

# **2008 Parent Survey Report Weston, Connecticut**

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This parent survey was sponsored by Positive Directions-The Center for Prevention & Recovery, the Weston Department of Social Services, Weston Board of Education, Weston Public Schools, and the Alcohol & Drug Awareness Program (ADAP) of Weston. It was administered in Spring of 2008, through the coordinated efforts of all the sponsors, to parents of students in Weston Middle School and Weston High School. This parent survey is part of the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF-SIG) program administered by Positive Directions. It was given in conjunction with a survey of a random sample of youth from the same population, which is reported separately [1]. Comparisons of youth and their parents are drawn in this report.

The youth survey was derived from the Connecticut Governor's Prevention Initiative for Youth (GPIY) survey, which was designed to ascertain prevalence, attitudes and behaviors related to use of substances (tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs). The parent survey uses language about parental perceptions taken directly from the youth survey, and also incorporates questions from the CASA National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse X: Teens and Parents [2], and from parent surveys administered recently in other Connecticut towns. All respondents to the survey are anonymous, and information is reported only in summary form. The organization of this report draws upon reports of GPIY youth surveys for formatting and structure.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Parents of Weston, Connecticut, public school students in grades 7-12 (middle school, high school) were invited to complete a survey about community perceptions and practices regarding substance use by youth and adults. The parent survey was given in conjunction with a comprehensive youth survey on the same general subjects. Results from the parent survey are valuable as a baseline for measuring future changes in attitudes and practices. This Executive Summary focuses on comparisons and contrasts between parents and youth, and between Weston parents and national statistics.

Parents reported lower prevalences for the use of all substances than the youth themselves reported using. In one example, 2% of parents of youth in grades 9-10 reported that their child had been drinking alcohol in the past 30 days, whereas 34% of those same youth reported drinking during the same time frame. Prevalence of smoking was also underestimated by parents, but to a lesser degree. Perception of lower risk of harm from a substance by youth is closely associated with higher prevalence of use of the substance. With cigarettes, parents and youth agreed that smoking is risky, but youth felt drinking to be less risky than their parents thought. Older youth perceived less risk from the use of marijuana than their parents did. These results may help to explain the parents' underestimate of substance use by youth.

Results of a "social norm" survey question indicated that a parent who believes their own child does (or does not) drink tends to hold the same belief about their child's classmates. It has been shown that a youth's belief that "everybody does it" is a strong factor in encouraging the youth to "do it" him/herself – whatever the substance or activity. The youth survey also demonstrated that a youth who uses one substance is much more likely to use others as well. Therefore, providing accurate information about prevalence of use to parents and youth may help curb use of all substances.

Beliefs about family involvement – chances to do fun things, or support when needed – were more positive among parents than among youth. The exception was the feeling that thoughts and feelings are readily shared, where youth scored higher than their parents. This fact, along with the claim from the youth survey that parents are usually consulted about problems, suggests that youth – even older youth – are listening to their parents more than parents think they are. Youth reported spending more time without adults present, either after school or on weekends, than their parents believed. More time alone without adults is correlated with increased prevalence of substance use and associated behaviors.

There was a difference in beliefs about how widespread the sale and use of drugs are in the community, with parents significantly more pessimistic than youth, especially younger youth. Perceived availability of most substances followed a consistent pattern. Parents of younger youth thought substances easier to obtain than their own children reported, and the opposite was true of older youth. Among strategies to reduce underage drinking, both parents and youth agreed that high price is not effective, nor is a fine of up to \$200. Parents placed more importance than youth on alcohol education in school and alcohol-free activities. Both parents and youth felt that associating with peers who do not drink is an effective deterrent, but parents were more convinced than youth.

Most parents in Weston, as in the national CASA survey, were very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the quality of their child's education. About 10% of high school parents expressed some degree of dissatisfaction. Very few felt schools to be unsafe. Weston parents were slightly less concerned than nationally that their child might try an illegal drug, and were slightly less

confident that they would know what to do if they suspected such. Only 6% of Weston parents felt they were more lenient about their child drinking alcohol than other parents, and 56% felt they were more strict. One top-ranked issue facing parents of teenagers, both nationally and in Weston, was considered to be drugs and alcohol. In Weston, driving, safety, making good choices for the future, and negative media/cultural influences were also of concern. Two top issues nationally, dropping out of school and pregnancy/sexuality, did not rank high in Weston.

The companion survey of Weston youth was conducted with a large (65%) random sample of public school students in grades 7-12. The parent survey differed from that of the youth, in that parents were a self-selected, non-random sample. There was no direct linkage allowing comparisons of youth and parents from the same family – due to confidentiality considerations – but both samples were drawn from the same population, and statistical comparisons are valid. Weighting of the analysis corrected the parent sample to closely match the population of youth. Extensive, highly successful efforts were made to encourage parents to complete the survey. There were a total of 429 responses, representing about 34% of students in grades 7-12. After discounting surveys which were incomplete or out of range (see METHODS), 378 responses were included in the analysis, more than 100 surveys in each 2-grade group.

## METHODS

The survey instrument used to collect data for this report incorporates questions from three sources: demographics, concomitant youth survey [1], and a national survey of parents of teens [2]. Demographic items were included to allow for the possibility of weighting of survey responses to match the parent sample to the youth population. Items from other surveys allow for direct comparisons: Weston parents versus their own youth, and versus national statistics.

The parent survey was implemented via computer on-line, using the SurveyMonkey.com® web site and software. Extensive efforts were undertaken to encourage parents to participate, and 429 parents did so. Written notices were sent from school, and there were emails and announcements in the local print media and on the school district web site. Entries from all IP (Internet Protocol) addresses were honored, subject to screening described below. There were one or two entries for 326 IP addresses, and two addresses had a total of 60 entries. The tally of entries was:

Number of:	
Respondents	IP Addresses
1	300
2	26
3	3
29	1
31	1

Because there was no way to monitor parent survey respondents (in contrast to the youth survey), an “extreme response” metric was devised to check for spurious submissions. Each of 48 individual survey items contributed a value of 1 if the answer was “extreme”, and 0 otherwise. Four examples of extreme Q/A are: (1) Q=How safe do you feel your child’s school is?; A=Very unsafe; (2) Q=If your child breaks family rules, is he/she usually disciplined?; A=Definitely not true; (3) Q=How concerned are you that your child might try an illicit drug (like cocaine or amphetamine) at some point?; A=Not concerned at all; (4) Q=How many of the past 30 days do you think your child drank alcoholic beverages?; A=6 or more days.

Extreme values were summed for each respondent. The three highest values were 21, 28 and 35, out of the 48 items. The surveys contributing these three highest values (44-73% of maximum), and three randomly selected surveys contributing zero extreme values, were trimmed from the data set, and are not included in any analysis. This statistical procedure is known as “Winsorizing”. All other surveys were included in the analysis. There was no correlation between extreme value totals and number of entries per IP address, suggesting that “hacking” of the survey was not an issue. It was not considered necessary to determine where the two multiple-entry IP sites were located (e.g., in the schools or the public library). To achieve acceptable precision of results, data were grouped by grade: group 1, 2, and 3 = grades 7-8, 9-10, and 11-12, respectively. Sampling variance for each grade-group in the parent survey is 4-5%, based on 100-150 respondents and 400 families per group.

A scale for parental alcohol consumption was calculated by adding up the Likert scores for the five alcohol-related questions in Table 13 for each respondent, and subtracting 5. The score was in the range 0-15, and was normalized to range 0-100 for presentation.

Essentially identically worded questions were asked on surveys of both youth [1] and parents, both from the same population. In order to compare responses, parents vs. youth, scores were rescaled from the original 3- to 6-point Likert values to 0-100. “Don’t Know” values were nulled. Results are presented in Section 6 (Tables 25-33). The rescaling calculation:

$$Y = 100 \times \left( \frac{(X_{Likert} - X_{min})}{(X_{max} - X_{min})} \right)$$

where  $Y$  = rescaled value (0-100),  
 $X_{Likert}$  = average score in original scale,  
 $X_{min}$  and  $X_{max}$  = lower and upper bound of Likert scale.

Youth survey respondents were selected on a randomized basis, unlike the self-selected parent responders, and should be an accurate representation of the youth of the entire community. Weighting of the parent sample was considered, to be constructed from an item based on facts rather than perceptions: average grades earned by the youth. The parent sample closely matched the youth sample, so that no weighting on this basis was required. A second basis for weighting was the somewhat disparate numbers of respondents from each grade in the parent sample (Table 1). Initial estimates of weights were reciprocals of the fraction of parents responding in each grade, with final weights satisfying the formula:

$$\sum_i kN_iW_i = N, \text{ where}$$

$N_i$  = Number of respondents in sample from Grade- $i$ ,  
 $W_i$  = Weight for all respondents in Grade- $i$ ,  
 $N$  = Total number of respondents, and  
 $k$  = correction factor.

Statistical significance in the tables indicates the probability that the two groups being compared (e.g., Parents vs. Youth) are really just the same. A low value of  $p$  indicates that it is unlikely that the two groups are identical within random variation, or in other words, a high probability that the two groups are “statistically significantly” different. Significances in Tables 25-31 are calculated by one-way analysis of variance, with Survey (parent or youth) as the categorical variable. Significance symbols used are:

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Probability</u>
n.s.	$p > 0.05$ , groups not significantly different.
*	$p \leq 0.05$ , 95% probability that groups are different.
**	$p \leq 0.01$ , 99% probability that groups are different.
***	$p \leq 0.001$ , 99.9% probability that groups are different.

Responses of Weston parents are compared to responses to the identical questions in the national (CASA) survey, in Tables 32-34. Questions in Tables 33-34 were asked somewhat differently in the two surveys. CASA parents were asked to choose the one most important issue from the list of possible issues, and Weston parents were asked to rate each issue on a 3-point scale. CASA scores are as reported [2], and Weston scores were calculated by assigning values: Great Concern = 2, Some Concern = 1, and Little Concern = 0. Values are summed over all respondents for each issue, and the sums are converted to a scale which totals to 100 for all issues. Quantitative differences obviously exist between the two scales, but the relative rankings can be compared.

All statistical and tabulation computations were carried out using Statistica® version 8.1 (StatSoft, Tulsa, OK). Data checking and formatting operations were carried out in Microsoft Excel®, and the final report was produced in Microsoft Word® and converted to a portable document format (pdf) file using Adobe Acrobat®. All software is licensed to Quantitative Services.

## RESULTS

### *Demographics.*

Survey subjects for this report were parents of youth of median ages 12-17 in grades 7-12, in Weston, Connecticut. Samples of both parents and youth were drawn from the same population, but parents were not matched to particular respondents in the youth survey, to avoid any breach of confidentiality. The sample of youth was random [1], and can therefore be considered to represent all Weston youth. The parent responders were self-selected, not random. Modest corrections were necessary (see METHODS), to adjust for the imbalance in numbers of parents or youth in each grade. Weights for comparing parents and youth were:

Grade	Weight for Survey:	
	Parent	Youth
7	0.8979	1.2212
8	1.3190	1.2121
9	1.0090	0.8961
10	1.1224	0.7688
11	0.8802	0.9163
12	0.8844	1.2398

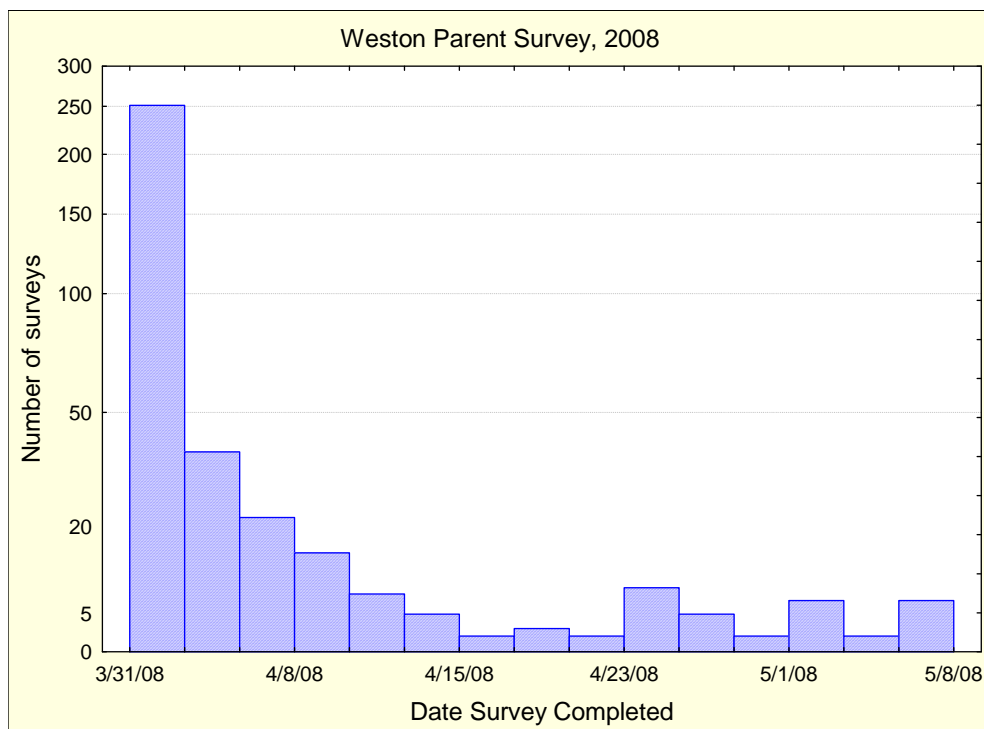
There were a total of 429 responses to the parent survey, and 378 of those responses were included in the analyses. In tabulating results, percentages represent only responders, not those who left that particular answer blank, unless otherwise specified. Exclusions from the analysis resulted from (1) the reference child being outside the grade limits of 7-12, (2) survey not sufficiently complete to obtain useful information, and/or (3) trimming due to extreme answers (see METHODS). The tally of exclusion status is given. Checking the numbers in the table will reveal that seven respondents were excluded for two reasons.

Exclusion Status	Number of Respondents
Grade 5 or 6	17
Extreme-Answer trim	6
Did not complete	35
Total respondents	429
Total analyzed	378

Of parents responding to the survey, 85% of those giving their gender were female, compared with 75% female in the national survey (Tables 2, 34). The gender of the youth referred to in the survey was male in 47% of cases. There was some “gender matching” – i.e., mothers were somewhat more likely to respond if the child was a daughter, and fathers

more likely if the child was a son (Table 2). Many of the families had other children in earlier grades in school (Table 3). Racially, 93% of respondents were white (Table 4), and no breakdown of results by race has been attempted in this report.

The survey was available on-line to parents for six weeks in March-May, 2008. Fully 75% of responses were completed in the first week the survey was open, but 20% of responses were entered during the final four weeks. The steady participation after the initial surge supports the idea that a parent survey should be kept open a relatively long time. (The graph below has a logarithmic vertical scale to better illustrate the patterns.)



### ***Family Structure and Practices.***

The time youth spent alone without an adult present, either weekdays after school or on a typical weekend, increased with increasing age (Table 5). Differences between boys and girls were small (Table 6). In the youth survey [1], time alone on weekday or weekend was highly correlated ( $p < 0.001$ ) with recent alcohol use. Youth of all ages reported that they spent more time without adults than their parents believed (Table 29). A large majority of parents answered questions about family management in a positive manner (e.g., we usually know where our child is and with whom, or we would know if our child had been drinking) (Table 5), but youth consistently disagreed with parents on answers to these questions (Table 29).

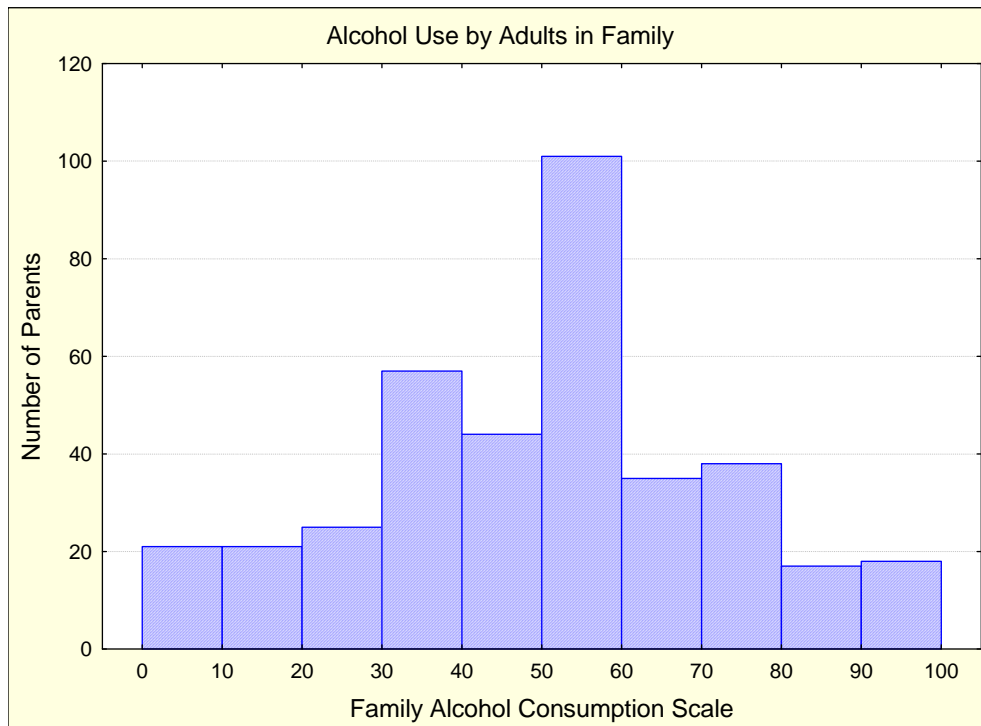
The patterns of responses to questions about positive family involvement were similar to family management. Parents generally reported excellent practices (Table 7), and youth tended to differ significantly (Table 30). Compared to parents, youth felt somewhat less positive about family support, and considerably less positive about parental involvement in

school. Interestingly, youth in grades 7-8 and 11-12 felt they shared thoughts and feeling with parents even more than their parents believed they did.

The most important issues facing parents of teenagers were peer pressure, communication, media influence, drugs and alcohol, safety, driving, and making the right choices for their futures (Table 8). Issues of least concern were dropping out of school, religion, financial issues, and violence/crime. Opinions of Weston parents differed somewhat from national concerns, which weighed more heavily toward drugs and alcohol, dropping out of school, and pregnancy/sexuality (Table 33). For the teens themselves, Weston parents felt that fitting in, peer pressure, independence, coping with stress, and making good decisions were the top issues (Table 9). Nationally, drugs and alcohol, and dropping out of school, placed higher on that list (Table 34).

***Substance Use – Parents.***

Concern by parents that their child might try marijuana at some point was higher than for harder drugs (Table 11). Concerns about drugs other than marijuana were similar to national averages (Table 32). Few Weston parents lacked confidence that they would know what to do if they believed their child was using an illegal drug (Table 11), although confidence levels were slightly below national averages (Table 32). About 10% of parents said they were not aware of the recently enacted law prohibiting serving alcohol to underage youth who are not members of their own families, and 10% of parents of youth in grades 11-12 said there had been a teen party with alcohol at their home during the past year (Table 12).



In 70-80% of families, adults have alcohol with meals sometimes or frequently, and more than half attend or host parties with alcohol (Table 13). Drinking at bars and before meals were less common. Alcohol consumption scale scores are described in METHODS, and the distribution of scores is displayed in the graph above. There were adult cigarette smokers in only 7-9% of households. Perception of risk of harm is a core measure which has been linked to prevalence of use. Parents generally felt that all substances carry substantial risk, with “great risk” in the order of marijuana  $\cong$  cigarettes > alcohol (Table 14). Perceived risk decreased slightly with parents of older youth. Few parents felt they were less concerned than other parents about underage drinking, or were less strict in monitoring their own child’s drinking.

### ***Substance Use – Youth.***

Parents’ perception of why youth begin drinking alcohol are shown (Table 15): fitting in with friends, curiosity, boredom, and having fun were the top four reasons. When youth were asked the same question [1], recent drinkers tended to discount peer pressure as a reason for drinking, but non-drinkers were more in agreement with parents about the importance of this factor. Leading reasons why youth may choose not to drink, according to parents, were personal and lifestyle choices, disapproval by family and friends, negative experiences with alcohol, and education about alcohol (Table 16). Perceptions of parents varied somewhat with age of their child.

Parental beliefs about substance use by youth are tabulated (Table 17), and are compared with reports from the youth survey (Table 25). More youth of all ages reported recent use of alcohol than their parents were apparently aware. For example, 2.2% of parents of youth in grades 9-10 reported their child used alcohol in the past 30 days, whereas 34% of these youth report using. Parents were more aware of their children smoking, although that too tended to be underestimated, especially in grades 9-10.

Estimates by parents of the use of substances by at least some of their child’s peers was 13-30% for middle school youth, depending on the substance (Table 18). Estimates increased sharply with age of the child. Few parents checked “I Don’t Know” for alcohol, cigarettes and marijuana, but up to one-third of parents of older youth professed not to know if their child’s peers had tried harder drugs like cocaine or LSD, or had abused prescription drugs. Few parents considered their child a bully, but most thought gambling activities go on.

Parents were asked about strategies to prevent underage drinking, and the influence of friends was considered the most effective, along with suspension of driving privileges and deterrents like ID checking, fines and breathalyzer tests (Table 19). Parents thought many of the measures to be more effective than their youth did, especially older youth. Examples of disagreements included association with peers who don’t drink, ID checking, and alcohol education in school (Table 31).

### ***School and Community.***

Weston parents were generally satisfied with the quality of education their child receives, but about 10% of high school parents expressed some degree of dissatisfaction (Table 20). Reasons for dissatisfaction were not asked. All but a very few felt their child is safe in school. The degree of satisfaction in Weston was similar to national survey statistics

(Table 32). The perception of normative use of substances by other youth in their child's grade increased markedly as the child's age increased (Table 21). Regression analysis indicated a strong relationship (adjusted  $r^2 = 0.1139$ ,  $p < 0.0001$ ) between estimated use of alcohol by their own child *versus* perception of normative behavior by their child's classmates. Thus, parents who believe their own child does (or does not) drink also tends to hold the same belief about their child's classmates. An analogous correlation between a youth's reported use of substances and his/her belief about normative behavior of classmates was observed in the youth survey results [1]. The "social norm" cause-effect argument is that a mistaken belief about high prevalence by other youth can influence a youth to drink him/herself [4]. Therefore, providing youth and parents with accurate information may help reduce prevalence of use.

Most Weston parents believed their neighborhoods to be safe, but generally did not think there were lots of things for young people to do in the community (Table 22). It was interesting that middle school youth thought there was more to do than their parents did, but high school youth and their parents were generally in agreement (Table 28). Parents of middle school youth also believed that more drugs are sold and used in their community than their youth did. Most parents of older youth thought cigarettes, marijuana, and especially alcohol would be easy for youth to get if they wanted to, but guns and harder drugs would be difficult (Table 24).

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## SECTION I. DEMOGRAPHY

**Table 1. Youth referenced by parent in survey**

Grade	Gender				Total
	Female	Male	Both*	Missing	
	count	count	count	count	count
5	0	1	0	2	3
6	6	8	0	0	14
7	29	27	0	0	56
8	24	19	1	0	44
9	47	26	2	0	75
10	43	32	3	1	79
11	40	44	2	1	87
12	30	40	0	1	71
Total	219	197	8	5	429

\* Both genders, in case of siblings in same grade

**Table 2. Genders of parents and youth**

Gender of Parent	Gender of reference child			Total	
	Female	Male	Missing		
	count	count	count	count	%
Female	173	139	3	315	73.4
Male	20	32	3	55	12.8
Missing	26	26	2	59	13.8
Total	219	197	8	429	100.0

**Table 3. Children in families of surveyed parents**

Grade of Other Children	Grade of reference child				Total
	5-6	7-8	9-10	11-12	
	count	count	count	count	count
Pre-school	1	3	1	0	5
K - 5	7	44	33	13	97
6	6	11	28	6	51
7-8	0	84	39	40	163
9-10	2	12	132	39	185
11-12	0	6	6	132	144
Total	16	160	239	230	645

**Table 4. Race / ethnicity of surveyed parents**

	count	%
Hispanic/ Latino?		
No	352	82.1
Yes	9	2.1
Missing	68	15.9
Race		
White	344	80.2
Black/African American	1	0.2
Asian	8	1.9
Other	12	2.8
Missing	64	14.9

## SECTION 2. FAMILY STRUCTURE & PRACTICES

**Table 5. Family management**

Question/Answer	Grades		
	7-8	9-10	11-12
	%	%	%
On a regular weekday, how many hours does your child spend after school without an adult present?			
None	33.6	20.2	14.1
Less than 1 hour	45.0	44.6	24.6
1 to 2 hours	13.8	25.2	36.9
Up to 4 hours	6.7	8.3	15.9
More than 4 hours	1.0	1.7	8.5
On a typical weekend, how many hours does your child spend without an adult present?			
None	28.5	8.8	3.9
Less than 1 hour	25.5	21.5	7.6
1 to 2 hours	33.4	35.1	26.6
Up to 4 hours	12.6	28.1	39.9
Up to 8 hours	0.0	5.7	16.0
More than 8 hours	0.0	0.8	5.9
When my child is away from home, I or my spouse knows where and with whom.			
Definitely not true	1.4	0.0	1.1
Mostly not true	0.0	1.3	5.7
Mostly true	6.5	5.0	39.0
Definitely true	92.1	93.8	54.3
If my child break family rules, he/she is usually disciplined.			
Definitely not true	2.2	0.8	1.4
Mostly not true	2.5	0.3	2.7
Mostly true	41.2	43.6	37.9
Definitely true	54.1	55.2	57.9
Our family has clear rules discouraging our child from smoking.			
Definitely not true	1.4	0.0	0.0
Mostly not true	0.0	0.7	1.2
Mostly true	2.5	3.7	4.5
Definitely true	96.1	95.5	94.3
Our family has clear rules discouraging our child from drinking alcohol.			
Definitely not true	1.4	1.8	0.3
Mostly not true	0.9	1.0	1.8
Mostly true	14.6	9.4	25.2
Definitely true	83.1	87.8	72.7
Our family has clear rules governing responsible use of alcohol.			
Definitely not true	2.7	2.0	3.4
Mostly not true	0.8	1.1	2.6
Mostly true	7.4	9.4	5.3
Definitely true	89.2	87.4	88.7

**Table 6. Child without adult, by gender**

Question/Answer	Gender (all grades)	
	Female	Male
On a regular weekday, how many hours does your child spend after school without an adult present?		
None	25.2	13.3
Less than 1 hour	37.2	36.7
1 to 2 hours	22.8	33.1
Up to 4 hours	10.6	12.1
More than 4 hours	4.2	4.7
On a typical weekend, how many hours does your child spend without an adult present?		
None	8.5	12.9
Less than 1 hour	17.9	15.7
1 to 2 hours	31.5	31.2
Up to 4 hours	32.3	27.2
Up to 8 hours	8.1	8.9
More than 8 hours	1.7	4.2

**Table 7. Positive family involvement**

Question/Answer	Grades		
	7-8	9-10	11-12
Our Child:	%	%	%
Has lots of chances to do fun things with our family.			
Definitely not true	2.4	1.5	0.8
Mostly not true	0.8	2.8	6.0
Mostly true	24.1	30.0	39.3
Definitely true	72.7	65.7	53.8
Receives help and support when he/she needs it.			
Definitely not true	1.4	0.0	0.8
Mostly not true	0.0	0.0	0.6
Mostly true	5.3	11.9	13.8
Definitely true	93.3	88.1	84.8
Shares thoughts and feelings with me or my spouse.			
Definitely not true	2.2	0.8	3.2
Mostly not true	4.7	10.2	10.6
Mostly true	49.6	45.4	50.5
Definitely true	43.5	43.6	35.7
We usually ask if our child's homework is done.			
Definitely not true	1.4	3.4	5.1
Mostly not true	1.6	2.0	4.1
Mostly true	4.0	13.5	25.2
Definitely true	93.1	81.1	65.6
I or my spouse participate in school activities			
Definitely not true	3.0	0.8	1.4
Mostly not true	1.3	1.1	9.4
Mostly true	20.1	29.0	27.6
Definitely true	75.6	69.1	61.6

**Table 8. Issues facing parents of teenagers**

Question/Answer	Grades		
	7-8	9-10	11-12
	%	%	%
What do you feel are the most important problems you face as the parent of a teenager?			
Safety			
Of great concern	48.9	47.5	52.4
Of some concern	44.1	46.1	40.6
Not an issue	7.0	6.5	7.0
Violence/Crime			
Of great concern	21.9	13.1	26.9
Of some concern	43.8	47.2	45.6
Not an issue	34.3	39.7	27.5
Drugs/Alcohol			
Of great concern	49.5	46.5	47.7
Of some concern	39.5	46.7	41.7
Not an issue	11.0	6.8	10.7
Education			
Of great concern	63.4	52.3	48.6
Of some concern	19.4	29.8	33.9
Not an issue	17.2	17.9	17.4
Dropping Out of School			
Of great concern	4.4	4.5	6.9
Of some concern	11.2	14.0	12.4
Not an issue	84.4	81.5	80.7
Peer Pressure			
Of great concern	59.0	52.9	46.1
Of some concern	34.8	42.0	41.7
Not an issue	6.2	5.1	12.2
Communication with Teen			
Of great concern	43.3	46.2	45.8
Of some concern	41.0	43.0	39.5
Not an issue	15.6	10.8	14.7
Pregnancy/Sexuality			
Of great concern	31.8	26.6	25.3
Of some concern	51.8	46.6	54.5
Not an issue	16.5	26.7	20.2
Morals/Family Values			
Of great concern	35.7	35.8	41.3
Of some concern	31.6	25.5	33.7
Not an issue	32.7	38.7	25.0
Media/Cultural			
Of great concern	61.1	43.8	41.7
Of some concern	29.8	46.1	47.0
Not an issue	9.1	10.1	11.3
Financial Issues			
Of great concern	20.0	20.4	22.2
Of some concern	49.9	54.3	51.2
Not an issue	30.1	25.3	26.6

**Table 8. Issues facing parents of teenagers, continued.**

Question/Answer	Grades		
	7-8	9-10	11-12
	%	%	%
What do you feel are the most important problems you face as the parent of a teenager?			
Right Choices for Future			
Of great concern	62.1	59.4	51.4
Of some concern	26.5	29.4	38.3
Not an issue	11.5	11.1	10.3
Driving			
Of great concern	61.4	66.6	59.6
Of some concern	23.3	28.3	35.7
Not an issue	15.3	5.2	4.7
Religion			
Of great concern	5.8	9.8	11.6
Of some concern	31.7	21.8	29.5
Not an issue	62.5	68.3	58.9

**Table 9. Issues facing teenagers**

Question/Answer	Grades		
	7-8	9-10	11-12
	%	%	%
From viewpoint of teens like yours, what are most important issues they face?			
Fitting in			
Of great concern	53.6	51.6	48.2
Of some concern	37.8	37.8	40.0
Not an issue	8.6	10.5	11.8
Peer Pressure			
Of great concern	57.4	54.8	43.3
Of some concern	37.4	38.5	43.8
Not an issue	5.2	6.8	13.0
Acceptance of Self			
Of great concern	40.6	52.5	44.1
Of some concern	38.8	29.7	40.9
Not an issue	20.6	17.8	15.1
Drugs/Alcohol			
Of great concern	25.8	41.0	27.4
Of some concern	49.4	48.3	51.9
Not an issue	24.8	10.7	20.7
Education			
Of great concern	36.6	42.5	43.1
Of some concern	44.0	38.0	41.8
Not an issue	19.5	19.5	15.1
Dropping Out of School			
Of great concern	0.6	2.0	4.5
Of some concern	10.4	9.9	16.5
Not an issue	89.1	88.1	79.0

**Table 9. Issues facing teenagers, continued.**

Question/Answer	Grades		
	7-8	9-10	11-12
	%	%	%
From viewpoint of teens like yours, what are most important issues they face?			
Sexual Issues			
Of great concern	28.1	34.4	27.3
Of some concern	58.2	54.3	57.9
Not an issue	13.8	11.3	14.8
Gangs/Violence			
Of great concern	2.2	1.1	4.5
Of some concern	16.7	18.0	23.9
Not an issue	81.1	80.8	71.6
Independence			
Of great concern	48.3	48.0	45.9
Of some concern	36.9	44.4	42.1
Not an issue	14.8	7.6	11.9
Communication			
Of great concern	20.0	21.4	18.4
Of some concern	56.4	60.3	57.9
Not an issue	23.6	18.3	23.7
Coping with Stress			
Of great concern	54.0	57.4	63.5
Of some concern	43.5	34.9	30.0
Not an issue	2.5	7.6	6.6
Finding a Job			
Of great concern	6.1	22.2	17.5
Of some concern	39.7	43.8	58.4
Not an issue	54.2	34.0	24.1
Morals/Family Values			
Of great concern	9.4	19.5	14.1
Of some concern	50.6	39.4	44.2
Not an issue	40.0	41.2	41.7
Media Influence			
Of great concern	30.2	25.5	22.5
Of some concern	45.8	50.8	42.6
Not an issue	24.0	23.7	35.0
Financial Issues			
Of great concern	8.4	5.1	16.0
Of some concern	36.4	51.2	51.5
Not an issue	55.3	43.8	32.5
Making Good Decisions			
Of great concern	44.3	46.6	46.6
Of some concern	41.8	47.2	45.9
Not an issue	13.9	6.2	7.5
Driving			
Of great concern	18.9	43.4	37.4
Of some concern	49.0	43.7	46.8
Not an issue	32.1	12.9	15.8

**Table 9. Issues facing teenagers, continued**

Question/Answer	Grades		
	7-8	9-10	11-12
	%	%	%
From viewpoint of teens like yours, what are most important issues they face?			
Religion			
Of great concern	1.4	4.1	4.6
Of some concern	25.9	28.1	27.8
Not an issue	72.7	67.7	67.6

**Table 10. Family structure**

Thinking of the structure of your family, do the adults in your household include:		
	count	%
Both biological parents	319	84.4
Two adoptive parents	6	1.6
On biological and one step-parent	22	5.8
Two foster parents	1	0.3
Only one parent or guardian	15	4.0
One parent, frequent visits by other	10	2.6
Relatives who act as parents	0	0.0
Other	0	0.0
No response	5	1.3

### SECTION 3. SUBSTANCE USE – PARENTS

**Table 11. Concerns with family youth**

Question/Answer	Grade		
	7-8	9-10	11-12
	%	%	%
How concerned are you that your child might:			
Try marijuana at some point			
Very concerned	20.7	22.3	16.6
Somewhat concerned	46.7	43.9	37.9
Not very concerned	23.9	25.2	31.0
Not concerned at all	7.6	7.9	13.1
No opinion	1.1	0.7	1.4
Try a drug like cocaine or amphetamine at some point			
Very concerned	21.5	25.2	25.7
Somewhat concerned	37.6	22.3	25.7
Not very concerned	31.2	30.2	24.3
Not concerned at all	8.6	21.6	22.9
No opinion	1.1	0.7	1.4
How confident are you that you would know what to do if you believed your child as using illicit drugs?			
Very confident	33.3	36.7	43.8
Somewhat confident	51.6	46.8	40.3
Not very confident	9.7	13.7	13.2
Not confident at all	5.4	2.2	2.8
No opinion	0.0	0.7	0.0

**Table 12. Substance use and the law**

Question/Answer	Grade		
	7-8	9-10	11-12
	%	%	%
Do you know about the Conn. Law prohibiting serving alcohol to non-family minors?			
Yes	91.4	90.6	89.0
During the past year, has there been a party at your home with alcohol consumed by your child's teenage friends?			
Yes	1.1	3.6	10.3

**Table 13. Adult practices in the family**

Question/Answer	Grade		
	7-8	9-10	11-12
Do adults in your household smoke cigarettes?	%	%	%
Yes	7.5	8.8	7.1
Use of alcohol by parent(s):			
With meals			
Never	8.6	4.3	9.0
Rarely	21.5	14.5	15.9
Sometimes	40.9	47.1	44.8
Frequently	29.0	34.1	30.3
Cocktails before meals			
Never	49.5	38.4	39.3
Rarely	31.2	31.2	29.7
Sometimes	11.8	24.6	20.7
Frequently	7.5	5.8	10.3
At parties outside home			
Never	8.6	3.6	6.9
Rarely	18.3	18.8	12.5
Sometimes	55.9	52.9	59.7
Frequently	17.2	24.6	20.8
Host parties with alcohol			
Never	13.2	7.9	9.0
Rarely	24.2	26.6	26.9
Sometimes	42.9	51.1	46.9
Frequently	19.8	14.4	17.2
At bars			
Never	26.9	28.8	34.0
Rarely	41.9	30.9	27.8
Sometimes	20.4	30.2	29.2
Frequently	10.8	10.1	9.0

**Table 14. Perception of harm, comparison with other parents**

Question/Answer	Grade		
	7-8	9-10	11-12
	%	%	%
How much harm do you think teens risk if they: Smoke several cigarettes per day?			
No risk	4.5	3.7	3.5
Slight risk	1.1	1.5	4.2
Moderate risk	15.9	12.5	16.1
Great risk	78.4	82.4	76.2
Have at least 1 or 2 drinks per week?			
No risk	4.5	4.4	4.2
Slight risk	2.3	3.0	11.2
Moderate risk	20.5	20.7	33.6
Great risk	72.7	71.9	51.0
Use marijuana regularly?			
No risk	3.4	5.1	2.1
Slight risk	3.4	2.2	6.3
Moderate risk	11.5	7.4	18.3
Great risk	81.6	85.3	73.2
Compared to other parents I know: My concerns about underage drinking are:			
More concerned	20.7	36.3	30.8
About the same concern	71.3	54.8	58.0
Less concerned	8.0	8.9	11.2
My monitoring my child's drinking, I am:			
More strict	53.5	64.7	50.0
About the same	44.2	31.6	40.8
More lenient	2.3	3.8	9.2

## SECTION 4. SUBSTANCE USE – YOUTH

**Table 15. Reasons teens begin drinking**

Question/Answer	Grade		
	7-8	9-10	11-12
	%	%	%
What do you think are most important reasons teens begin drinking alcohol?			
Fit in with friends			
Very important	80.5	84.6	76.4
Somewhat important	19.5	14.7	22.2
Not very important	0.0	0.7	1.4
Parents drink			
Very important	26.1	23.9	17.9
Somewhat important	48.9	50.7	57.2
Not very important	25.0	25.4	24.8
Alcohol easily available			
Very important	40.9	51.5	43.4
Somewhat important	47.7	40.3	45.5
Not very important	11.4	8.2	11.2
Family tradition for special occasions			
Very important	11.4	8.1	9.7
Somewhat important	35.2	40.0	38.6
Not very important	53.4	51.9	51.7
Personal choice			
Very important	25.0	28.6	32.2
Somewhat important	54.5	51.9	54.5
Not very important	20.5	19.5	13.3
Fits chosen lifestyle			
Very important	18.2	23.1	20.7
Somewhat important	46.6	43.3	54.3
Not very important	35.2	33.6	25.0
Boredom			
Very important	58.0	51.1	51.0
Somewhat important	29.5	35.6	31.5
Not very important	12.5	13.3	17.5
Relieve stress			
Very important	47.7	48.9	49.6
Somewhat important	38.6	33.8	31.9
Not very important	13.6	17.3	18.4
Cope with personal issues			
Very important	56.8	55.6	44.4
Somewhat important	34.1	31.1	33.8
Not very important	9.1	13.3	21.8
Curiosity			
Very important	68.2	68.7	65.3
Somewhat important	31.8	31.3	33.3
Not very important	0.0	0.0	1.4

**Table 15. Reasons teens begin drinking, continued.**

Question/Answer	Grade		
	7-8	9-10	11-12
	%	%	%
What do you think are most important reasons teens begin drinking alcohol?			
To have fun			
Very important	58.0	63.0	64.3
Somewhat important	39.8	34.1	32.9
Not very important	2.3	3.0	2.8
Not sure why			
Very important	19.4	17.8	26.4
Somewhat important	53.2	46.5	29.7
Not very important	27.4	35.6	44.0

**Table 16. Reasons teens choose not to drink**

Question/Answer	Grade		
	7-8	9-10	11-12
	%	%	%
What are most important reasons that influence teens not to drink?			
Personal choice			
Very important	74.4	77.1	79.6
Somewhat important	24.4	21.4	19.7
Not very important	1.2	1.5	0.7
Disapproval of parents			
Very important	47.7	51.9	48.2
Somewhat important	47.7	42.2	40.3
Not very important	4.5	5.9	11.5
Disapproval of friends			
Very important	55.7	47.4	38.1
Somewhat important	37.5	39.1	39.6
Not very important	6.8	13.5	22.3
Bad experiences			
Very important	54.0	42.2	37.7
Somewhat important	36.8	43.0	50.0
Not very important	9.2	14.8	12.3
Education about alcohol			
Very important	51.1	45.6	36.0
Somewhat important	37.5	44.1	43.2
Not very important	11.4	10.3	20.9
Health reasons			
Very important	41.4	36.4	25.2
Somewhat important	37.9	39.4	45.3
Not very important	20.7	24.2	29.5
Legal reasons			
Very important	28.4	29.1	25.5
Somewhat important	44.3	45.5	40.1
Not very important	27.3	25.4	34.3

**Table 16. Reasons teens choose not to drink, continued.**

Question/Answer	Grade		
	7-8	9-10	11-12
	%	%	%
What are most important reasons that influence teens not to drink?			
Ethical/moral reasons			
Very important	53.4	52.2	43.3
Somewhat important	40.9	36.6	39.7
Not very important	5.7	11.2	17.0
Does not fit chosen lifestyle			
Very important	72.7	71.9	65.5
Somewhat important	22.7	25.9	29.6
Not very important	4.5	2.2	4.9
Alcohol not available			
Very important	32.6	18.7	17.5
Somewhat important	40.7	47.8	46.7
Not very important	26.7	33.6	35.8

**Table 17. Perception of practices of youth in family**

Question/Answer	Grade		
	7-8	9-10	11-12
	%	%	%
In the past 30 days, how many days did your child probably:			
Smoke at least one cigarette?			
None	100.0	97.8	85.9
1-2 Days	0.0	0.7	4.9
3-5 Days	0.0	0.7	1.4
6-10 Days	0.0	0.7	2.1
More than 10 days	0.0	0.0	5.6
Drink an alcoholic beverage (more than a sip)?			
None	100.0	97.8	69.5
1-2 Days	0.0	2.2	18.4
3-5 Days	0.0	0.0	7.8
6-10 Days	0.0	0.0	2.8
More than 10 days	0.0	0.0	1.4
In the past year, how often has your child ridden as passenger with driver who been drinking?			
Never	60.2	60.0	62.3
Rarely	32.5	31.9	30.4
Several times	6.0	8.1	6.5
Fairly often	1.2	0.0	0.7

**Table 18. Peer use of substances**

Question/Answer	Grade		
	7-8	9-10	11-12
	%	%	%
How many of your child's close friends do you think: Smoke cigarettes?			
None	81.0	63.2	35.9
Some	10.7	31.6	52.1
Most	0.0	0.7	9.2
I don't know	8.3	4.4	2.8
Drink alcoholic beverages?			
None	71.4	34.6	11.3
Some	21.4	57.4	53.9
Most	0.0	2.9	31.2
I don't know	7.1	5.1	3.5
Use marijuana?			
None	77.4	49.6	19.9
Some	14.3	42.2	48.9
Most	0.0	0.7	23.4
I don't know	8.3	7.4	7.8
Use inhalants?			
None	78.6	68.4	49.3
Some	9.5	11.0	13.6
Most	0.0	0.0	0.7
I don't know	11.9	20.6	36.4
Have tried a drug like cocaine, LSD, heroin, etc.?			
None	86.9	72.6	40.1
Some	8.3	11.9	26.8
Most	0.0	0.0	1.4
I don't know	4.8	15.6	31.7
Have used prescription drugs without doctor's orders?			
None	76.2	54.8	27.7
Some	11.9	23.0	38.3
Most	0.0	2.2	4.3
I don't know	11.9	20.0	29.8
Play games for money (e.g., poker)?			
None	46.4	33.1	14.9
Some	32.1	35.3	48.9
Most	6.0	15.4	17.0
I don't know	15.5	16.2	19.1
Are considered bullies?			
None	60.5	59.0	63.8
Some	33.3	29.1	22.7
Most	2.5	4.5	2.8
I don't know	3.7	7.5	10.6

**Table 19. Perception of strategies to prevent alcohol use**

Question/Answer	Grade		
	7-8	9-10	11-12
	%	%	%
How important do you think the following are in preventing teens from drinking alcohol?			
High price			
Very important	14.6	7.5	10.3
Somewhat important	28.0	27.8	27.9
Not important	54.9	64.7	61.8
I don't know	2.4	0.0	0.0
Checking IDs in stores, bars			
Very important	74.7	62.4	65.2
Somewhat important	19.3	29.3	25.5
Not important	6.0	8.3	7.8
I don't know	0.0	0.0	1.4
Ads showing problems			
Very important	51.3	33.6	31.2
Somewhat important	31.3	43.3	39.7
Not important	17.5	21.6	28.4
I don't know	0.0	1.5	0.7
Friends who don't drink			
Very important	89.2	89.6	74.1
Somewhat important	9.6	9.6	22.3
Not important	1.2	0.7	3.6
I don't know	0.0	0.0	0.0
Friends who disapprove drinking			
Very important	89.2	88.8	71.6
Somewhat important	9.6	10.4	22.7
Not important	1.2	0.7	5.7
I don't know	0.0	0.0	0.0
Parental strictness			
Very important	56.1	54.8	39.6
Somewhat important	36.6	37.0	49.6
Not important	7.3	8.1	10.1
I don't know	0.0	0.0	0.7
Driver's license suspension			
Very important	79.5	76.5	77.9
Somewhat important	13.3	15.4	15.7
Not important	4.8	5.9	5.7
I don't know	2.4	2.2	0.7
Fine of \$200			
Very important	53.7	54.9	54.3
Somewhat important	31.7	23.3	23.6
Not important	11.0	19.5	20.0
I don't know	3.7	2.3	2.1

**Table 19. Perception of strategies to prevent alcohol use, continued.**

Question/Answer	Grade		
	7-8	9-10	11-12
	%	%	%
How important do you think the following are in preventing teens from drinking alcohol?			
Alcohol education in school			
Very important	58.5	53.7	32.9
Somewhat important	36.6	39.6	45.7
Not important	3.7	6.7	21.4
I don't know	1.2	0.0	0.0
Alcohol-free activities			
Very important	68.3	56.3	42.1
Somewhat important	26.8	33.3	35.0
Not important	4.9	10.4	22.9
I don't know	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fear of addiction			
Very important	43.8	33.3	27.0
Somewhat important	31.3	30.4	34.0
Not important	23.8	34.8	36.2
I don't know	1.3	1.5	2.8
Breathalyzer tests			
Very important	52.4	50.4	42.1
Somewhat important	32.9	32.3	43.6
Not important	11.0	15.8	13.6
I don't know	3.7	1.5	0.7

## SECTION 5. SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

**Table 20. Perceptions about the schools**

Question/Answer	Grade		
	7-8	9-10	11-12
	%	%	%
How satisfied are with the quality of education your child is receiving?			
Very satisfied	44.6	44.2	41.8
Somewhat satisfied	50.0	46.4	47.3
Somewhat dissatisfied	4.3	7.2	6.8
Very dissatisfied	1.1	2.2	4.1
No opinion	0.0	0.0	0.0
How safe do you feel your child's school is?			
Very safe	38.7	43.9	53.1
Fairly safe	60.2	53.2	44.1
Fairly unsafe	1.1	0.7	1.4
Very unsafe	0.0	2.2	1.4
No opinion	0.0	0.0	0.0
What grades does your child mostly get?			
A's	30.1	28.8	28.3
A's and B's	38.7	37.4	26.9
B's	23.7	25.2	29.0
B's and C's	6.5	5.8	8.3
C's	1.1	1.4	6.9
C's and D's	0.0	1.4	0.7
D's	0.0	0.0	0.0
D's and F's	0.0	0.0	0.0
F's	0.0	0.0	0.0

**Table 21. Perceptions about normative substance use**

Question/Answer	Grade		
	7-8	9-10	11-12
	%	%	%
How many students in your child's grade would you guess drink alcohol at least once a week?			
Fewer than 10%	65.5	10.4	3.5
10-25%	17.2	33.3	10.5
25-50%	3.4	25.9	25.2
50-75%	0.0	17.8	32.2
75-90%	2.3	4.4	19.6
More than 90%	0.0	0.7	4.9
I don't know	11.5	7.4	4.2
How many students in your child's grade would you guess use illicit drugs, including marijuana?			
None	6.0	0.7	0.0
Fewer than 5%	63.9	14.1	1.4
5-10%	13.3	20.0	7.9
10-20%	4.8	15.6	10.8
20-30%	0.0	20.0	15.1
30-50%	0.0	15.6	27.3
More than 50%	1.2	3.7	27.3
I don't know	10.8	10.4	10.1

**Table 22. Perceptions of neighborhood environment**

Question/Answer	Grade		
	7-8	9-10	11-12
How true are the following?	%	%	%
There are lots of things for young people to do in our community.			
Definitely not true	31.0	34.6	52.8
Mostly not true	39.3	42.6	31.0
Mostly true	25.0	18.4	9.2
Definitely true	4.8	4.4	7.0
No opinion	0.0	0.0	0.0
Our community is a safe place.			
Definitely not true	0.0	0.7	4.2
Mostly not true	3.6	4.4	3.5
Mostly true	64.3	68.4	64.8
Definitely true	31.0	26.5	26.8
No opinion	1.2	0.0	0.7
Kids in our community are often teased so much feelings are hurt.			
Definitely not true	0.0	3.0	2.8
Mostly not true	31.0	30.4	31.7
Mostly true	29.8	30.4	26.1
Definitely true	31.0	31.9	33.1
No opinion	8.3	4.4	6.3

**Table 23. Neighborhood drug involvement**

Question/Answer	Grade		
	7-8	9-10	11-12
How true are the following statements?	%	%	%
A lot of drugs are sold in our community.			
Definitely not true	7.1	2.2	1.4
Mostly not true	20.2	19.1	16.3
Mostly true	25.0	41.2	32.6
Definitely true	28.6	27.2	39.7
No opinion	19.0	10.3	9.9
A lot of kids in our community use marijuana and other drugs.			
Definitely not true	1.2	1.5	0.0
Mostly not true	21.4	12.5	12.1
Mostly true	32.1	44.9	28.4
Definitely true	32.1	35.3	52.5
No opinion	13.1	5.9	7.1
People in our community are trying to keep kids off drugs.			
Definitely not true	2.4	0.7	1.4
Mostly not true	6.0	8.9	12.9
Mostly true	45.2	53.3	54.7
Definitely true	42.9	34.1	28.1
No opinion	3.6	3.0	2.9

**Table 24. Availability of alcohol, tobacco, drugs , and guns**

Question/Answer	Grade		
	7-8	9-10	11-12
	%	%	%
If you child wanted to, how easy do you think it would be to get:			
Alcoholic beverages?			
Very easy	53.6	62.2	75.9
Sort of easy	31.0	31.9	19.9
Sort of hard	6.0	3.7	3.5
Very hard	4.8	1.5	0.7
I don't know	4.8	0.7	0.0
Cigarettes?			
Very easy	26.2	48.5	66.7
Sort of easy	38.1	33.6	22.7
Sort of hard	17.9	10.4	6.4
Very hard	13.1	5.2	1.4
I don't know	4.8	2.2	2.8
Marijuana?			
Very easy	16.7	33.3	60.7
Sort of easy	32.1	38.5	26.4
Sort of hard	19.0	15.6	8.6
Very hard	17.9	4.4	1.4
I don't know	14.3	8.1	2.9
A drug like cocaine, LSD, amphetamine, etc.?			
Very easy	4.8	11.1	17.7
Sort of easy	17.9	23.0	28.4
Sort of hard	19.0	28.9	25.5
Very hard	34.5	15.6	9.9
I don't know	23.8	21.5	18.4
A gun?			
Very easy	1.2	1.5	2.9
Sort of easy	6.0	9.0	9.3
Sort of hard	20.2	20.3	20.7
Very hard	56.0	45.9	40.7
I don't know	16.7	23.3	26.4

## SECTION 6. COMPARISONS

**Table 25. Comparison of youth and parents  
Recent substance use.**

Substance	Grades	Past 30-Day Use From Survey of:		Parent/Youth	
		Parents	Youth	Ratio	Significance
Alcoholic beverages	7-8	0.0	10.0	0.00	**
	9-10	2.2	33.6	0.07	***
	11-12	19.2	51.7	0.37	***
Cigarette smoking	7-8	0.0	1.0	0.00	n.s.
	9-10	2.2	9.7	0.23	**
	11-12	14.1	19.2	0.73	n.s.

**Table 26. Comparison of youth and parents.  
Perceived risk of harm.**

Substance	Grade	Mean scale <sup>‡</sup> score		Parent/Youth	
		Parents	Youth	Ratio	Significance
Cigarette smoking	7-8	89.4	92.5	0.97	n.s.
	9-10	91.2	89.7	1.02	n.s.
	11-12	88.3	90.8	0.97	n.s.
Regular alcohol drinking	7-8	87.1	75.8	1.15	***
	9-10	86.7	60.8	1.43	***
	11-12	77.2	57.8	1.33	***
Marijuana use	7-8	90.4	88.8	1.02	n.s.
	9-10	90.9	68.2	1.33	***
	11-12	87.6	60.8	1.44	***

<sup>‡</sup> Scale: 0 (no risk) to 100 (great risk).

**Table 27. Comparison of youth and parents.  
Perceived availability of substances.**

Substance	Grade	Mean scale <sup>‡</sup> score		Parent/Youth	
		Parents	Youth	Ratio	Significance
Cigarettes	7-8	17.7	33.5	0.53	***
	9-10	20.1	17.8	1.13	n.s.
	11-12	18.2	17.0	1.07	n.s.
Alcoholic beverages	7-8	31.6	61.3	0.52	***
	9-10	27.0	29.6	0.91	n.s.
	11-12	29.3	13.1	2.24	***
Marijuana	7-8	36.5	76.6	0.48	***
	9-10	33.3	34.6	0.96	n.s.
	11-12	37.6	21.1	1.78	***
Other illicit drugs	7-8	59.0	85.6	0.69	***
	9-10	61.2	75.1	0.82	***
	11-12	63.6	68.0	0.94	n.s.
A gun	7-8	83.6	85.3	0.98	n.s.
	9-10	84.3	84.4	1.00	n.s.
	11-12	85.2	86.1	0.99	n.s.

<sup>‡</sup> Scale: 0 (easy) to 100 (hard).

**Table 28. Comparison of youth and parents.  
Perception of the community.**

Substance	Grade	Mean scale <sup>‡</sup> score		Parent/Youth	
		Parents	Youth	Ratio	Significance
Drug involvement					
Lot of drugs sold	7-8	64.2	27.5	2.33	***
	9-10	68.0	60.9	1.12	*
	11-12	74.3	63.6	1.17	**
Lot of kids use marijuana	7-8	69.9	30.6	2.28	***
	9-10	73.7	66.6	1.11	*
	11-12	81.2	74.4	1.09	*
People keep kids off drugs	7-8	77.8	81.7	0.95	n.s.
	9-10	74.8	65.8	1.14	***
	11-12	70.9	58.8	1.21	***
Environment					
Lots of things to do	7-8	34.5	51.9	0.67	***
	9-10	30.9	25.6	1.21	n.s.
	11-12	23.5	19.5	1.20	n.s.
Community a safe place	7-8	75.9	77.0	0.99	n.s.
	9-10	73.5	74.0	0.99	n.s.
	11-12	71.6	79.3	0.90	***

<sup>‡</sup> Scale: 0 (not true) to 100 (true).

**Table 29. Comparison of youth and parents.  
Family management.**

Substance	Grade	Mean scale score		Parent/Youth	
		Parents	Youth	Ratio	Significance
Hours w/o adult <sup>‡</sup>	7-8	25.5	43.6	0.59	***
	9-10	31.7	49.2	0.64	***
	11-12	46.9	64.1	0.73	***
Know where youth is <sup>@</sup>	7-8	96.4	89.4	1.08	**
	9-10	97.4	78.4	1.24	***
	11-12	81.7	67.1	1.22	***
Know if youth high	7-8	88.6	76.7	1.16	**
	9-10	85.0	59.9	1.42	***
	11-12	77.5	54.1	1.43	***
Discipline when rules broken	7-8	82.8	74.4	1.11	**
	9-10	85.0	66.8	1.27	***
	11-12	82.1	63.3	1.30	***
Rules discouraging alcohol	7-8	89.4	78.3	1.14	***
	9-10	92.9	68.8	1.35	***
	11-12	95.0	63.4	1.50	***

<sup>‡</sup> Scale: 0 (no hours) to 100 (>4 hours).

<sup>@</sup> Scale: 0 (not true) to 100 (true).

**Table 30. Comparison of youth and parents.  
Positive family involvement.**

Substance	Grade	Mean scale <sup>‡</sup> score		Parent/Youth	
		Parents	Youth	Ratio	Significance
Chances to do fun things	7-8	88.2	80.5	1.09	**
	9-10	87.9	70.8	1.24	***
	11-12	81.7	69.7	1.17	***
Help/support when needed	7-8	96.8	89.4	1.08	**
	9-10	95.9	82.0	1.17	***
	11-12	93.6	84.3	1.11	***
Shares thoughts, feelings	7-8	76.3	85.5	0.89	**
	9-10	77.8	77.2	1.01	n.s.
	11-12	72.6	79.0	0.92	*
Ask if homework done	7-8	96.0	87.0	1.10	***
	9-10	90.2	76.0	1.19	***
	11-12	80.8	63.5	1.27	***
Parents participate in school activities	7-8	88.2	51.5	1.71	***
	9-10	89.4	43.1	2.08	***
	11-12	83.1	44.6	1.86	***

<sup>‡</sup> Scale: 0 (not true) to 100 (true).

**Table 31. Comparison of youth and parents.  
Strategies to prevent alcohol use.**

Substance	Grade	Mean scale <sup>†</sup> score		Parent/Youth	
		Parents	Youth	Ratio	Significance
High price	7-8	34.2	44.5	0.77	n.s.
	9-10	25.8	31.6	0.82	n.s.
	11-12	40.1	34.0	1.18	n.s.
Checking ID's	7-8	79.7	72.8	1.09	n.s.
	9-10	81.6	61.1	1.34	***
	11-12	84.8	56.6	1.50	***
Ads showing problems	7-8	62.2	62.0	1.00	n.s.
	9-10	58.1	34.3	1.69	***
	11-12	59.3	27.0	2.20	***
Friends who don't drink	7-8	93.6	79.8	1.17	***
	9-10	93.7	65.3	1.43	***
	11-12	91.9	62.7	1.47	***
Friends who disapprove	7-8	83.8	78.6	1.07	n.s.
	9-10	83.2	62.5	1.33	***
	11-12	83.2	54.8	1.52	***
Parental strictness	7-8	79.7	76.1	1.05	n.s.
	9-10	76.4	56.9	1.34	***
	11-12	79.1	55.2	1.43	***
Fine of \$200	7-8	56.8	65.0	0.87	n.s.
	9-10	50.4	50.2	1.00	n.s.
	11-12	57.8	45.4	1.27	**
Alcohol education	7-8	73.1	73.5	0.99	n.s.
	9-10	67.1	40.4	1.66	***
	11-12	71.0	31.1	2.28	***
Alcohol-free activities	7-8	73.4	71.2	1.03	n.s.
	9-10	68.4	42.2	1.62	***
	11-12	71.7	28.3	2.53	***
Fear of addiction	7-8	46.7	68.3	0.68	***
	9-10	43.2	37.7	1.15	n.s.
	11-12	43.2	27.2	1.59	***
Breathalyzer tests	7-8	68.9	67.6	1.02	n.s.
	9-10	66.4	57.4	1.16	*
	11-12	69.7	61.0	1.14	*

<sup>†</sup> Scale: 0 (ineffective) to 100 (most effective).

**Table 32. Comparison. Weston Parent Survey vs. CASA Survey**

Question/Answer	Weston	CASA
	%	%
Gender of responding parent		
Female (302)	85	75
Male (54)	15	25
How satisfied are you with the quality of education for your child?		
Very satisfied	43	50
Somewhat satisfied	48	39
Somewhat dissatisfied	6	8
Very Dissatisfied	3	4
How safe do you feel your child's school is?		
Very safe	46	49
Fairly safe	51	46
Fairly unsafe	1	4
Very unsafe	1	1
How concerned are you that your child might try marijuana?		
Very concerned	20	*
Somewhat concerned	42	*
Not very concerned	27	*
Not concerned at all	10	*
No opinion	1	*
How concerned are you that your child might try another illegal drug?		
Very concerned	24	23
Somewhat concerned	27	34
Not very concerned	28	30
Not concerned at all	19	13
No opinion	1	*
How confident are you that you would know what to do if you believed your child was using an illegal drug?		
Very confident	39	51
Fairly confident	45	41
Not too confident	13	7
Not confident at all	3	*
No opinion	0	1
My concerns about underage drinking, compared to other parents are:		
More concerned	30	*
About the same	60	*
Less concerned	10	*
In monitoring my child's drinking, compared to other parents, I am		
More strict	56	61
About the same	38	29
More lenient	6	9

**Table 32 Comparison. Weston Parent Survey vs. CASA Survey, continued.**

Question/Answer	Weston	CASA
	%	%
How many students in your child's grade do you think use illicit drugs or abuse Rx drugs?		
None	2	6
Fewer than 5%	20	
1-10%		25
5-10%	13	
10-20%	11	
10-25%		26
20-30%	13	
25-50%		20
30-50%	16	
More than 50%	12	10
Don't know	10	13

\* Items not included in CASA survey.

**Table 33. Comparison of Weston Parent Survey with CASA Survey  
Issues facing parents of teenagers**

Question/Answer	Composite Score	
	Survey	CASA
What do you feel are the most important problems you face as the parent of a teenager?		
Safety	8.9	7
Violence/Crime	5.4	3
Drugs/Alcohol	8.7	25
Education	8.5	14
Dropping Out	1.4	14
Peer Pressure	9.1	4
Communication with Teen	8.3	5
Pregnancy/Sexuality	6.7	11
Morals/Family Values	6.7	5
Media/Cultural	8.5	*
Financial Issues	5.8	1
Right Choices for Future	9.3	4
Driving	9.7	1
Religion	2.9	1

\* Items not included in CASA survey.

**Table 34. Comparison of Weston Parent Survey with CASA Survey  
Issues facing teenagers**

Question/Answer	Composite Score	
	Survey	CASA
From viewpoint of teens like yours, what are most important issues they face?		
Fitting in	7.8	9
Peer Pressure	7.9	48
Acceptance of Self	7.1	4
Drugs/Alcohol	6.4	13
Education	6.9	9
Dropping Out	0.9	9
Sexual Issues	6.5	4
Gangs/Violence	1.3	3
Independence	7.5	1
Communication	5.4	1
Coping with Stress	8.5	1
Finding a Job	4.5	1
Morals/Family Values	4.2	*
Media Influence	5.3	*
Financial Issues	3.7	*
Making Good Decisions	7.6	3
Driving	6.4	*
Religion	1.8	*

\* Items not included in CASA survey.