

**PROTECTIVE  
FACTOR**

**PERCEIVED RISK**



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# Why Does It Matter?

Perceived Risk of Harm has an inverse correlation with substance use rates. Sooo...  
As perceived risk goes **UP**  
Substance use rates typically go **DOWN**



## Some good news:

Rye youth perception of risk has remained fairly steady since 2016. **AND 2023 data reflect...**

- The **highest level** of perceived risk associated with alcohol use among **MS and HS youth in seven years** (12% increase for HS teens from 2016-2023)
- Perceived risk associated with **marijuana** use is **strong** among **MS students**
- Despite being lower than for other substances, **perceived risk** associated with marijuana use reported by **HS students** is at its **highest level** (**28% increase** from 2016-2023)
- **Increased perception of risk** for marijuana use is **notable**, given the environmental **context of legalization** for adult use in NY state in 2021

Substance	2016	2018	2021	2023
Alcohol	MS: 81.4%	MS: 79%	MS: 81%	MS: <b>83.4%</b>
	HS: 66.9%	HS: 66.3%	HS: 66.7%	HS: <b>74.3%</b>
Marijuana	MS: 85.3%	MS: 81.3%	MS: 82.7%	MS: 82.8%
	HS: 46.3%	HS: 51.5%	HS: 50.6%	HS: <b>59%</b>
Prescription Rx	MS: 94.4%	MS: 89%	MS: 94.3%	MS: 89.2%
	HS: 93.9%	HS: 94%	HS: 96%	HS: 93.3%

Source: 2023 PRIDE Survey

## CAUSE FOR CONCERN:

### Did you know?

**Using prescription pills that aren't prescribed to you can be deadly.**

- "The U.S. overdose crisis is affecting Americans at younger ages — even as adolescent substance use is decreasing." (Source: Friedman et al, JAMA 2024)
- Perceived risk from experimental use of prescription-type drugs is lower among teens than for other illicit drugs. (Source: Miech et al, MTF Monograph Series 2023)
- Illicit fentanyl is commonly found in pills made to look like legitimate prescription drugs like oxycodone (Oxycontin®, Percocet®), hydrocodone (Vicodin®), and alprazolam (Xanax®), or stimulants like amphetamines (Adderall®). (Source: DEA One Pill Can Kill Campaign)
- An average of 22 teens die each week from drug overdose. These deaths are driven by counterfeit pills containing fentanyl. (Source: Friedman et al, JAMA 2024)

In the context of growing reports of anxiety, depression, and suicidal thoughts, lower perception of risk associated with prescription-type pills is particularly notable.

"Note that the prescription-type drugs (e.g., Adderall, amphetamines, sedatives, narcotics other than heroin) tend to have lower (perceived) levels of risk than most of the illicit drugs. That may help explain the relatively higher levels of use of the prescription-type drugs." (Source: Monitoring the Future national data)