



Rye Action for Children & Teens (RyeACT) is a coalition of local organizations and individuals committed to promoting long-term health and wellness by inspiring youth, parents, and community leaders to foster healthy behaviors and reduce youth substance use.



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SUBSTANCE USE AMONG RYE YOUTH HAS DECREASED ACROSS ALL DRUGS AND ALL GRADES.

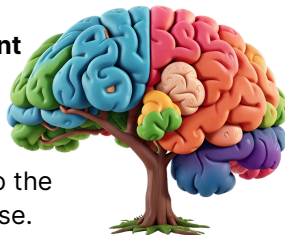
RyeACT routinely collects both quantitative and qualitative data to inform our prevention work in the community, and to evaluate the impact of our prevention strategies. The PRIDE Survey instrument has been administered biennially to all students in grades 7-12 at Rye MS and Rye HS, in collaboration with our community partners at the Rye City School District, since 2014.

“**The positive findings emerging from this data have resulted from focused sustained efforts, particularly those empowering and highlighting youth voice and agency regarding substance use prevention.**”

- Jeanne Matitch-Maroney, PhD, LCSW-R
Iona University, 2026 RyeACT Program Evaluation Report

Age of First Substance Use Matters

- **The earlier a person starts to use substances**, including alcohol, and the heavier the use, the greater the risk of developing a substance use disorder. (*Addiction Policy Forum, National Institutes of Health*)
- **Addiction is a pediatric-onset disorder**: 9 in 10 adults with a substance use disorder started using substances *before age 18*. (*CASA Columbia*)
- **The brain undergoes significant growth and changes during adolescence** and is not fully developed until ~age 25, making it uniquely vulnerable to the adverse effects of substance use.



Drug-Free Communities



RyeACT is funded through a Drug-Free Communities (DFC) grant through September 2026. The DFC model mobilizes communities to identify and respond to local substance use problems through community partnerships and collaboration.



ALCOHOL USE

Grade	'14 Rye	'25 Rye	% Change	'25 MTF
8th	12.3%	5.8%	-53%	4.3%
10th	53.2%	24.1%	-55%	10.4%
12th	79.1%	43.0%	-40%	22.3%

GOOD NEWS

Rates of past month alcohol use by Rye youth have **declined dramatically** since 2014.

CAUSE FOR CONCERN

Alcohol use rates among Rye youth remain **higher than national averages** (*Monitoring the Future*) for each grade.

Rates of past month binge drinking have **declined significantly** among Rye youth since 2014, **but are substantially higher among Rye High School students than their peers nationally.**

Grades	'14 Rye	'25 Rye	% Change	'25 MTF
7th & 8th	3.9%	0.09%	-98%	0.7%
9th & 10th	25.3%	18.6%	-26%	1.5%
11th & 12th	56.5%	37.2%	-34%	8.7%

