



For Immediate Release

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REGION BUCKS NATIONAL TRENDS: DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE RATES CONTINUE TO DECLINE

CINCINNATI— The Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati's 2010 student drug use survey data results indicate that drug and alcohol use among seventh through twelfth graders in the greater Cincinnati region **continues to decline**, going against current national trends.

Data from 49,524 seventh through twelfth grade students, from 131 public and private schools across the region, reveal that regular use rates, defined as the percent of youth who report having used at least once in the past 30 days, continue to decline. Alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana remain the region's top three substances of choice for youth.

In greater Cincinnati, the number of youth reporting they regularly use alcohol is at 18% in 2010 compared to 20% in 2008. Regular use of tobacco is at 13% in 2010, compared to 14% in 2008 and use of marijuana is at 10% this year, compared to 10% in 2008. Illicit drugs, such as cocaine, heroin, meth, hallucinogens, steroids, uppers, downers) range from 1-4% in both 2008 and 2010, depending on the drug. Even more striking is the fact that from 2000-2010, alcohol use is down 40%; tobacco use is down by 38%; marijuana use is down by 33%.

Greater Cincinnati youth are using alcohol and tobacco at lower rates than youth nationally. According to Pride Surveys 2009-2010 Student Drug Use Survey, at a national level youth use alcohol at a rate of 19.6% as compared to the Cincinnati area's rate of 18%. Tobacco use is at 15.2% nationally, compared to 13% locally. Finally, the use rates for marijuana showed the smallest difference at 10.2% nationally and 10% locally.

"In light of recent news regarding national drug use trends going up, the Coalition is excited to share this news of a ***continuing decline in adolescent drug and alcohol use at our local level***," said Holly Molony, Coalition President/Executive Director. "We continue to see that the Greater Cincinnati community is changing when it comes to youth use of alcohol and drugs. Youth are getting the message. The collaborative, community-wide efforts of the Coalition, its partners, and the local coalitions focused on creating a supportive and positive environment for kids to grow up in, and efforts to reduce the risk factors for youth throughout the community, appear to be working. The result is the continued decline in drug and alcohol use rates among youth."

The student drug use survey is a project of the Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati that provides in-depth analysis of the self-reported drug use patterns of area youth. Every two years, the Coalition implements this survey to collect youth drug use data from seventh through twelfth graders throughout the 10-county Greater Cincinnati area. The Coalition is leading the nation in collecting and disseminating current, reliable adolescent regional drug use data. This survey is recognized across the region and nationally as the most current and reliable source of validated information on local youth substance abuse.

About the Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati

The Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati (CDFGC), established in 1996 by former U.S. Congressman Rob Portman of Ohio, has become a model for community coalitions nationwide. The Coalition serves communities throughout the 10-county, tri-state region by promoting drug-free environments for youth by enhancing partnerships to educate, advocate and support locally-based community mobilization. This is accomplished through partnering with business leaders, parents, schools, youth, faith-based leaders, law enforcement, community groups, media and other partners in local communities to implement comprehensive, community-wide, anti-drug initiatives with a goal of reducing substance use and abuse through prevention education.