2020 Rhode Island Student Survey
The Rhode Island Student Survey (RISS) is a collaboration among the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (RI BHDDH), the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), and the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE). The Survey, which is one of the three State agency surveys, is administered every other year. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is administered by RIDOH on those off years. The RISS is a risk and prevalence survey for Rhode Island youth in middle and high schools. A risk and prevalence survey looks at a set of factors or conditions to which youth may be exposed that are associated with negative behavioral health outcomes and the extent to which youth may report engaging in problem behavior. It explores substance use, bullying, depression, suicide, and violence.

The RISS was administered during three different time periods from 2020-2021. This was due to the COVID-19 pandemic causing a statewide shutdown and schools pivoting from in-person learning to virtual. We felt strongly that schools could not handle administering the RISS virtually during the shift of moving to a different way of educating. We thought that this would have been too heavy of a burden for schools. Also, there was concern for the privacy of the student completing the survey in close proximity to a parental figure or guardian, which might influence students’ answers or participation in completing the RISS.

The RISS data was collected in 29 school districts throughout Rhode Island, but two did not meet the threshold. In total, the RISS was completed by 18,151 students and 27 school districts were included. Seventy-five percent of the students completed the RISS pre-COVID-19 statewide school shutdown and 25% of the students completed the RISS post-COVID-19 statewide school shutdown. The RISS currently has fifty-eight (58) questions. There is no personally identifiable information associated with the RISS. Local parent permission procedures were followed before administration, including informing parents that their child’s participation was voluntary. The questions are arranged in a particular way and explore specific topic areas. The questions are also asked across several domains such as the individual, peers, family, school, and community. The RISS is offered in Spanish and English. It is an online survey that takes approximately 30 minutes or less to complete. Each student who participates in the RISS receives an informational brochure with supportive resource information.

Results of the survey are reviewed in aggregate tables, not at the individual level. The data is not meant to identify individuals. To be included in the final reports, each grade at a school needs to have at least 60% of their students complete the survey. This participation requirement further protects students from potentially being identified by the way in which they respond to the questions. It also ensures that the results are an accurate representation of the student population. RISS 2018 and 2020 survey data were compared using a two proportion z-test, which measures potential differences in proportions between two groups. Results were considered statistically significantly different if p-value < 0.05. Statistical comparisons between survey administrations (2018 vs. 2020) do not control for potential differences in participating schools.

1 Public and private schools within Rhode Island participated. The 2020 survey received responses from one private school.
Demographics

18,151 Students participated in the survey*

Grade

8th, 9th, and 10th grades had the most responses

Sexual Orientation

81.5% Heterosexual (straight)
9.1% Bisexual +
6% Not sure
2.8% Gay or Lesbian ▼
0.6% Chose not to respond

Gender Identity

284 (1.6%) of students identify as transgender

*Number of students surveyed from school districts listed on page 1. Note: Providence School District does not participate in RISS and opts for the Youth Experience Survey.
Substance Use

Past 30 Day Use by Substance and Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marijuana</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENDS</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rx Drugs</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Compared to 2018, there was a decrease in use of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), also known as e-cigarettes or vape pens or devices.

Past 30 Day Use by Substance and Year (Middle School vs. High School)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>Middle School</th>
<th>High School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>6.5% (↑)</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marijuana</td>
<td>5.8% (↑)</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENDS</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>15.2% (↓)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco</td>
<td>1.6% (↑)</td>
<td>4.1% (↑)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rx Drugs</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

+ Statistically significant increase compared to RISS 2018

▼ Statistically significant decrease compared to RISS 2018

Compared to 2018, there was a decrease in use of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), also known as e-cigarettes or vape pens or devices.
Substance Use by School Level

Past 30 Day Use Middle School

- ENDS: 5.8% (2018) vs. 6.6% (2020)
- Alcohol: 4.2% (2018) vs. 6.5% (2020)
- Marijuana: 3.5% (2018) vs. 5.8% (2020)
- Rx Drugs: 1.5% (2018) vs. 1.7% (2020)
- Tobacco: 1.1% (2018) vs. 1.6% (2020)

Past 30 Day Use High School

- ENDS: Statistically significant decrease from 21% (2018) to 15.2% (2020)
- Alcohol: 16.7% (2018) vs. 16.7% (2020)
- Marijuana: 17.7% (2018) vs. 17.2% (2020)
- Rx Drugs: 2.8% (2018) vs. 2.4% (2020)
- Tobacco: 3.5% (2018) vs. 4.1% (2020)

Compared to 2018, use of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) decreased among high school students, while alcohol, marijuana, and tobacco use increased among middle school students.
### Access and Availability

#### Obtaining Prescription Drugs

Among the 650 (4%) students who reported having ever used a prescription drug not prescribed for them...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Prescription Drugs</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A family member gave it to me for free</td>
<td>27.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>23.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A friend gave it to me for free</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I took it from someone</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I bought it from a friend</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I bought it from a family member</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I bought it on the internet</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I took it from a store</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Most students reported obtaining prescription drugs from a family member.**

#### Count It! Lock It! Drop It!

- **Count** your pills once every two weeks. This will prevent theft and ensure that medications are taken properly.
- **Lock** up your medications and store them in a place that others would not think to look.
- **Drop** off unused/expired medications for proper disposal. Police departments across Rhode Island have permanent drug disposal bins.

Students reporting use of prescription drugs not prescribed to them listed pain relief pills, ADHD medications, and sedatives.
Access and Availability

**Obtaining Marijuana**
Among the 3,528 (20.9%) students who reported having ever used marijuana...

- A friend gave it to me for free: 21.6%
- I bought it from a friend: 16.9%
- A family member gave it to me for free: 8.6%
- I took it from someone: 6.8%
- I bought it from a medical marijuana cardholder: 3.7%
- I bought it from a family member: 3%
- I got it from a medical marijuana cardholder for free: 2.9%
- I bought it on the internet: 2.2%

**Obtaining ENDS**
Among the 3,709 (22.4%) students who reported having ever used ENDS...

- A friend gave it to me for free: 19.9%
- I bought it from a friend: 15%
- A store sold it to me without an ID: 7.3%
- A family member gave it to me for free: 5.5%
- I bought it from a medical marijuana cardholder: 4.5%
- I took it from someone: 3.7%
- I bought it on the internet: 3%
- I bought it from a family member: 2.3%
- I asked someone to buy it for me: 1.7%
- I bought it from a store with a fake ID: 1.4%
- A store sold it to me without an ID: 1.1%
- I took it from a store: 0.7%
- I bought it on the internet: 0.7%

**Obtaining Alcohol**
Among the 3,709 (20.4%) students who reported having ever consumed an alcoholic beverage...

- A friend gave it to me for free: 21.6%
- I bought it from a friend: 16.9%
- A family member gave it to me for free: 8.6%
- I took it from someone: 6.8%
- I bought it on the internet: 3%
- I bought it from a medical marijuana cardholder: 2.9%
- I bought it from a family member: 2.2%
- I got it from a medical marijuana cardholder for free: 2.1%
- I bought it from a store with a fake ID: 1.7%
- A store sold it to me without an ID: 1.4%
- I took it from a store: 1.1%
- I bought it on the internet: 0.7%

Most students reported obtaining marijuana from a friend.

Most students reported obtaining Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) from a friend.

Most students reported obtaining alcohol from a friend.
Under the Influence

Percentage of students who have ever driven under the influence of:

- Alcohol: 2.6% (2018) vs. 1.9% (2020)
- Marijuana: 5.9% (2018) vs. 3.8% (2020)

Percentage of students who have ever been a passenger in a vehicle driven by someone under the influence of:

- Alcohol: 21.5% (2020) vs. 18.7% (2018)
- Marijuana: 19.1% (2018) vs. 15.8% (2020)

Statistically significant increase compared to RISS 2018:
- Alcohol driving under the influence

Statistically significant decrease compared to RISS 2018:
- Alcohol driving under the influence
- Marijuana driving under the influence

Compared to 2018, there was a decrease in students who have ever driven under the influence or been a passenger in a vehicle of someone driving under the influence.
Parent & Peer Disapproval

Percentage of students who believe parents/peers would disapprove of the following:

- Use prescription drugs not prescribed to you?
  - Peer: 91%
  - Parent: 95.2%
  + Statistically significant increase compared to RISS 2018

- Smoke tobacco?
  - Peer: 84.6%
  - Parent: 94%
  + Statistically significant increase compared to RISS 2018

- Have 1 or 2 drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day? (substance misuse)
  - Peer: 73.7%
  - Parent: 93.6%
  + Statistically significant increase compared to RISS 2018

- Use electronic cigarettes or E-cigs such as NJOY or blu?
  - Peer: 63.9%
  - Parent: 92.4%
  + Statistically significant increase compared to RISS 2018

- Use marijuana?
  - Peer: 59.3%
  - Parent: 86.3%
  + Statistically significant increase compared to RISS 2018

Parents are the most powerful influence on their children when it comes to preventing alcohol and other drug misuse. **Talk early, talk often, listen.**
Perception of Risk

Percentage of students who agree that people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they:

- Use any other illegal drugs such as cocaine, LSD (acid), methamphetamine (meth), or club drugs (ecstasy, roofies)?
  - 2018: 81.3%
  - 2020: 81.7%

- Use prescription drugs not prescribed to them?
  - 2018: 75.7%
  - 2020: 77.3%

- Smoke one or two packs of cigarettes a day?
  - 2018: 75.1%
  - 2020: 75.8%

- Have 5 or more drinks of an alcoholic beverage once or twice a week? (binge drinking)
  - 2018: 64.3%
  - 2020: 65.4%

- Use marijuana once or twice a week?
  - 2018: 43.7%
  - 2020: 45.4%

Students considered marijuana use to be less risky compared to other substances.

2018  2020

+ Statistically significant increase compared to RISS 2018
▼ Statistically significant decrease compared to RISS 2018
What You Can Do

Underage Tobacco Use Prevention

- Enforce state laws that ban all tobacco product use and possession on all school properties at all times—to everyone, everywhere, indoors and outdoors. This includes all e-cigarette devices and smokeless tobacco. To print enforcement signs, visit health.ri.gov/tobacco and select “publications”.
- Support Tobacco Free Youth Initiatives in your school.
- Support teachers and staff in learning about current trends in all tobacco product use, how flavored tobacco products target youth, and evidence-based prevention strategies.
- For free technical assistance from the Tobacco Control Program, call the Rhode Island Department of Health at 401-222-5960.

Underage Marijuana & Alcohol Prevention

- Get involved: To address the issue of substance misuse in your area, it is important to get involved in prevention programs in your community. Find out about the local prevention coalition and share with students and families. Seek out activities you and your students can participate in together. Visit riprevention.org to identify local prevention activities in your city or town or district.
- Youth engagement: Work with your school district to prevent use of substances at all school-related functions.

- Develop routine monitoring of bathrooms and parking lots for youth substance use.
- Communities for alcohol and Drug-Free Youth offer a pre-prom and graduation planning kit. It is aimed at establishing dialogue between school administrators, teachers, and students to create a safer and more positive environment in your school, and increase visibility and awareness in your community about the dangers of alcohol, other drugs, and impaired driving, especially during prom and graduation season.
- Hold athletes and participants in school organizations to a no-use policy even when not in school. Peer-leadership programs are available. Varsity Athletes Against Substance Abuse (VAASA) is a peer-leadership program in which high school varsity athletes pledge to remain alcohol and drug free. The athletes are trained to address younger students as positive role models. To collaborate with your school Student Assistance Counselor or for more information, call Rhode Island Student Assistance at 401-732-8680.

- Educate students and adults:
  - RIPRC
  - TFRI and Model Policy Information
  - TFRI Local Ordinances
  - Binge Drinking on Teen Brain Development
  - Marijuana and the Adolescent Brain
  - What’s Up with E-Cigarettes?

Opioids/Prescription Drugs

- Locate a permanent prescription drug disposal site near you using the BHDDH Drug Disposal Site list.
- For more information about the RI Regional Prevention Task Forces, and learn about current initiatives, visit the BHDDH Community Based Prevention page.
Bullying

**Bullying (Perpetrated)**

At least once in the last 3 months...

- Made fun of other people? 35.7%
- Spread mean rumors or lies about other kids at school? 10.3%
- Used a cell phone to send texts/pictures that might embarrass or hurt another student? 10%
- Used the internet to post pictures/texts that might embarrass or hurt another student? 8.8%

**Bullied (Experienced)**

At least once in the last 3 months...

- Been made fun of? 43.9%
- Had mean rumors or lies spread about you at school? 27%
- Had pictures/text that embarrassed or hurt you sent by cell phone? 13.8%
- Had pictures/texts that embarrassed or hurt you posted through the internet? 12.2%

Disciplinary action

At least once in the last 3 months...

- Been sent to the office for disciplinary reasons? 13.5%
- Been in ‘in-school’ suspension or detention? 10.5%
- Been suspended from school? 4.7%

Physical Violence

At least once in the last year...

- Been bullied on school property? 21.5%
- In a physical fight? 10.5%
- Has someone threatened or injured you with a weapon, such as a gun, knife, or club on school property? 6.5%
- Were you in a physical fight in which you were injured and had to be treated by a doctor or nurse? 2.4%

There was a statistically significant decrease in experiences related to bullying, being bullied, disciplinary action and physical violence compared to 2018.

- Statistically significant increase compared to RISSL 2018
- Statistically significant decrease compared to RISSL 2018
What You Can Do

Bullying

When adults respond quickly and consistently to bullying behavior they send the message that it is unacceptable.

• Research shows this can stop bullying behavior. For resources visit stopbullying.gov.

• The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) is committed to ensuring safe and supportive learning environments for all Rhode Island Youth. RIDE developed a Guidance for Rhode Island Schools on Transgender and Gender Nonconforming students.

• Additional Resources:
  Social & Emotional Learning (SEL)
  School Mental Wellness Resources
  Bullying & School Violence
Mental Health

In the last 30 days...

- **Were you very sad?**
  - Middle School: 23.9%
  - High School: 28.9%
- **Did you feel hopeless about the future?**
  - Middle School: 17.2%
  - High School: 21.3%

Compared to 2018, there was a statistically significant increase in negative feelings surrounding mental health, regardless of school level.

+ Statistically significant increase compared to RISS 2018
▼ Statistically significant decrease compared to RISS 2018
## Mental Health

**Among all students...**  
Number of students who have ever considered attempting suicide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2811 (13.7%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2159 (12.8%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- ▼ Statistically significant decrease compared to RISS 2018

**Among students who have ever considered attempting suicide...**  
Number of students who have ever made a plan about how they would attempt suicide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>1511 (54.6%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>1133 (53.1%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Among students who have ever considered attempting suicide...**  
Number of students who have ever attempted suicide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>1102 (39.8%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>780 (36.5%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- ▼ Statistically significant decrease compared to RISS 2018

**Among students who have ever attempted suicide...**  
Number of students who have ever attempted suicide which resulted in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>296 (26.7%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>170 (21.8%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- ▼ Statistically significant decrease compared to RISS 2018

- ✠ Statistically significant increase compared to RISS 2018
What you can do

Behavioral Health Crises/Depression/Suicidal Ideation

- If someone you love is going through a mental health or substance use crisis, there is help through Kids’ Link RI™. Kids’ Link RI™ is a hotline for children in emotional crisis. A program offered in collaboration with Gateway Healthcare, Lifespan, Hasbro Children’s Hospital and Bradley Hospital, Kids’ Link RI is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for children suffering from behavioral problems or psychiatric illness. Call 1-855-543-5465.

- Train your faculty and school staff to recognize the signs of suicidal ideation/mental health distress using an evidence-based curriculum: Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) method or Mental Health First Aid training are both recommended by the Rhode Island Department of Health. South County Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds offers this training. Please contact the Director of the project Dr. Robert Harrison at rohharrison63usna@gmail.com for more information.

- Annually perform a walk-through of your school’s suicide prevention protocol/policy as a part of your district’s mandatory School Safety Plan. The RI Department of Education and RI Emergency Management Agency have made a model School Safety Plan available to school districts here.

- For more information about suicide prevention, and learn about current initiatives, visit the RIDOH’s Suicide page.

- Ensure your school meets the requirements for health education in Rhode Island, specifically by addressing the required topics of mental health and suicide prevention within the curriculum and ensuring they know which school staff to speak to if they or their friends are experiencing suicidal thoughts. A free mental health curriculum guide for high school students is accessible here.

- As a school, take the Campaign to Change Direction pledge to learn and recognize the five Signs of Emotional Pain and the Healthy Habits of Emotional Well-being. Learn more about how to spread the word and make the pledge at changedirection.org.

- Medication Lock Bags - locking up your medications can help save lives. To get your FREE medication lock bag please fill in the information below and one will be sent to you free of charge. Thanks for keeping your family and our communities safe: Summer Safety! Medication Lock Bags.

- Free safety kit from Project ChildSafe which includes gun safety locks: Safety kit site – Project ChildSafe.

- BH Link’s mission is to ensure all Rhode Islanders 18+ experiencing mental health and substance use crises receive the appropriate services they need as quickly as possible in an environment that supports their recovery. For confidential support and to get connected to care: Call 401-414-LINK (5465).

- For an introduction to understanding, recognizing, and addressing mental health in your community, visit the Learning for Quality learning module.
What you can do: By sector

**Business**

- **Attend Coalition events.** We bring experts in the fields of adolescent development, addiction and prevention to inform and mobilize the community to focus on the dangers kids face and how we, as a community, can reduce those risks they face every day.

- **Become an active Coalition member.** If you would like to be an active member of the coalition at the regional or community level contact your local coalition and they can let you know about opportunities to serve.

- **Make a donation to your local Coalition program** or sponsor an event.

- **If someone you love is going through a mental health or substance use crisis, there is help** through Kids’ Link RI™. Kids’ Link RI™ is a hotline for children in emotional crisis. A program offered in collaboration with Gateway Healthcare, Lifespan, Hasbro Children’s Hospital and Bradley Hospital, Kids’ Link RI is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for children suffering from behavioral problems or psychiatric illness. Call 1-855-543-5465.

- **Become a recovery-friendly workplace.**

- **Use best practices and policies** if selling tobacco or alcohol to avoid selling to minors.

- **BH Link**’s mission is to ensure all Rhode Islanders 18+ experiencing mental health and substance use crises receive the appropriate services they need as quickly as possible in an environment that supports their recovery. For confidential support and to get connected to care: Call 401-414-LINK (5465).

**Education**

- **Enforce state laws** that ban all tobacco product use and possession on all school properties at all times—to everyone, everywhere, indoors and outdoors. This includes all e-cigarette devices and smokeless tobacco. To print enforcement signs, visit health.ri.gov/tobacco and select “publications”.

- **Support Tobacco Free Youth Initiatives in your school.**

- **Support teachers and staff** in learning about current trends in all tobacco product use, how flavored tobacco products target youth, and evidence-based prevention strategies.

- **For free technical assistance** from the Tobacco Control Program, call the Rhode Island Department of Health at 401-222-5960.

- **Youth engagement:** Work with your school district to prevent use of substances at all school-related functions.

- **As a school, take the Campaign to Change Direction pledge** to learn and recognize the five Signs of Emotional Pain and the Healthy Habits of Emotional Well-being. Learn more about how to spread the word and make the pledge at changedirection.org.
• Communities for alcohol and Drug-Free Youth offer a **pre-prom and graduation planning kit**. It is aimed at establishing a dialogue between school administrators, teachers, and students to create a safer and more positive environment in your school, and increase visibility and awareness in your community about the dangers of alcohol, other drugs, and impaired driving, especially during prom and graduation season.

• **Develop routine monitoring of bathrooms and parking lots** for youth substance use.

• For **free technical assistance** from the Tobacco Control Program, call the Rhode Island Department of Health at 401-222-5960.

• Hold athletes and participants in school organizations to a **no-use policy even when not in school**. Peer-leadership programs are available. Varsity Athletes Against Substance Abuse (VAASA) is a peer-leadership program in which high school varsity athletes pledge to remain alcohol and drug free. The athletes are trained to address younger students as positive role models. To collaborate with your school Student Assistance Counselor or for more information, call Rhode Island Student Assistance at 401-732-8680.

• **Have school policies on anti-bullying.** The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) is committed to ensuring safe and supportive learning environments for all Rhode Island Youth. RIDE developed a Guidance for Rhode Island Schools on Transgender and Gender Nonconforming students.

• If **someone you love is going through a mental health or substance use crisis, there is help** through Kids’ Link RI™. Kids’ Link RI™ is a hotline for children in emotional crisis. A program offered in collaboration with Gateway Healthcare, Lifespan, Hasbro Children's Hospital and Bradley Hospital, Kids’ Link RI is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for children suffering from behavioral problems or psychiatric illness. **Call 1-855-543-5465.**

• **Train your faculty and school staff to recognize the signs of suicidal ideation/mental health distress using an evidence-based curriculum:** Question, Persuade, Refer or **Mental Health First Aid** are both recommended by the Rhode Island Department of Health. South County Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds offers this training. Please contact the Director of the project, Dr. Robert Harrison at rodharrison63usna@gmail.com for more information.

• **Annually perform a walk-through of your school's suicide prevention protocol/policy** as a part of your district's mandatory School Safety Plan. The RI Department of Education and RI Emergency Management Agency have made a model School Safety Plan available to school districts.

• Ensure your school meets the requirements for health education in Rhode Island, specifically by **addressing the required topics of mental health and suicide prevention within the curriculum** and ensuring they know which school staff to speak to if they or their friends are experiencing suicidal thoughts. You can access a free mental health curriculum guide for high school students here.

• **Enforce a Smoke-Free School Policy.**

• **BH Link's** mission is to ensure all Rhode Islanders 18+ experiencing mental health and substance use crises receive the appropriate services they need as quickly as possible in an environment that supports their recovery. For confidential support and to get connected to care: **Call 401-414-LINK (5465).**
• Additional Resources:
  
  Social & Emotional Learning (SEL)
  School Mental Wellness Resources

Safety

• **Enforce state laws** that ban all alcohol, marijuana and tobacco product use, possession and driving under the influence at all times—to everyone, everywhere, indoors and outdoors. This includes all e-cigarette devices and smokeless tobacco. To print enforcement signs, visit health.ri.gov/tobacco and select “publications”.

• **Perform regular compliance checks** and check with your local prevention coalition for assistance and to share data.

• **Other enforcement activities include** crackdowns on false identification, programs to deter older youth or adults from providing alcohol, tobacco or marijuana or e-cigarette products to minors, party patrols to prevent drinking at large gatherings, “cops in shops” to keep minors from purchasing alcohol, youth-focused campaigns to enforce impaired driving laws, and investigations to determine the source of alcohol and hold the responsible party accountable for their role in alcohol related incidents.

• **Attend Coalition events.** We bring experts in the fields of adolescent development, addiction and prevention to inform and mobilize the community to focus on the dangers kids face and how we, as a community, can reduce those risks they face every day.

• **Become an active Coalition member.** If you would like to be an active member of the coalition at the regional or community level please contact your local coalition and they can let you know about opportunities to serve.

• **If someone you love is going through a mental health or substance use crisis, there is help** through Kids’ Link RI™. Kids’ Link RI™ is a hotline for children in emotional crisis. A program offered in collaboration with Gateway Healthcare, Lifespan, Hasbro Children’s Hospital and Bradley Hospital, Kids’ Link RI is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for children suffering from behavioral problems or psychiatric illness. **Call 1-855-543-5465.**

• **BH Link’s** mission is to ensure all Rhode Islanders 18+ experiencing mental health and substance use crises receive the appropriate services they need as quickly as possible in an environment that supports their recovery. For confidential support and to get connected to care: **Call 401-414-LINK (5465).**
Medical/Health

- **Attend Coalition events.** We bring experts in the fields of adolescent development, addiction and prevention to inform and mobilize the community to focus on the dangers kids face and how we, as a community, can reduce those risks they face every day.

- **Become an active Coalition member.** If you would like to be an active member of the coalition at the regional or community level please contact your local coalition and they can let you know about opportunities to serve.

- **If someone you love is going through a mental health or substance use crisis, there is help** through Kids’ Link RI™. Kids’ Link RI™ is a hotline for children in emotional crisis. A program offered in collaboration with Gateway Healthcare, Lifespan, Hasbro Children’s Hospital and Bradley Hospital, Kids’ Link RI is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for children suffering from behavioral problems or psychiatric illness. Call 1-855-543-5465.

- **BH Link’s** mission is to ensure all Rhode Islanders 18+ experiencing mental health and substance use crises receive the appropriate services they need as quickly as possible in an environment that supports their recovery. For confidential support and to get connected to care: Call 401-414-LINK (5465).

Government

- **Attend Coalition events.** We bring experts in the fields of adolescent development, addiction and prevention to inform and mobilize the community to focus on the dangers kids face and how we, as a community, can reduce those risks they face every day.

- **If someone you love is going through a mental health or substance use crisis, there is help** through Kids’ Link RI™. Kids’ Link RI™ is a hotline for children in emotional crisis. A program offered in collaboration with Gateway Healthcare, Lifespan, Hasbro Children’s Hospital and Bradley Hospital, Kids’ Link RI is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for children suffering from behavioral problems or psychiatric illness. Call 1-855-543-5465.

- **BH Link’s** mission is to ensure all Rhode Islanders 18+ experiencing mental health and substance use crises receive the appropriate services they need as quickly as possible in an environment that supports their recovery. For confidential support and to get connected to care: Call 401-414-LINK (5465).
Community/Family Supports

- **Attend Coalition events.** We bring experts in the fields of adolescent development, addiction and prevention to inform and mobilize the community to focus on the dangers kids face and how we, as a community, can reduce those risks they face every day.

- **Boost Protective Factors.** Evidence-based prevention programs show that we can create an environment that protects kids from alcohol and substance abuse. Effective parenting, eating meals together, building self-esteem, extracurricular school programs, faith-based youth programs and community-sponsored youth programs are all proven to help "protect" kids from alcohol and substance abuse. The more wholesome, supervised activities kids have to choose from, the less likely they are to become victims of alcohol and substance use.

- **Talk to kids about alcohol and drugs.** And the earlier you start talking, the better! According to DrugFree.org, of those teens who reported alcohol use, a majority (62 percent) said they had their first full alcoholic drink by age 15, not including sipping or tasting alcohol. Of those teens who reported alcohol use, one in four (25 percent), said they drank a full alcoholic drink for the first time by age 12 or younger. Talk early. Talk often. It’s great prevention.

- **Become an active Coalition member.** If you would like to be an active member of the coalition at the regional or community level please contact your local coalition and they can let you know about opportunities to serve.

- **Parents and other adults must respond quickly** and consistently to bullying behavior to send a message that it is unacceptable.

- **Encourage strategies to promote healthy teen relationships.** Explore resources on Dating Matters website.

- **If someone you love is going through a mental health or substance use crisis,** there is help through Kids’ Link RI™. Kids’ Link RI™ is a hotline for children in emotional crisis. A program offered in collaboration with Gateway Healthcare, Lifespan, Hasbro Children’s Hospital and Bradley Hospital, Kids’ Link RI is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for children suffering from behavioral problems or psychiatric illness. Call 1-855-543-5465.

- **Maintain strong bonds with your teens** as they move towards independence by having family meal time. Get involved and stay involved- ask about homework and school projects. Learn what websites and apps your teen is using. Get to know your teen’s friends. Set clear limits. Tell your teen that you love them.

- **Encourage your child to talk** about their feelings, thoughts and fears.

- For an introduction to understanding, recognizing, and addressing mental health in your community, visit the Learning for Quality learning module.

- **Participate in parent skill building courses** like Strengthening Families.

- **Learn skills for families living with someone who has substance use disorder** through resources such as REST.

- **BH Link’s** mission is to ensure all Rhode Islanders 18+ experiencing mental health and substance use crises receive the appropriate services they need as quickly as possible in an environment that supports their recovery. For confidential support and to get connected to care: Call 401-414-LINK (5465).
Thank you!

The Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals would like to acknowledge the cooperation and effort of all the schools and students who participate in the Rhode Island Student Survey each administration year.

Dan McKee
Governor

Womazetta Jones
Secretary

Richard Charest
Director

Dr. Nicole Alexander-Scott
Director

Angelica Infante-Green
Commissioner, RI Department of Education
Resource List

Substance Misuse
- health.ri.gov/tobacco
- riprevention.org
- https://www.riprc.org/
- http://tobaccofree-ri.org/smoke-free-school-policy.htm
- http://tobaccofree-ri.org/local-ordinances.htm
- https://www.alcohol.org/teens/binge-drinking/
- https://www.riprc.org/elearning/marijuana_adolescent_brain/#/
- https://www.riprc.org/elearning/e-cigarettes/#/?_k=m4kq44
- https://bhddh.ri.gov/prevention/prescription-drug-disposal-sites
- https://bhddh.ri.gov/substance-useaddiction/individual-and-family-information/help-opioid-dependence/community-based

Bullying
- stopbullying.gov
- https://www.ride.ri.gov/StudentsFamilies/HealthSafety/SchoolMentalWellnessResources.aspx
- https://www.ride.ri.gov/StudentsFamilies/HealthSafety/BullyingSchoolViolence.aspx

Behavioral Health Crises/Depression/Suicidal Ideation
- https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/
- changedirection.org
- https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAlpQLSfywK0KYI9wcT1HkciK5t1SQp5HOHgRicJSnuJGwRggqVaqA/viewform
- https://projectchildsafe.org/safety_kit_site/?safety_kit_state=rhode-island
- https://health.ri.gov/violence/about/suicide/
- https://www.bhlink.org/
- https://learningforquality.org/login/

Business
- http://riprc.org
- https://recoveryfriendlyri.com/
- https://rrforum.org/
- http://tobaccofree-ri.org/policy-briefs.htm
- https://www.riprc.org

Education
- health.ri.gov/tobacco
- changedirection.org
Resource List

- http://tobaccofree-ri.org/smoke-free-school-policy.htm
- https://www.bhlink.org/
- https://www.ride.ri.gov/studentsfamilies/healthsafety/socialemotionallearning.aspx
- https://www.ride.ri.gov/StudentsFamilies/HealthSafety/SchoolMentalWellnessResources.aspx

Safety
- health.ri.gov/tobacco
- https://www.riprc.org/
- https://www.bhlink.org/

Medical/Health
- https://www.riprc.org/
- https://www.bhlink.org/

Government
- https://www.bhlink.org/

Community/Family Supports
- DrugFree.org
- http://riprc.org
- https://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/dating-matters-toolkit/?deliveryName=USCDC_1104-DM9553#
- https://learningforquality.org/login/
- https://strengtheningfamiliesri.blogspot.com/
- https://www.resthelps.org/
- https://www.bhlink.org/