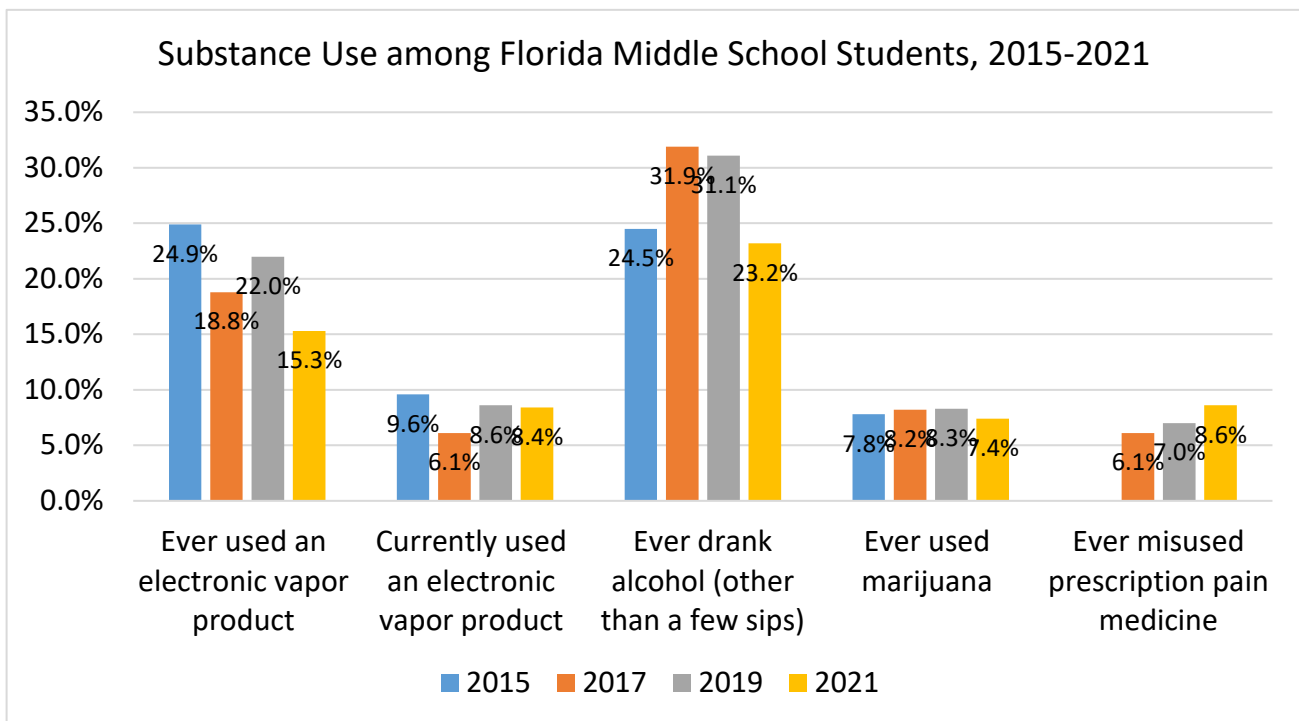


June 2022

Substance Use among Florida Middle School Students, 2021

As shown in the chart below, recent data from the Florida Department of Health’s Middle School Behavior Survey indicate some mixed results regarding substance use among children in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Based on 2021 statewide data, lifetime use of an electronic vapor product (e.g., e-cigarette, vape pen) appears to have decreased from prior years from 24.9% in 2015 to 15.3% in 2021. Current use of electronic vapor products is 8.4%, which represents a slight decline from 8.6% reported in 2019. Lifetime use of alcohol (other than a few sips) declined to 23.2% from 31.1% in 2019. This is an encouraging signal, given that alcohol use among other populations increased following the COVID-19 pandemic. Lifetime use of marijuana declined slightly to 7.4% in 2021 from 8.3% in 2019. Beginning in 2017 (the first year that data were collected), misuse of prescription pain medicine (e.g., hydrocodone; oxycodone) has increased each year, reaching 8.6% in 2021. This is the only substance use measure which has experienced continued year over year increases. The 2021 data are limited, but updates will be forthcoming once the full data are released.



Sources: Florida Department of Health and Youth Online <https://nccd.cdc.gov/Youthonline/App/Default.aspx>

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