

2013 Parent Survey Report Newtown, Connecticut

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This parent survey was sponsored by the Newtown Prevention Council and Newtown Public Schools, and was conducted under the Drug-Free Communities Support Program grant from the federal Department of Health and Human Services. This is the second survey of Newtown parents; the first was given in 2011 [1]. Both parent surveys were given in conjunction with surveys of random samples of youth from the same population, grades 7-12. Youth survey results for both 2011 and 2013 are reported separately [2, 3]. The surveys of both parents and youth are intended to ascertain the prevalence, attitudes and behaviors related to the use of substances by youth – cigarettes, alcohol, illicit drugs and prescription drugs without one's own prescription.

This parent survey was administered April 8 to May 17, 2013. As in 2011, it uses language about parental perceptions taken directly from the youth survey, and incorporates questions from the CASA National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse X: Teens and Parents [4]. All responses to the survey are strictly confidential, and information is reported only in summary form. The organization of this report draws upon reports of GPIY youth surveys for formatting and structure. The data on which this report is based may be subject to confidentiality regulations of HIPAA [5].

DISCLAIMER

Opinions expressed herein are the views of the author and may not necessarily reflect the views, official policy or position of the sponsors of the survey, or any other participating agency or individual.

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SUMMARY

The parents of Newtown students in grades 7-12 have been surveyed twice, in 2011 and again in 2013. The survey asks about prevalence and opinions related to substance use by youth and adults in the community. Response to the 2013 survey was immediate, with 776 respondents, compared to 452 in 2011. Numbers were spread relatively evenly over the six grades, with more than 100 respondents per grade. As in 2011, the parent survey was opened in April, at about the same time that a youth survey was given in Newtown Middle School and Newtown High School, grades 7-12. 2013 marked the sixth time for the youth survey, beginning in 2002.

Parents in 2013 expressed confidence that Newtown schools are safe places, unchanged since 2011. In both years, only about 6% indicated otherwise. More than 90% of parents answered “true” to the statement, “our community is a safe place.” Youth in their survey expressed similar opinions, and did not differ significantly from parents.

Parents did differ from youth in their perceptions about the use of substances. Parents were asked whether they believed their own child smoked cigarettes, drank alcohol, or used marijuana in the previous 30 days. Results differed, middle school vs. high school parents. Estimates by middle school parents of cigarette and marijuana use were low, very close to youth reports, but alcohol use was underestimated. Perceived risk of harm was similar, parents vs. youth, but parent perception of sale and use of marijuana and other drugs in the community was higher than perceptions among middle school youth. Among high school parents, estimated use of cigarettes, alcohol and marijuana was only about one-half of actual prevalences, as reported by youth. Perceived risk of harm was considerably higher among parents, especially for marijuana among older youth. About 80% of both parents and youth agreed that a lot of kids in the community use marijuana. Evidence about increasing marijuana use is discussed in the youth survey report.

Because the parent sample was not random, it is possible that fewer parents of children at higher risk for substance use may have been inclined to take the survey. To correct for this possibility, parent results were weighted to match prevalences of youth reports of hours spent after school without an adult present – a risk factor for substance use. In effect, parents of higher risk youth were given more weight in prevalence calculations. Underestimates of youth substance use persisted despite this correction, at all levels of risk.

There has been an increase nationally of abuse of prescription meds by youth – for recreational use, without a prescription. Although abuse by Newtown is below national averages, steps are being taken to avert this serious problem. Regular disposal of outdated prescription meds, especially addictive pain meds or stimulants, is recommended, and has been done by about three-quarters of parent respondents. Only about half of parents indicated an awareness that a disposal box is provided in the Newtown Police Department.

Parents have strong influence over choices their children make, including about substance use – a fact confirmed repeatedly on youth surveys. Possible influence of two factors was probed in this survey: parental alcohol use, and regularity of family dinners. Parents whose reported alcohol use was more than the survey’s average estimated more drinking by their child, but not more use of marijuana or cigarettes, and somewhat lower perception of risk from alcohol. Parents who have dinner with their child 5 times or more per week reported lower prevalences of use of all substances by their child. Parents who reported their child uses alcohol were aware that he/she uses other substances as well, a fact established in the youth surveys. This analysis was limited to parents of high school students, to avoid confounding age with other predictive factors.

METHODS

The survey instrument used to collect data for this report incorporates questions from three sources: demographics, concomitant youth survey [2], and a national survey of parents of teens [4]. 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: Newtown parents versus their own youth, and versus national statistics.

As in 2011 [1], the parent survey was implemented via computer on-line, using the SurveyMonkey.com® web site and software. Efforts to encourage parents to participate were extremely successful – 770 parents of students in grades 7-12 did so. Six parents of students in grades 5 and 6 completed the survey, but were not included in analyses, in order to match the youth survey only of grades 7-12.

Of the 770 surveys in the analysis, 626 originated from a unique IP address, and more than 2 surveys originated from a single IP address in only 8 cases. An “extreme response” metric was calculated for each survey, to check for spurious submissions, as described previously [1], but none were found. There was no correlation between extreme value totals and number of entries per IP address.. Thus, there was no evidence of “hacking” or spoofing of the survey. Sampling variance for each grade-group in the parent survey is 3-4%, based on approximately 250 respondents and 900 families per grade-group.

The parent sample was self-selected, not random, so that biasing of the sample cannot be ruled out. It is possible, for example, that parents of more at-risk children may have been reluctant to take the survey, causing underestimation of substance use. To correct for this possibility, weighting was used for all tabulated results, based on hours parents reported their child typically spends after school without an adult present, a measure which is correlated with higher likelihood of substance use, according the data from Newtown youth surveys [2,3] (Figure 1). Weights (Table 7) in effect count parents of more at-risk children more heavily in tabulating results. The weights are scaled so that, overall, they sum to unity.

Data processing and statistical software and procedures in these analyses were essentially the same as used in the 2011 parent survey analysis [1]. Statistical significance of differences are calculated by two-way analysis of variance, with Survey (parent or youth), Grade, and Survey x Grade interaction as predictor variables. Because there is no correction for multiple comparisons, only p-values less than 0.01 should be considered genuinely significant Symbols in tables 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.

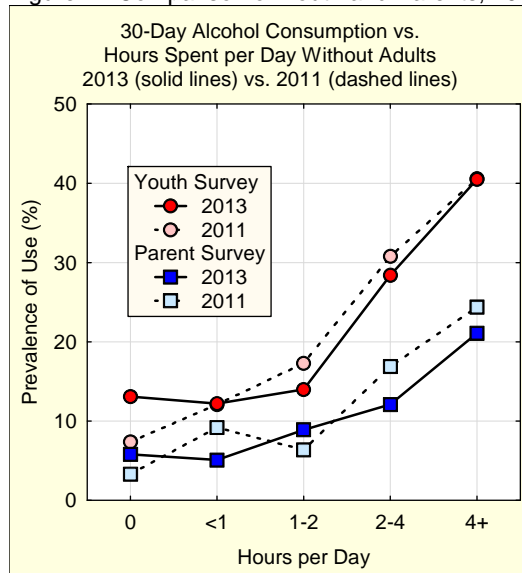
RESULTS

Demographics.

There were more respondents to the parent survey in 2013 (776) than in 2011 (452), but demographics were similar. In both years, survey respondents were parents of youth of median ages 12-17 in grades 7-12, in Newtown, 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, because of confidentiality in both surveys. Six respondents were excluded from tabulations, because their child was in a grade lower than 7th. There were no exclusions for any other reason. The survey was available on-line to parents for 40 days, April 8 to May 17, 2013 – immediately following the Newtown youth survey of April 8-11, 2013.

Parent respondents are self-selected, not random, and weighting of results was therefore used (see Methods). The intention is to correct for under-sampling of parents of youth who are more at risk because of more time spent after school without adults. Figure 1 documents this relationship, as reported by both youth and parents, and the fact that correlations have changed little since 2011. The fact that parents estimate less drinking than youths report is discussed further below.

Figure 1. Comparison of Youth and Parents, 2011 and 2013



Of parent respondents, 76% of those who gave their gender were female (12% did not give their gender), about the same as the national survey (75% female) [4] and the 2011 parent survey (77%) [1]. The gender of the youth to whom parents referred was male in 47% of cases. Fathers were somewhat more likely to respond if the child was a son (Table 2). Many of the families had other children in earlier grades in school (Tables 3, 4). Of respondents who indicated race, 94.1% were white (Table 5)(12.4% did not specify race), similar to Newtown Public School ethnicity.

Family Structure and Practices.

Almost all parents expressed positive views of their family structure. Fewer than 5% indicated a lack of family rules about such issues as their child letting them know about companions when away from home, internet use, and drinking alcohol. There were fewer parents with rules discouraging smoking cigarettes, probably because the dangers and social unacceptability of smoking are well understood (Table 8).

Hours reported by parents that their child spends alone without an adult after school were about the same for boys and girls (Table 9), and increased with increasing age (Table 10). After applying weights (Table 7), these times were, by definition, the same as youth reported in their survey. Almost all parents confirm that they offer support when their child needs it, and most parents have positive opinions about other aspects of family involvement – even sharing thoughts and feelings with their teens (Table 11). About 90% of parents report having family meals with their child at least 3 times a week (Table 12).

Parents were asked to rate issues facing parents of teens, and ranks were calculated based on the 3-point scale (Table 13). The issues of most concern were drugs and alcohol use, safety, driving, and peer pressure. These concerns differ somewhat from a 2005 national survey [4], as Newtown parents felt less reason for concern with their children, or with their child's education. Issues facing the teens themselves, according to their parents, were fitting in, acceptance of self, peer pressure, and coping with stress (Table 14). In national survey results, education and the use of drugs and alcohol were ranked high.

Substance Use.

The prevalence increased (2013 vs. 2011) among parents of younger children who expressed great concern that their child might try marijuana or another illicit drug at some point (Table 15). Knowledge of Connecticut's social host law – serving alcohol to a minor other than your own child – was surprisingly low (Table 16). About 15-20% of parents expressed lack of familiarity with recent research on the damaging effects of alcohol on adolescent development. Few parents felt that simply preventing DUI would justify teen drinking, but 11% of parents of older youth felt that "learning to drink responsibly" might justify underage drinking. Fewer parents in 2013 than in 2011 thought their own child had used alcohol in the past 30 days (Table 22), and very few believed their child had smoked even one cigarette. In contrast, more parents thought their child's close friends drink and use marijuana (Table 23).

To better understand what factors influence parents, high school parents were compared after dichotomizing according to their child's drinking, their own drinking, and whether the family regularly has dinner together (Table 18). The 57 parents of youth who drink were strikingly different from other parents. They express an awareness of their child's use of other substances (cigarettes and marijuana), a fact that is confirmed in the youth survey, despite believing that marijuana use is risky. The effects of greater parental drinking, and of having regular dinners together, can be clearly seen.

Self-reported drinking by parents was moderate, with use of alcohol occurring most frequently with meals (Table 17). A score (0 to 15) was calculated for each respondent from their answers to the five questions in Table 17. A histogram of scores in 2013 (Figure 2.2) bears an almost uncanny resemblance to the 2011 graph (Figure 2.1), indicating that

adult drinking patterns in Newtown are quite stable. Perceptions of risk are high for all substances, especially cigarettes and marijuana, and fewer parents in 2013 indicated that there was no risk to any (Table 19). Risk perceived by parents was significantly higher than by youth, for alcohol and especially for marijuana (Table 32).

Figure 2.1. 2011

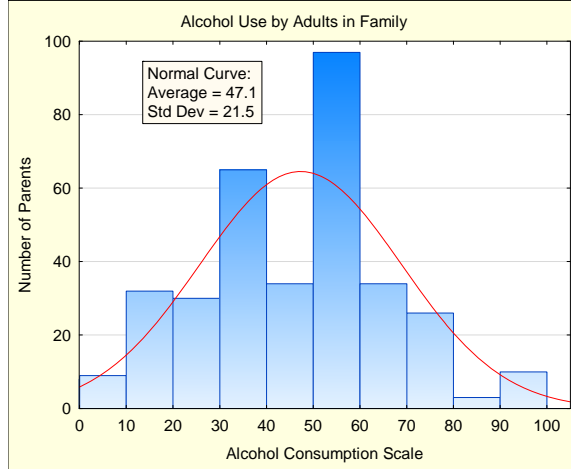
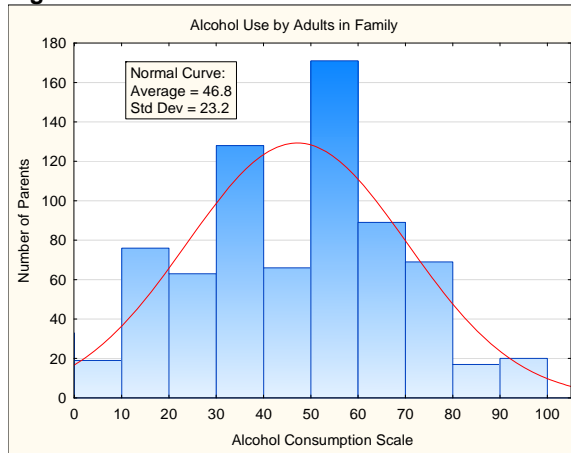


Figure 2.2. 2013



Parents not may be fully aware of the amount of drinking in which their children are engaging (Figure 1, Table 31). Prevalence estimated by parents is about one-half that reported by their children in the youth survey. This difference persists even when a correction is applied, based on time spent after school without adults present, suggesting that the difference is based on parental perceptions, not on sampling bias.

Teens do not begin drinking, according to parents, for reasons related to family, but rather to fit in with friends, and to relieve stress or boredom, and just to have fun (Table 20). Among top reasons teens choose not to drink are personal choice (implying conscious decision making), parental disapproval, and bad experiences related to alcohol (Table 21). The most effective factors in preventing underage drinking were thought to be checking ID's, threat of suspension of driving privileges, and influence of friends (Table 24). Price of beverages, advertising messages, and fear of addiction were least effective. Opinions of parents about many of the factors differed from those of youth (Table 37).

School and Community.

Comparing 2013 with 2011, parents retained the feeling that schools are safe places; these feelings actually increased slightly (Table 25). Youth in their survey also indicated that they feel safe at school. These feelings are likely to reflect increased school security after December, 2012. Most parents and youth also indicated that their communities are safe (Table 27). These feelings also changed little between 2011 and 2013. One factor did change: fewer parents reported that a lot of drugs are sold in their communities (Table 28). Fewer parents in 2013 reported that “very easy” access to all substances had decreased (Table 29).

Comparisons between the youth and parent surveys are based on “scale scores”, calculated to represent the percentage of maximum agreement with the reported measurement. For example, most parents of youth in grades 11-12 indicated that the regular use of marijuana is associated with moderate or great risk (Table 19), and a score of 90.7% of maximum risk is calculated (Table 32). When youth in grades 11-12 were asked the same question, their score was 57.2; the ratio of parent/youth is 1.58, a highly significant (***) difference. In Table 32, it can be seen that most parents underestimate the use of alcohol and marijuana, but not cigarettes.

Parents and youth generally agree on the availability of substances, even alcohol and marijuana, to which access increases with age of youth (Table 33). Youth in middle school (grades 7-8) have a somewhat more positive view of their communities than their parents – in sale and use of drugs, and in availability of constructive activities (Table 34). Parents generally report more enforcement of discipline than their children (Table 35), and more participation by parents in school activities (Table 36).

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SECTION 1. DEMOGRAPHY

Table 1. Youth referenced by parent in survey

Grade	Gender of youth			Total count	% Female
	Female count	Male count	Missing count		
5	2	1	0	3	--
6	0	3	0	3	--
7	59	61	0	120	49.2
8	43	69	0	112	38.4
9	63	63	0	126	50.0
10	61	61	0	122	50.0
11	69	68	1	138	50.4
12	75	73	0	148	50.7
Missing	0	1	3	4	--
Total	372	400	4	776	48.2

Table 2. Genders of parents and youth

Gender of Parent	Gender of reference child			Total	
	Female count	Male count	Missing count	count	%
Female	266	250	3	519	66.9
Male	64	100	0	164	21.1
Missing	42	50	1	93	12.0
Total	372	400	4	776	100.0

Table 3. Children in families of surveyed parents

Grade of Other Children	Grade of reference child			Total count
	7-8 count	9-10 count	11-12 count	
Pre-school	12	3	3	18
K - 5	103	55	27	185
6	41	35	18	94
7-8	206	65	64	335
9-10	12	222	77	311
11-12	8	12	260	280
Total	382	392	449	1223

Table 4. Families with Children in School

Number of Children in School	count
1	86
2	295
3	282
4-6	113
Total	776

Table 5. Race / ethnicity of surveyed parents

Race	count	%
White	640	82.5
Black/African American	2	0.3
Hispanic/White	18	2.3
Hispanic/Black	2	0.3
Asian or Pacific Is.	16	2.1
Native American	0	0.0
Other	2	0.3
Missing	96	12.4

Table 6. Family Structure

The adults in our household include:	count
Both biological parents	541
Two adoptive parents	15
One biological and one step parent	39
Two foster parents	1
Only one parent or guardian	31
One parent, frequent visits by other parent	54
Relatives who act as parents	1
Missing	94

Table 7. Final Weights for Data Analysis

Hours Without Adult	Grade of Index Child		
	7-8	9-10	11-12
0	0.4487	0.4072	0.3630
<1	0.8876	0.8213	0.5798
1-2	1.8422	1.5951	0.9140
2-4	1.2656	1.2064	0.9483
>4	3.9487	1.6186	2.3444

SECTION 2. FAMILY STRUCTURE & PRACTICES

Table 8. Family management

Question/Answer	Grades			All
	7-8	9-10	11-12	
	%	%	%	%
When my child is away from home, I or my spouse knows where and with whom.				
Definitely not true	1.5	0.2	0.0	0.6
Mostly not true	0.0	0.5	2.9	1.1
Mostly true	10.0	17.9	35.3	21.1
Definitely true	88.5	81.4	61.8	77.2
If my child break family rules, he/she is usually disciplined.				
Definitely not true	0.3	1.4	0.9	0.9
Mostly not true	1.3	1.3	4.4	2.3
Mostly true	32.3	35.6	33.8	33.9
Definitely true	66.0	61.7	60.8	62.9
Our family has clear rules discouraging our child from smoking.				
Definitely not true	1.5	1.0	4.6	2.4
Mostly not true	3.4	7.2	12.0	7.5
Mostly true	39.4	39.9	38.7	39.3
Definitely true	55.7	51.9	44.7	50.8
Our family has clear rules discouraging our child from drinking alcohol.				
Definitely not true	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1
Mostly not true	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.2
Mostly true	2.4	4.7	4.4	3.8
Definitely true	97.6	94.5	95.6	95.9
Our family has clear rules governing responsible use of alcohol.				
Definitely not true	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1
Mostly not true	1.1	0.0	1.0	0.7
Mostly true	13.7	14.2	15.2	14.4
Definitely true	85.2	85.6	83.8	84.9
Our child has clear rules on internet/computer use.				
Definitely not true	2.0	2.4	2.3	2.2
Mostly not true	1.6	1.3	0.0	1.0
Mostly true	8.7	9.9	4.2	7.6
Definitely true	87.8	86.4	93.5	89.2

Table 9. 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	9.7	8.2
Less than 1 hour	22.5	19.8
1 to 2 hours	34.7	36.7
Up to 4 hours	21.6	21.5
More than 4 hours	11.5	13.8

Table 10. Child without adult, comparison

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?			
<u>Unweighted</u>			
None	28.0	22.7	15.7
Less than 1 hour	32.9	29.8	20.4
1 to 2 hours	22.9	25.6	28.4
Up to 4 hours	14.0	17.1	26.8
More than 4 hours	2.2	4.9	8.6
<u>Weighted</u>			
None	9.7	8.6	6.6
Less than 1 hour	23.1	16.5	13.6
1 to 2 hours	42.7	41.8	35.0
Up to 4 hours	16.7	22.6	22.3
More than 4 hours	7.9	10.5	22.6

Table 11. Positive family involvement

Question/Answer	Grades			All
	7-8	9-10	11-12	
	%	%	%	%
Has lots of chances to do fun things with our family.				
Definitely not true	1.5	0.2	0.5	0.7
Mostly not true	1.2	4.6	7.9	4.6
Mostly true	25.7	35.3	36.9	32.6
Definitely true	71.6	59.9	54.7	62.1
Receives help and support when he/she needs it.				
Definitely not true	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1
Mostly not true	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mostly true	11.4	16.3	14.9	14.2
Definitely true	88.6	83.5	85.0	85.7
Shares thoughts and feelings with me or my spouse.				
Definitely not true	0.3	1.1	1.4	1.0
Mostly not true	11.9	12.6	11.9	12.1
Mostly true	50.7	49.5	51.5	50.6
Definitely true	37.1	36.8	35.2	36.4
We usually ask if our child's homework is done.				
Definitely not true	0.7	1.4	1.9	1.4
Mostly not true	1.4	3.5	9.2	4.7
Mostly true	10.5	29.4	27.2	22.3
Definitely true	87.4	65.7	61.7	71.6
I or my spouse participate in school activities				
Definitely not true	0.0	1.6	0.3	0.6
Mostly not true	5.9	3.4	4.7	4.7
Mostly true	33.0	33.3	41.9	36.1
Definitely true	61.1	61.7	53.1	58.6

Table 12. Family Dinner

Question/Answer	Grades			All
	7-8	9-10	11-12	
	%	%	%	%
How many times a week do you sit down to dinner with your child?				
0	1.5	0.6	0.2	0.8
1-2	8.6	7.4	14.3	10.1
3-4	30.5	30.4	34.0	31.6
5 or more	59.3	61.5	51.5	57.4

Table 13. Issues facing parents of teenagers

Question/Answer	Grades				Relative Rank*	
	7-8	9-10	11-12	All	Survey	CASA
	%	%	%	%		
<u>What do you feel are the most important problems you face as the parent of a teenager?</u>						
Safety					2	4
Of great concern	51.5	51.6	56.8	53.4		
Of some concern	43.2	42.9	36.8	40.9		
Not an issue	5.3	5.4	6.4	5.7		
Violence/Crime					9	9
Of great concern	34.2	41.0	37.4	37.5		
Of some concern	56.2	48.0	46.9	50.4		
Not an issue	9.5	11.0	15.8	12.1		
Drugs/Alcohol					1	1
Of great concern	58.9	58.3	55.3	57.5		
Of some concern	34.7	33.1	35.3	34.4		
Not an issue	6.4	8.6	9.5	8.2		
Education					13	3
Of great concern	17.0	18.2	18.0	17.7		
Of some concern	26.6	21.2	20.2	22.7		
Not an issue	56.5	60.6	61.7	59.6		
Peer Pressure					4	13
Of great concern	55.6	43.7	35.2	44.8		
Of some concern	40.0	50.2	53.4	47.9		
Not an issue	4.4	6.1	11.4	7.3		
Communication with Teen					7	2
Of great concern	46.6	36.2	36.8	39.9		
Of some concern	44.9	49.9	46.9	47.2		
Not an issue	8.5	13.9	16.3	12.9		
Pregnancy/Sexuality					10	8
Of great concern	33.7	34.6	23.9	30.7		
Of some concern	45.0	43.1	52.4	46.9		
Not an issue	21.3	22.3	23.7	22.4		
Morals/Family Values					11	6
Of great concern	25.8	30.6	32.3	29.6		
Of some concern	40.1	29.6	31.4	33.8		
Not an issue	34.0	39.7	36.3	36.6		

Table 13. Issues facing parents of teenagers, continued

Question/Answer	Grades				Relative Rank*	
	7-8	9-10	11-12	All	Survey	CASA
	%	%	%	%		
<u>What do you feel are the most important problems you face as the parent of a teenager?</u>						
Media/Cultural					6	**
Of great concern	41.8	44.5	39.3	41.8		
Of some concern	48.3	46.5	47.0	47.3		
Not an issue	9.9	9.0	13.7	10.9		
Financial Issues					5	5
Of great concern	49.0	45.0	36.3	43.4		
Of some concern	45.3	45.5	47.5	46.1		
Not an issue	5.8	9.5	16.2	10.5		
Right Choices for Future					11	11
Of great concern	22.7	21.6	30.0	24.8		
Of some concern	53.1	50.8	50.7	51.5		
Not an issue	24.2	27.6	19.3	23.6		
Driving					3	7
Of great concern	49.1	54.1	53.3	52.1		
Of some concern	42.5	36.1	36.6	38.4		
Not an issue	8.4	9.8	10.1	9.5		
Religion					8	10
Of great concern	40.8	35.1	43.2	39.8		
Of some concern	43.8	54.3	46.3	48.0		
Not an issue	15.4	10.6	10.6	12.2		
Harmful internet influence					14	12
Of great concern	9.8	11.2	14.3	11.8		
Of some concern	40.8	30.6	29.0	33.5		
Not an issue	49.3	58.2	56.7	54.7		

* Rank (1 = most concern) based on composite scores.

** Not included in CASA survey.

Table 14. Issues facing teenagers

Question/Answer	Grades				Relative Rank	
	7-8	9-10	11-12	All	Survey	CASA
	%	%	%	%		
<u>From viewpoint of teens like yours, what are most important issues they face?</u>						
Fitting in					1	3
Of great concern	63.5	53.4	50.7	55.9		
Of some concern	31.4	34.6	38.2	34.7		
Not an issue	5.1	12.0	11.1	9.4		
Peer Pressure					3	1
Of great concern	57.7	46.9	41.8	48.8		
Of some concern	37.4	43.7	46.9	42.6		
Not an issue	4.9	9.5	11.4	8.6		
Acceptance of Self					2	5
Of great concern	54.2	50.2	48.3	50.9		
Of some concern	33.5	33.9	35.1	34.2		
Not an issue	12.3	15.8	16.6	14.9		

Table 14. Issues facing teenagers, continued

Question/Answer	Grades				Relative Rank	
	7-8	9-10	11-12	All	Survey	CASA
	%	%	%	%		
<u>From viewpoint of teens like yours, what are most important issues they face?</u>						
Drugs/Alcohol					9	2
Of great concern	23.7	27.3	28.5	26.5		
Of some concern	48.2	50.4	48.1	48.9		
Not an issue	28.2	22.3	23.4	24.6		
Education					15	4
Of great concern	8.0	11.8	11.1	10.3		
Of some concern	30.1	23.0	27.9	27.0		
Not an issue	62.0	65.1	61.0	62.7		
Sexual Issues					8	**
Of great concern	24.9	30.4	23.7	26.3		
Of some concern	52.8	45.6	55.4	51.3		
Not an issue	22.2	24.0	20.9	22.3		
Gangs/Violence					16	6
Of great concern	3.6	4.9	8.0	5.5		
Of some concern	24.5	23.7	23.6	23.9		
Not an issue	71.9	71.4	68.4	70.5		
Independence					6	7
Of great concern	34.3	28.2	34.9	32.5		
Of some concern	43.8	55.2	44.1	47.6		
Not an issue	21.9	16.6	21.0	19.9		
Communication					11	10
Of great concern	19.1	18.7	18.5	18.8		
Of some concern	59.9	55.7	57.5	57.7		
Not an issue	21.0	25.7	24.0	23.5		
Coping with Stress					4	9
Of great concern	41.9	44.8	59.0	48.6		
Of some concern	50.3	46.6	35.2	44.0		
Not an issue	7.9	8.6	5.7	7.4		
Finding a Job					10	12
Of great concern	13.0	22.4	32.2	22.6		
Of some concern	41.7	44.9	44.3	43.7		
Not an issue	45.3	32.6	23.5	33.7		
Morals/Family Values					14	11
Of great concern	13.0	9.5	14.6	12.4		
Of some concern	40.6	38.6	43.6	41.0		
Not an issue	46.5	51.9	41.8	46.7		
Media Influence					12	**
Of great concern	15.0	16.9	17.3	16.4		
Of some concern	55.4	52.9	45.5	51.2		
Not an issue	29.6	30.2	37.2	32.4		
Financial Issues					13	**
Of great concern	13.2	11.4	22.8	15.8		
Of some concern	45.2	52.7	54.5	50.8		
Not an issue	41.6	35.9	22.7	33.4		

Table 14. Issues facing teenagers, continued

Question/Answer	Grades				Relative Rank	
	7-8	9-10	11-12	All	Survey	CASA
	%	%	%	%		
<u>From viewpoint of teens like yours, what are most important issues they face?</u>						
Making Good Decisions					5	**
Of great concern	29.7	37.3	44.8	37.3		
Of some concern	53.4	46.9	44.8	48.4		
Not an issue	16.9	15.8	10.4	14.4		
Driving					7	8
Of great concern	21.2	29.9	29.7	26.9		
Of some concern	47.5	48.9	47.3	47.9		
Not an issue	31.3	21.2	23.0	25.2		
Religion					17	**
Of great concern	2.8	5.2	5.9	4.7		
Of some concern	35.5	25.3	27.1	29.3		
Not an issue	61.7	69.5	67.0	66.1		

** Not included in CASA survey.

SECTION 3. SUBSTANCE USE – PARENTS

Table 15. Concerns with family youth

Question/Answer	Grade / Year					
	7-8		9-10		11-12	
	2011	2013	2011	2013	2011	2013
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<u>How concerned are you that your child might:</u>						
Try marijuana at some point						
Very concerned	9.9	15.8	17.3	24.2	27.3	26.4
Somewhat concerned	48.1	41.0	41.0	31.5	35.7	26.9
Not very concerned	29.4	29.2	24.8	26.7	29.7	27.7
Not concerned at all	12.1	12.3	15.8	16.1	7.1	18.6
No opinion	0.5	1.6	1.0	1.5	0.2	0.4
Try a drug like cocaine or amphetamine at some point						
Very concerned	15.0	25.7	15.0	18.0	23.9	23.8
Somewhat concerned	33.6	26.0	27.4	26.5	23.7	20.2
Not very concerned	31.5	27.1	25.9	27.0	34.2	25.8
Not concerned at all	19.5	19.9	31.4	26.8	18.2	29.1
No opinion	0.5	1.3	0.3	1.8	0.0	1.1

Table 16. Knowledge and opinions about alcohol

Question/Answer	Grade			
	7-8	9-10	11-12	All
	%	%	%	
It is against the law to serve alcohol to anyone under 21, except one's own child.				
True	33.8	28.9	39.9	34.2
Would you allow your child to attend a party where you knew alcohol would be available?				
No	72.3	69.7	51.8	64.6
Probably Not	21.8	23.9	33.0	26.2
Probably Yes	5.6	6.1	13.2	8.3
Yes	0.3	0.3	2.1	0.9
Do you feel it is acceptable to serve alcohol to underage youth if they turn in keys to their cars?				
Yes	3.7	1.0	2.9	2.5
Do you think teens should be allowed to drink, to learn to drink responsibly?				
Yes	9.8	6.4	11.1	9.1
How familiar are you with recent research on alcohol effects on teen physical and mental development?				
Very familiar	28.8	36.4	41.4	35.5
Somewhat	51.0	42.7	43.1	45.6
Not Very	12.8	16.9	13.0	14.2
Not Familiar	7.4	4.0	2.5	4.6

Table 17. Adult practices in the family

Question/Answer	Grade / Year					
	7-8		9-10		11-12	
	2011	2013	2011	2013	2011	2013
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Do any adults in your household smoke cigarettes?						
Yes	4.6	11.9	12.6	9.5	9.4	8.9
<u>Use of alcohol by parent(s):</u>						
With meals						
Never	8.8	10.2	8.8	11.0	7.9	10.4
Rarely	23.2	21.9	29.0	27.9	20.5	25.6
Sometimes	42.9	39.5	38.0	41.5	42.7	43.5
Frequently	25.1	28.3	24.2	19.6	28.9	20.5
Cocktails before meals						
Never	53.0	34.6	45.5	42.4	33.9	49.2
Rarely	25.3	35.4	34.0	30.3	44.0	30.9
Sometimes	17.0	23.8	17.0	22.5	16.1	16.5
Frequently	4.7	6.2	3.5	4.9	6.0	3.5
At parties outside home						
Never	11.9	4.2	10.2	7.9	4.0	12.9
Rarely	27.5	28.3	19.6	27.5	23.1	29.3
Sometimes	52.9	52.6	55.4	50.6	58.7	45.7
Frequently	7.7	14.9	14.8	14.0	14.3	12.2
Host parties with alcohol						
Never	12.7	14.0	17.6	11.8	8.7	16.6
Rarely	35.5	31.5	33.9	37.1	34.7	32.2
Sometimes	46.6	42.5	41.0	42.8	51.1	45.5
Frequently	5.2	12.0	7.5	8.3	5.5	5.6
At bars						
Never	28.4	19.3	22.0	21.3	30.7	26.7
Rarely	50.5	35.5	38.4	39.8	26.8	36.0
Sometimes	18.3	38.2	31.2	30.4	36.6	34.4
Frequently	2.7	6.9	8.4	8.5	5.9	2.9

Table 18. Influences on perceptions, activities – high school parents (grades 9-12)

Question/Response	Prevalence of Response					
	Child's 30-Day Alcohol Use		Parent Drinking vs. Mean		Family Dinners/Week	
	No	Yes	Below	Above	0-4	5+
	%	%	%	%	%	%
In the past 30 days, my child has probably used						
Cigarettes	0.7	12.9	2.8	1.5	2.9	1.6
Alcohol	--	--	9.9	15.1	15.4	9.8
Marijuana	5.5	53.9	12.4	10.2	15.7	8.0
Is it ok to serve alcohol to underage youth if they turn in keys to car?						
Yes	1.0	8.8	0.9	3.1	1.5	2.2
Would you allow your child to attend a party where you knew alcohol would be served?						
Probably Yes	7.8	39.0	9.3	12.7	15.6	7.2
How familiar with effects of alcohol on teen physical and mental development?						
Very	39.1	37.9	40.3	37.2	36.9	40.5
Somewhat	42.7	43.0	44.2	41.3	44.1	41.8
Not Very	15.3	13.5	13.7	16.4	15.0	14.9
Not Familiar	2.9	5.6	1.7	5.0	3.9	2.7
How concerned are you that your child might try marijuana at some point?						
Very	20.5	47.8	26.9	23.5	26.0	24.8
Somewhat	28.7	31.4	25.5	33.4	30.9	27.9
Not Very	31.9	7.5	25.4	29.3	25.5	28.6
Not Familiar	18.6	9.5	21.2	13.0	15.9	18.3
No Opinion	0.3	3.7	1.0	0.9	1.7	0.3
How confident are you that you would know what to do if you believed your child was using illicit drugs (including marijuana)?						
Very	31.8	31.6	35.9	30.0	26.7	38.1
Fairly	53.6	54.7	51.5	54.6	56.6	50.0
Not Very	12.7	8.4	9.9	13.7	14.5	9.5
Not At All	1.4	3.2	1.8	1.2	1.2	1.8
No Opinion	0.5	2.1	1.0	0.5	1.0	0.6
Do you think teens should be allowed to drink, so they learn to drink responsibly?						
Yes	6.4	31.2	6.1	11.9	9.1	8.5
How much do you think teens risk harming themselves (physically or otherwise) if they:						
Smoke several cigarettes a day?						
No Risk	2.9	5.7	3.5	2.9	4.5	2.2
Slight	3.5	0.0	3.1	3.1	4.1	2.3
Moderate	15.5	19.7	16.7	15.3	17.9	14.6
Great	78.1	74.6	76.8	78.7	73.6	80.9
Drink 1-2 alcoholic beverages at least once a week?						
No Risk	2.3	2.4	1.3	3.6	2.1	2.6
Slight	4.9	8.7	5.4	5.4	4.2	6.3
Moderate	26.2	40.3	25.4	30.9	32.2	24.5
Great	66.5	48.5	67.9	60.1	61.5	66.6
Use marijuana regularly?						
No Risk	2.8	1.0	1.9	3.4	2.5	2.6
Slight	2.7	10.5	2.5	5.1	6.1	1.8
Moderate	15.3	20.2	15.9	16.0	18.4	13.9
Great	79.2	68.3	79.8	75.6	73.0	81.7

Table 19. Perception of harm, comparison with other parents

Question/Answer	Grade / Year					
	7-8		9-10		11-12	
	2011	2013	2011	2013	2011	2013
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<u>How much harm do you think teens risk if they:</u>						
Smoke several cigarettes per day?						
No risk	2.0	3.7	7.0	1.6	7.5	4.8
Slight risk	2.7	3.5	3.7	2.3	10.4	3.8
Moderate risk	13.3	16.2	11.8	12.9	13.2	19.0
Great risk	82.0	76.6	77.4	83.2	68.9	72.4
Have at least 1 or 2 drinks (per week - 2011) or (per day - 2013)?						
No risk	1.8	3.9	4.6	2.1	7.9	2.5
Slight risk	4.2	4.2	5.1	6.5	8.4	4.3
Moderate risk	14.2	25.3	21.7	21.3	34.0	34.3
Great risk	79.8	66.7	68.6	70.1	49.8	58.8
Use marijuana regularly?						
No risk	3.4	3.0	3.6	1.8	4.5	3.3
Slight risk	1.2	2.0	4.4	3.7	4.4	3.7
Moderate risk	8.7	12.7	13.4	11.8	21.0	19.9
Great risk	86.7	82.3	78.5	82.8	70.1	73.1
<u>Compared to other parents I know:</u>						
My concerns about underage drinking are:						
More concerned	58.4	70.5	67.0	64.0	61.4	58.6
About the same concern	14.3	7.4	3.0	10.1	8.4	6.1
Less concerned	32.8	33.8	33.5	32.4	33.7	33.7
My monitoring of my child's drinking, I am:						
More strict	50.4	56.2	43.3	45.4	42.9	45.8
About the same	0.6	3.0	2.7	2.1	1.3	1.7
More lenient	33.0	33.5	33.3	32.5	33.7	34.0

SECTION 4. SUBSTANCE USE – YOUTH

Table 20. Reasons teens begin drinking

Question/Answer	Grade / Year					
	7-8		9-10		11-12	
	2011	2013	2011	2013	2011	2013
	%	%	%	%	%	%
What do you think are most important reasons teens begin drinking alcohol?						
Fit in with friends						
Very important	83.9	80.3	84.2	76.0	78.0	75.0
Somewhat important	15.8	17.8	14.0	22.7	21.7	24.3
Not very important	0.3	1.8	1.8	1.3	0.3	0.8
Parents drink						
Very important	20.4	14.6	28.0	24.5	15.6	21.9
Somewhat important	55.2	60.9	48.5	48.8	58.4	51.1
Not very important	24.4	24.4	23.5	26.8	26.0	27.1
Alcohol easily available						
Very important	36.8	33.7	39.3	40.4	37.7	38.5
Somewhat important	43.1	48.6	46.2	46.2	51.8	46.2
Not very important	20.1	17.7	14.5	13.4	10.4	15.3
Family tradition for special occasions						
Very important	6.9	11.9	13.0	8.9	6.9	10.5
Somewhat important	40.9	42.9	43.1	47.2	44.7	41.9
Not very important	52.2	45.2	43.9	43.9	48.4	47.6
Personal choice						
Very important	11.7	20.0	16.7	22.1	17.4	23.8
Somewhat important	58.1	56.1	62.5	59.9	63.7	57.0
Not very important	30.2	23.9	20.8	18.0	18.9	19.2
Fits chosen lifestyle						
Very important	11.8	15.2	17.2	20.1	13.1	18.9
Somewhat important	49.7	47.5	43.6	46.4	50.5	47.6
Not very important	38.5	37.3	39.2	33.5	36.5	33.5
Boredom						
Very important	38.5	30.0	50.0	40.9	47.4	41.1
Somewhat important	37.3	46.0	34.9	40.0	35.7	36.8
Not very important	24.2	24.0	15.0	19.1	16.9	22.2
Relieve stress						
Very important	25.8	23.7	40.7	40.4	39.2	36.8
Somewhat important	50.3	47.8	43.5	39.1	39.7	41.3
Not very important	23.9	28.5	15.8	20.4	21.2	21.9
Cope with personal issues						
Very important	46.3	40.9	51.2	46.0	44.4	43.9
Somewhat important	33.7	41.3	37.6	36.6	33.3	36.3
Not very important	20.0	17.8	11.1	17.4	22.3	19.8
Curiosity						
Very important	66.1	65.0	61.2	64.9	60.3	59.5
Somewhat important	33.7	29.1	34.7	33.3	35.5	38.2
Not very important	0.3	5.9	4.1	1.8	4.2	2.3

Table 20. Reasons teens begin drinking, continued

Question/Answer	Grade / Year					
	7-8		9-10		11-12	
	2011	2013	2011	2013	2011	2013
	%	%	%	%	%	%
To have fun						
Very important	54.9	51.4	49.6	51.6	61.8	54.2
Somewhat important	41.8	40.8	44.7	44.9	33.9	41.3
Not very important	3.4	7.9	5.7	3.5	4.4	4.5

Table 21. Reasons teens choose not to drink

Question/Answer	Grade / Year					
	7-8		9-10		11-12	
	2011	2013	2011	2013	2011	2013
	%	%	%	%	%	%
What are most important reasons that influence teens not to drink?						
Personal choice						
Very important	87.6	86.1	85.4	83.1	89.5	86.0
Somewhat important	12.0	12.5	13.6	16.4	10.5	13.6
Not very important	0.4	1.4	1.0	0.4	0.0	0.4
Disapproval of parents						
Very important	57.8	66.2	54.7	62.2	51.5	57.2
Somewhat important	42.0	29.7	40.1	33.3	41.0	38.3
Not very important	0.2	4.1	5.2	4.5	7.5	4.5
Disapproval of friends						
Very important	54.0	66.4	63.0	60.2	50.2	48.2
Somewhat important	38.9	28.2	33.1	36.2	39.9	40.1
Not very important	7.1	5.5	3.9	3.6	9.9	11.6
Bad experiences						
Very important	46.9	57.6	50.9	51.3	50.8	52.9
Somewhat important	45.2	36.9	43.2	41.6	40.9	38.0
Not very important	7.9	5.5	6.0	7.1	8.3	9.0
Education about alcohol						
Very important	46.2	55.9	42.0	48.6	33.8	43.2
Somewhat important	45.3	37.7	53.6	41.6	51.3	41.7
Not very important	8.5	6.5	4.4	9.8	14.9	15.1
Health reasons						
Very important	23.6	39.6	27.0	39.3	29.3	34.3
Somewhat important	41.6	39.7	49.0	34.5	43.5	40.1
Not very important	34.8	20.7	24.0	26.2	27.2	25.6
Legal reasons						
Very important	19.7	39.6	24.0	34.5	26.4	34.7
Somewhat important	48.0	38.6	51.0	44.2	46.6	39.0
Not very important	32.3	21.8	25.0	21.3	26.9	26.3
Ethical/moral reasons						
Very important	36.9	55.0	33.2	43.8	38.8	43.1
Somewhat important	45.1	36.2	55.3	46.4	42.6	40.5
Not very important	18.0	8.8	11.5	9.7	18.6	16.4

Table 21. Reasons teens choose not to drink, continued

Question/Answer	Grade / Year					
	7-8		9-10		11-12	
	2011	2013	2011	2013	2011	2013
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Does not fit chosen lifestyle						
Very important	47.3	61.2	41.2	54.4	53.3	53.1
Somewhat important	39.6	32.3	44.2	40.2	42.4	37.6
Not very important	13.1	6.5	14.5	5.3	4.3	9.3
Alcohol not available						
Very important	32.5	41.1	23.9	32.3	22.2	25.6
Somewhat important	43.8	39.1	51.7	44.6	44.1	42.4
Not very important	23.6	19.8	24.5	23.1	33.8	32.0

Table 22. Perception of practices of youth in family

Question/Answer	Grade / Year					
	7-8		9-10		11-12	
	2011	2013	2011	2013	2011	2013
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<u>In the past 30 days, how many days did your child probably:</u>						
Smoke at least one cigarette?						
None	100.0	99.1	98.7	99.6	93.8	96.2
1-2 Days	0.0	0.5	0.9	0.4	0.0	1.2
3-5 Days	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	1.5
6-10 Days	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
More than 10 days	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	2.4	1.1
Drink an alcoholic beverage (more than a sip)?						
None	100.0	99.5	97.7	95.0	68.7	82.3
1-2 Days	0.0	0.5	1.0	4.5	22.8	12.8
3-5 Days	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.5	3.0
6-10 Days	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.4
More than 10 days	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.5	0.0	1.5
<u>In the past year, how often has your child ridden as passenger with a driver who had been drinking?</u>						
Never	75.1	68.5	76.1	72.8	63.1	76.7
Rarely	23.5	24.1	19.7	24.5	30.3	20.6
Several times	1.4	6.9	3.9	2.7	5.8	2.7
Fairly often	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.8	0.0

Table 23. Peer use of substances

Question/Answer	Grade / Year					
	7-8		9-10		11-12	
	2011	2013	2011	2013	2011	2013
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<u>How many of your child's close friends do you think:</u>						
Smoke cigarettes?						
None	80.9	83.7	73.1	72.7	53.6	60.6
Some	14.7	10.2	22.5	21.8	42.6	34.8
Most	2.3	0.0	0.3	0.9	1.7	0.0
I don't know	2.1	6.2	4.1	4.6	2.2	4.7
Drink alcoholic beverages?						
None	73.5	77.2	47.1	47.6	21.9	30.3
Some	19.5	14.6	49.2	41.9	51.5	55.7
Most	0.0	0.5	1.3	2.8	22.7	8.9
I don't know	7.0	7.6	2.4	7.7	3.9	5.1
Use marijuana?						
None	83.8	83.5	63.1	56.5	30.8	38.8
Some	9.6	8.8	29.9	35.6	50.2	46.5
Most	2.3	0.5	1.3	3.2	13.1	8.5
I don't know	4.3	7.2	5.7	4.6	5.8	6.2
Use inhalants?						
None	82.0	85.1	70.4	74.6	68.3	64.3
Some	8.8	3.8	13.7	10.9	8.1	13.2
Most	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.9	2.3	0.0
I don't know	9.2	11.1	15.6	13.6	21.3	22.5
Have tried a drug like cocaine, LSD, heroin, etc.?						
None	89.0	86.5	73.9	77.1	63.4	60.1
Some	5.1	2.0	10.6	9.2	15.5	18.5
Most	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	1.1	0.4
I don't know	5.9	11.6	15.5	12.8	20.0	21.0
Have used prescription drugs without doctor's orders?						
None	72.8	79.6	63.1	60.8	47.4	51.5
Some	16.3	8.2	19.9	20.5	32.0	24.0
Most	0.0	0.0	3.8	1.4	0.3	1.1
I don't know	10.9	12.1	13.2	17.3	20.3	23.3
Play games for money (e.g., poker)?						
None	46.4	62.4	40.5	50.0	29.2	35.9
Some	38.1	18.4	34.8	24.5	40.1	32.2
Most	3.9	0.5	5.1	3.7	7.2	2.7
I don't know	11.6	18.8	19.6	21.8	23.5	29.2
Are considered bullies?						
None	61.0	65.0	65.8	76.8	76.6	70.0
Some	31.8	25.9	23.5	15.0	11.0	15.6
Most	0.3	0.5	1.0	0.4	1.7	0.8
I don't know	6.9	8.6	9.8	7.8	10.8	13.6

Table 24. Perception of strategies to prevent alcohol use

Question/Answer	Grade / Year					
	7-8		9-10		11-12	
	2011	2013	2011	2013	2011	2013
	%	%	%	%	%	%
How important do you think the following are in preventing teens from drinking alcoholic beverages?						
High price						
Very important	12.8	20.3	13.6	18.2	10.0	16.6
Somewhat important	31.0	38.7	36.8	31.8	38.5	40.1
Not important	54.1	37.7	48.5	45.9	51.0	41.0
I don't know	2.1	3.3	1.1	4.1	0.6	2.3
Checking IDs in stores, bars						
Very important	58.6	72.9	77.9	70.9	70.7	76.0
Somewhat important	33.9	21.9	18.9	24.1	19.8	17.8
Not important	7.5	3.7	3.2	4.6	8.2	5.1
I don't know	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.5	1.3	1.1
Ads showing problems						
Very important	25.5	37.2	29.7	32.8	25.3	29.9
Somewhat important	44.4	41.1	49.6	46.6	51.7	38.0
Not important	29.6	21.3	20.7	20.1	22.3	29.0
I don't know	0.6	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.8	3.2
Friends who don't drink						
Very important	90.4	91.0	86.0	83.6	88.8	82.7
Somewhat important	7.7	8.0	11.5	15.5	9.0	15.4
Not important	0.3	0.5	2.4	0.4	1.9	1.6
I don't know	1.6	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.2	0.4
Friends who disapprove drinking						
Very important	89.2	90.1	81.4	80.3	86.1	80.0
Somewhat important	7.5	9.0	14.7	18.4	11.8	16.1
Not important	1.7	0.9	2.8	0.9	1.9	3.0
I don't know	1.6	0.0	1.1	0.5	0.2	0.8
Parental strictness						
Very important	65.2	60.1	55.1	57.7	49.0	51.8
Somewhat important	32.9	31.5	39.6	35.9	45.5	39.8
Not important	1.9	7.9	5.3	5.5	4.9	7.7
I don't know	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.9	0.6	0.8
Driver's license suspension						
Very important	59.9	65.4	64.8	58.9	58.0	71.8
Somewhat important	25.1	26.1	21.8	28.8	33.0	21.2
Not important	11.2	5.7	12.2	8.7	5.9	5.1
I don't know	3.8	2.8	1.1	3.6	3.0	1.9
Fine of \$200						
Very important	31.6	47.1	38.1	42.0	43.9	49.9
Somewhat important	42.2	34.9	39.0	34.7	38.4	34.2
Not important	20.8	15.1	21.8	19.6	15.9	13.5
I don't know	5.4	2.9	1.1	3.7	1.9	2.3

Table 24. Perception of strategies to prevent alcohol use, continued

Question/Answer	Grade / Year					
	7-8		9-10		11-12	
	2011	2013	2011	2013	2011	2013
	%	%	%	%	%	%
How important do you think the following are in preventing teens from drinking alcoholic beverages?						
Alcohol education in school						
Very important	47.3	54.9	49.5	47.6	35.2	38.3
Somewhat important	44.5	39.9	41.6	40.9	55.8	42.3
Not important	8.1	3.7	8.9	9.7	8.2	17.1
I don't know	0.0	1.5	0.0	1.8	0.8	2.3
Alcohol-free activities						
Very important	59.8	55.7	61.3	58.1	57.7	50.2
Somewhat important	35.7	34.4	30.0	33.1	34.8	29.4
Not important	4.5	8.0	8.7	7.4	6.9	18.1
I don't know	0.0	1.9	0.0	1.4	0.6	2.3
Fear of addiction						
Very important	20.2	30.0	32.2	27.7	24.7	24.1
Somewhat important	40.4	40.0	31.4	38.4	35.8	30.3
Not important	36.1	23.7	36.4	30.7	37.9	41.8
I don't know	3.3	6.3	0.0	3.2	1.6	3.9
Breathalyzer tests						
Very important	26.8	38.3	42.0	35.2	34.1	38.8
Somewhat important	45.0	35.1	35.1	35.7	46.7	35.9
Not important	26.9	18.4	21.1	23.1	14.7	21.0
I don't know	1.4	8.2	1.9	5.9	4.4	4.2

SECTION 5. SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

Table 25. Perceptions about the schools

Question/Answer	Grade / Year					
	7-8		9-10		11-12	
	2011	2013	2011	2013	2011	2013
	%	%	%	%	%	%
How safe do you feel your child's school is?						
Very safe	39.7	45.4	28.5	33.9	36.5	41.7
Fairly safe	58.1	48.8	65.4	58.9	57.8	52.5
Fairly unsafe	2.3	4.0	5.1	5.2	3.0	2.9
Very unsafe	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.8	2.7	2.1
No opinion	0.0	1.8	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.7
What grades does your child mostly get?						
A's	50.9	70.3	38.3	63.5	38.1	64.1
B's	31.6	25.0	50.2	29.5	49.1	28.9
C's	15.6	4.1	10.9	6.4	10.9	6.9
D's	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.8	0.0
F's	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.6	1.1	0.0

Table 26. Perceptions about normative substance use

Question/Answer	Grade / Year					
	7-8		9-10		11-12	
	2011	2013	2011	2013	2011	2013
	%	%	%	%	%	%
How many students in your child's grade would you guess drink alcohol at least once a week?						
Fewer than 10%	47.7	57.4	12.7	12.7	2.2	3.4
10-25%	33.9	28.7	32.6	25.4	16.3	10.7
25-50%	12.9	9.8	24.3	32.0	24.4	26.6
50-75%	3.6	3.7	22.2	24.8	35.7	37.3
75-90%	1.7	0.4	8.0	4.1	19.6	18.1
More than 90%	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.9	1.9	3.8
I don't know	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
How many students in your child's grade would you guess use illicit drugs, including marijuana?						
None	1.6	6.1	0.7	0.0	0.2	0.0
Fewer than 5%	42.1	49.4	16.1	13.0	3.7	4.2
5-10%	32.4	23.6	20.8	14.9	9.6	7.3
10-20%	10.8	12.4	24.5	20.8	19.3	13.2
20-30%	5.9	3.8	12.8	23.7	27.9	22.4
30-50%	5.5	3.3	13.0	21.1	20.9	32.1
More than 50%	1.7	1.4	12.1	6.5	18.5	20.8
I don't know	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Estimate by median						
Alcohol	5.8	4.3	21.4	24.9	42.5	43.7
Drugs	3.7	2.6	11.5	15.6	21.3	26.3

Table 27. Perceptions of neighborhood environment

Question/Answer	Grade / Year					
	7-8		9-10		11-12	
	2011	2013	2011	2013	2011	2013
	%	%	%	%	%	%
There are lots of things for young people to do in our community.						
Definitely not true	14.2	7.7	27.6	16.5	30.4	20.5
Mostly not true	23.5	24.5	29.0	37.1	39.8	32.3
Mostly true	46.0	45.4	34.5	35.1	22.2	37.0
Definitely true	14.7	20.4	8.9	10.5	7.4	8.6
No opinion	1.6	2.0	0.0	0.9	0.2	1.5
Our community is a safe place.						
Definitely not true	0.0	3.9	0.0	3.2	2.3	2.7
Mostly not true	5.5	4.8	6.9	4.6	6.8	8.3
Mostly true	62.6	64.9	63.8	68.4	69.4	61.5
Definitely true	31.9	26.0	29.3	21.5	21.5	26.4
No opinion	0.0	0.5	0.0	2.3	0.0	1.1
Kids in our community are often teased so much feelings are hurt.						
Definitely not true	2.4	3.4	0.0	2.3	1.9	3.2
Mostly not true	31.6	40.4	37.1	39.9	29.7	40.9
Mostly true	20.8	23.5	27.1	20.7	31.4	21.2
Definitely true	33.8	19.7	30.1	22.9	22.5	19.9
No opinion	11.4	13.1	5.7	14.3	14.5	14.8

Table 28. Neighborhood drug involvement

Question/Answer	Grade / Year					
	7-8		9-10		11-12	
	2011	2013	2011	2013	2011	2013
	%	%	%	%	%	%
A lot of drugs are sold in our community.						
Definitely not true	1.9	2.4	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.8
Mostly not true	17.1	29.8	15.0	23.2	10.5	19.8
Mostly true	48.2	30.6	37.0	37.2	37.6	35.1
Definitely true	26.8	20.6	40.9	26.1	46.5	30.9
No opinion	6.0	16.6	6.0	12.5	4.7	13.4
A lot of kids in our community use marijuana or other drugs.						
Definitely not true	0.3	1.5	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.8
Mostly not true	20.3	26.8	11.6	23.7	11.8	23.1
Mostly true	38.3	31.8	45.2	38.8	41.2	35.3
Definitely true	33.6	24.8	36.5	26.1	43.0	31.4
No opinion	7.5	15.2	5.7	10.5	3.1	9.3
People in our community are trying to keep kids off drugs.						
Definitely not true	0.3	1.0	1.3	0.9	1.1	3.1
Mostly not true	6.8	6.7	8.3	10.6	10.3	7.4
Mostly true	36.5	43.5	46.4	47.0	50.9	50.0
Definitely true	48.3	44.0	41.8	38.2	32.7	35.2
No opinion	8.2	4.8	2.1	3.2	4.9	4.3

Table 29. Availability of alcohol, tobacco, drugs , and guns

Question/Answer	Grade / Year					
	7-8		9-10		11-12	
	2011	2013	2011	2013	2011	2013
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<u>If you child wanted to, how easy do you think it would be to get:</u>						
Alcoholic beverages?						
Very easy	28.5	22.5	44.8	37.0	50.7	49.3
Sort of easy	43.2	37.9	30.3	35.2	39.7	37.1
Sort of hard	15.3	20.6	22.3	21.0	6.4	9.7
Very hard	7.4	13.2	1.9	2.3	2.9	2.0
I don't know	5.7	5.8	0.7	4.6	0.2	2.0
Cigarettes?						
Very easy	23.3	14.9	40.4	25.6	49.1	45.7
Sort of easy	27.0	29.8	28.1	37.0	35.2	35.0
Sort of hard	25.4	24.5	23.3	23.7	7.5	10.7
Very hard	19.9	23.9	7.1	11.4	6.0	4.7
I don't know	4.4	6.9	1.1	2.3	2.2	4.0
Marijuana?						
Very easy	15.9	8.6	33.9	25.3	48.8	41.1
Sort of easy	25.6	22.1	33.2	32.5	35.1	36.6
Sort of hard	20.5	24.9	17.6	22.5	5.1	12.9
Very hard	22.2	28.6	9.6	11.9	6.7	4.7
I don't know	15.7	15.8	5.7	7.8	4.3	4.7
A drug like cocaine, LSD, amphetamine, etc.?						
Very easy	4.9	3.3	20.2	8.2	20.8	14.9
Sort of easy	24.6	11.0	26.3	22.3	26.1	28.3
Sort of hard	20.8	23.0	25.1	26.1	29.8	24.9
Very hard	36.3	40.7	18.7	25.5	9.0	17.3
I don't know	13.4	22.0	9.7	17.8	14.3	14.6
A prescription drug without his/her own prescription?						
Very easy	18.5	8.6	29.4	13.2	30.9	20.1
Sort of easy	39.0	23.2	35.4	32.5	26.4	28.9
Sort of hard	17.9	23.4	23.2	21.0	24.7	22.2
Very hard	13.6	29.9	9.2	20.0	9.3	18.3
I don't know	10.9	14.9	2.8	13.3	8.7	10.6
A gun?						
Very easy	0.5	2.8	3.7	4.1	3.8	6.3
Sort of easy	8.8	8.2	17.2	9.1	11.1	13.0
Sort of hard	26.7	15.0	28.0	22.0	23.7	24.5
Very hard	54.2	57.1	40.0	46.1	33.5	38.5
I don't know	9.9	16.8	11.1	18.7	28.0	17.7

Table 30. Prescription Med Management - 2013

Question/Answer	Grade			
	7-8	9-10	11-12	All
	%	%	%	%
In the past year, have you cleaned out your medicine cabinet and properly disposed of unused or outdated drugs?				
Yes	64.5	65.2	74.8	68.2
No	26.8	23.0	16.3	22.0
No response	8.7	11.7	8.8	9.8
Are you aware that there is a drug disposal box located in the lobby of the Newtown Police Department?				
Yes	48.5	51.6	50.7	50.3
No	42.8	36.6	40.8	40.1
No response	8.7	11.8	8.5	9.6

SECTION 6. COMPARISONS

Table 31. Comparison of youth and parents. Recent substance use.

Substance	Grades	Past 30-Day Use From Survey of:		Parent/Youth	
		Youth	Parents	Ratio	Significance
Alcoholic beverages	7-8	4.0	0.8	0.20	**
	9-10	17.0	5.6	0.33	***
	11-12	35.2	18.7	0.53	***
Cigarette smoking	7-8	1.2	2.0	1.66	n.s.
	9-10	5.0	0.4	0.07	**
	11-12	12.7	3.9	0.31	***
Marijuana use	7-8	1.1	0.8	0.76	n.s.
	9-10	6.2	3.7	0.59	n.s.
	11-12	18.9	7.6	0.40	***

Significance

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.

Table 32. Comparison of youth and parents. Perceived risk of harm.

Substance	Grade	Mean scale score		Parent/Youth	
		Youth	Parents	Ratio	Significance
Cigarette smoking	7-8	91.5	91.4	1.00	n.s.
	9-10	91.2	94.4	1.04	*
	11-12	90.9	89.7	0.99	n.s.
Regular alcohol drinking	7-8	82.6	88.7	1.07	**
	9-10	79.8	89.8	1.13	**
	11-12	78.1	87.4	1.12	**
Marijuana use	7-8	82.6	93.6	1.13	**
	9-10	72.9	93.9	1.29	***
	11-12	57.2	90.7	1.58	***

#Scale: 0 (no risk) to 100 (great risk).

Table 33. Comparison of youth and parents. Perceived availability of substances.

Substance	Grade	Mean scale score#		Parent/Youth	
		Youth	Parents	Ratio	Significance
Cigarettes	7-8	77.2	69.4	0.90	n.s.
	9-10	64.7	56.2	0.87	**
	11-12	49.1	44.6	0.91	n.s.
Alcoholic beverages	7-8	59.5	60.5	1.02	n.s.
	9-10	45.6	48.8	1.07	n.s.
	11-12	42.5	42.0	0.99	n.s.
Marijuana	7-8	83.8	80.8	0.96	n.s.
	9-10	61.6	60.9	0.99	n.s.
	11-12	46.6	47.4	1.02	n.s.
Other illicit drugs	7-8	91.8	91.3	0.99	n.s.
	9-10	82.7	81.4	0.98	n.s.
	11-12	78.6	70.7	0.90	n.s.

#Scale: 0 (hard) to 100 (easy).

Table 34. Comparison of youth and parents. Perception of the community.

Substance	Grade	Mean scale score#		Parent/Youth						
		Youth	Parents	Ratio	Significance					
Safety in school	7-8	80.3	86.1	1.07	*					
	9-10	80.9	81.4	1.01	n.s.					
	11-12	81.3	83.4	1.03	n.s.					
Drug involvement	7-8	50.1	80.3	1.60	***					
Lot of drugs sold						9-10	69.4	81.0	1.17	**
						11-12	75.7	82.8	1.09	n.s.
Lot of kids use marijuana	7-8	51.0	81.6	1.60	***					
	9-10	73.9	80.4	1.09	n.s.					
	11-12	80.7	80.3	0.99	n.s.					
People keep kids off drugs	7-8	85.6	88.2	1.03	n.s.					
	9-10	76.5	83.0	1.08	*					
	11-12	71.6	81.7	1.14	**					
Environment	7-8	65.2	57.1	0.88	***					
Lots of things to do						9-10	51.4	48.6	0.95	n.s.
						11-12	41.3	46.0	1.11	n.s.
Community a safe place	7-8	78.5	78.1	0.99	n.s.					
	9-10	78.2	79.3	1.01	n.s.					
	11-12	76.7	77.7	1.01	n.s.					

#Scale: 0 (not true) to 100 (true).

Table 35. Comparison of youth and parents. Family management.

Substance	Grade	Mean scale score		Parent/Youth	
		Youth	Parents	Ratio	Significance
Hours w/o adult	7-8	69.8	70.5	1.01	n.s.
	9-10	73.1	73.4	1.00	n.s.
	11-12	86.7	87.1	1.00	n.s.
Know where youth is	7-8	93.6	96.4	1.03	n.s.
	9-10	88.4	95.2	1.08	n.s.
	11-12	82.1	89.7	1.09	n.s.
Discipline when rules broken	7-8	79.4	91.0	1.15	**
	9-10	78.6	89.4	1.14	**
	11-12	75.8	88.7	1.17	**
Rules discouraging cigarettes	7-8	93.4	99.4	1.06	n.s.
	9-10	91.9	98.4	1.07	n.s.
	11-12	90.2	98.9	1.10	n.s.
Rules discouraging alcohol	7-8	89.3	96.0	1.08	n.s.
	9-10	84.6	96.3	1.14	**
	11-12	82.1	95.7	1.17	**

#Scale: 0 (not true) to 100 (true).

Table 36. Comparison of youth and parents. Positive family involvement.

Substance	Grade	Mean scale score#		Parent/Youth	
		Youth	Parents	Ratio	Significance
Chances to do fun things	7-8	84.6	91.8	1.09	n.s.
	9-10	80.4	88.8	1.10	n.s.
	11-12	77.5	86.4	1.12	*
Help/support when needed	7-8	90.5	97.1	1.07	n.s.
	9-10	87.1	95.8	1.10	*
	11-12	86.3	96.2	1.11	*
Shares thoughts, feelings	7-8	89.6	81.1	0.91	*
	9-10	85.3	80.5	0.94	n.s.
	11-12	80.1	80.1	1.00	n.s.
Ask if homework done	7-8	88.6	96.1	1.09	n.s.
	9-10	83.0	89.8	1.08	n.s.
	11-12	76.3	87.2	1.14	**
We participate in school activities	7-8	64.8	88.8	1.37	***
	9-10	64.2	88.8	1.38	***
	11-12	57.2	87.0	1.52	***

#Scale: 0 (not true) to 100 (true).

Table 37. Comparison of youth and parents. Strategies to prevent alcohol use.

Substance	Grade	Mean scale score#		Parent/Youth	
		Youth	Parents	Ratio	Significance
High price	7-8	53.0	57.3	1.08	n.s.
	9-10	51.6	59.0	1.14	**
	11-12	54.7	57.8	1.06	n.s.
Checking ID's	7-8	39.6	34.9	0.88	*
	9-10	41.1	34.0	0.83	**
	11-12	44.9	33.8	0.75	**
Ads showing problems	7-8	43.4	46.7	1.08	n.s.
	9-10	54.2	46.4	0.86	**
	11-12	58.8	52.5	0.89	*
Friends who don't drink	7-8	41.9	27.7	0.66	***
	9-10	41.3	29.2	0.71	***
	11-12	42.6	30.5	0.72	***
Friends who disapprove	7-8	40.2	27.7	0.69	***
	9-10	41.9	30.6	0.73	***
	11-12	44.8	31.9	0.71	***
Parental strictness	7-8	39.1	38.5	0.98	n.s.
	9-10	43.0	37.9	0.88	n.s.
	11-12	49.8	40.1	0.80	**
Driving restrictions	7-8	44.3	37.1	0.84	**
	9-10	39.5	40.1	1.02	n.s.
	11-12	40.0	34.2	0.85	**
Fine of \$200	7-8	45.4	44.0	0.97	n.s.
	9-10	45.0	47.3	1.05	n.s.
	11-12	50.1	42.6	0.85	**
Alcohol education	7-8	40.9	39.4	0.96	n.s.
	9-10	49.6	42.2	0.85	**
	11-12	57.8	46.8	0.81	**
Alcohol-free activities	7-8	43.7	40.1	0.92	n.s.
	9-10	47.6	38.7	0.81	**
	11-12	55.8	44.4	0.80	**
Fear of addiction	7-8	41.9	52.9	1.26	***
	9-10	48.3	52.8	1.09	n.s.
	11-12	56.5	56.9	1.01	n.s.
Breathalyzer tests	7-8	48.9	51.6	1.06	n.s.
	9-10	46.4	51.1	1.10	n.s.
	11-12	49.4	48.3	0.98	n.s.

#Scale: 0 (least effective) to 100 (most effective).

APPENDIX. SURVEY INSTRUMENT

The attached document is the SurveyMonkey.com parent survey instrument.