

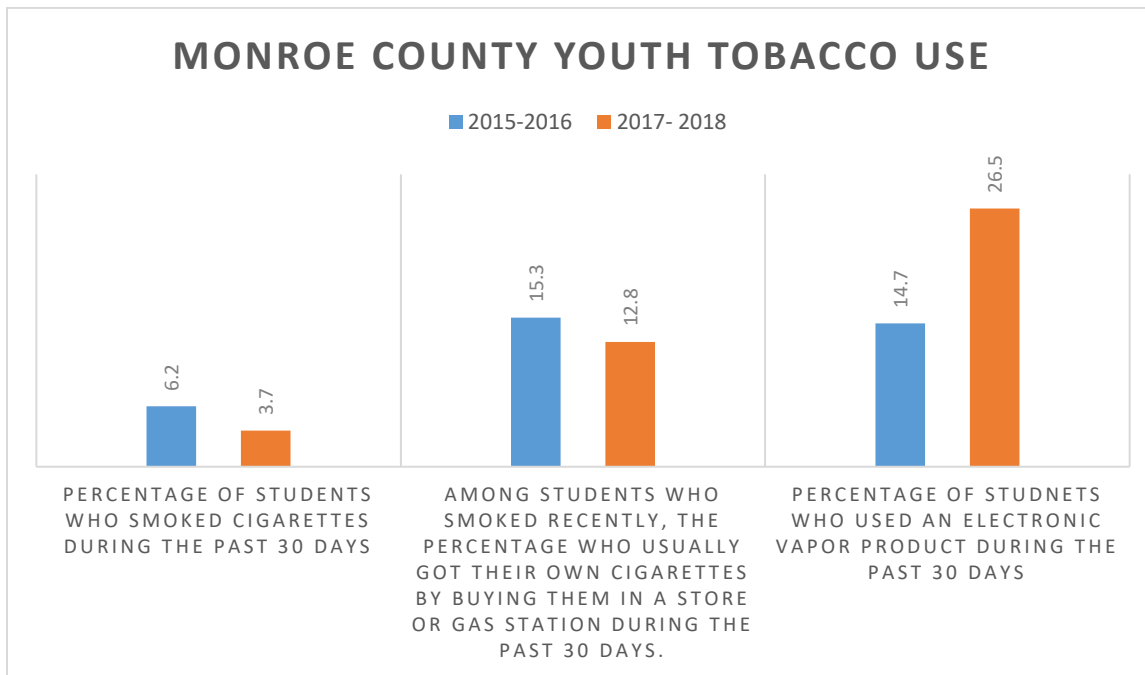


SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION

FY 2018 - 19 Program Brief

REDUCING YOUTH ACCESS TO TOBACCO- MONROE COUNTY

Karen Bergbower & Associates (KBA) works with local schools, coalitions, and the Michigan State Police to educate tobacco retailers about the Michigan Youth Tobacco Act, reduce youth access to tobacco, and conduct tobacco compliance checks.



Michigan Department of Education, Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth, 2015-16, 2017-18

When looking at the above chart, you will see our work with retailers is paying off! There is a significant drop in the percentage of students who bought their cigarettes in stores/gas stations. Our retailers are committed to keeping tobacco out of the hands of our youth.

Last year we became aware of the increase in the amount of youth who are “vaping”. This year we have spent most of our time educating the community about the vaping epidemic. The number of youth using

is still rising and an alarming number of teens and young adults suffering severe lung damage from their use of vapor products. This is something we address every chance we get and will continue to do so. This year is another MiPHY year so we will be able to see if our vaping education and awareness programs are making a difference.

Tobacco Compliance Checks SYNAR and Non-SYNAR

“The federal Synar Amendment requires states to have laws in place prohibiting the sale and distribution of tobacco products to person under 18 years-of-age and to enforce those laws effectively. Annual Synar checks, required by the amendment, show that great strides have been made the reduction in retailer violations of the law and youth access to tobacco products in Michigan.”

*Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

63

Tobacco vendor education face to face visits

6

Vape stores provided with vendor education

88%

Of vendors found to be in compliance with Youth Tobacco Act (all youth decoy compliance checks)

Collaborative relationships were developed among youth, law enforcement, and KBA staff as we worked together to conduct 44 undercover decoy checks. Businesses that passed their compliance checks were sent a letter of congratulations. Businesses that failed checks were reported to the FDA as well as fined or warned.

