

2008 Parent Survey Report Ledyard, Connecticut

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This parent survey was sponsored by Ledyard Safe Teens Coalition for prevention of substance abuse (Kerensa Mansfield, Coalition Coordinator), and by Ledge Light Health District (LLHD), with the active cooperation of Town of Ledyard agencies including Ledyard Public Schools. The survey was given in August-November, 2008, through coordinated efforts of all sponsors, to a total of 278 respondents. The survey is one element in the evaluation activities conducted under a grant awarded to LLHD from the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). Two other surveys have also been conducted under the same auspices, to Ledyard youth in 2007 and 2009. Results of the 2007 survey have been reported [1], and the 2009 youth survey results are being released concurrently with this report [2]. This report compares and contrasts perceptions of adults in the community *vs.* reports from the youth themselves.

The youth surveys were 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 [3]. All respondents to the survey are anonymous, and information is reported only in summary form. The organization of this report draws upon reports of GPIY youth surveys for formatting and structure.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Parents and other adult residents of Ledyard were invited to participate in a survey asking about youth substance use – by their oldest school-age child and by his/her peers – and about related knowledge and perceptions. A total of 278 surveys were received and screened for incomplete or questionable entries. This report tabulates results of surveys from 218 parents and 13 non-parents. Parents are grouped for analysis into four grade-groups of 38-79 parents: PreK-6, 7-8, 9-10, and 11-12.

Parents were asked if their child had recently used cigarettes, alcohol, or marijuana. In the table below, prevalences estimated by parents are compared with prevalences reported by youth in their 2009 survey. It appears that substance use is significantly underestimated by parents, especially for youth in grades 9-10. (However, as this sample of parents was self-selected, not random, it may possibly represent lower-use teens – see final paragraph).

Recent substance use: youth (2009) vs. parents (2008)

Substance	Grade Level			
	9-10		11-12	
	Youth	Parents	Youth	Parents
	%	%	%	%
Alcohol	28.7	1.7	34.5	6.4
Cigarettes	11.7	9.5	15.9	16.7
Marijuana	19.9	0.0	11.9	11.3

Parents and youth were both asked to estimate alcohol use by the youth’s classmates, and both responded with similar median estimates of 15-22% for grades 9-12 – consistent with one another, but both underestimating drinking reported by youth themselves.

Tables in this report, besides documenting parental perceptions for comparison with future surveys, also further dissect results. For example, high school parents who say their child has been using alcohol recently are compared with parents who say not, in answers to 15 questions related to demography or substance use. Parents of drinking teens were significantly more likely to host teen drinking parties, to estimate more drinking by their child’s classmates, and to think that some teen drinking may be acceptable. Also interesting are factors that do not differ – e.g., grades earned, number of children in the family, and sources and ease of obtaining alcohol. The age of parents makes little difference in answers to the 15 questions, but fathers are less likely than mothers to believe that teens get alcohol from home with parental permission, and fathers are more likely to believe teens are supplied mainly by their peers. It is perhaps surprising that none of the answers differed in comparing teenage girls versus boys.

Parents were significantly less aware than non-parents in this survey of the Connecticut social host law forbidding serving alcohol to minor other than one’s own child. Parents of younger children, in elementary and middle school, expressed significantly less awareness than high school parents, perhaps because the issue has not yet arisen.

Parent respondents to the survey closely reflect the ethnic mixture of the population of the town of Ledyard according to the 2000 U.S. Census. Compared to youths’ reports in their 2009 survey, parents reported that their child earned somewhat higher grades than average, and spent

somewhat less time after school without adult supervision. Since high grades and less time without adults are both typically correlated with decreased substance use, the parent survey may not have attracted representative numbers of parents of children who are more inclined to use substances. Weighting of responses was employed to correct for possible bias. However, as with any survey, significant conclusions should be confirmed by independent means, such as follow-up focus groups and interviews.

METHODS

The Ledyard survey was administered in August-November, 2008. Extensive efforts were made to encourage parents and other adults to participate, and a total of 278 responded. The survey was given in paper format (104 surveys) and on-line using SurveyMonkey.com® (174 surveys). The paper survey was directed selectively to parents of Ledyard school children, and the on-line survey was open to any adult, including parents. Data from paper survey forms were entered into computerized format using a template set up in SurveyMonkey.com for the purpose. For parents, the survey asked about their oldest school-age child. Questions about “your child” were skipped in the on-line survey if respondents indicated they were not parents. Two surveys of Ledyard middle school and high school youth (grades 7-11) have been completed, in 2007 and in 2009. Complete results of the youth surveys 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 devised, as a measure for questionable entries. Each of 18 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 values were summed for each respondent, empty values were excluded, and sums were expressed as percent of maximum response. The average score was 11.9% of max, and the upper 99% confidence bound was 70.8% of max. Six surveys scored above 70.8% and were excluded from analysis, along with 6 random surveys with zero scores, to avoid bias. This process, which trims outliers from the data, is termed Winsorizing, and improves the statistical validity of any conclusions with little decrease in power due to smaller sample.

For half of the surveys, there were only one or two entries per IP address. The other entries mostly originated from two sites, probably centrally located. Extreme response scores were not clustered in the multiple-entry sites, suggesting that “hacking” into the survey from a particular site did not occur. Thirty-five surveys were not sufficiently complete to be included in the analysis, and respondents were considered to have declined the survey. Of the 278 total responses, 231 were included in analyses.

A scale for adult alcohol consumption was calculated by adding up the Likert scores for the five alcohol-related questions in Table 16 for each respondent, and normalized to range 0-100 for further analysis.

The Internet Protocol (IP) addresses from which on-line parent surveys originated were recorded in SurveyMonkey.com, and are tabulated:

Number of:	
Respondents	IP Addresses
1	103
2	12
3	1
4	2
6	1
29	1
70	1

Youth survey respondents represent the youth of the entire community, as they were selected on a randomized basis. Parent responders, in contrast, were self-selected, not random. Weighting of the parent sample was therefore considered, constructed from an item based on facts rather than perceptions: time (hours per day) spent by youth after school without an adult present. The parent sample was compared with the youth sample, and weights were calculated. A second basis for weighting was the disparate numbers of respondents from each grade in the parent sample (Table 1). Final weights corrected for both time spent without adults and numbers of respondents per grade of the index (i.e., oldest) child.

In several tables, comparisons are drawn between pairs of groups – for example, parents who think their child has been drinking recently *vs.* those who do not; or parents who are younger than the median age of parents in the sample *vs.* those who are older. Statistical comparisons are carried out by one-way analysis of variance, using Likert scores of the two groups as the dependent variables. Only parents of high school students are included in these analyses, to avoid having parents of younger children bias the analysis. Responses of “I don’t know” were nulled for this 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., $p < 0.001$ or $p < 0.0001$). The scores reported in these tables are either averages of reported values, or Likert scores which are rescaled to be expressed as 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®. All software is licensed to Quantitative Services.

RESULTS

Survey Process.

Before discussing results, some general comments about the survey process are in order. Survey results are best understood as guides for subsequent efforts to corroborate and further understand issues that may be brought to light, rather than final answers. Follow-up activities like focus groups are especially important if there are unexpected or actionable findings.

The reliability of conclusions from any survey depend on statistics, 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 231 Ledyard adults (Table 6) from a town population of 14,700 [5], and the sample of 218 parents (Table 1) from a school population of about 2,900 [6], both yield a sampling variance of about ± 4 percentage points. A sample of 50-100 parents from about 1,400 students (the groupings used in analyses) yields a variance of ± 7 or 8 points.

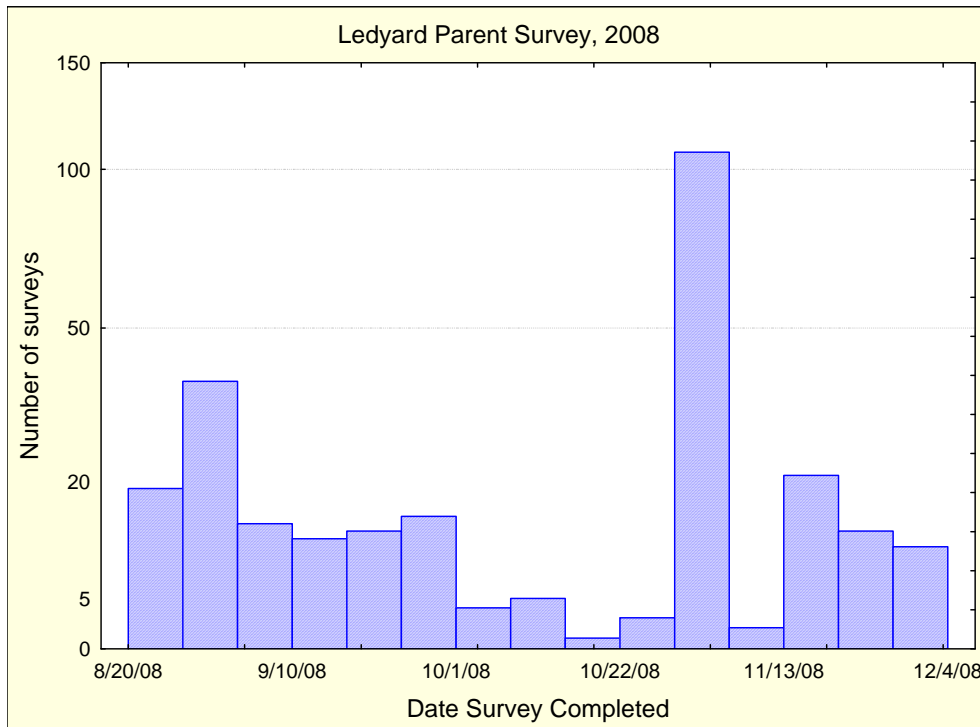
Credibility of responses depends on at least two factors – the truthfulness and candor of answers, and how well the sample represents the population of interest. To encourage candor, all responders were assured that their answers were strictly anonymous and confidential. In an open survey like this one, there is always the possibility of prankish entries. With perhaps an abundance of caution, six “extreme response” outliers were excluded from analyses, along with an equal number of non-extreme responses (see Methods).

The mixture of ethnic identity of the oldest child reported by respondents closely matches 2000 U.S. Census data for the town of Ledyard, but somewhat under-represents minority populations when compared to the 2007-08 student population of the district. No attempt was made to correct ethnic imbalances by weighting results. However, weights were used in all tables except Demographics to correct for imbalance in the percentage of parent responders in each grade (see Table 1).

Race	Ledyard Adult Survey ¹	Town of Ledyard ²	Ledyard School District ³
	%	%	%
White/Caucasian	88.8	88.2	79.9
Black/African American	1.9	2.5	5.5
Hispanic	2.8	2.7	5.6
Asian	3.3	2.2	5.0
Native American	2.3	3.5	4.0
Other	0.9	--	--

¹ Table *; ²Ref. [5], ³Ref. [6]

The survey was open from August through November, 2008. The largest numbers of completions occurred during school open houses, or after reminders were sent out. The temporal pattern of responses is represented in the bar graph (note that the vertical scale is logarithmic).



Demographics.

Demographic information is important in judging how representative the survey is of the whole community, and in further understanding survey results. Subjects were adult residents of Ledyard, Connecticut. Parents of school-age youth were the primary target, but non-parents were also invited to complete the on-line survey. Parents were asked questions about their oldest school-age child, and a reasonable distribution of parents in all grades responded (Table 1). Weighting, as explained in Methods, was applied to give equal influence to parents of children in all grades, although weighted and unweighted results did not differ by much. Boys and girls were approximately equally represented (Table 2), and all but three youth were in public school, rather than private school or home-schooled (Table 4). Two-thirds of families had more than one child in public school (Table 5). For analyses, parents were divided into four groups, with oldest child in PreK-6, grades 7-8, grades 9-10, and grades 11-12. Numbers of parents in each group varied from 38 (Pre-K to 6) to 79 (Grades 11-12) (Table 6).

Among adult respondents, women outnumbered men by almost 7-to-1 (188 to 28), a ratio which is somewhat higher than state and national surveys. Fifteen respondents did not indicate their own gender. Only 13 non-parents responded to the survey, 12 women and one man. Ages of adult respondents were mostly (94%) in the range 30-59 (Table 6). As noted above (and Table 3), the racial mixture of oldest children closely matched the town of Ledyard, but minority youth were somewhat under-represented.

School and Family.

Parental perceptions about their oldest child's grades and the time spent after school without adult presence are tabulated (Tables 7, 8). As expected, time without adults increases with increasing age of the child. Almost all parents report that their families have definite rules discouraging smoking or drinking (Table 9), and almost all believe that substance use (cigarettes, alcohol and marijuana) is harmful to teens (Table 10). The majority of parents express awareness of the physical and mental effects of alcohol on teen development, and only a few advocate that teens be allowed to drink alcohol (Table 10).

Substance Use.

Parents were asked if they thought their child had used cigarettes, alcohol or marijuana in the previous 30 days, and results are tabulated (Table 11). Parents were asked to estimate about how many youth in their own child's grade they thought drink alcohol at least once a week. Median estimates were considerably higher than their opinions of their own children (Table 13). Availability of substances, according to parents, increases with increasing age of the child, as would be expected (Table 12). The percentage of parents who profess not to know how available marijuana and other illicit drugs might be also increases with age, and exceeds lack of knowledge about cigarettes and alcohol.

Parents (including parents of younger children) were asked, where do teenagers who drink get their alcohol from? The most likely source is from other teens, including at parties. The least likely source is from home with parental permission (Table 14). Answers from parents were compared with non-parents (Table 15). Non-parents were significantly more aware than parents of the Connecticut social host law forbidding serving alcohol to anybody who is under 21 and not a family member, and non-parents were significantly more convinced that teens should not be permitted to drink. In perceived risk of harm from substances, and in knowledge about development in the teen years, were high and not significantly different in the two groups. Drinking practices by the two groups are similar, although non-parents may do a bit more drinking at parties (Table 16). Family practices and knowledge concerning alcohol are tabulated (Table 16).

Comparisons: Youth 2009 versus Parents 2008.

Answers to the same questions asked of both youth in the 2009 Ledyard Youth Survey [2] and the present parent survey are tabulated. Parents reported somewhat higher grades earned by their oldest child than the random sample of youth in the same grades reported (Table 17). Assuming both youth and parents responded accurately, the parent sample represents youth of higher academic performance than the general youth population. Parents also reported less time spent by their child after school without an adult than the youth themselves reported (Table 18). If true, these facts may account in part for the discrepancy between parental perceptions and youth reports of alcohol consumption (Table 19), because lower grades and more time without adults are both correlated with increased alcohol consumption [2]. Risk of harm perceived by older youth, especially for regular use of alcohol and marijuana, was much less than expressed by parents. Median estimates of drinking by high school classmates were nearly the same by parents and youth, but both underestimated the actual prevalence (Table 20).

Comparisons: Parent Sub-Groups.

Parents were dichotomized according to their answers to survey questions, and statistical comparisons were conducted. As noted under Methods, most of these analyses were limited to parents of high school students, and scores are expressed as percent of maximum scale of increasing intensity.

Parents who thought their child had used alcohol during the past 30 days were compared with parents who thought not (Table 22). Parents of drinking teens were significantly more likely to have hosted a teen drinking party, to overestimate drinking by their child's classmates, and to believe that some teen drinking may be acceptable. Parents who were younger than the median age of surveyed parents were compared to older parents (Table 23). Younger parents were more convinced that teens who drink obtain alcohol from home without permission. The younger parents generally had larger families. Other differences were of marginal significance.

Among the 15 measures examined, there were no significant differences between parents of girls vs. boys (Table 24). The gender of the parent respondent did make significant differences (Table 25). Fathers were less likely to believe teens obtain alcohol from home with permission, and were more likely to believe they obtained alcohol at teen parties. Fathers also reported more time spent after school without adult presence than mothers.

Finally, parents of younger children, in elementary and middle school, were compared with parents of high school youth, regarding opinions and knowledge of teenagers and alcohol (Table 26). High school parents (whose children are mid- to late-teens) were more likely to believe that teens obtain alcohol from home without permission, and also express greater awareness of Connecticut social host laws – although all parents had surprisingly low awareness, compared to non-parents (Table 15).

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SECTION I. DEMOGRAPHY

Table 1. Survey respondents by grade of oldest child

Grade of child	Grade Of Oldest Child	Number
		count
PK, K	PK-6	4
1	PK-6	4
2	PK-6	5
3	PK-6	4
4	PK-6	5
5	PK-6	5
6	PK-6	11
7	7-8	29
8	7-8	24
9	9-10	18
10	9-10	29
11	11-12	39
12	11-12	40
Missing	--	1
Total		218

Table 2. Oldest child: Gender

Gender	Grade Of Oldest Child				All Grades
	PK-6	7-8	9-10	11-12	
	count	count	count	count	count
Female	22	23	25	45	115
Male	15	28	21	33	97
Missing	2	2	1	1	6
Total	39	53	47	79	218

Table 3. Oldest child: Race

Race	Grade Of Oldest Child				All Grades	
	PK-6	7-8	9-10	11-12	count	%
	count	count	count	count	count	%
White/Caucasian	31	47	41	72	191	88.8
Black/African American	0	0	2	2	4	1.9
Hispanic	1	1	3	1	6	2.8
Asian	4	2	1	0	7	3.3
Native American	2	2	0	1	5	2.3
Other	0	0	0	2	2	0.9
Missing	1	1	0	1	3	--

Table 4. Oldest child: Type of school

School Type	Grade Of Oldest Child				All Grades
	PK-6	7-8	9-10	11-12	
	count	count	count	count	count
Public	37	53	47	76	213
Private	1	0	0	0	1
Home-schooled	0	0	0	2	2
Missing	1	0	0	1	2

Table 5. School children in addition to oldest

Number of additional children	Grade Of Oldest Child				All Grades
	PK-6	7-8	9-10	11-12	
	count	count	count	count	count
None	13	7	14	39	73
1-2	25	43	28	32	128
3 or more	1	3	4	8	16

Table 6. Adult demography

Measurement	Gender of Adult		
	Female	Male	Missing
Number (count)	188	28	15
Parental status	%	%	count
Yes	93.6	96.4	15
No	6.4	3.6	0
Grade of oldest child			
PK-6	16.5	21.4	2
7-8	25.0	7.1	4
9-10	19.7	32.1	1
11-12	32.4	35.7	8
Age of adult			
Less than 20	2.1	0.0	0
20-29	1.6	3.6	0
30-39	28.2	17.9	3
40-49	52.7	50.0	8
50-59	12.2	25.0	2
60 or older	2.1	3.6	0

SECTION 2. SCHOOL AND FAMILY

Table 7. Oldest child: Grades earned

Usual Grades	Grade Of Oldest Child			
	PK-6	7-8	9-10	11-12
	%	%	%	%
A's	36.3	45.2	62.0	43.1
B's	44.0	30.2	31.8	44.4
C's	2.8	18.9	3.3	6.1
D's	0.0	0.0	2.9	1.3
F's	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing	14.1	5.6	0.0	5.1

Table 8. Oldest child: Time spent without adults

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

Hours	Grade Of Oldest Child			
	PK-6	7-8	9-10	11-12
	%	%	%	%
None	74.2	15.1	12.4	9.8
Less than 1 hour	8.3	30.0	34.3	34.4
1 to 2 hours	5.5	39.8	26.8	32.9
Up to 4 hours	0.0	1.9	14.5	6.4
More than 4 hours	12.1	13.2	12.0	16.4

Table 9. Family structure

Responses	Grade Of Oldest Child			
	PK-6	7-8	9-10	11-12
	%	%	%	%
Our family has clear rules for our child:				
Discouraging smoking cigarettes				
Definitely not true	1.7	0.0	1.2	3.0
Mostly not true	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mostly true	4.2	9.8	1.2	2.3
Definitely true	92.4	90.2	97.5	94.7
I don't know	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Discouraging drinking alcohol				
Definitely not true	1.7	0.0	1.2	3.0
Mostly not true	1.7	2.0	0.0	0.0
Mostly true	4.2	2.4	15.9	6.3
Definitely true	90.7	95.7	82.8	90.8
I don't know	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Governing responsible use of alcohol				
Definitely not true	1.7	6.6	1.3	6.1
Mostly not true	0.0	2.8	0.0	0.0
Mostly true	9.3	2.8	9.2	3.4
Definitely true	87.4	87.9	87.0	90.5
I don't know	1.7	0.0	2.5	0.0

Table 10. Family beliefs about substances

Responses	Grade Of Oldest Child			
	PK-6	7-8	9-10	11-12
	%	%	%	%
Teens risk harming themselves if they:				
Smoke cigarettes every day.				
Definitely not true	2.8	1.9	0.0	2.7
Mostly not true	0.0	0.0	2.1	0.0
Mostly true	0.0	1.9	0.0	1.3
Definitely true	97.2	94.2	97.9	96.0
I don't know	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.0
Drink alcohol at least once a week.				
Definitely not true	2.8	0.0	0.0	4.0
Mostly not true	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mostly true	5.6	3.8	2.1	6.7
Definitely true	91.7	94.2	97.9	89.3
I don't know	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.0
Use marijuana regularly.				
Definitely not true	2.8	0.0	0.0	4.0
Mostly not true	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mostly true	0.0	1.9	2.1	2.7
Definitely true	97.2	94.2	97.9	93.3
I don't know	0.0	3.8	0.0	0.0
I know a lot about effects of alcohol on teen physical & mental development.				
Definitely not true	0.0	0.0	2.2	1.3
Mostly not true	0.0	9.8	0.0	2.6
Mostly true	28.6	21.6	32.6	36.8
Definitely true	68.6	68.6	65.2	56.6
I don't know	2.9	0.0	0.0	2.6
Teens should be allowed to drink, to teach responsible drinking.				
Definitely not true	67.6	71.4	84.1	80.5
Mostly not true	23.5	18.4	11.4	6.5
Mostly true	2.9	4.1	4.5	7.8
Definitely true	0.0	4.1	0.0	3.9
I don't know	5.9	2.0	0.0	1.3

SECTION 3. SUBSTANCE USE

Table 11. Estimated Recent Substance Use

Question/Response	Grade Of Oldest Child			
	PK-6	7-8	9-10	11-12
	%	%	%	%
In the past 30 days, I think my child probably:				
Smoked at least 1 cigarette	0.0	2.0	1.7	6.4
Drank an alcoholic beverage	0.0	0.0	9.5	16.7
Used marijuana	0.0	2.0	0.0	11.3

Table 12. Availability of Substances

Usual Grades	Grade Of Oldest Child			
	PK-6	7-8	9-10	11-12
	%	%	%	%
If my child wanted to, it would be easy for him/her to get:				
Cigarettes				
Definitely not true	54.0	34.4	29.5	19.7
Mostly not true	12.0	23.2	7.8	9.9
Mostly true	13.0	23.1	39.3	29.9
Definitely true	17.9	15.4	19.9	32.7
I don't know	3.0	3.9	3.5	7.8
Alcoholic beverages				
Definitely not true	41.9	32.5	9.7	9.2
Mostly not true	24.2	19.2	27.7	14.2
Mostly true	13.0	27.0	33.9	38.9
Definitely true	17.9	21.2	25.1	31.1
I don't know	3.0	0.0	3.5	6.6
Marijuana				
Definitely not true	60.0	53.9	35.7	19.9
Mostly not true	12.0	22.0	13.2	9.0
Mostly true	10.0	16.2	32.1	33.2
Definitely true	15.0	4.0	10.1	19.6
I don't know	3.0	3.9	8.8	18.2
Drugs like cocaine or LSD				
Definitely not true	58.8	58.7	43.3	21.2
Mostly not true	12.3	25.7	19.0	14.2
Mostly true	7.2	5.9	14.7	23.5
Definitely true	12.4	1.9	7.8	14.7
I don't know	9.3	7.8	15.2	26.3

Table 13. Estimated Normative Alcohol Use

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

Response	Grade Of Oldest Child			
	PK-6	7-8	9-10	11-12
	%	%	%	%
10% or fewer	92.8	75.9	21.0	8.6
10% to 25%	3.1	21.9	35.5	34.0
25% to 50%	3.1	2.1	41.7	33.7
50% to 75%	0.0	0.0	1.8	15.1
75% to 90%	1.0	0.0	0.0	7.1
More than 90%	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5
Median estimate	<1.0	3.3	15.2	21.9

Table 14. Source of Alcohol for Teens*

Usual Grades	Grade Of Oldest Child				All Parents
	PK-6	7-8	9-10	11-12	
	%	%	%	%	%
Where do you think teenagers who drink get their alcohol beverages from?					
Home, with parental permission					
Never	34.4	25.9	13.6	10.6	23.6
Sometimes	57.9	62.9	74.6	85.5	67.9
Often	7.8	11.2	11.8	3.8	8.4
Home, without parent permission					
Never	5.7	9.7	0.0	0.0	4.6
Sometimes	67.7	61.2	58.6	59.5	62.6
Often	26.6	29.1	41.4	40.5	32.9
Teenage friends					
Never	5.7	6.7	5.7	3.1	5.4
Sometimes	38.8	50.1	58.6	55.0	48.9
Often	55.5	43.2	35.6	41.9	45.7
At a teen party					
Never	5.7	6.7	0.0	0.0	3.7
Sometimes	36.7	43.4	78.5	48.1	48.2
Often	57.6	49.9	21.5	51.9	48.1
Older people who buy it for them					
Never	5.7	15.0	0.0	6.8	7.3
Sometimes	57.4	51.6	100.0	59.8	63.7
Often	36.9	33.4	0.0	33.5	29.0

* This question was on the paper survey, but was inadvertently omitted from the on-line survey. (Total number of total parents for this table = 94.)

Table 15. Parents vs. Non-Parents

Question/Response	Parental Status		Statistical Significance
	Parent	Non-Parent	
	%	%	p-value*
I know it is against the law to serve alcohol to anybody under age 21, except our child.			0.0016
Yes	39.4	84.6	
No	58.3	15.4	
I don't know	2.3	0.0	
Teens risk harming themselves if they: Smoke cigarettes every day.			n/s*
Definitely not true	1.9	7.7	
Mostly not true	0.5	0.0	
Mostly true	1.0	0.0	
Definitely true	96.2	92.3	
I don't know	0.5	0.0	
Drink alcohol at least once a week.			n/s
Definitely not true	1.9	0.0	
Mostly not true	0.0	0.0	
Mostly true	4.8	15.4	
Definitely true	92.9	84.6	
I don't know	0.5	0.0	
Use marijuana regularly.			n/s
Definitely not true	1.9	7.7	
Mostly not true	0.0	0.0	
Mostly true	1.9	7.7	
Definitely true	95.2	84.6	
I don't know	1.0	0.0	
I know a lot about effects of alcohol on teen physical & mental development.			n/s
Definitely not true	1.0	0.0	
Mostly not true	3.4	8.3	
Mostly true	30.8	50.0	
Definitely true	63.5	41.7	
I don't know	1.4	0.0	
Teens should be allowed to drink, to teach responsible drinking.			0.00002
Definitely not true	77.0	100.0	
Mostly not true	13.2	0.0	
Mostly true	5.4	0.0	
Definitely true	2.5	0.0	
I don't know	2.0	0.0	

* n/s = not statistically significant (p > 0.05), 1-way ANOVA. ("I don't know" excluded.)

Table 16. Adult Alcohol Consumption

Question/Response	Parental Status	
	Parent	Non-Parent
	%	%
Recently, I or my spouse drink alcohol		
With meals		
Never	19.2	23.1
Rarely	31.9	30.8
Sometimes	35.7	30.8
Often	13.1	15.4
Cocktails before meals		
Never	51.7	46.2
Rarely	28.0	38.5
Sometimes	14.7	15.4
Often	5.7	0.0
At parties outside home		
Never	21.3	7.7
Rarely	40.3	38.5
Sometimes	30.8	53.8
Often	7.6	0.0
Host parties with alcohol		
Never	36.4	23.1
Rarely	37.8	30.8
Sometimes	21.1	46.2
Often	4.8	0.0
At bars or clubs		
Never	41.6	30.8
Rarely	40.2	53.8
Sometimes	15.3	15.4
Often	2.9	0.0

Table 17. Family practices

Responses	Grade Of Oldest Child			
	PK-6	7-8	9-10	11-12
	%	%	%	%
In the past year, alcohol was consumed at our home by our child's teenage friends.				
Yes	4.1	0.0	0.0	8.6
No	95.9	100.0	93.8	90.7
I don't know	0.0	0.0	6.2	0.6
I know it is against the law to serve alcohol to anybody under age 21, except our child.				
Yes	32.4	28.3	42.6	48.1
No	64.9	67.9	55.3	50.6
I don't know	2.7	3.8	2.1	1.3
In the past year, I have purchased alcohol for someone under age 21.				
Yes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6
No	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.7
I don't know	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6

**SECTION 4. COMPARISONS:
2009 YOUTH SURVEY VS. 2008 PARENT SURVEY**

Table 18. Reports of grades earned

Reported Grades Earned	Grade Level / Survey					
	7-8		9-10		11-12	
	Youth	Parents	Youth	Parents	Youth	Parents
	%	%	%	%	%	%
A	35.5	45.2	25.2	62.0	30.4	43.1
B	42.0	30.2	40.6	31.8	47.0	44.4
C	17.0	18.9	26.7	3.3	19.4	6.1
D	5.1	0.0	7.6	2.9	3.3	1.3

Table 19. Hours after school without adult

Hours	Grade Level / Survey					
	7-8		9-10		11-12	
	Youth	Parents	Youth	Parents	Youth	Parents
	%	%	%	%	%	%
None	15.4	15.1	5.8	12.4	13.0	9.8
Less than 1 hour	23.8	30	17.9	34.3	10.5	34.4
1-2 hours	43.6	39.8	46.7	26.8	37.5	32.9
Up to 4 hours	12.1	1.9	17.5	14.5	21.2	6.4
More than 4 hours	5.1	13.2	12.1	12	17.7	16.4

Table 20. Substance use by index youth

Substance	Grade Level / Survey					
	7-8		9-10		11-12	
	Youth	Parents	Youth	Parents	Youth	Parents
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Alcohol	5.0	2.0	28.7	1.7	34.5	6.4
Cigarettes	3.5	0.0	11.7	9.5	15.9	16.7
Marijuana	1.5	2.0	19.9	0.0	11.9	11.3

Table 21. Median estimated substance use by classmates

Substance	Grade Level / Survey					
	7-8		9-10		11-12	
	Youth	Parents	Youth	Parents	Youth	Parents
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Alcohol	2.1	3.3	22.0	15.2	20.8	21.9
Cigarettes	2.4	n/a*	16.2	n/a	21.0	n/a
Marijuana	1.95	n/a	21.5	n/a	26.8	n/a

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

Table 22. Availability of Substances

Hours	Grade Level / Survey					
	7-8		9-10		11-12	
	Youth	Parents	Youth	Parents	Youth	Parents
	%	%	%	%	%	%
If you / your child wanted to, how easy would it be to get:						
Cigarettes						
Very easy	30.4	15.4	49.9	19.9	57.5	32.7
Sort of easy	30.4	23.1	24.7	39.3	32.9	29.9
Sort of hard	16.7	23.2	17.1	7.8	7.5	9.9
Very hard	22.5	34.4	8.3	29.5	2.1	19.7
I don't know	--	3.9	--	3.5	--	7.8
Alcoholic beverages						
Very easy	21.8	21.2	47.1	25.1	72.1	31.1
Sort of easy	19.2	27.0	26.7	33.9	20.4	38.9
Sort of hard	19.8	19.2	12.3	27.7	6.1	14.2
Very hard	39.2	32.5	13.9	9.7	1.4	9.2
I don't know	--	0.0	--	3.5	--	6.6
Marijuana						
Very easy	13.5	4.0	43.1	10.1	41.7	19.6
Sort of easy	10.0	16.2	17.7	32.1	35.4	33.2
Sort of hard	14.2	22.0	14.9	13.2	16.7	9.0
Very hard	62.3	53.9	24.2	35.7	6.3	19.9
I don't know	--	3.9	--	8.8	--	18.2
Drugs like cocaine or LSD						
Very easy	5.6	1.9	16.2	7.8	11.7	14.7
Sort of easy	7.0	5.9	10.8	14.7	18.6	23.5
Sort of hard	14.2	25.7	25.1	19.0	25.2	14.2
Very hard	73.1	58.7	47.9	43.3	44.5	21.2
I don't know	--	7.8	--	15.2	--	26.3

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

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

Table 23. HS Parents: Recent Teen Alcohol Consumption

Index Q: Did your child probably drink alcohol in past 30 days?			
Question/Response	Response to Index Q		P-Value YES vs. NO
	YES	NO	
	score	score	
Where do you think teens obtain alcohol?			
Home w/ permission	57.9	45.6	n/s
Home w/o permission	80.2	68.8	n/s
From teen friends	77.8	65.8	n/s
At a teen party	78.3	67.9	n/s
Older person buys it	50.0	59.1	n/s
Family situation			
Number of children	43.5	51.4	n/s
Hours after school w/o adult	52.7	44.5	n/s
Grades	83.5	86.6	n/s
Hosted teen alcohol party	38.5	0.0	<0.0001
Alcohol easy to get	67.6	53.7	n/s
Adult practices, perceptions			
How many classmates drink	50.8	27.2	<0.0001
Adult alcohol consumption	44.7	34.1	<0.05
Know teen development	93.9	88.3	n/s
Some teen drinking OK	28.5	6.4	<0.0001

Table 24. HS Parents: Age of Adult Respondent

Age of respondent compared to sample median age			
Question/Response	Age versus Median		P-Value YNG vs. OLD
	YOUNGER	OLDER	
	score	score	
Where do you think teens obtain alcohol?			
Home w/ permission	50.0	46.9	n/s
Home w/o permission	88.5	65.6	<0.001
From teen friends	64.4	69.1	n/s
At a teen party	71.1	69.9	n/s
Older person buys it	55.2	58.6	n/s
Family situation			
Number of children	78.5	38.4	<0.0001
Hours after school w/o adult	42.8	46.6	n/s
Grades	82.2	87.5	<0.05
Hosted teen alcohol party	4.5	4.7	n/s
Alcohol easy to get	63.6	51.9	<0.05
Adult practices, perceptions			
How many classmates drink	29.9	31.0	n/s
Adult alcohol consumption	35.6	35.8	n/s
Know teen development	81.8	86.6	n/s
Some teen drinking OK	10.4	8.5	n/s

Table 25. HS Parents: Gender of Index Child

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	46.7	55.1	n/s
Home w/o permission	68.4	77.5	n/s
From teen friends	64.9	71.1	n/s
At a teen party	67.8	71.4	n/s
Older person buys it	60.8	52.6	n/s
Family situation			
Number of children	54.2	44.6	n/s
Hours after school w/o adult	43.5	49.0	n/s
Grades	86.9	85.3	n/s
Hosted teen alcohol party	2.5	7.5	n/s
Alcohol easy to get	58.0	53.3	n/s
Adult practices, perceptions			
How many classmates drink	30.4	30.9	n/s
Adult alcohol consumption	37.3	32.3	n/s
Know teen development	82.8	88.0	n/s
Some teen drinking OK	8.5	9.0	n/s

Table 26. HS Parents: Gender of Adult Respondent

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	53.7	15.7	<0.0001
Home w/o permission	70.0	74.4	n/s
From teen friends	63.9	81.6	<0.05
At a teen party	64.0	87.5	<0.001
Older person buys it	57.4	44.1	<0.05
Family situation			
Number of children	53.2	45.1	n/s
Hours after school w/o adult	43.7	61.1	<0.001
Grades	85.9	87.4	n/s
Hosted teen alcohol party	5.1	3.8	n/s
Alcohol easy to get	57.9	47.6	n/s
Adult practices, perceptions			
How many classmates drink	31.9	24.1	n/s
Adult alcohol consumption	34.8	42.3	<0.05
Know teen development	83.6	91.3	n/s
Some teen drinking OK	9.0	12.2	<0.05

Table 27. All Parents: School of Oldest Child

Index Q: What school is your oldest child enrolled in?			
Question/Response	Child's school		P-Value E+M vs. H
	E + M*	H*	
Where do you think teens obtain alcohol?	score	score	
Home w/ permission	39.2	47.6	<0.05
Home w/o permission	60.1	70.4	<0.01
From teen friends	72.0	67.5	n/s
At a teen party	74.0	69.4	n/s
Older person buys it	62.9	57.7	n/s
Adult practices, perceptions			
Know CT social host law	30.3	45.6	<0.01
Adult alcohol consumption	32.4	35.5	n/s
Know teen development	88.5	85.3	n/s

* E = Elementary, M = Middle School, H= High School

APPENDIX

2008 Parent Survey, Ledyard, Connecticut

Note: The attached survey instrument is the paper form used to collect responses, which were then keyed into an on-line data entry site. The same survey was also administered on-line in an essentially identical format, except that non-parents were not asked about “Your Child”.



Ledyard Safe Teens Coalition

c/o Ledge Light Health District
943 North Road
Groton, CT 06340

Ledyard Parent Survey on Youth Substance Use

The Ledyard Safe Teens Coalition wants to understand the role adults play in the use of alcohol among adolescents, and the perception of parents toward underage drinking. This survey is strictly anonymous and confidential.

This survey asks about “Your/My Child”, that is, your oldest child enrolled in Grade 12 or below in 2008-09.

1. What is your Child’s **Age**? _____, Your Child’s **Gender**? Female Male
2. What grade is Your Child in? _____.
3. Is Your Child : Enrolled in public school? Enrolled in private school?
 Home-schooled? Other: _____.
4. How do you describe Your Child? (choose one):
 White/Caucasian Black/African American Asian, Indian, Pacific Islander
 Hispanic/Latino Native American
 Other (including multiracial), please specify: _____.
5. What kind of grades does Your Child usually get (choose one)?
 A’s B’s C’s D’s F’s
6. How many children do you have in: _____ Elementary (pre-K thru 5)
_____ Middle School (grades 6-8) _____ High School (grades 9-12)
7. What is Your **Age**? _____, Your **Gender**? Female Male
8. How many students in Your Child’s grade do you think drink alcoholic beverages at least once a week?
 10% or Less 10% to 25% 25% to 50%
 50% to 75% 75% to 90% 90% or More Don’t Know
9. Where do you think teenagers who drink get their alcoholic beverages from?

	<u>Never</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	<u>Often</u>
Home, with parental permission	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Home, without parental permission	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
From teenage friends	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
At a teen party	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
From older people who buy it for them	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10. On regular weekdays, how many hours does Your Child spend after school without an adult present?

	<u>None</u>	<u>Less than</u>	<u>1-2</u>	<u>Up to</u>	<u>More than</u>
	<u>1 Hour</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>4 Hours</u>	<u>4 Hours</u>	
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? TRUE FALSE
- | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| In the past year, alcohol was consumed at our home
<u>by My Child's teenage friends.</u> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| It is against the law to serve alcohol to anybody under age 21,
<u>except my own child.</u> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <u>In the past year, I purchased alcohol for somebody under 21.</u> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| In the past 30 days , I think My Child probably: | | |
| Smoked at least one cigarette. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Drank an alcohol beverage (more than just a sip). | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Used marijuana. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

12. Please rate how TRUE you think the following statements are.
- | | Definitely
<u>NOT</u>
<u>TRUE</u> | Maybe
<u>NOT</u>
<u>TRUE</u> | Maybe
<u>TRUE</u> | Definitely
<u>TRUE</u> | DON'T
<u>KNOW</u> |
|--|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| My family has clear rules for My Child: | | | | | |
| Discouraging smoking cigarettes. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Discouraging drinking alcohol. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <u>Governing responsible use of alcohol.</u> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Teenagers risk harming themselves if they: | | | | | |
| 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"/> |
| <u>Use marijuana regularly.</u> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| If My Child wanted to, it would be EASY for him/her to get: | | | | | |
| Cigarettes. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Alcoholic beverages. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Marijuana. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <u>A drug like cocaine, heroin or LSD..</u> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I know A LOT about the effects of alcohol on a teenager's physical and mental development: | | | | | |
| <u>_____</u> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I think teenagers should be allowed to drink, to teach them how to drink responsibly.: | | | | | |
| <u>_____</u> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

13. In the recent past, how would you characterize the use of alcohol by you or your spouse?
- | | <u>Never</u> | <u>Rarely</u> | <u>Sometimes</u> | <u>Often</u> |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 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 | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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