

 2017 Vermont Parent Survey on Youth Substance Use

Statewide Summary Report

Submitted to:

Vermont Department of Health

Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs

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1. ***Introduction***

Parents and caregivers are an important influence in their children’s decisions regarding the use of alcohol and other drugs. Vermont’s Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs (ADAP) provides information to parents on adolescent substance use and strategies for encouraging their children to avoid using substances. To help inform these efforts and assess their impacts, a statewide online survey of Vermont parents with children in middle school or high school was conducted by PIRE in the fall of 2017. The purpose of this summary report is to provide ADAP, its partner organizations, and interested Vermont residents with highlights of the findings from the survey, along with a brief description of the survey methods. Data on parent perspectives may be useful for state and local prevention planning, promoting public awareness, and documenting prevention needs.

1. ***Methods***

The Vermont Parent Survey on Youth Substance Use was conducted between August and October 2017. The survey was accessible online and took about 10-15 minutes to complete. Parents of students in grades 6 through 12 in Vermont were eligible to participate.

The survey was designed to be used with a variety of devices, including desktop and laptop computers, tablets, and smart phones. Respondents were recruited through Facebook ads. Survey participation was anonymous. As an incentive to participate, respondents had the option of being directed at the end of the survey to a separate web page where they could enter a random drawing for a cash prize.

A total of 1,229 usable surveys were collected. In responding to many of the survey questions, parents were asked to have a specific child in mind. Parents with multiple children in grades 6 through 12, therefore, were guided to randomly select one child to serve as the “referent” child throughout the survey. This procedure generated a sample of 828 parents (67.4%) for whom the referent child was in high school and 393 parents (32.0%) for whom the referent child was in middle school.[[1]](#footnote-1) The substantially higher percent of respondents that identified a high school student as the referent child, relative to their distribution in the population, indicates that parents of high school students were more likely to choose to participate in the survey than parents of middle school students.

Because a scientific sampling was not used, survey findings do not necessarily reflect the overall parent population of Vermont. The data analyzed for this report were, however, weighted by grade level (6th-8th vs. 9th-12th) and county to ensure that the characteristics of the referent children in the survey match the Vermont population on these variables. Based on the weighted data, most respondents were female (85.5% of the sample), between the ages of 35-44 (38.6%) or 45-54 (43.4%), and had a household composition in which they lived with a partner (78.3%). In addition, respondents reported the highest level of education completed by their child’s mother or primary female guardian, with nearly two-thirds (65.4%) of the sample indicating a college degree or higher. After weighting the data, the proportion of parents with middle school vs. high school students reflected statewide enrollment numbers (44% for middle school students and 56% for high school students).

This report summarizes selected survey findings that are particularly noteworthy. Tables showing the response distributions for all items in the survey are provided in the appendix. Because parent responses to many items differed substantially based on the grade level of the referent child, those findings are generally reported separately based on whether the referent child was in middle school (MS) or high school (HS). Except where specifically noted, the respondents on which the findings summarized here are based are the entire sample, other than small numbers of respondents who may not have answered a particular question. Sample sizes for questions that were asked of only a subset of respondents are provided in the figures for those questions (i.e., Figures 13 through 16).

1. ***Highlights of Survey Findings***

## **C.1 Perceptions Regarding Availability and Child’s Use of Substances**

Parents were asked whether their child had been at a friend’s house in the past 12 months where alcohol or marijuana was available to teens.

* As Figure 1 shows, parents responded similarly for these two substances. Approximately 5% of parents of middle school students and approximately 30% of parents of high school students responded “yes, I know so” or “yes, I suspect so” that their child had been at a friend’s house where these substances were available.

**Figure 1.** Parents’ Reports of Their Child Being at a Friend’s House in the Past 12 Months Where Substances Were Available to Teens

Parents also indicated the likelihood that their child would be able to access substances in their home without their knowledge.

* Parents most commonly reported that it is “very likely” or “somewhat likely” that their child would be able to access alcohol, 35.5% of the total sample. This was followed by prescription medications, 16.6%, and marijuana, 6.8%.

Parents were also asked how likely it is that their child had used substances in the past 12 months.

* As shown in Figure 2, few parents of middle school students reported that it was “very likely or absolutely certain” or “somewhat likely” that their child had used substances, with the highest percentage being 2.2% for alcohol. One-fourth of parents of high school students reported that it was likely their child had used alcohol.

**Figure 2.** Perceived Likelihood of Child’s Use of Substances in the Past 12 Months

Parents also provided their estimation of the percentage of people their child’s age in their community that had used marijuana in the past 30 days.

* The majority (73.4%) of parents of middle school students responded “0-20%.”
* In contrast, the responses were more variable for parents of high school students, where less than a quarter estimated the “0-20%” range. The most common responses for parents of high school students were “21-40%” (34.5%) and “41-60%” (25.8%).

## **C.2 Perceptions Regarding Health Risks and Attitudes Toward Use**

Parents reported their perceptions of the health risks associated with using substances.

* Regardless of grade level, more parents considered prescription drug misuse (82.7% of the total sample) and binge drinking (81%) to pose a “great risk” of harm compared with other substances.
* As Figure 3 shows, using marijuana once or twice a week was the substance use pattern for which the largest percentages of parents perceived there to be “no risk” or “slight risk” (20.9% of parents of middle school students and 26% of parents of high school students).
* This was followed by drinking alcohol occasionally and using e-cigarettes nearly every day, with nearly one-fifth of all parents perceiving there to be “no risk” or “slight risk” for these use patterns.
* The similar or even slightly higher percentages of parents perceiving little or slight risk for use for some substances use behaviors by middle school students is puzzling, and suggests some respondents may not have correctly understood this question or the response options.

**Figure 3.** Perceived Risk of Harm from Various Substance Use Behaviors

Parents also provided their views on whether use of alcohol or marijuana by their child would ever be acceptable under certain circumstances (Figures 4 and 5).

* 84.4% of parents of middle school students, compared to 67.5% of parents of high school students, responded that it was never OK “under any circumstances” or “other than having small sips at religious events” for their child to drink alcohol.
* The percentages of parents reporting that it was never OK under any circumstances for their child to use marijuana, however, was similar for parents of both high school and middle school students, with 63.7% of the total sample responding this way.

 Parents’ Attitudes Toward Alcohol Use

|  |
| --- |
|  Never OK under any circumstances |
|  Never OK, other than having small sips at religious events |
|  OK under certain circumstances |

**Figure 4.** Circumstances Under Which It Would Be OK with Parents for Their Child to Drink Alcohol

 Parents’ Attitudes Toward Marijuana Use

|  |
| --- |
|  Never OK under any circumstances |
|  OK only if prescribed by a doctor for medical purposes |
|  OK under certain circumstances |

**Figure 5.** Circumstances Under Which It Would Be OK with Parents for Their Child to Use Marijuana

## **C.3 Parental Communication with Child and Monitoring Behaviors**

Parents were asked about their engagement in various monitoring behaviors related to substance use, including talking with their child about substances, as well as their confidence in communicating their messages effectively and recognizing signs of substance use.

* As Figure 6 shows, in the past 12 months, parents most commonly talked with their child about the potential dangers or problems associated with using alcohol. This was followed by marijuana, prescription drugs, and e-cigarettes.
* Higher percentages of high school parents than middle school parents reported talking with their child about substances.

**Figure 6.** Prevalence ofParents Talking with Their Child in the Past 12 Months about Various Substances

* 87.1% of parents “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that what they say to their child will have a major influence on whether and to what extent their child uses substances (Figure 7).

**Figure 7.** Extent to Which Parents Agree That What They Say to Their Child Will Have a Major Influence on Whether and to What Extent Their Child Uses Alcohol and Drugs

* For both grade levels, more than 95% of parents reported that they were confident (“very confident” or “somewhat confident”) in being able to talk effectively with their child about alcohol and drugs and in knowing the patterns or signs that could indicate their child has been using alcohol or drugs.
* However, parents indicated less confidence with the latter. Less than 60% reported being “very confident” with “knowing the patterns or signs,” compared with 71.6% reporting this level of confidence for “being able to talk effectively” (Figure 8).

**Figure 8.** Parents’ Confidence in Talking with Their Child About Substances and in Knowing the Patterns or Signs Their Child Has Been Using Substances

Parents also reported the likelihood of taking certain actions if their child were going to a party or other social gathering at a friend’s house.

* As shown in Figure 9, 63% of parents of middle school students and 83.4% of parents of high school students reported that it was “very likely” they would ask their child if alcohol or drugs would be used or available at the event.
* Similar percentages of parents for the two grade levels reported that it was very likely that they would ask their child if a parent or other responsible adult would be present at the event, with 95% of the total sample responding this way. However, a smaller percentage of parents of high school students (56.4%) than parents of middle school students (77.6%) indicated it was very likely they would contact the friend’s parents to verify a responsible adult would be present.

**Figure 9.** Parents’ Reported Likelihood of Asking Their Child about the Availability and Use of Substances When Going to Parties and Other Social Gatherings

## **C.4 Availability of Helpful Resources**

Parents reported the extent to which they agree there are prevention and treatment resources available to help their child.

* The majority of parents agreed that there are resources available, with 80.1% reporting that there are helpful resources online and more than 70% indicating the availability of community resources (Figure 10).

**Figure 10.** Reported Availability of Prevention and Treatment Resources

Parents also reported on the availability of places in their community where they can dispose of unused prescription drugs, as well as their use of drop-off locations (Figure 11).

* Over 70% of parents reported that there are places in their community to dispose of unused prescription drugs, with another 24% indicating that they don’t know whether such places exist.
* Approximately one-fifth of parents reported using a drop-off location in their community in the past 12 months.

**Figure 11.** Reported Availability and Use of Drop-Off Locations for Disposal of Unused Prescription Drugs

## **C.5 Exposure to ParentUp Campaign**

Parents indicated whether they had seen or heard information about, or from, ParentUp in the past 12 months. ParentUp is an ongoing media campaign sponsored by ADAP to provide information and resources to parents regarding adolescent substance use prevention.

* 16.5% of parents reported that they had been exposed to ParentUp information in this timeframe (Figure 12).
* These percentages were almost identical for parents of middle school and high school students.

**Figure 12.** Parents’ Exposure to ParentUp Campaign in the Past 12 Months

Figure 13 displays the sources of ParentUp information among those who were exposed to the campaign in the past 12 months.

* By far, the most common source was accessing the information online.
* The next most common sources were receiving information at a school meeting or through some other school communication and from television.

**Figure 13.** Sources ofParentUp Information among Those Exposed to the Campaign in the Past 12 Months

* Among parents exposed to the campaign in the past 12 months, 25.4% reported that they had visited the ParentUp website in the past six months (Figure 14). The percentage was slightly higher for parents of high school students (27.3%) compared to parents of middle school students (23.7%).

**Figure 14.** Recent Use of ParentUp Website among Those Exposed to the Campaign in the Past 12 Months

* Sixty-three percent of parents who had visited the ParentUp website in the past six months reported that the information has increased their confidence about preventing their teenage children from using alcohol or other drugs (Figure 15).

**Figure 15.** Parents’ Report of Whether the ParentUp Website Information Has Increased Their Confidence about Preventing Their Teenage Children from Using Alcohol or Other Drugs, among Those Who Visited the Website in the Past 6 Months

* Twenty-two percent of parents who had visited the ParentUp website in the past six months reported that they had taken specific actions as a result of seeing the ParentUp Website Information (Figure 16).

**Figure 16.** Parents’ Report of Whether They Have Taken Specific Actions as a Result of Seeing the ParentUp Website Information, among Those Who Visited the Website in the Past 6 Months

1. **Respondent Comments**

At the end of the survey, respondents were invited to enter comments about the survey or issues that were raised in the survey. Just under 15% of the respondents provided commentary. **There were three themes that were most frequently reflected in the comments.**

* The first was concern over the availability and levels of drug use among Vermont youth. These comments reflected a perception that teen drug use, particularly prescription medications and heroin, is common and that these drugs are easy for youth to obtain.
* The second theme that emerged was the importance of open communication between parents and children and frequent conversations about substance use. Several of these comments reflected the importance of talking honestly and openly with children starting when they are very young. Some also discussed the importance of parental monitoring behaviors such as asking questions about your child’s whereabouts and paying attention to what they and their peers are doing.
* The third major theme expressed was the need for more and better education about drug and alcohol use for youth. Most of these comments suggested that schools were the best place for this to take place, but several also mentioned the value in education being provided by primary care physicians, law enforcement and in the community-at-large. There were also a number of comments about the need for safe, affordable alternative activities for youth and the importance of community connectedness.

In addition to these themes, many of the comments included personal anecdotes about having a personal and/or family history of problem substance use, or a child that has struggled with substance use. It is also worth noting a number of comments that expressed concern that the public discourse about the legalization of marijuana is causing youth to think that marijuana is safe to use.

#

# **Appendix**

**Response Distributions for All Items**

**Introduction**

The following tables show the response distributions, in terms of percentages, for all items included in the 2017 Vermont Parent Survey on Youth Substance Use. The items are ordered exactly as they were ordered in the survey itself. For each item, the response distributions are shown separately for parents whose referent child was in middle school (grades 6 through 8), and high school (grades 9 through 12). The response distributions for the total sample, undifferentiated by grade level, are also shown in the rightmost column of each table.

As explained in Section B of this report, the data file used to generate the distributions was weighted to reflect the statewide distribution of Vermont students by grade level (middle school vs. high school) and county. The sample sizes shown at the top of each column, however, are the raw (i.e., unweighted) numbers of respondents. Due to varying degrees non-response across the items, most of the item-specific sample sizes are slightly smaller than the overall sample size for the survey. Items that were only directed to only a subset of respondents due to skip patterns, however, are based on substantially smaller sample sizes.

Several items included a response option for which the respondent was invited to provide additional details with a text field. These response options are indicated by inclusion of the term “(specify)”. A summary of the various open-ended responses to these queries is provided at the end of this appendix.

 **Child Demographics**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Grade Level of Referent Child** | **Total Sample** |
|  | **6-8** | **9-12** | **6-12** |
| **What is the age of your child? (Q3)** | **(N=391)** | **(N=826)** | **(N=1,225)** |
| 10 or younger | 1.1 | .0 | 0.5 |
| 11 | 25.3 | .0 | 11.1 |
| 12 | 26.4 | 0.1 | 11.7 |
| 13 | 40.8 | 1.2 | 18.7 |
| 14 | 6.3 | 16.1 | 11.9 |
| 15 | .0 | 25.2 | 14.0 |
| 16 | .0 | 24.3 | 13.5 |
| 17 | .0 | 27.4 | 15.3 |
| 18 | .0 | 5.6 | 3.1 |
| 19 | .0 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| 20 | .0 | .0 | 0.1 |
| 21 or older | .0 | .0 | 0.1 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Grade Level of Referent Child** | **Total Sample** |
|  | **6-8** | **9-12** | **6-12** |
| **What is the grade of your child? (Q4)** | **(N=393)** | **(N=828)** | **(N=1,221)** |
| 6th | 32.6 | - | 14.4 |
| 7th | 28.5 | - | 12.6 |
| 8th | 39.0 | - | 17.2 |
| 9th | - | 20.0 | 11.1 |
| 10th | - | 25.7 | 14.3 |
| 11th | - | 24.1 | 13.5 |
| 12th | - | 30.2 | 16.8 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Grade Level of Referent Child** | **Total Sample** |
|  | **6-8** | **9-12** | **6-12** |
| **Does your child identify him or herself as…(Check all that apply.) (Q5)** | **(N=393)** | **(N=828)** | **(N=1,229)** |
| Female | 47.8 | 49.7 | 49.1 |
| Male | 51.5 | 49.0 | 49.8 |
| Transgender | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.8 |
| Other | 0.9 | 1.0 | 0.9 |

**During the past 12 months, how many times have you talked with your child about the potential dangers or problems that could result from persons their age…**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Grade Level of Referent Child** | **Total Sample** |
|  | **6-8** | **9-12** | **6-12** |
| **Using alcohol? (Q6)** | **(N=392)** | **(N=828)** | **(N=1,228)** |
| 0 times | 18.4 | 5.9 | 11.5 |
| 1 to 2 times | 23.3 | 18.3 | 20.5 |
| A few times | 36.1 | 32.7 | 34.3 |
| Many times | 22.3 | 43.0 | 33.7 |
| **Using marijuana? (Q7)** | **(N=386)** | **(N=809)** | **(N=1,202)** |
| 0 times | 28.3 | 10.1 | 18.2 |
| 1 to 2 times | 24.7 | 21.9 | 23.1 |
| A few times | 28.8 | 29.1 | 29.0 |
| Many times | 18.2 | 38.9 | 29.7 |
| **Using prescription drugs that are not prescribed to them or using them in ways other than prescribed by their doctor? (Q8)** | **(N=384)** | **(N=802)** | **(N=1,193)** |
| 0 times | 33.1 | 22.9 | 27.5 |
| 1 to 2 times | 27.0 | 23.5 | 25.1 |
| A few times | 21.8 | 25.8 | 24.0 |
| Many times | 18.1 | 27.8 | 23.4 |
| **Using e-cigarettes? (Q9)** | **(N=382)** | **(N=801)** | **(N=1,190)** |
| 0 times | 56.2 | 46.2 | 50.7 |
| 1 to 2 times | 18.1 | 18.3 | 18.2 |
| A few times | 15.6 | 20.0 | 18.0 |
| Many times | 10.1 | 15.4 | 13.1 |

**The next set of questions asks about your attitudes and beliefs about alcohol and drug use.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Grade Level of Referent Child** | **Total Sample** |
|  | **6-8** | **9-12** | **6-12** |
| **What I say to my child will have a major influence on whether and to what extent my child uses alcohol and drugs? (Q10)** | **(N=386)** | **(N=813)** | **(N=1,207)** |
| Strongly agree | 36.7 | 31.9 | 34.0 |
| Agree | 53.8 | 52.3 | 53.1 |
| Disagree | 4.9 | 8.5 | 6.9 |
| Strongly disagree | 1.1 | 1.6 | 1.4 |
| Undecided or don’t know | 3.5 | 5.7 | 4.7 |
| **There are helpful resources online where I can learn more about how to help prevent my child from using alcohol and drugs. (Q11)** | **(N=378)** | **(N=801)** | **(N=1,187)** |
| Strongly agree | 25.8 | 19.3 | 22.2 |
| Agree | 55.6 | 59.4 | 57.9 |
| Disagree | 5.5 | 5.2 | 5.3 |
| Strongly disagree | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 |
| Don’t know | 12.5 | 15.4 | 14.0 |
| **There are places in my community where I can learn more about how to help prevent my child from using alcohol and drugs. (Q12)** | **(N=371)** | **(N=789)** | **(N=1,167)** |
| Strongly agree | 20.1 | 15.5 | 17.6 |
| Agree | 50.7 | 55.4 | 53.2 |
| Disagree | 10.9 | 11.0 | 10.9 |
| Strongly disagree | 2.2 | 1.8 | 2.0 |
| Don’t know | 16.1 | 16.3 | 16.4 |
| **There are places in my community where I can get help if my child is using alcohol or drugs. (Q13)** | **(N=371)** | **(N=780)** | **(N=1,158)** |
| Strongly agree | 23.1 | 18.9 | 20.7 |
| Agree | 49.2 | 55.4 | 52.7 |
| Disagree | 13.0 | 9.8 | 11.2 |
| Strongly disagree | 2.1 | 2.9 | 2.5 |
| Don’t know | 12.6 | 13.0 | 12.9 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Grade Level of Referent Child** | **Total Sample** |
|  | **6-8** | **9-12** | **6-12** |
| **Are there places in your community where you can dispose of unused prescription drugs? (Q14)** | **(N=380)** | **(N=804)** | **(N=1,192)** |
| Yes | 71.0 | 71.3 | 71.3 |
| No | 5.4 | 4.1 | 4.7 |
| Don’t know | 23.6 | 24.5 | 24.0 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Grade Level of Referent Child** | **Total Sample** |
|  | **6-8** | **9-12** | **6-12** |
| **In the past 12 months, how many times have you taken unused prescription drugs to a drop-off location in your community? (Q15)** | **(N=381)** | **(N=804)** | **(N=1,193)** |
| 0 times | 83.7 | 79.5 | 81.5 |
| 1 to 2 times | 14.2 | 17.3 | 15.8 |
| A few times or Many times | 2.1 | 3.2 | 2.7 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Grade Level of Referent Child** | **Total Sample** |
|  | **6-8** | **9-12** | **6-12** |
| **Under what circumstances, if any, would it ever be OK with you for your child to drink any amount of alcohol? (Q16)** | **(N=380)** | **(N=796)** | **(N=1,184)** |
| Never OK under any circumstances | 65.6 | 48.3 | 55.9 |
| Never OK, other than having small sips at religious events | 18.8 | 19.2 | 19.0 |
| OK under certain circumstances, such as family gatherings for holidays or weddings | 12.0 | 20.0 | 16.6 |
| OK as long as I am there to supervise | 1.6 | 5.3 | 3.7 |
| OK as long as some adult is present | .0 | 0.6 | 0.3 |
| OK most or all of the time | .0 | 0.5 | 0.3 |
| OK under some other circumstances (specify) | 1.9 | 6.1 | 4.2 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Grade Level of Referent Child** | **Total Sample** |
|  | **6-8** | **9-12** | **6-12** |
| **In those circumstances, what amounts of alcohol are generally OK for your child to drink?**  | **(N=59)** | **(N=245)** | **(N=307)** |
| Sips or tastes only | 76.9 | 54.0 | 60.3 |
| Amounts less than one drink (a drink is 12 ounces of beer, a glass of wine, or one ounce of liquor) | 10.0 | 27.6 | 23.0 |
| One drink | 11.2 | 15.6 | 14.2 |
| More than one drink | 1.9 | 2.8 | 2.5 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Grade Level of Referent Child** | **Total Sample** |
|  | **6-8** | **9-12** | **6-12** |
| **Under what circumstances, if any, would it ever be OK with you for your child to use marijuana? (Q17)** | **(N=374)** | **(N=769)** | **(N=1,150)** |
| Never OK under any circumstances | 64.9 | 62.8 | 63.7 |
| OK only if prescribed by a doctor for medical purposes | 31.7 | 29.8 | 30.7 |
| OK for certain circumstances such as family gatherings  | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.7 |
| OK as long as I am there to supervise | 1.4 | 1.7 | 1.5 |
| OK as long as some adult is present | .0 | 0.4 | 0.2 |
| OK most or all of the time | 0.3 | 1.6 | 1.0 |
| OK under some other circumstances (specify)  | 1.1 | 3.1 | 2.2 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Grade Level of Referent Child** | **Total Sample** |
|  | **6-8** | **9-12** | **6-12** |
| **In your community, what percentage of persons your child’s age do you think have used marijuana in the past 30 days? (Q18)** | **(N=366)** | **(N=749)** | **(N=1,122)** |
| 0-20% | 73.4 | 23.1 | 45.7 |
| 21-40% | 17.7 | 34.5 | 26.9 |
| 41-60% | 6.2 | 25.8 | 17.0 |
| 61-80% | 2.2 | 13.5 | 8.5 |
| 81-100% | 0.5 | 3.1 | 1.9 |

**How much do persons your child’s age risk harming themselves physically and in other ways if they…**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Grade Level of Referent Child** | **Total Sample** |
|  | **6-8** | **9-12** | **6-12** |
| **Drink alcohol occasionally? (Q19)** | **(N=374)** | **(N=787)** | **(N=1,168)** |
| No risk | 5.4 | 3.5 | 4.3 |
| Slight risk | 13.6 | 15.7 | 14.9 |
| Moderate risk | 26.6 | 41.2 | 34.6 |
| Great risk | 54.4 | 39.5 | 46.1 |
| **Have five or more drinks of an alcoholic beverage once or twice a week? (Q20)** | **(N=374)** | **(N=785)** | **(N=1,166)** |
| No risk | 6.6 | 4.7 | 5.5 |
| Slight risk | 7.1 | 4.8 | 5.9 |
| Moderate risk | 5.7 | 9.3 | 7.6 |
| Great risk | 80.6 | 81.2 | 81.0 |
| **Use marijuana once or twice a week? (Q21)** | **(N=373)** | **(N=785)** | **(N=1,165)** |
| No risk | 7.1 | 5.7 | 6.3 |
| Slight risk | 13.8 | 20.3 | 17.4 |
| Moderate risk | 21.6 | 32.9 | 28.0 |
| Great risk | 57.5 | 41.1 | 48.2 |
| **Use prescription drugs that are not prescribed to them or use them in ways other than prescribed by their doctor? (Q22)** | **(N=373)** | **(N=784)** | **(N=1,164)** |
| No risk | 5.1 | 4.0 | 4.5 |
| Slight risk | 6.6 | 5.0 | 5.7 |
| Moderate risk | 4.9 | 8.9 | 7.2 |
| Great risk | 83.4 | 82.1 | 82.7 |
| **Use e-cigarettes nearly every day? (Q23)** | **(N=374)** | **(N=783)** | **(N=1,164)** |
| No risk | 7.2 | 5.5 | 6.2 |
| Slight risk | 10.8 | 11.7 | 11.3 |
| Moderate risk | 13.5 | 24.4 | 19.5 |
| Great risk | 68.5 | 58.4 | 62.9 |
| **Use any type of tobacco occasionally? (Q24)** | **(N=374)** | **(N=784)** | **(N=1,165)** |
| No risk | 4.8 | 3.9 | 4.3 |
| Slight risk | 8.0 | 9.4 | 8.7 |
| Moderate risk | 21.2 | 27.0 | 24.5 |
| Great risk | 66.0 | 59.7 | 62.5 |

**Imagine your child is going to a party or other social gathering at a friend’s house that you don’t know very well. How likely are you or another adult in your household to do each of the following…**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Grade Level of Referent Child** | **Total Sample** |
|  | **6-8** | **9-12** | **6-12** |
| **Ask your child if alcohol or drugs will be used or available at this event? (Q25)** | **(N=372)** | **(N=780)** | **(N=1,159)** |
| Very likely | 63.0 | 83.4 | 74.4 |
| Somewhat likely | 15.5 | 10.5 | 12.7 |
| Not very likely | 15.7 | 5.0 | 9.7 |
| Not at all likely | 5.7 | 1.2 | 3.2 |
| **Ask your child if a parent or other responsible adult will be present at this event? (Q26)** | **(N=372)** | **(N=781)** | **(N=1,160)** |
| Very likely | 96.0 | 94.3 | 95.0 |
| Somewhat likely | 2.4 | 4.3 | 3.5 |
| Not very likely | 1.1 | 1.4 | 1.2 |
| Not at all likely | 0.6 | .0 | 0.3 |
| **Contact the friend’s parents to verify that a parent or other responsible adult will be present at this event? (Q27)** | **(N=371)** | **(N=781)** | **(N=1,159)** |
| Very likely | 77.6 | 56.4 | 65.7 |
| Somewhat likely | 17.8 | 28.7 | 24.0 |
| Not very likely | 4.0 | 13.8 | 9.4 |
| Not at all likely | 0.6 | 1.1 | 0.9 |

**How often do you or another adult in your household…**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Grade Level of Referent Child** | **Total Sample** |
|  | **6-8** | **9-12** | **6-12** |
| **Make an effort to know your child’s friends and their parents, especially the families of your child’s closest friends? (Q28)** | **(N=368)** | **(N=777)** | **(N=1,152)** |
| Never | 0.6 | .0 | 0.3 |
| Rarely | 0.6 | 1.1 | 1.0 |
| Sometimes | 5.0 | 12.8 | 9.4 |
| Most of the time | 35.2 | 44.9 | 40.5 |
| Always | 58.6 | 41.2 | 48.9 |
| **Make an effort to know the rules of your child’s friends’ families? (Q29)** | **(N=369)** | **(N=776)** | **(N=1,152)** |
| Never | 2.2 | 1.8 | 2.0 |
| Rarely | 3.9 | 8.3 | 6.4 |
| Sometimes | 25.1 | 26.6 | 25.9 |
| Most of the time | 43.1 | 41.3 | 42.0 |
| Always | 25.7 | 22.1 | 23.7 |
| **Ask your child to call or text you to check in when he or she is out at night? (Q30)** | **(N=369)** | **(N=776)** | **(N=1,152)** |
| Never | 0.3 | .0 | 0.1 |
| Rarely | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.6 |
| Sometimes | 1.2 | 3.1 | 2.4 |
| Most of the time | 9.7 | 11.8 | 10.9 |
| Always | 40.0 | 69.9 | 56.6 |
| Not applicable (child does not go out at night) | 48.2 | 14.5 | 29.3 |

**In the past 12 months, has your child been at a friend’s house where…**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Grade Level of Referent Child** | **Total Sample** |
|  | **6-8** | **9-12** | **6-12** |
| **Alcohol was available to teens? (Q31)** | **(N=366)** | **(N=771)** | **(N=1,144)** |
| Yes, I know so | 1.9 | 14.7 | 9.2 |
| Yes, I suspect so | 2.9 | 14.3 | 9.2 |
| No, I don’t think so | 26.8 | 34.2 | 31.2 |
| No, I am sure they have not | 68.3 | 36.7 | 50.4 |
| **Marijuana was available to teens? (Q32)** | **(N=366)** | **(N=772)** | **(N=1,145)** |
| Yes, I know so | 1.3 | 16.2 | 9.6 |
| Yes, I suspect so | 3.4 | 15.6 | 10.2 |
| No, I don’t think so | 26.9 | 31.5 | 29.8 |
| No, I am sure they have not | 68.4 | 36.6 | 50.5 |

**How likely is it that your child would be able to access the following substances in your home without your knowledge…**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Grade Level of Referent Child** | **Total Sample** |
|  | **6-8** | **9-12** | **6-12** |
| **Alcohol? (Q33)** | **(N=364)** | **(N=770)** | **(N=1,141)** |
| Very likely | 13.0 | 15.3 | 14.2 |
| Somewhat likely | 19.1 | 23.2 | 21.3 |
| Not very likely | 24.9 | 25.7 | 25.4 |
| Not at all likely | 27.6 | 22.8 | 25.0 |
| Not applicable (alcohol is never kept in our home) | 15.5 | 13.0 | 14.1 |
| **Marijuana? (Q34)** | **(N=365)** | **(N=767)** | **(N=1,139)** |
| Very likely | 3.0 | 2.6 | 2.8 |
| Somewhat likely | 2.9 | 4.9 | 4.0 |
| Not very likely | 6.9 | 8.4 | 7.7 |
| Not at all likely | 18.4 | 17.2 | 17.7 |
| Not applicable (marijuana is never kept in our home) | 68.8 | 66.9 | 67.8 |
| **Prescription medications? (Q35)** | **(N=364)** | **(N=768)** | **(N=1,139)** |
| Very likely | 6.5 | 5.1 | 5.7 |
| Somewhat likely | 10.8 | 11.2 | 10.9 |
| Not very likely | 21.9 | 23.8 | 22.8 |
| Not at all likely | 36.9 | 42.1 | 39.9 |
| Not applicable (prescription medications are not kept in our home) | 23.9 | 17.9 | 20.7 |

**How likely is it that your child has used the following substances in the past 12 months…**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Grade Level of Referent Child** | **Total Sample** |
|  | **6-8** | **9-12** | **6-12** |
| **Alcohol? (Q36)** | **(N=363)** | **(N=768)** | **(N=1,138)** |
| Very likely or absolutely certain | 0.9 | 15.9 | 9.3 |
| Somewhat likely | 1.3 | 9.2 | 5.7 |
| Not very likely | 12.7 | 26.0 | 20.2 |
| Not at all likely or absolutely not | 85.1 | 48.8 | 64.9 |
| **Marijuana? (Q37)** | **(N=361)** | **(N=766)** | **(N=1,134)** |
| Very likely or absolutely certain | 0.6 | 15.0 | 8.6 |
| Somewhat likely | 0.2 | 5.7 | 3.4 |
| Not very likely | 9.4 | 18.4 | 14.4 |
| Not at all likely or absolutely not | 89.8 | 60.8 | 73.6 |
| **Prescription drugs that were not prescribed to them, or used them in ways other than prescribed by their doctor? (Q38)** | **(N=361)** | **(N=767)** | **(N=1,135)** |
| Very likely or absolutely certain | 0.1 | 0.9 | 0.6 |
| Somewhat likely | .0 | 2.3 | 1.3 |
| Not very likely | 5.8 | 20.3 | 13.8 |
| Not at all likely or absolutely not | 94.1 | 76.4 | 84.3 |

**How confident are you in…**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Grade Level of Referent Child** | **Total Sample** |
|  | **6-8** | **9-12** | **6-12** |
| **Being able to talk effectively with your child about alcohol and drugs? (Q39)** | **(N=360)** | **(N=761)** | **(N=1,128)** |
| Very confident | 70.3 | 73.5 | 72.3 |
| Somewhat confident | 27.2 | 23.1 | 24.6 |
| Not very confident or Not at all confident | 2.5 | 3.4 | 3.1 |
| **Knowing the patterns or signs that could indicate your child has been using alcohol or drugs? (Q40)** | **(N=360)** | **(N=764)** | **(N=1,131)** |
| Very confident | 58.3 | 59.2 | 59.0 |
| Somewhat confident | 36.9 | 36.6 | 36.7 |
| Not very confident or Not at all confident | 4.7 | 4.2 | 4.3 |

**The next set of questions asks about information you may have seen or heard recently about parenting a teen.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Grade Level of Referent Child** | **Total Sample** |
|  | **6-8** | **9-12** | **6-12** |
| **Over the past 12 months, have you seen or heard any information about (or from) a resource called ParentUp that is designed to help parents prevent underage drinking and other drug use? (Q41)** | **(N=359)** | **(N=759)** | **(N=1,125)** |
| Yes | 16.9 | 16.2 | 16.5 |
| No  | 70.8 | 70.8 | 70.8 |
| Not sure | 12.3 | 13.0 | 12.7 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Grade Level of Referent Child** | **Total Sample** |
|  | **6-8** | **9-12** | **6-12** |
| **Where did you see or hear the information? Please check all that apply. (Q41a)** | **(N=61)** | **(N=127)** | **(N=189)** |
| Radio | 11.6 | 9.8 | 11.1 |
| Television | 13.9 | 19.9 | 17.7 |
| Online | 58.2 | 49.0 | 52.8 |
| Community meeting | 10.6 | 12.4 | 11.5 |
| Newspaper article | 4.0 | 12.8 | 8.8 |
| School meeting or other communication from school | 18.0 | 21.2 | 19.6 |
| Directly from someone I know | 12.8 | 13.7 | 13.2 |
| Not sure | 7.7 | 4.7 | 6.0 |
| Other (specify) | 10.9 | 5.3 | 7.8 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Grade Level of Referent Child** | **Total Sample** |
|  | **6-8** | **9-12** | **6-12** |
| **Have you visited the ParentUP website in the past 6 months? (Q41b)** | **(N=63)** | **(N=131)** | **(N=196)** |
| Yes | 23.7 | 27.3 | 25.4 |
| No  | 76.3 | 72.7 | 74.6 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Grade Level of Referent Child** | **Total Sample** |
|  | **6-8** | **9-12** | **6-12** |
| **Has the ParentUP website information increased your confidence that you can prevent your teenage children from using alcohol or other drugs? (Q41c)** | **(N=15)** | **(N=35)** | **(N=50)** |
| Yes | 78.6 | 51.8 | 63.0 |
| No  | .0 | 2.7 | 1.6 |
| Not sure | 21.4 | 45.4 | 35.4 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Grade Level of Referent Child** | **Total Sample** |
|  | **6-8** | **9-12** | **6-12** |
| **Have you taken any specific actions as a result of seeing the ParentUp website information? (Q41d)** | **(N=15)** | **(N=35)** | **(N=50)** |
| Yes (specify) | 29.8 | 17.0 | 22.4 |
| No  | 54.2 | 49.8 | 51.7 |
| Not sure | 15.9 | 33.2 | 26.0 |

**Parent Demographics**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Grade Level of Referent Child** | **Total Sample** |
|  | **6-8** | **9-12** | **6-12** |
| **What is your age? (Q42)** | **(N=359)** | **(N=751)** | **(N=1,117)** |
| 18-24 | 0.4 | .0 | 0.2 |
| 25-34 | 9.5 | 1.8 | 5.2 |
| 35-44 | 48.2 | 31.2 | 38.6 |
| 45-54 | 34.4 | 50.9 | 43.4 |
| 55-64 | 7.3 | 15.0 | 11.8 |
| 65 or older | 0.2 | 1.2 | 0.7 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Grade Level of Referent Child** | **Total Sample** |
|  | **6-8** | **9-12** | **6-12** |
| **Do you identify yourself as…(Check all that apply.) (Q43)** | **(N=359)** | **(N=753)** | **(N=1,119)** |
| Female | 86.0 | 85.2 | 85.7 |
| Male | 13.3 | 14.5 | 13.9 |
| Transgender or Other | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.5 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Grade Level of Referent Child** | **Total Sample** |
|  | **6-8** | **9-12** | **6-12** |
| **What best describes your household composition? (Q44)** | **(N=358)** | **(N=754)** | **(N=1,119)** |
| I am a single parent | 17.5 | 20.0 | 18.8 |
| I live with my female spouse or partner | 15.7 | 14.6 | 15.1 |
| I live with my male spouse or partner | 62.9 | 63.6 | 63.2 |
| Other (specify) | 3.9 | 1.8 | 2.8 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Grade Level of Referent Child** | **Total Sample** |
|  | **6-8** | **9-12** | **6-12** |
| **Thinking of your child’s mother (or current primary female guardian), what is the highest level of education this person has completed? (Q45)** | **(N=349)** | **(N=739)** | **(N=1,095)** |
| High school or less | 13.8 | 13.8 | 13.7 |
| Attended some college | 20.3 | 21.4 | 21.1 |
| Completed college | 37.5 | 36.4 | 36.8 |
| Completed graduate or professional school after college | 28.4 | 28.4 | 28.4 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Grade Level of Referent Child** | **Total Sample** |
|  | **6-8** | **9-12** | **6-12** |
| **Are you currently or have you ever been a member of the United States Armed Services (active duty, reserve, or National Guard)? (Q46)** | **(N=353)** | **(N=745)** | **(N=1,105)** |
| Yes | 3.0 | 4.7 | 3.9 |
| No | 97.0 | 95.3 | 96.1 |

**Summary of “Other (specify)” Comments**

A few questions asked respondents to “specify” their response if their answer was “other” (or for one question, if it was “yes”). In responding to the question about circumstances under which it would be OK for their child to drink alcohol (Q16), parents’ most common explanations for “other” were that it would be acceptable if their child had sips or drank alcohol in a controlled environment or under safe circumstances, such as not while driving. Similarly, parents’ most common “other” response for acceptable circumstances for their child to use marijuana (Q17) was if it is done safely and at appropriate times and places, such as infrequently or not while at school or work.

Parents who had been exposed to the ParentUp Campaign in the past 12 months indicated a variety of “other” sources for encountering the campaign information (Q41a). The responses were spread fairly evenly across about 10 sources, including at a local fair/wellness booths; flyer, poster, and truck ad; and through social media, such as Facebook and the Front Porch Forum. Parents who had visited the ParentUp website in the past six months specified actions they had taken as a result of seeing this information (Q41d), with most responses indicating they had talked with their child about substance use. Parents also provided comments about what they found most useful about the ParentUp website (Q41e). The most common responses referred to the website’s advice and tips related to communication and other issues and basic information about the risks and prevalence of substance use.

Parents also provided responses to a couple of demographic questions. For household composition (Q44), the most common “other” response explained that the parents were separated or divorced. For mother’s education (Q45), the most common “other” responses referred to being in college or otherwise completing some college coursework and completing a vocational degree.

1. A very small number of parents (n = 8) did not identify the grade level of the referent child. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)