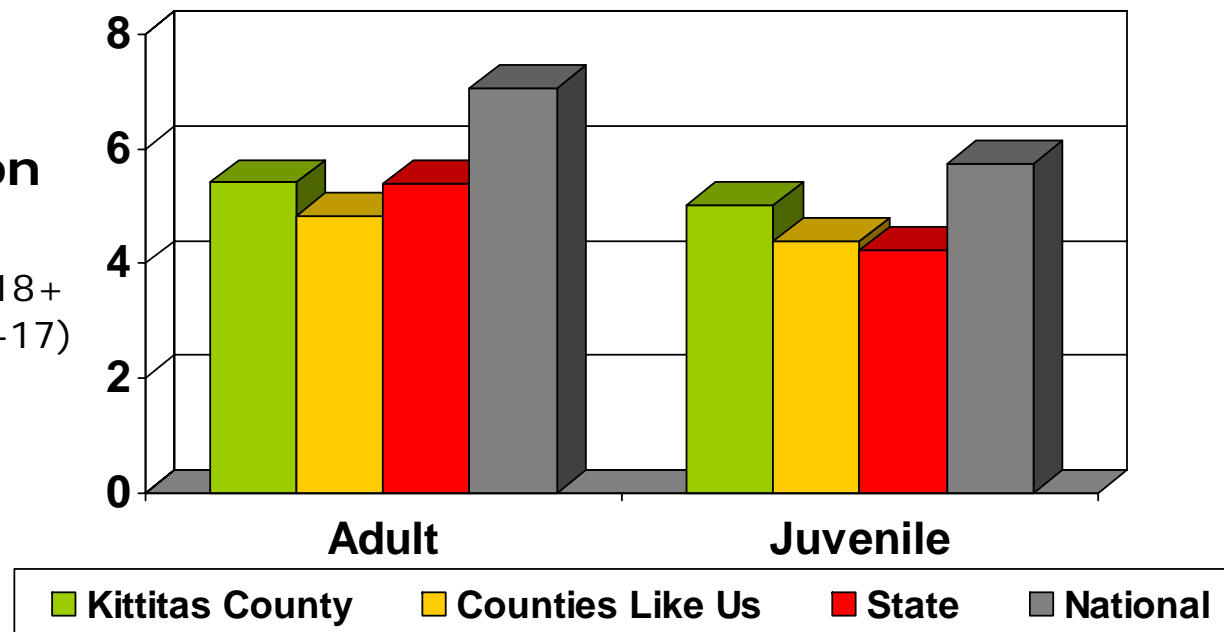


\* Adult and Juvenile arrests for drug related violations are below the national rate<sup>5</sup>



\* Juvenile arrests for drug related violations are higher than the state rate and the rate of other Washington counties like us<sup>5</sup>

**Drug Violation Arrests**  
(per 1,000 Adults 18+ and 1,000 Youth 10-17)



# Early criminal justice involvement

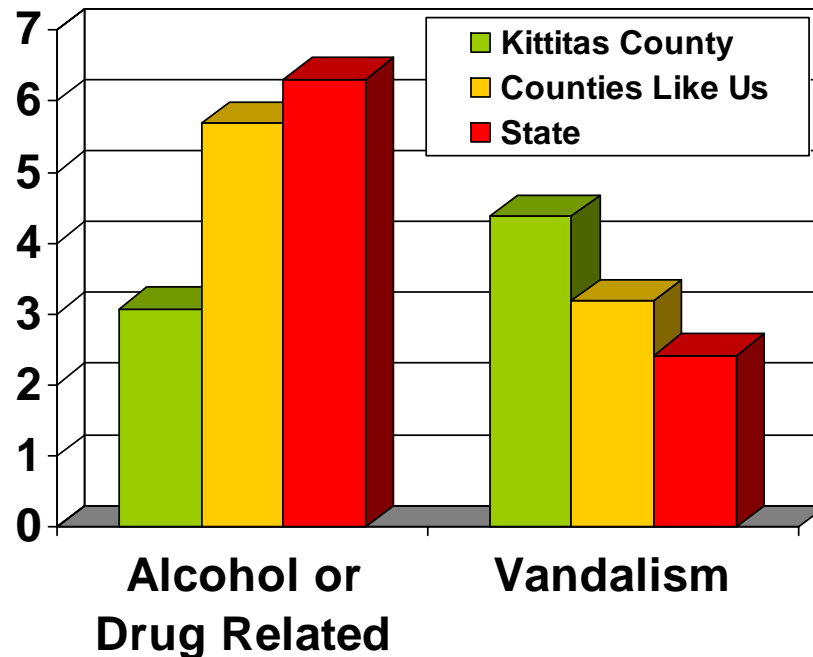


**\* Youth arrests for Vandalism are higher in Kittitas County than the state average<sup>5</sup>**



**\* Youth arrests related to alcohol or drugs are lower than the state average<sup>5</sup>**

**2003 Arrest  
for Youth  
(age 10-14)  
Per 1,000 Youth**





# Family Problems

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## **Victims of child abuse and neglect**

- \*351 children in Kittitas County were victims of child abuse and neglect in 2004
  - That is a 25% higher rate of child abuse and neglect referrals accepted in Kittitas County than the State<sup>5</sup>
- 178 domestic violence arrests in Kittitas County in 2005<sup>5</sup>



# Teen Sexual Activity

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**Teen Pregnancy:** The number of births to mothers age 10-17 in Kittitas County is lower than the national rate, state rate, and in Washington counties like us.<sup>5</sup>



**Sexually Transmitted Disease:** The number of STD cases (birth-19) in Kittitas County is higher than the state rate, and in Washington counties like us.<sup>5</sup>



# School Performance

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\*In Kittitas County about **1 out of every 3** freshmen leave before their senior year versus about 1 out of every 5 in the state.<sup>5</sup>



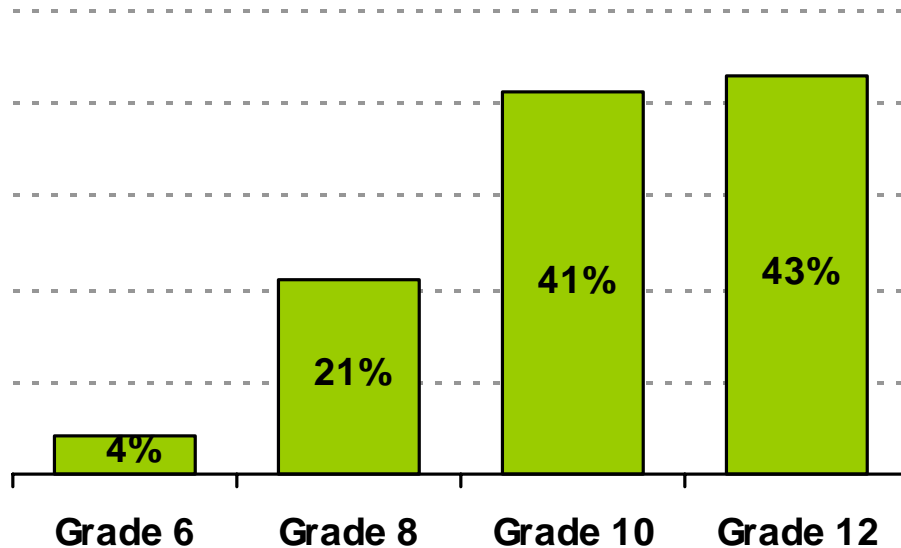
\*In Grades 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup>, Kittitas County students performed better on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) test than the state average.<sup>5</sup>



# Alcohol Use and Youth

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**Recent Use - Percent of Kittitas County students who report having a drink in the past month<sup>3</sup>**



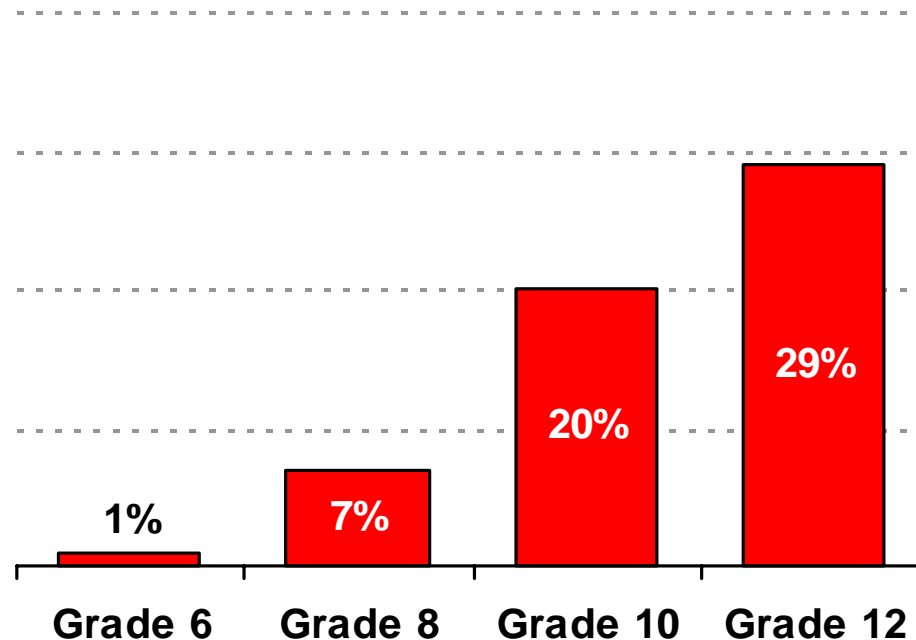
Past month use of alcohol for Kittitas 10th graders is higher than other students in the state.



# Alcohol Use and Youth

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**How Frequently - Percent of Kittitas County students who report drinking on 3 or more days in the past month<sup>3</sup>**

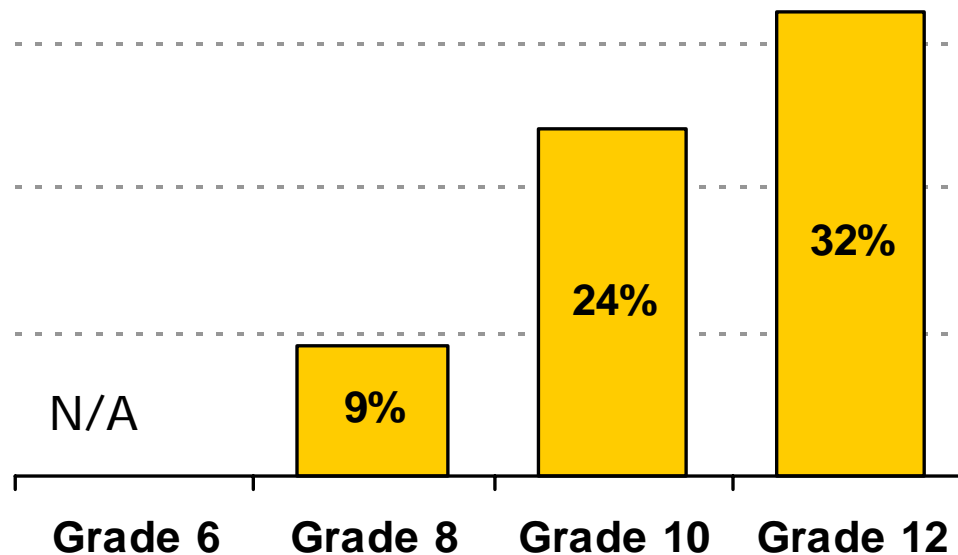




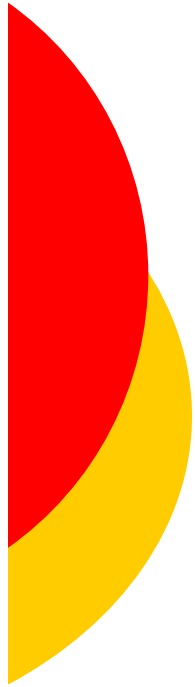
# Alcohol Use and Youth

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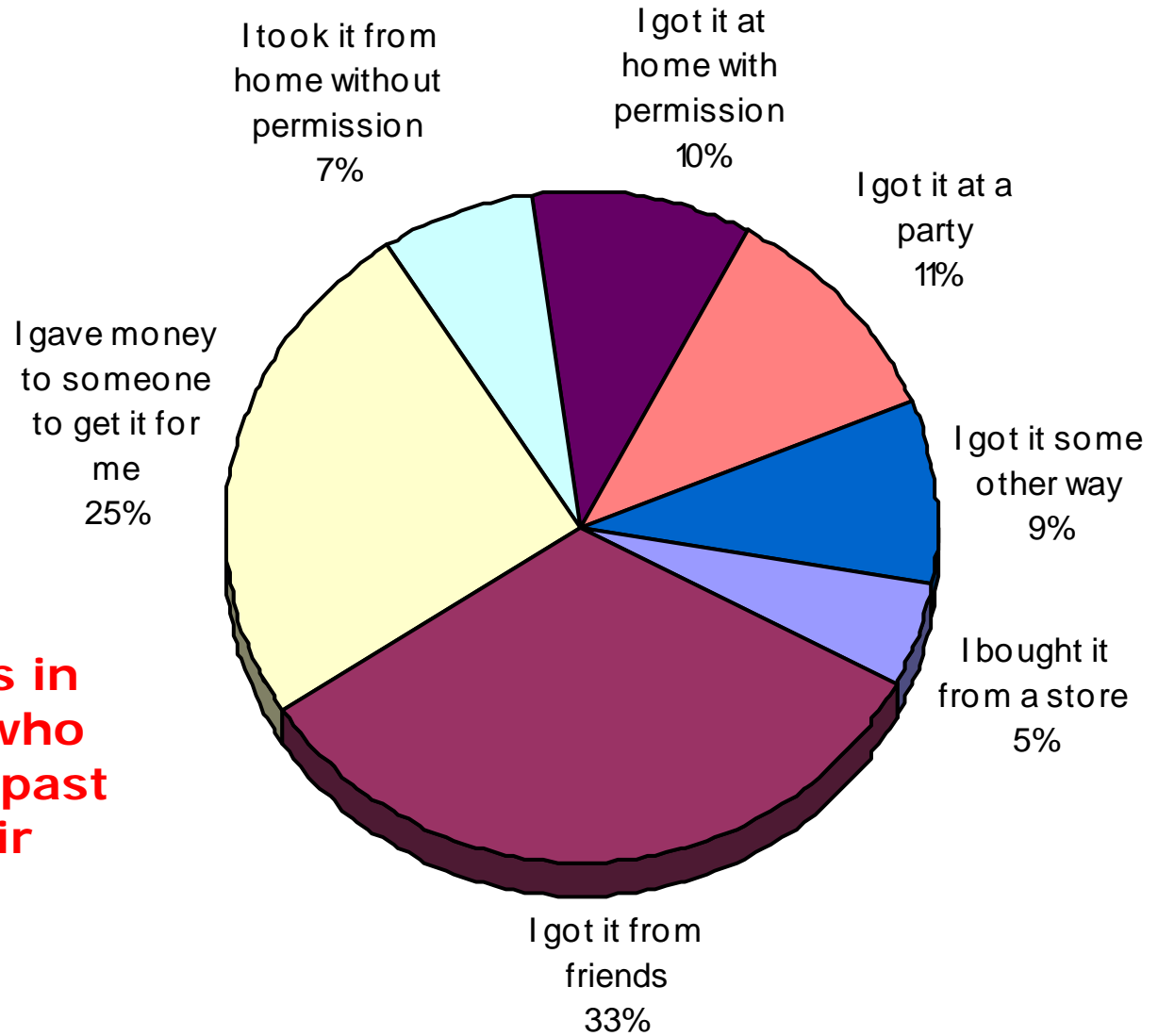
**How Heavily - Percent of Kittitas County students who report drinking heavily (5 or more drinks in a row) at least once in the past two weeks<sup>3</sup>**

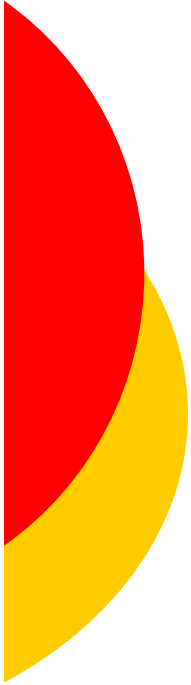


# Alcohol Use and Youth



**How do students in Kittitas County who drank during the past month get their alcohol?<sup>3</sup>**



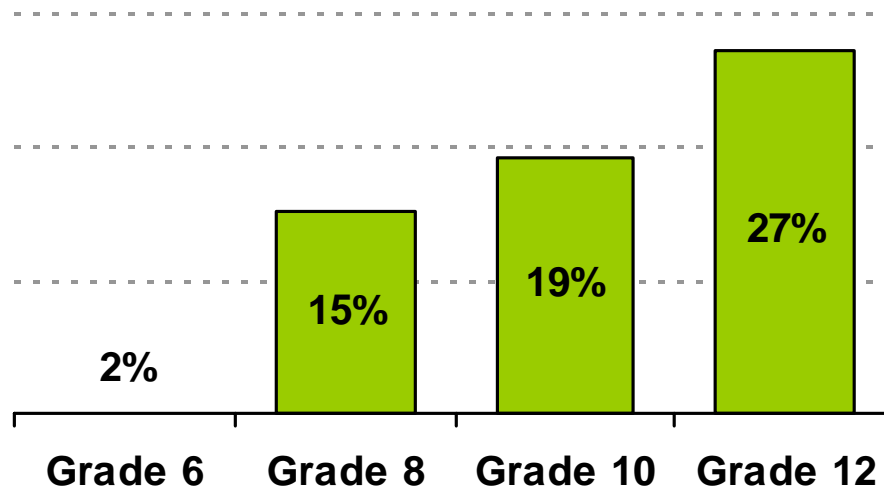


# Alcohol Use and Youth

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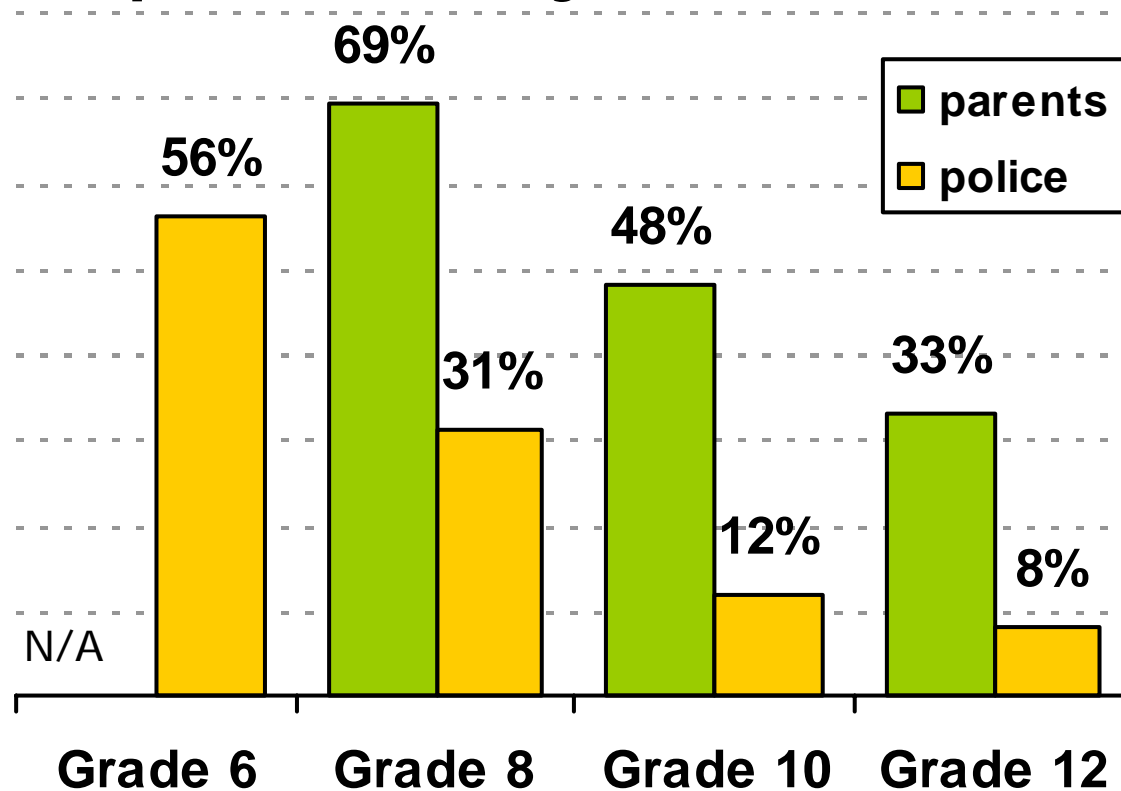
**Percent of Kittitas County students who feel that their parents think it is only “a little bit wrong” or “not wrong at all” for their teen to drink alcohol regularly<sup>3</sup>**

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# Alcohol Use and Youth

Percent of Kittitas County students who think they will get caught by parents or police if they drink alcohol<sup>3</sup>





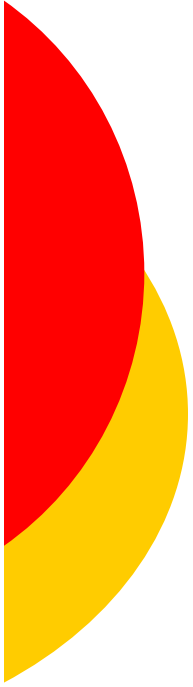
# Alcohol Use and Adults

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**Adult Binge Drinking:** 5 or more drinks on an occasion in the past 30 days



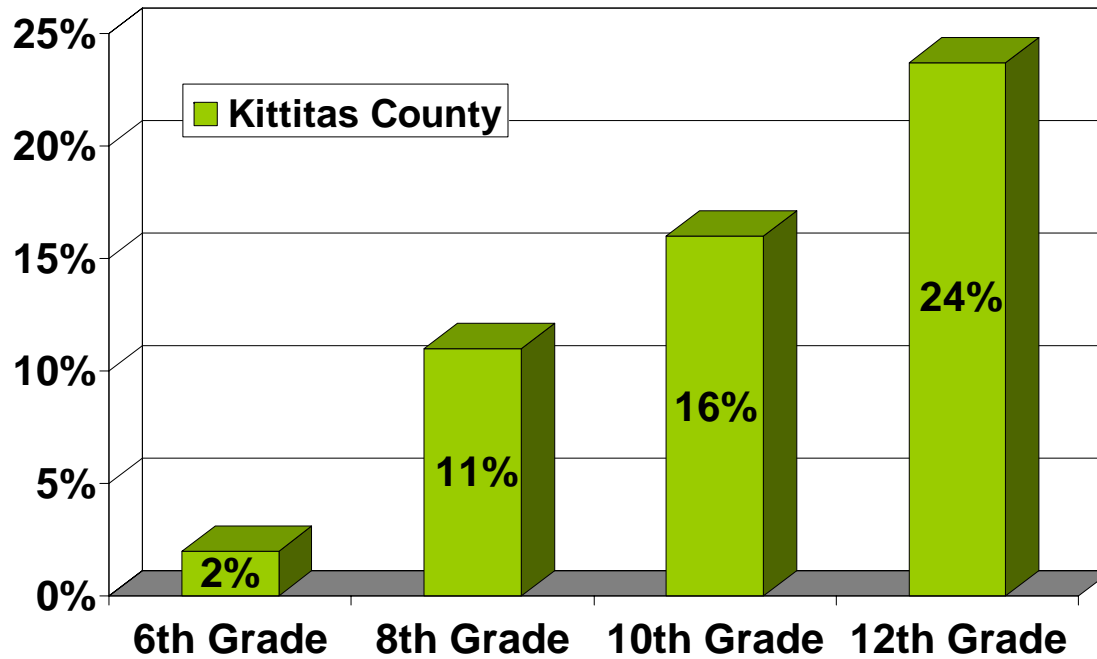
- In 2004, the prevalence of binge drinking in Kittitas County had risen to 32.9% from 28.7% the prior year<sup>1</sup>
- Binge drinking is a greater problem in Kittitas County than Washington State as a whole, especially as the state rate has decreased through the last couple years to 13.8%<sup>1</sup>



# Tobacco Use and Youth

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**Kittitas County students reporting smoking cigarettes in the past 30 days<sup>3</sup>**







# Tobacco Use and Adults

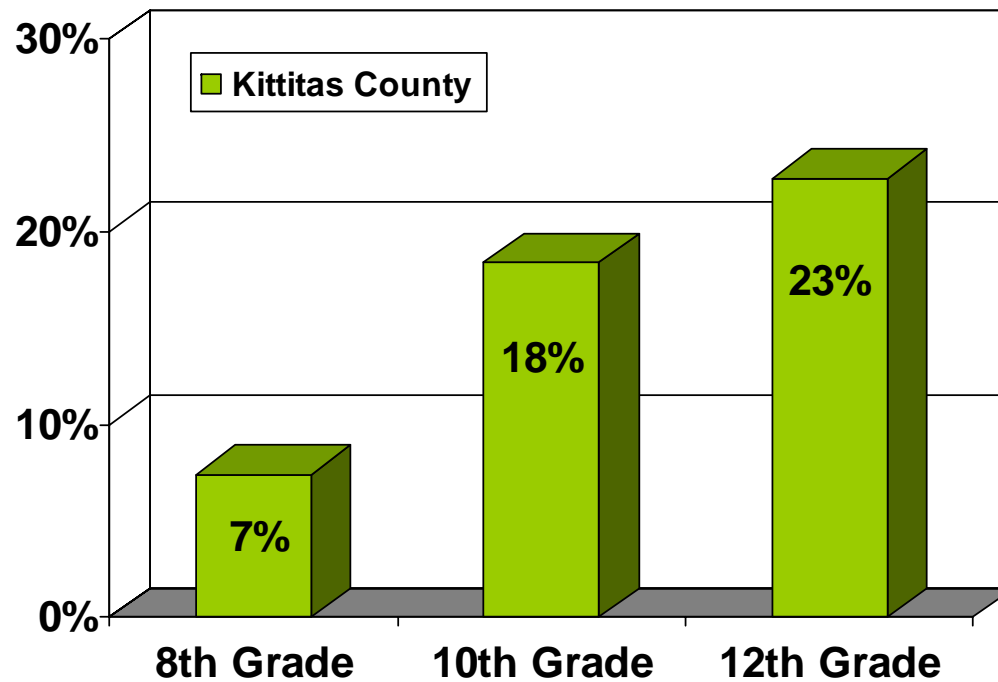
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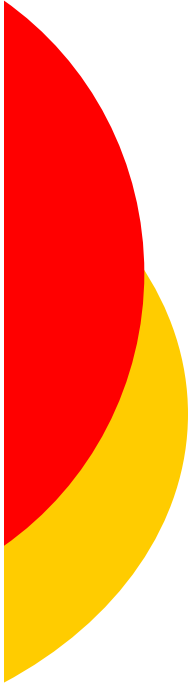
## Adult Tobacco Use:

-  11.6% of Kittitas County adults reported being current smokers either smoking daily or some days. This represents an improvement since 2001.<sup>1</sup>
-  Compared to Washington State, a lower proportion of Kittitas County residents are current smokers.<sup>1</sup>

# Marijuana Use and Youth

**Percent of Kittitas County students who report using marijuana in the past month<sup>3</sup>**

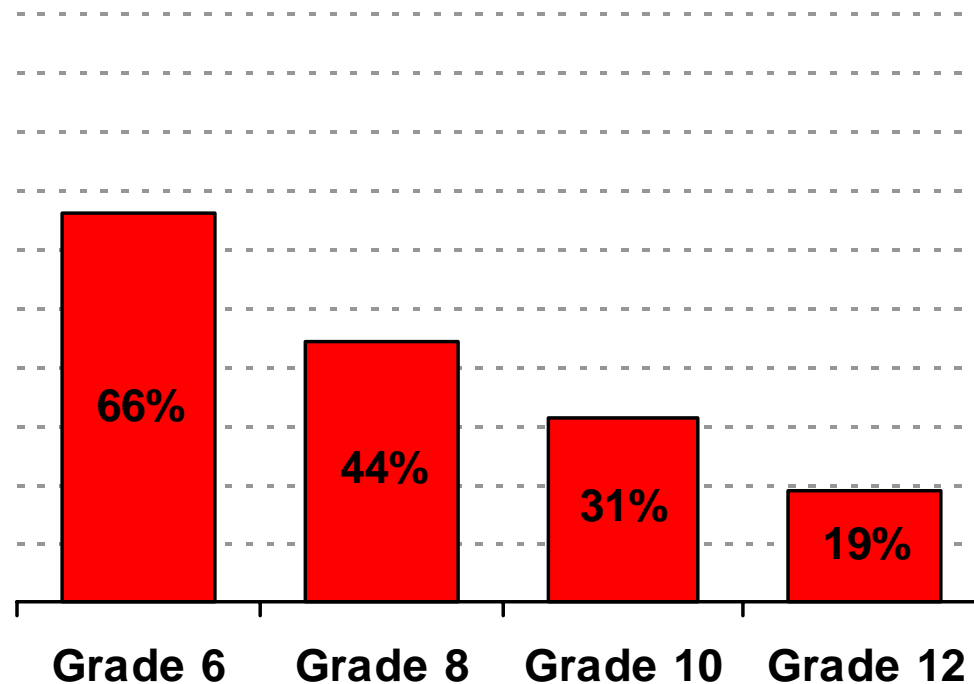




# Marijuana Use and Youth

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**Percent of Kittitas County students who report that kids smoking marijuana would be caught by the police<sup>3</sup>**

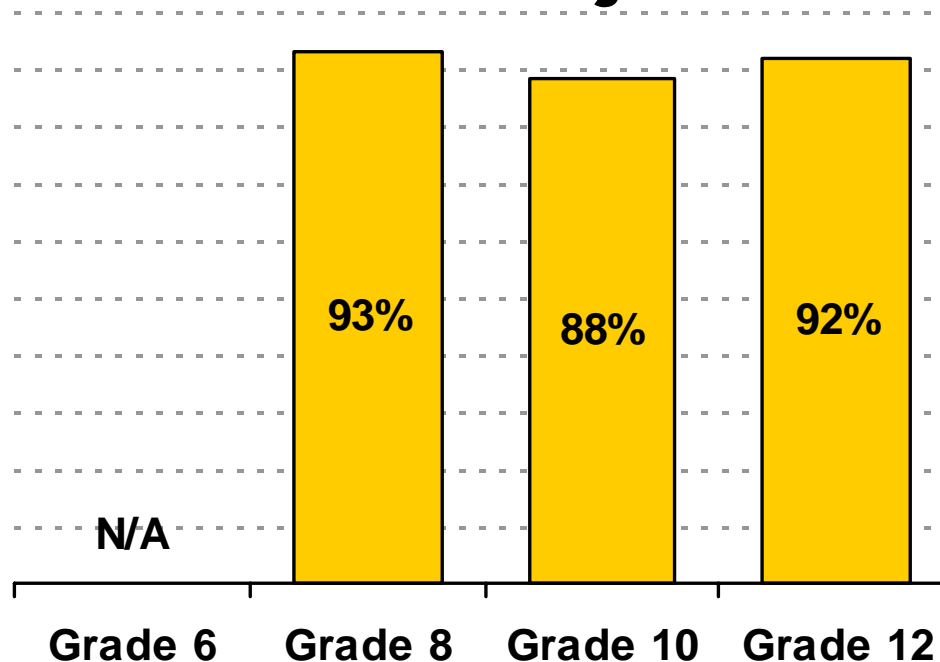


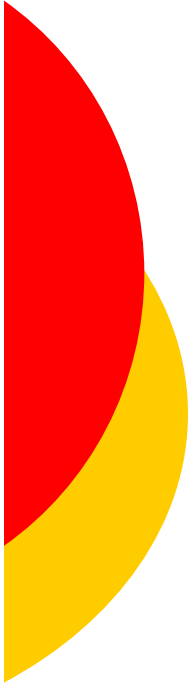


# Marijuana Use and Youth

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**Percent of Kittitas County students who report that their parents would think it was wrong or very wrong to smoke marijuana<sup>3</sup>**

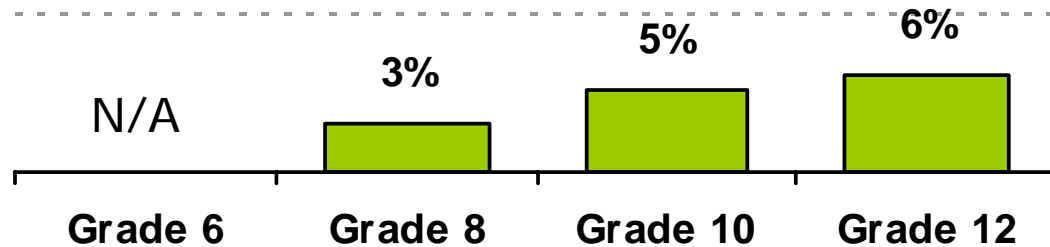


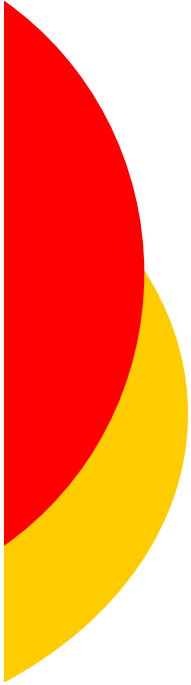


# Illegal Drug Use and Youth

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**Percent of Kittitas County students who report using an illegal drug other than alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana in the past month<sup>3</sup>**

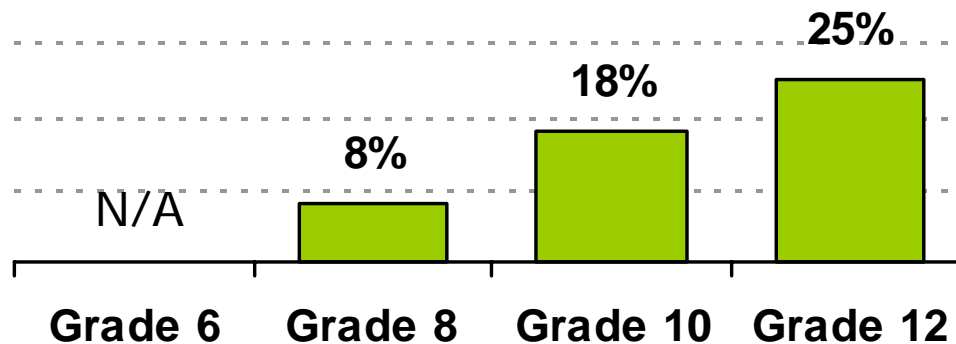




# Alcohol/ Drug Use and Youth

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**Percent of students who report being drunk or high at school in the past year<sup>3</sup>**





## Weapons in School

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The annual incident of guns and other weapons reported at school is lower in Kittitas County than in the state and in Washington counties like us.<sup>5</sup>



# Thank You

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Thank you for taking the time to find out about substance use and abuse issues in your county.

We will be developing a shared strategic plan to address issues related to substance use and abuse in Kittitas County and we would like to hear from you.

The following link

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=904473359882>, will take you to an online survey. This survey will ask for input from you on what you think are the most important and pressing issues to address in our community related to substance use and abuse.

We will be collecting surveys from March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 to March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007.



# References

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1. Kittitas County Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey 2004, Washington State Department of Health, <http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/about/fs-2006-behavioral-risk-factors.pdf>
2. Kittitas County Health Profile, 2003 Edition, Washington Health Foundation, <http://www.whf.org/Documents/CountyProfiles/kittitas.pdf>
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8. U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/53/53037.html>
9. Washington State Courts of Limited Jurisdiction 2005 Annual Caseload Report, Washington State Courts of Limited Jurisdiction 2006 Year-to-Date Report. <http://www.courts.wa.gov>

If you have any questions or comments please contact Ann Riley at [ariley\\_dfc@fairpoint.net](mailto:ariley_dfc@fairpoint.net), or call 962-9775.