

2009 Parent Survey Report Glastonbury, Connecticut

Report Prepared by:

Archie C. Swindell, PhD, Quantitative Services

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This parent survey was sponsored by the Town of Glastonbury, in collaboration with Glastonbury Public Schools. The survey was open to parents of students in all grades, in both on-line and paper format. It was given during November, 2009, through February, 2010, and a total of 96 parents completed it. The survey is one element in the evaluation activities conducted under a Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF-SIG) awarded to the Town of Glastonbury by the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). A companion survey of the youth of Glastonbury, was conducted in November, 2009, also part of the SPF-SIG evaluation process. A full report of the youth survey results have been issued separately [1].

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]. All respondents to the survey are anonymous, and information is reported only in summary form.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Parents of Glastonbury were invited to participate in a survey about youth substance use – by their oldest school-age child and by his/her peers – and about related knowledge and perceptions. A total of 101 surveys were received, and this report tabulates results from 94. Although the number of respondents was relatively small, the sample is judged by several criteria to be reasonably representative of Glastonbury parents. Parents are aggregated for analysis into grade-groups of 1-8 and 9-12. The parent survey was given between November, 2009 and February, 2010. In November, 2009, a version of the Connecticut Governor’s Prevention Initiative for Youth (GPIY) survey on substance use was given to 951 (24%) Glastonbury youth in grades 6-12.

Parents were asked if their child had recently used cigarettes, alcohol, or marijuana. Prevalences estimated by parents are compared with prevalences reported by Glastonbury youth in their 2009 survey. In grades 6-8, prevalence of substance use was low, and was perceived so by parents. In grades 9-12, recent (past 30 days) cigarette smoking was reported by 8% of youth, and parents estimated 9%. Recent use of alcohol and marijuana were reported by 23% and 12% of youth, respectively, but parental estimates were low, 11% and 2%. Thus, on the average, Glastonbury parents underestimate drinking and marijuana use by their high school teens.

Among high school youth who have tried drinking alcohol in their lifetimes, the most common sources were reported to be from friends, at parties without adults present, and from older people who buy it for them. When parents were asked about teen sources of alcohol, these same choices were made, plus from home without parental permission. The idea that teens obtain alcohol from home without permission “often” was selected by 58% of parents, but by only 4% of lifetime drinking youth in grades 9-12.

About 85% of both parents and youth estimated that alcohol is easily available to teens. Parents indicated that cigarettes and illicit drugs like cocaine and LSD are more available than youth reported, but youth thought marijuana was more available than their parents did.

Parent responses were subdivided by key characteristics, and a battery of perceptions and practices were compared, in order to probe parental influence on youth substance use. Compared to parents of younger youth, in grades 1-8, more parents of high school youth were convinced that alcohol is easy to obtain, and that teens get alcohol from home or buy it themselves. Parents of older youth also spend less time after school with their children. There were no significant differences between parents of high school boys vs. girls, but the gender of the parent did make a difference. More mothers than fathers thought teens obtain alcohol at home without permission and at teen parties; and more fathers than mothers indicated that teen parties with alcohol had been hosted in their homes, and that some teen drinking might be acceptable.

Parents who indicated their child had been drinking in the past 30 days, compared to parents who said not, were more likely to have hosted a teen party with alcohol within the past year, and to express a belief that some teen drinking might be acceptable. High school parents whose own alcohol consumption was below the median consumption score indicated that their children earned higher grades than children of parents who drink more than the median.

METHODS

The Glastonbury parent survey was administered in November, 2009, through February, 2010. Extensive efforts were made to encourage parents to participate, and a total of 101 responded, and 94 were included in analysis. The survey was given in paper format (86 surveys) and on-line using SurveyMonkey.com® (15 surveys). The paper survey was designed for parents. Of the 94 analyzable surveys, 91 were from parents of public school students, 3 from private school parents, and none from home-school parents. The on-line survey was open to any adult, including non-parents, but only parents responded. Data from paper survey forms were entered by Glastonbury personnel into a computerized template set up in SurveyMonkey.com. The survey asked about the oldest school-age child in the family. A youth survey of Glastonbury middle school and high school students (grades 6-12) was completed in November, 2009. Complete results of the youth survey are presented elsewhere, but comparisons between adult perceptions and youth reports are included here.

Because of the non-random nature of the sampling of the adults (in contrast to youth survey samples), efforts were made to identify and exclude specious entries. An “extreme response” metric was used, as a measure for questionable entries. Each of 17 individual survey items contributed a value of 1 if the answer was “extreme”, and 0 otherwise. Examples of extreme Q/A are: (1) Q=My family has clear rules for my child discouraging smoking cigarettes, A=Definitely Not True; (2) Q=Teenagers risk harming themselves if they drink alcohol once a week or more, A=Definitely Not True; (3) Q=I think teenagers should be allowed to drink, to teach responsible drinking, A=Definitely True. Extreme value scores were sums for each respondent.

Consideration was given to weighting responses, if necessary to achieve a closer match of the survey sample to the U.S. Census population of Glastonbury, and/or to the student population. However, matches were close enough that no weighting was necessary.

A scale for adult alcohol consumption was calculated by adding up the Likert scores for the five alcohol-related questions in Table 15 for each respondent, and rescaled to 0-100 range (i.e., percent of maximum consumption) for reporting and further analysis. The median score of alcohol consumption was determined, and parents were categorized as being below or above the median.

In Tables 21-26, comparisons are drawn between pairs of groups – for example, parents who think their child has been drinking recently vs. those who do not. Statistical comparisons are carried out by one-way analysis of variance, using Likert scores of the two groups as the dependent variables, and null values for “I don’t know”. Only parents of high school students are included in these analyses, to avoid having parents of younger children bias the analysis. Because of the large number of statistical tests being conducted, there is danger of falsely high significances (Type 1 error). Therefore, focus should be primarily on results with a very high probability of being genuine and not due to chance alone, i.e., $p < 0.01$. The scores reported in these tables are Likert scores which were rescaled to express increasing intensity (scale reversal was necessary with some variables), percent of maximum possible score, as calculated by the formula:

$$Y = 100 \times \left(\frac{(X_{Likert} - X_{min})}{(X_{max} - X_{min})} \right) \quad \text{or} \quad Y = 100 \times \left(1 - \frac{(X_{Likert} - X_{min})}{(X_{max} - X_{min})} \right)$$

where Y = rescaled score value (0-100),

X_{Likert} = average score in original scale,
 X_{min} and X_{max} = lower and upper bound of Likert scale.

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® 8.0. All software is licensed to Quantitative Services.

RESULTS

Survey Process.

The reliability of conclusions from any survey depend on the sampling process, and on the credibility of the responses. Statistical sampling variance is the variability due to selecting a small random sample from a larger population, and is calculated by a standard formula. The sample of 94 analyzable surveys (Table 1) yields a sampling variance of about ± 6 percentage points. For example, a prevalence of 10% is actually between 4% and 16%, with 95% confidence.

Credibility of responses depends on at least two factors – the candor of answers, and how well the sample represents the population of interest. To encourage truthfulness, all responders were assured that their answers were strictly anonymous and confidential. Because there is always the possibility of prankish entries in an open survey like this one, “extreme response” scores were calculated for all 101 surveys, as described in Methods. Two surveys exceeded the 99th confidence percentile and were excluded, and two randomly chosen surveys with zero scores were also excluded, in a statistical process known as Winsorizing, to eliminate outliers without biasing results.

To estimate how well the sample represented the population, ethnic identities of the respondents were compared to subjects in the youth survey. The parent sample included somewhat more minorities than the youth survey or the town population, but not enough to compromise results (Table 3) [4,5]. No weights were applied to correct for imbalances in either racial/ethnic mixture or numbers per grade (Table 1). The parent survey was open from November 10, 2009 to February 9, 2010. Of the 94 analyzable surveys, 44 (47%) were collected in the final week.

Demographics

Most responders were parents of middle school or high school youth, but at least one parent from each grade responded (Table 1). Three children were private school students, 85 were in public schools, and 6 were not specified (Table 4). To have sufficient numbers for valid statistics, data were tabulated in two or three grade groups. For most data, groups were grades 1-8 and 9-12. For comparisons with youth survey results, groups were grades 6-8 and 9-12. Boys and girls were approximately equally represented (Table 2). Female respondents outnumbered males by 3.4-to-1 (68 to 20), about the same ratio as in state and national surveys. Six respondents did not indicate their own gender. Ages of respondents were mostly (94%) in the range 30-59 (Table 5).

School and Family.

Grades earned by subject children were high, with 85% earning A's or B's, similar to grades reported in the youth survey (Table 6). Time was spent without an adult present was greater among older youth (Table 7). Times reported by high school parents were generally similar to those reported by the youth themselves. Since time without adults was correlated in the youth survey with higher prevalence of drinking, the sample of responders to the parent survey was not likely to be biased toward higher or lower substance use by their child.

All parents said they have rules governing the responsible use of alcohol. However, more than half reported that their families do not have clear rules discouraging smoking cigarettes or drinking (Table 8). This result is quite different from the youth survey, in which about 90% of high school students agreed that "my family has clear rules discouraging drinking alcohol." It is not clear if the parent survey question was understood by all respondents.

All but one or two parents expressed belief that smoking cigarettes, drinking at least once a week, or using marijuana regularly is definitely harmful (Table 9). Almost all parents said they know a lot about effects of alcohol on teen physical and mental development – a subject which has been receiving close attention recently in national media. The idea that allowing teens to drink would teach responsible drinking was rejected by about 84% of parents, with more credence among parents of older youth.

Substance Use.

Parents were asked about alcohol consumption by their child (Table 10) and their child's classmates (Table 12). Parents were also asked about their own alcohol consumption (Table 15), and a consumption score was determined for each respondent (see Methods). The median alcohol consumption score was 50% of maximum possible score. High school parents who drank less (alcohol scores below the median) estimated that fewer of their children used cigarettes, alcohol or marijuana, compared to parents with scores above the median (Table 11).

Among high school parents, the most common estimates of prevalence of drinking by their child's classmates were between 10% and 50%, with a median estimate of 17.5% (Table 12). Predictably, all substances were thought to be more available by parents of older youth (Table 13). When asked where teens obtain alcoholic beverages, the most common responses were at a teen party, from teenage friends, and from home without permission (Table 14). Parents of younger children thought fewer teens get alcohol at home with parental permission.

Over 8% of high school parents reported that alcohol had been consumed during the past year in their home by their child's teenage friends. About 70% of all parents professed not to be aware of the Connecticut statute forbidding the serving of alcohol to anybody under 21 except their own child (Table 16).

Comparisons: Youth Survey vs. Parent Survey.

Comparisons of responses of Glastonbury youth and parents can be considered valid, for several reasons. Timing of the two surveys overlapped, with the youth survey conducted in November, 2009, at the beginning of the parent survey. The wording of key questions was essentially identical on the two surveys. Although the parent survey sample was not random, as the youth survey was, all indications are that the responding parents were reasonably representative of all Glastonbury parents, with respect to both demography and student characteristics. One issue is the relatively small number of parent responders, and the correspondingly wide confidence bounds – 35 parents of youth in grades 6-8 and 47 parents for grades 9-12.

High school parents underestimated the recent use (past 30 days) of alcohol and marijuana by their own children, compared to use reported by youth, but parents accurately estimated cigarette smoking by their children (Table 18). For alcohol, 11% of high school parents said their child had been drinking in the past 30 days, compared to 23% of youth who said they had. For marijuana, 2% of parents said their child had used recently, compared to 12% of youth who reported recent use. Both parents and youth were also asked to estimate how many of the child's classmates drink alcohol regularly (Table 19). Drinking by classmates estimated by youth (34%) was twice the parents' estimate (17%). Comparing the two sets of data, high school parents indicated that drinking by their child's classmates (17%) was much more prevalent than for their own child (11%). Prevalence of drinking by middle school youth was very low, as were parent estimates.

Alcoholic beverages were thought to be easy to obtain by about 85% of high school youth, and by the same percentage of their parents. Marijuana was thought to be easy to obtain by youth (64%), more than by their parents (50%). More parents believed that both cigarettes and drugs like cocaine or LSD were easy to obtain than youth did (Table 20).

Comparisons: Parent Sub-Groups.

Analyzing responses of parents according to their demographics and practices can help to further understand parental influence on use of substances by youth. Except for Table 21, comparisons are focused on parents of high school students, because the youth survey indicated that this is the age when most drinking begins. One-way analysis of variance was used to compute p-values to determine which effects were significantly different between the two groups in the tables. A p-value of 0.05 or less ($p < 0.05$) is generally considered "significant", although $p < 0.01$ is a more certain guide. The scores reported are percents of maximum possible Likert score (see Methods).

Table 21 compares parents of students in grades 1-8 with parents of high school students, grades 9-12. Compared to parents of younger students, more high school parents think teens get alcohol from home with permission, or buy it in stores. Not surprisingly, high school parents reported that their child spends more time after school without an adult, and that alcohol is easier to obtain. Estimates of classmates' drinking are much higher among high school parents.

The same set of perceptions and practices as in Table 21 are repeated, comparing parent demographics or perceptions. When older parents (age at or above the median age of 46) are compared to younger parents, the only difference is higher grades reported by older parents (Table 22). There were no significant differences related to the gender of the youth

(Table 23), but some measures differed according to gender of the parent. More mothers than fathers thought teens obtain alcohol from home without permission, at teen parties, and from an older person who buys it. More fathers indicated they had hosted teen parties with alcohol, and indicated that some teen drinking may be acceptable (Table 24).

Parents were asked whether they thought their child had been drinking within the past 30 days. Parents who said YES were more likely than the parents who said NO, to have hosted a teen party with alcohol (40% vs. 5%), expressed a belief that some teen drinking is acceptable (40% vs. 11%), and had higher alcohol consumption scores themselves (Table 25). Comparing high school parents above and below the median alcohol consumption score indicated that children of parents who drink less earn higher grades (Table 26).

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SECTION I. DEMOGRAPHY

Table 1. Survey respondents by grade of oldest child*

Grade of child	Grade Group 1	Grade Group 2	Number
			count
K,PK	--	--	0
1	1-8	1-5	2
2	1-8	1-5	4
3	1-8	1-5	1
4	1-8	1-5	1
5	1-8	1-5	4
6	1-8	6-8	11
7	1-8	6-8	10
8	1-8	6-8	14
9	9-12	9-12	8
10	9-12	9-12	9
11	9-12	9-12	16
12	9-12	9-12	14
Missing	--	--	0
Total			94

* Survey questions were stated to relate to respondent's one oldest child enrolled in grade 12 below in 2009-10.

Table 2. Oldest child: Gender

Gender	Grade Group		
	1-8	9-12	All Grades
	count	count	count
Female	22	27	49
Male	24	20	44
Missing	1	0	1
Total	47	47	94

Table 3. Oldest child: Race

Race	Grade Group			
	1-8	9-12	All Grades	
	count	count	count	%
White/Caucasian	33	40	73	77.7
Black/African American	5	1	6	6.4
Asian	3	1	4	4.3
Hispanic	6	3	9	9.6
Native American	0	1	1	1.1
Missing	0	1	1	1.1

Table 4. Oldest child: Type of school

Type of School	Grade Group		
	1-8	9-12	All Grades
	count	count	count
Public	46	39	85
Private	1	2	3

Table 5. Adult demography

Measurement	Gender		
	Female	Male	Missing
	count	count	count
Grade Group			
1-8	37	9	1
9-12	31	11	5
Age of Adult			
Less than 20	1	0	0
20-29	3	0	0
30-39	8	2	1
40-49	37	12	0
50-59	17	3	2
60 or older	1	1	0
Missing	1	2	3

SECTION 2. SCHOOL AND FAMILY

Table 6. Oldest child: Grades earned

Usual Grades	Grade Group	
	1-8	9-12
	%	%
A's	27.3	43.5
B's	59.1	41.3
C's	11.4	13.0
D's	2.3	2.2
F's	0.0	0.0
Missing	0.0	0.0

Table 7. Oldest child: Time spent without adults

On a regular weekday, how many hours does your child spend without an adult present?

Hours	Grade Group		
	Parent Survey		Youth Survey
	1-8	9-12	9-12
	%	%	
None	39.1	6.4	12.3
Less than 1 hour	21.7	31.9	18.9
1 to 2 hours	23.9	29.8	36.6
Up to 4 hours	4.3	17.0	22.6
More than 4 hours	10.9	14.9	9.7

Table 8. Family structure

Responses	Grade Group	
	1-8	9-12
	%	%
Our family has clear rules for our child:		
Discouraging smoking cigarettes		
Definitely not true	35.6	31.1
Mostly not true	26.7	37.8
Mostly true	33.3	31.1
Definitely true	4.4	0.0
I don't know	0.0	0.0
Discouraging drinking alcohol		
Definitely not true	43.5	45.7
Mostly not true	39.1	37.0
Mostly true	15.2	15.2
Definitely true	2.2	2.2
I don't know	0.0	0.0
Governing responsible use of alcohol		
Definitely not true	0.0	0.0
Mostly not true	0.0	0.0
Mostly true	2.1	4.3
Definitely true	97.9	95.7
I don't know	0.0	0.0

Table 9. Family beliefs about substances

Responses	Grade Group		Adult Age (years)	
	1-8	9-12	<46	46+
	%	%	%	%
Teens risk harming themselves if they:				
Smoke cigarettes every day.				
Definitely not true	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mostly not true	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mostly true	8.5	2.1	0.0	3.0
Definitely true	91.5	97.9	100.0	97.0
I don't know	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Drink alcohol at least once a week.				
Definitely not true	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mostly not true	0.0	2.1	0.0	3.0
Mostly true	8.5	8.5	10.0	6.1
Definitely true	91.5	89.4	90.0	90.9
I don't know	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Use marijuana regularly.				
Definitely not true	2.2	2.1	0.0	3.0
Mostly not true	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mostly true	6.5	2.1	0.0	3.0
Definitely true	91.3	95.7	100.0	93.9
I don't know	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
I know a lot about effects of alcohol on teen physical & mental development.				
Definitely not true	0.0	2.2	0.0	3.1
Mostly not true	8.7	2.2	0.0	3.1
Mostly true	26.1	28.9	33.3	31.3
Definitely true	58.7	66.7	66.7	62.5
I don't know	6.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Teens should be allowed to drink, to teach responsible drinking.				
Definitely not true	80.4	70.2	60.0	69.7
Mostly not true	4.3	12.8	10.0	15.2
Mostly true	2.2	10.6	10.0	12.1
Definitely true	4.3	2.1	0.0	3.0
I don't know	8.7	4.3	20.0	0.0

SECTION 3. SUBSTANCE USE

Table 10. Estimated Recent Substance Use

Estimated usage	Grade Group	
	1-8	9-12
	%	%
In the past 30 days, I think my child probably:		
Smoked at least 1 cigarette	2.1	8.9
Drank an alcoholic beverage	2.1	10.9
Used marijuana	0.0	2.2

**Table 11. Estimated Recent Substance Use
High School Parents**

Estimated usage	Adult Alcohol Consumption Score vs. Median of 50%	
	Below	At or Above
	%	%
In the past 30 days, I think my child probably:		
Smoked at least 1 cigarette	5.6	11.1
Drank an alcoholic beverage	0.0	17.9
Used marijuana	0.0	3.6

Table 12. Estimated Normative Alcohol Use

About how many students in your child's grade do you think drink alcoholic beverages at least once a week?

Estimated usage	Grade Group	
	1-8	9-12
	%	%
10% or fewer	81.4	13.0
10% to 25%	16.3	37.0
25% to 50%	2.3	28.3
50% to 75%	0.0	19.6
75% to 90%	0.0	2.2
More than 90%	0.0	0.0
Median estimate	<5%	17.5%

Table 13. Availability of Substances

Estimated availability	Grade Group	
	1-8	9-12
	%	%
If my child wanted to, it would be easy for him/her to get:		
Cigarettes		
Definitely not true	48.9	8.5
Mostly not true	12.8	2.1
Mostly true	23.4	46.8
Definitely true	4.3	38.3
I don't know	10.6	4.3
Alcoholic beverages		
Definitely not true	40.4	2.1
Mostly not true	17.0	10.6
Mostly true	31.9	42.6
Definitely true	2.1	42.6
I don't know	8.5	2.1
Marijuana		
Definitely not true	51.1	8.5
Mostly not true	17.0	6.4
Mostly true	19.1	40.4
Definitely true	0.0	40.4
I don't know	12.8	4.3
Drugs like cocaine or LSD		
Definitely not true	58.7	13.0
Mostly not true	8.7	13.0
Mostly true	10.9	45.7
Definitely true	0.0	19.6
I don't know	21.7	8.7

Table 14. Source of Alcohol for Teens

Estimated source	Grade Group	
	1-8	9-12
	%	%
Where do you think teenagers who drink get their alcohol beverages from?		
Home, with parental permission		
Never	52.4	20.0
Sometimes	47.6	71.1
Often	0.0	8.9
Home, without parent permission		
Never	6.7	4.4
Sometimes	51.1	37.8
Often	42.2	57.8
Teenage friends		
Never	2.2	4.4
Sometimes	55.6	40.0
Often	42.2	55.6
At a teen party		
Never	2.3	4.4
Sometimes	43.2	28.9
Often	54.5	66.7
Older people who buy it for them		
Never	27.3	9.3
Sometimes	45.5	60.5
Often	27.3	30.2
From a store (teen buys it)		
Never	44.2	24.4
Sometimes	53.5	64.4
Often	2.3	11.1

Table 15. Adult Alcohol Consumption

Question/Response	Grade Group	
	1-8	9-12
	%	%
Recently, I or my spouse drink alcohol		
With meals		
Never	23.4	8.5
Rarely	31.9	48.9
Sometimes	42.6	38.3
Often	2.1	4.3
Cocktails before meals		
Never	60.0	52.2
Rarely	35.6	30.4
Sometimes	4.4	15.2
Often	0.0	2.2
At parties outside home		
Never	15.6	10.6
Rarely	31.1	53.2
Sometimes	44.4	29.8
Often	8.9	6.4
Host parties with alcohol		
Never	35.6	31.1
Rarely	26.7	37.8
Sometimes	33.3	31.1
Often	4.4	0.0
At bars or clubs		
Never	43.5	45.6
Rarely	39.1	37.0
Sometimes	15.2	15.2
Often	2.2	2.2

Table 16. Family practices

Question / Response	Grade Group	
	1-8	9-12
	%	%
In the past year, alcohol was consumed at our home by our child's teenage friends.		
Yes	0.0	8.5
No	97.9	91.5
I don't know	2.1	0.0
I know it is against the law to serve alcohol to anybody under age 21, except our child.		
Yes	23.4	31.9
No	74.5	68.1
I don't know	2.1	0.0
In the past year, I purchased alcohol for somebody under 21.		
Yes	4.5	0.0
No	93.2	100.0
I don't know	2.3	0.0

**SECTION 4. 2009 COMPARISONS
YOUTH SURVEY VS. PARENT SURVEY**

Table 17. Hours after school without adult

Hours	Grade Level / Survey			
	6-8		9-12	
	Youth	Parents	Youth	Parents
	%	%	%	%
None	21.3	29.4	12.3	6.4
Less than 1 hour	33.2	23.5	19.0	31.9
1-2 hours	32.8	32.3	36.9	29.8
Up to 4 hours	9.1	5.9	22.3	17.0
More than 4 hours	3.6	8.8	9.5	14.9

Table 18. Recent (30 day) substance use by index youth

Substance	Grade Level / Survey			
	6-8		9-12	
	Youth	Parents	Youth	Parents
	%	%	%	%
Alcohol	1.9	2.9	22.6	10.9
Cigarettes	0.5	2.9	7.8	8.9
Marijuana	0.5	0.0	12.0	2.2

Table 19. Median estimated substance use by classmates

Substance	Grade Level / Survey			
	6-8		9-12	
	Youth	Parents	Youth	Parents
	%	%	%	%
Alcohol	3.4	<5.0	33.6	17.5
Cigarettes	1.7	n/a*	13.0	n/a
Marijuana	1.5	n/a	19.4	n/a

* n/a = data not available, question not included in parent survey.

Table 20. Availability of Substances

Hours	Grade Level / Survey			
	6-8		9-12	
	Youth	Parents	Youth	Parents
	%	%	%	%
If you / your child wanted to, how easy would it be to get:				
Cigarettes				
Very easy	15.3	5.7	39.5	38.3
Sort of easy	11.5	25.7	28.9	46.8
Sort of hard	19.7	8.6	19.8	2.1
Very hard	53.5	51.4	11.8	8.5
I don't know	--	8.6	--	4.3
Alcoholic beverages				
Very easy	27.7	0.0	52.9	42.6
Sort of easy	24.8	40.0	32.4	42.6
Sort of hard	23.8	17.1	10.9	10.6
Very hard	23.8	37.1	3.7	2.1
I don't know	--	5.7	--	2.1
Marijuana				
Very easy	5.8	0.0	40.3	20.2
Sort of easy	6.8	20.0	23.4	29.8
Sort of hard	11.5	17.1	17.2	11.7
Very hard	76.0	51.4	19.1	29.8
I don't know	--	11.4	--	8.5
Drugs like cocaine or LSD				
Very easy	3.0	0.0	9.3	19.6
Sort of easy	3.4	11.8	16.5	45.6
Sort of hard	11.2	5.9	29.4	13.0
Very hard	82.3	64.7	44.8	13.0
I don't know	--	17.6	--	8.7

**SECTION 5. COMPARISONS:
PARENT SUB-GROUPS**

(All scores are percent of maximum response, of increasing intensity or likelihood.)

Table 21. Grade Level of Oldest Child

Index Q: Is your oldest child a high school student?			
Question/Response	Response to Index Q		P-Value YES vs. NO
	NO	YES	
	score	score	
Where do you think teens obtain alcohol?			
Home w/ permission	23.8	44.4	<0.001
Home w/o permission	67.8	76.7	n/s
From teen friends	70.0	75.6	n/s
At a teen party	76.1	81.1	n/s
Older person buys it	50.0	60.5	n/s
A store (teen buys)	29.1	43.3	<0.05
Family situation			
Hours after school w/o adult	31.5	50.5	<0.01
Grades	77.8	81.5	n/s
Hosted teen alcohol party	0.0	8.5	<0.05
Alcohol easy to get	31.8	76.1	<0.0001
Adult practices, perceptions			
How many classmates drink	4.2	32.2	<0.0001
Adult alcohol consumption	50.5	50.7	n/s
Know teen development	84.5	86.7	n/s
Some teen drinking OK	7.9	14.1	n/s

Table 22. Age of Adult Respondent - High School Parents

Age of respondent compared to sample median age			
Question/Response	Adult Age vs. MEDIAN		P-Value YNG vs. OLD
	YOUNGER	OLDER	
	score	score	
Where do you think teens obtain alcohol?			
Home w/ permission	35.0	46.8	n/s
Home w/o permission	85.0	74.2	n/s
From teen friends	80.0	75.8	n/s
At a teen party	90.0	79.0	n/s
Older person buys it	65.0	58.6	n/s
A store (teen buys)	35.0	46.8	n/s
Family situation			
Hours after school w/o adult	52.5	48.5	n/s
Grades	70.0	86.7	<0.01
Hosted teen alcohol party	20.0	6.1	n/s
Alcohol easy to get	63.3	78.1	n/s
Adult practices, perceptions			
How many classmates drink	38.0	31.3	n/s
Adult alcohol consumption	53.0	48.4	n/s
Know teen development	88.9	84.4	n/s
Some teen drinking OK	12.5	16.2	n/s

Table 23. Gender of Index Child - High School Parents

Index Q: What is the gender of your oldest school-age child?			
Question/Response	Gender of child		P-Value F vs. M
	FEMALE	MALE	
	score	score	
Where do you think teens obtain alcohol?			
Home w/ permission	44.0	45.0	n/s
Home w/o permission	80.8	71.1	n/s
From teen friends	78.8	71.1	n/s
At a teen party	80.0	82.5	n/s
Older person buys it	64.6	55.3	n/s
A store (teen buys)	46.2	39.5	n/s
Family situation			
Hours after school w/o adult	46.3	56.3	n/s
Grades	83.3	78.9	n/s
Hosted teen alcohol party	7.4	10.0	n/s
Alcohol easy to get	76.9	75.0	n/s
Adult practices, perceptions			
How many classmates drink	31.9	32.6	n/s
Adult alcohol consumption	51.5	49.6	n/s
Know teen development	86.4	87.0	n/s
Some teen drinking OK	13.3	15.0	n/s

Table 24. Gender of Adult Respondent - High School Parents

Index Q: What is your gender?			
Question/Response	Gender of adult		P-Value F vs. M
	FEMALE	MALE	
	score	score	
Where do you think teens obtain alcohol?			
Home w/ permission	46.7	35.0	n/s
Home w/o permission	84.5	59.1	<0.05
From teen friends	81.0	68.2	n/s
At a teen party	88.3	65.0	<0.05
Older person buys it	69.0	44.4	<0.05
A store (teen buys)	46.6	36.4	n/s
Family situation			
Hours after school w/o adult	54.0	36.4	n/s
Grades	81.7	86.4	n/s
Hosted teen alcohol party	3.2	27.3	<0.05
Alcohol easy to get	76.7	75.8	n/s
Adult practices, perceptions			
How many classmates drink	34.7	29.1	n/s
Adult alcohol consumption	50.8	48.4	n/s
Know teen development	87.4	81.8	n/s
Some teen drinking OK	6.9	33.3	<0.01

Table 25. Teen Alcohol Consumption - High School Parents

Index Q: Did your child probably drink in the past 30 days?			
Question/Response	Response to Index Q		P-Value Y vs. N
	YES	NO	
	score	score	
Where do you think teens obtain alcohol?			
Home w/ permission	25.0	46.3	n/s
Home w/o permission	62.5	77.5	n/s
From teen friends	87.5	73.8	n/s
At a teen party	87.5	80.0	n/s
Older person buys it	50.0	60.5	n/s
A store (teen buys)	50.0	41.0	n/s
Family situation			
Hours after school w/o adult	50.0	50.6	n/s
Grades	80.0	81.9	n/s
Hosted teen alcohol party	40.0	4.9	<0.01
Alcohol easy to get	73.3	77.5	n/s
Adult practices, perceptions			
How many classmates drink	48.0	30.5	n/s
Adult alcohol consumption	62.5	49.1	<0.05
Know teen development	100.0	85.8	n/s
Some teen drinking OK	40.0	11.1	<0.05

Table 26. Parental Alcohol Consumption - High School Parents

Drinking by respondent compared to sample median drinking score			
Question/Response	Drinking Score vs. MEDIAN		P-Value L vs. M
	LESS	MORE	
	score	score	
Where do you think teens obtain alcohol?			
Home w/ permission	44.1	44.6	n/s
Home w/o permission	75.0	77.8	n/s
From teen friends	72.2	77.8	n/s
At a teen party	79.4	82.1	n/s
Older person buys it	64.7	57.7	n/s
A store (teen buys)	47.2	40.7	n/s
Family situation			
Hours after school w/o adult	48.6	51.7	n/s
Grades	89.7	76.7	<0.05
Hosted teen alcohol party	5.6	10.3	n/s
Alcohol easy to get	78.4	74.7	n/s
Adult practices, perceptions			
How many classmates drink	28.9	34.3	n/s
Adult alcohol consumption	36.0	59.8	<0.0001
Know teen development	80.4	90.5	n/s
Some teen drinking OK	9.3	17.3	n/s

APPENDIX

2009 Parent Survey, Glastonbury, Connecticut

The attached survey instrument is the internet form used to collect responses on SurveyMonkey.com®. The same form was also used to enter data manually from surveys in paper format.

Introduction

Glastonbury Youth & Family Services wants to understand the role adults play in the use of alcohol and other substances among adolescents, and adult perceptions of underage drinking.

To do this, we are asking parents and other adults in the community to anonymously complete the following survey. This survey does NOT ask for information which could identify you.

We thank you for your participation.

1. Do you have any school-age children who reside in Glastonbury (public or private school, home-schooled, or discontinued schooling)?

Yes

No

This survey asks about "Your/My Child".

Please answer with respect to your one oldest child who is enrolled in Grade 12 or below in 2009-10.

2. What is Your Child's age?

Years:

3. What is Your Child's gender?

Female

Male

4. What Grade is Your Child in?

Grade:

5. Is Your Child:

Enrolled in public school?

Enrolled in private school?

Home-schooled?

Other (please specify)

6. How do you describe Your Child's race?

White/Caucasian

Black/African American

Asian, Indian, or Pacific Islander

Hispanic/Latino

Native American

Other, including multiracial (please specify)

7. What kinds of grades does Your Child usually get?

A's

C's

F's

B's

D's

8. What is YOUR age?

Years:

9. What is YOUR gender?

Female

Male

10. About how many students in Your Child's grade do you think drink alcoholic beverages at least once a week?

10% or Fewer

25% to 50%

75% to 90%

10% to 25%

50% to 75%

More than 90%

11. Where do you think teenagers who drink get their alcoholic beverages from?

	Never	Sometimes	Often
Home, with parental permission	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Home, without parental permission	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
From teenage friends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At a teen party	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
From older people who buy it for them	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
From a store (teen buys it)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. On a regular weekday, how many hours does Your Child spend without an adult present?

- None
- Less Than 1 Hour
- 1 to 2 Hours
- 2 to 4 Hours
- More Than 4 Hours

13. Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE?

	TRUE	FALSE	DON'T KNOW
In the <u>past year</u> , alcohol was consumed at our home by My Child's teenage friends.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is against the law to serve alcohol to anybody under age 21, except my own child.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In the past year, I purchased alcohol for somebody under 21.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

14. In the past 30 days, I think My Child probably:

	TRUE	FALSE	DON'T KNOW
Smoked at least one cigarette.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drank an alcoholic beverage (more than just a sip).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Used marijuana.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15. In the recent past, how would you characterize the use of alcohol by you or your spouse/partner?

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often
With meals, at home or in restaurants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cocktails before meals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drinks at parties outside your home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Host parties with alcohol at your home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drinks at bars or clubs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

In the following questions, please rate how TRUE you think each statement is.

16. My family has clear rules for My Child:

	Definitely NOT TRUE	Mostly NOT TRUE	Mostly TRUE	Definitely TRUE	I Don't Know
Discouraging smoking cigarettes.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Discouraging drinking alcohol.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Governing responsible use of alcohol.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn

17. Teenagers risk harming themselves if they:

	Definitely NOT TRUE	Mostly NOT TRUE	Mostly TRUE	Definitely TRUE	I Don't Know
Smoke cigarettes every day.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Drink alcohol at least once a week.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Use marijuana regularly.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn

18. If My Child wanted to, it would be EASY for him/her to get:

	Definitely NOT TRUE	Mostly NOT TRUE	Mostly TRUE	Definitely TRUE	I Don't Know
Cigarettes.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Alcoholic beverages.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Marijuana.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
A drug like cocaine, heroin or LSD.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn

19. I know A LOT about effects of alcohol on a teenager's physical and mental development.

Definitely NOT TRUE
 Mostly NOT TRUE
 Mostly TRUE
 Definitely TRUE
 I Don't Know

20. I think teenagers should be allowed to drink, so they learn how to drink responsibly.

Definitely NOT TRUE
 Mostly NOT TRUE
 Mostly TRUE
 Definitely TRUE
 I Don't Know

Non-Parents

21. What is YOUR age?

Years:

22. What is YOUR gender?

Female

Male

23. Is the following statement TRUE or FALSE?

	TRUE	FALSE	DON'T KNOW
It is against the law to serve alcohol to anybody under age 21, except one's own child.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

24. In the recent past, how would you characterize the use of alcohol by you or your spouse/partner?

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often
With meals, at home or in restaurants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cocktails before meals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drinks at parties outside your home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Host parties with alcohol at your home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drinks at bars or clubs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

25. Teenagers risk harming themselves if they:

	Definitely NOT TRUE	Mostly NOT TRUE	Mostly TRUE	Definitely TRUE	I Don't Know
Smoke cigarettes every day.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drink alcohol at least once a week.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use marijuana regularly.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

26. I know A LOT about effects of alcohol on the teenager's physical and mental development.

Definitely NOT TRUE Mostly NOT TRUE Mostly TRUE Definitely TRUE I Don't Know

27. I think teenagers should be allowed to drink, so they learn how to drink responsibly.

Definitely NOT TRUE Mostly NOT TRUE Mostly TRUE Definitely TRUE I Don't Know

Thanks to All !

Thank you so much for participating in this survey of Glastonbury parents and other adults. Your input is extremely valuable in helping design effective programs for our children and families.