

CTC OF MARINETTE AND MENOMINEE COUNTIES YOUTH FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

2023



CATALYST
EVALUATION GROUP, LLC



Contents

Methodology	3
Focus Group Demographics.....	4
Alcohol.....	5
Alcohol Consumption and Norms in Community/School.....	5
Alcohol Availability/Access.....	8
Alcohol Consequences.....	10
Tobacco.....	11
Tobacco Consumption and Norms in Community/School.....	11
Tobacco Availability/Access.....	13
Tobacco Consequences.....	14
Solutions and General Input.....	15



Methodology

Six focus groups were conducted in spring of 2023 with 71 9th – 12th graders asking about norms, consequences and access/availability around alcohol and tobacco. The focus groups including the following locations:

- Coleman
- Menominee
- NCA
- Niagara
- Peshtigo

Focus groups ranged in number from 11 youth to 24 youth participating. Detailed information was compiled and quantified in this summary report.



Focus Group Demographics

Focus Group Location

Location	Percentage of Responses
Coleman	15.5%
Menominee	33.8%
NCA	19.7%
Niagara	15.5%
Peshtigo	15.5%

Participant Grade Levels

Location	Percentage of Responses
9 th	16.9%
10 th	23.9%
11 th	38.0%
12 th	21.1%



Alcohol

Alcohol Consumption and Norms in Community/School

Why do you think young people (your age) drink alcohol?

Reasons	Percentage of Responses
Social gatherings	2.8%
To get a "buzz"	1.4%
Look cool/peer pressure/to fit in/society norms	38.0%
Parent norms	29.6%
Mental health/stress	9.9%
Curiosity	1.4%
Academic/sports pressures	7.0%
Fun	2.8%
Taste	1.4%
Nothing else to do	2.8%
Cost is low compared to other activities	7.0%
Culturally accepted	7.0%
No consequences	1.4%

Why don't some groups of youth drink?

Reasons	Percentage of Responses
Religion/morals	4.2%
Fear of seeing older adult/parent consequences of alcohol (ab)use	18.3%
Not healthy/physical effects	8.5%
Not very fun	5.6%
Laws	2.8%
Academic/sports consequences	9.9%
Reputation	4.2%
Busy doing other things	1.4%



Why does the situation/occasion of underage drinking look like in y our community?

Responses	Percentage of Responses
Bonfires/camps	43.6%
Smaller house parties	26.8%
Summertime	8.5%
After school events (prom, homecoming)	7.0%
Graduation parties	5.6%
Christmas break	2.8%
Out of town/isolated areas	2.8%
Party Point	2.8%
At bars	1.4%
Shops/garages	1.4%

When do teens drink?

Responses	Percentage of Responses
Weekend	14.%
Homecoming/prom	4.2%
During stress	4.2%
Celebrations	4.2%
Graduation parties	1.4%
Bars	1.4%
Not at school	1.4%

Other comments:

Protective prom stuff for kids to stay at dance vs drink

Mostly weekends, not at school



Are adults around when it's happening? Engaging with drinking or not? What does this look like in your friends' homes?

Responses	Percentage of Responses
Yes	35.2%
Not usually with drinking but depends	14.1%
Yes, but may not know about it	21.1%
Parents are not always there but aware it is happening	1.4%

Other Comments:

- Party Point
- Lighthouse parking lot
- Parents think safer to drink with kids
- Depends on the group. People in younger 20s drinking with kids. Depends on how big the party is.
- Parent age: they are aware party is happening. Doesn't really happen where kids drink outside without their parents knowing they are doing it.

Do adults see a problem with youth drinking?

Responses	Percentage of Responses
No	28.2%
Unsure	28.2%
Some adults	9.9%

Other Comments:

- Parents don't think drinking is as bad as opposed to smoking because it goes away
- Parents think ok 15 and up
- Small town with many bars
- Not many kids do it
- Parents grew up with it; parents drink with kids in summer and at family gatherings



What does “peer pressure” look like with alcohol?

Responses	Percentage of Responses
Not a lot of peer pressure/more internal pressure	12.7%
No fun if no drinking	7.0%
Look like a loser if you don't drink	7.0%
People bring alcohol even when asked not to	4.2%
No bonfire without drinking	2.8%
Social media	2.8%
Sometimes forced/tricked to drink	2.8%
Drinking responsibly as youth is possible	1.4%
Feel left out if not drinking	1.4%

Other Comments:

- This changes as kids get older, start to care less about what others think and start thinking of the future now, more on the line now.

Alcohol Availability/Access

Who is providing alcohol to minors?

Responses	Percentage of Responses
Older kids over 21	50.7%
Siblings	38.0%
Parents	38.0%
Friends	22.5%
Steal (from parents or stores)	21.1%
Stores where they can buy	18.3%
Others who are over 21	18.3%
Bars	12.7%
Walmart	4.2%
Houses with alcohol on hand	1.4%

Other Comments:

- Scanners make access more difficult
- Big Chicken gas station
- Stealing at Walmart
- Econo and Holiday gas station stealing
- Not everyone gets carded
- Friends of friends
- Will serve you without checking ID if you've been there with parents even if parents not there at the time



Do youth have access at home? During family gatherings or other friends' houses? What does this look like?

Responses	Percentage of Responses
Yes	70.4%
Yes, at family gatherings	39.4%
Yes, friend's houses	33.8%
Unmonitored	11.3%
At Christmas	1.4%
Yes, hidden	1.4%

Do youth have access at community events? Are there some events that are allowed more than others?

Responses	Percentage of Responses
Yes	86.2%
No	13.8%

Other Comments:

- Fireman's picnic
- Summer events
- Truck and tractor pulls
- Beer stand
- Many bring own alcohol
- 4th of July
- Woodtick festival
- Camping/festivals
- Uphill drag race in Florence-no carding
- Historical days never would; lots of cops around



Alcohol Consequences

**Do parents talk with their kids about the dangers of underage drinking?
What are these conversations like?**

Responses	Percentage of Responses
Yes, only about driving	25.9%
Yes, but only sometimes about health effects	48.1%
No	25.9%

Other Comments:

- One group laughed when asked if parents talk about brain development or health effects of alcohol
- Lots about drinking and driving-that is what most people here. Don't do it but if you do, call me, find a ride or something like that. Parents tell stories of drunk driving accidents from their youth to warn about that.

Are there consequences from parents if their children are caught underage drinking?

Responses	Percentage of Responses
School consequences (sports specifically)	42.3%
Depends on parent/youth	21.1%
Police just give warnings	7.0%
Depends on drinking/age	7.0%
MIPs	5.6%
Phone/car taken away	4.2%
None	2.8%
Extra chores	1.4%
No video games	1.4%
Physical punishment	1.4%
Unhealthy	1.4%
Only if driving	1.4%

Other Comments:

- Discussed health consequences and how parents do it so they don't see an issue with it
- Police will not pull person over if they know them



Tobacco

Tobacco Consumption and Norms in Community/School

What are the most popular tobacco and/or vape products that youth are using? What are youth putting in their vapes?

Responses	Percentage of Responses
Vape	14.1%
Breeze bar	5.6%
Zin	5.6%
Mostly disposables	5.6%
Juul	5.6%
Elf bar	4.2%
Sinomas	1.4%
Cigars	1.4%
Chargeable pods	1.4%
Chew	1.4%
Dab pens	1.4%

Other Comments:

- Younger people use disposables
- Buzez, Elf Bar, Juul, Zin
- Depends on flavors
- Mostly to get nicotine
- Never cigarettes
- Youth targeted for vapes



When and where are youth using tobacco and/or vape products?

Responses	Percentage of Responses
Anywhere	53.5%
Bathrooms/School locker rooms	26.8%
Weekends	16.9%
School breaks	16.9%
Before/after/at school	15.5%
Sporting events	15.5%
Friend's house	15.5%
Class	8.5%
Parking lots	2.8%
Parties	1.4%
In front of parents	1.4%

Other Comments:

- More in Coleman
- Youth leave for off campus lunch and come back high.
- Youth have dab pens in open in school and no one does anything

How are youth financially supporting their use?

Responses	Percentage of Responses
Jobs	11.3%
Parents (ask for money to get something else)	8.5%
Older siblings/friends	7.0%
Steal	2.8%
Pay strangers	2.8%
At school	2.8%
Borrow one	1.4%

Do adults know?

Responses	Percentage of Responses
Yes	87.3%

Other Comments:

- Aunts/uncles too
- Stealing
- Concerned but don't know what to do about it
- Leave items around school
- Share devices and flavors.
- Depends on how old you are for parents; they can likely smell it
- At school, they all know but need to catch in act; most go in locker room or bathroom.



Tobacco Availability/Access

Is it easy for youth to get tobacco/vape products? How?

Responses	Percentage of Responses
Yes	87.3%
Older siblings	90.1%
Other youth	76.1%
Retail stores	74.6%
Family members	73.2%
Parents	54.9%
Buy at school	42.2%
Online store	4.2%

Are stores selling vape and tobacco products to minors? Which ones? Do they check IDs?

Responses	Percentage of Responses
Yes	92.2%
No	13.8%

Other Comments:

- Tundra doesn't ID; Holy Smokes as well (mentioned multiple times)
- Fake IDs
- Wild West and Sweet Fire both sell (over bridge into Kingsford)
- Rize Up
- Lume
- GB Tundra and Tundra Marinette

Do you think laws surrounding tobacco and vape products make it easier or harder to obtain?

Responses	Percentage of Responses
A little harder	11.4%
Not really	71.4%
Laws are confusing	17.1%



Tobacco Consequences

Do teens know the risk of physical harm by using tobacco/vape products?

Responses	Percentage of Responses
Yes, but don't care	94.4%

Other Comments:

- In elementary school, there isn't any education but should be. Posters or signs?
- When we were in middle school, not many kids did but it's way worse now and happening in younger grades.
- Vaping way more popular now.
- Parents need to talk about it too. Parents need more education on it.
- More popular in Marinette and Menominee, not Coleman.
- Get education but don't care if friends doing it.

Are there consequences by parents if their children are caught using vape and/or tobacco products? What are they?

Responses	Percentage of Responses
Parents give consequences	9.9%
School/game suspensions	8.5%
Not really	7.0%
Police warning then ticket	4.2%
Phone taken away	2.8%
Kicked out	1.4%
Not if good in sports	1.4%
Leave it up to parents	1.4%

Other Comments:

- All branded to teens and kids. Fruity flavors and bright colors
- People try for first time because of curiosity and influence



Solutions and General Input

Is there anything you want to say to adults in your community regarding youth substance use?

Responses
Smoke detectors
Parents need to talk about alcohol and vaping
Stop giving substances to kids (towards adults)
People vape everywhere now
Encourage parents/adults to be good role models
Meth in Nadeau and Hermansville
To parents, use voice and talk about it, not just eyes
Vaping is much bigger than alcohol
School should be harsher on vaping
Why were vape detectors taken out of bathrooms?
Universal consequences needed
People stop using bathrooms at school
Rize Up next to school an issue
Weed is more of a home thing and how you're brought up
Teachers don't do anything
Think about how you introduce alcohol. Kids will only listen if you say it's horrible and don't do it in front of them
If you leave kids in the dark, they will be more curious than if you talk to them about it. They will hear about alcohol from friends and be curious and if you cut off completely, they will be more curious.
Vaping-parents try to ignore it and hope the kid doesn't do it. Mention it a little bit but they don't talk about it enough.
Need alternative activities
Need to learn from parents, not school
Social change and norms around alcohol being culture

Are there any other youth-related drug issues that we should be aware of?

Responses
Marijuana is an issue with vaping and alcohol.
Dab pens are an issue
Fentanyl
Syringes lying around
Vaping number one then alcohol and marijuana close tie after



CATALYST
EVALUATION GROUP, LLC