

## MARIJUANA / THC USE



**GOOD NEWS**

Past month use of marijuana/THC has **decreased among Rye students since 2014** despite the commercial legalization of marijuana in New York State for adults age 21 and over.

| Grade | '14 Rye | '25 Rye | % Change |
|-------|---------|---------|----------|
| 9th   | 9.3%    | 1.3%    | -86%     |
| 10th  | 23.9%   | 3.7%    | -85%     |
| 12th  | 36.2%   | 20.3%   | -44%     |

### Cause for Concern

In 2025, Rye HS seniors reported **substantially more marijuana/THC use (20.3%)** than their **national peers (8.7%)**.



Youth who do use marijuana/THC are using products that are significantly more potent than in years past, and are using at greater frequency (daily/near-daily use).

Regular use of high potency THC products is associated with increased symptoms of anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation, and risk for psychosis and schizophrenia.

(Sultan, et al., Tervo-Clemmens, et al., Rittiphairoj, et al.)

## UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES



Unregulated, intoxicating products like Kratom, 7-OH, hemp-derived THC, nitrous oxide "whippets", amyl nitrite "poppers", blue lotus, and mushroom products, pose serious health risks, especially for youth.

These products are marketed directly to youth with bright and colorful packaging, and sold in different forms including drinks, shots, powder, tea, extracts, resins, oils, powders, vape cartridges, chocolates, gummies, and other candy.



## Most Rye Youth Don't Use Substances

- More than ever before, Rye youth report non-use.
- Over 90% of Rye students in grades 7-12 report no use of marijuana/THC, nicotine, or misuse of Rx drugs.

| Substance Non-Use   | '14 Rye | '25 Rye |
|---------------------|---------|---------|
| Alcohol             | 52.0%   | 69.9%   |
| Marijuana/THC       | 77.3%   | 90.5%   |
| Nicotine Vaping     | 70.9%   | 91.6%   |
| Nicotine Cigarettes | 86.1%   | 95.9%   |
| Rx Drug Misuse      | 97.1%   | 99.3%   |

**It's necessary to sustain these efforts in order to maintain the gains we've made to-date and continue to positively impact the community.**

- Dr. Matitch-Maroney  
2026 RyeACT Program  
Evaluation Report

## NICOTINE VAPING



Rye first captured data on nicotine vaping in 2016, a time during which vaping was substantially higher among Rye youth than national use rates—more than double for most age groups.

**GOOD NEWS**

For the first time, Rye youth report **lower rates of past month nicotine vaping than national rates across all grades.**



| Grade | '16 Rye | '25 Rye | % Change | '25 MTF |
|-------|---------|---------|----------|---------|
| 9th   | 14.0%   | 4.0%    | -71%     | -       |
| 10th  | 24.6%   | 6.6%    | -73%     | 10.0%   |
| 12th  | 42.3%   | 14.1%   | -67%     | 15.0%   |

In more good news, Rye students in **grades 7 and 8** report **very low rates (<3%)** of 30-day nicotine vaping.

## Rx DRUG MISUSE



**GOOD NEWS**

In 2025, Rye youth reported the **lowest rates of Rx drug misuse to-date.**

| Grade | '16 Rye | '25 Rye | % Change |
|-------|---------|---------|----------|
| 8th   | 0.9%    | 0.0%    | -100%    |
| 10th  | 2.0%    | 0.7%    | -65%     |
| 12th  | 5.0%    | 1.6%    | -68%     |

Rx drug misuse carries significant risk for overdose and fatality because counterfeit pills are often pressed with fentanyl.



## Substance Use is Closely Connected

- When teens use any one substance (alcohol, marijuana/THC, or nicotine), they are **dramatically more likely to use other drugs.**

(One Choice Prevention)

- When youth report using even "**some alcohol**" in the past month, they are:

- **7X** more likely to vape nicotine/use tobacco
- **10X** more likely to use marijuana/THC
- **10X** more likely to use illicit drugs.

(DuPont, et al.)

- The same pattern was true for youth who used marijuana/THC or nicotine: **For teens, all substance use is closely connected.**

- While it may not feel like adults have influence over youth behaviors, **teens report that their parents/caregivers are the biggest influence on their decision to use substances.** (SAMHSA)

**one choice**  
FOR HEALTH