

2020 Addison County Parent Survey on Youth Substance Use

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

FEBRUARY 2021

Prepared by: Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation



Acknowledgments

The 2020 Addison County Parent Survey on Youth Substance Use was conducted, and this report was prepared, for the United Way of Addison County (UWAC), by the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE). Funding was provided by UWAC's Partnerships for Success grant from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and Drug Free Communities grant from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

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Background and Methods

Purpose of this report...

The 2020 Addison County Parent Survey on Youth Substance Use was conducted in order to provide data that can help inform and improve substance misuse prevention programs for Addison County youth and families. These data will also be used to support the evaluation of the United Way of Addison County's Partnerships for Success and Drug Free Communities grants.

Survey methods...

The survey, which was accessed and completed online, was conducted for several weeks during November of 2020. Parents of students in grades 6 through 12 in Addison County were eligible to participate. Respondents were recruited through posts on Front Porch Forum, Facebook posts and paid ads, emails to community list serves, and the UWAC newsletter and website. 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 one of three \$100 gift certificates to local restaurants.

What's included in this report...

The items in the tables are ordered as they were ordered in the survey itself. The values in the tables are the percent of parents reporting each response listed. For some items where it may be relevant, these values are reported by grade level of the "referent" child (the child that each parent kept in mind when answering the questions). Note that the total sample includes some parents who did not report the grade of their child. Percentages reported for questions that allow multiple response options to be selected will sum to more than 100.

Representativeness and sample size considerations...

Because a scientifically developed random sample of parents was not possible, the survey findings do not necessarily reflect the overall parent population of the county and should be considered only as estimates of the views of parents in the county. Certain questions were asked only of specific subgroups of parents (e.g. those that responded a certain way to a previous question), and for these items the sample sizes are even smaller. These questions are identified in the footnotes and should be interpreted with extra caution due to the small sample sizes.

TABLE 1.






















Please select the city or town where you live the greatest amount of time during the year	Total Sample N=160	
ADDISON	4.4	
BRIDPORT	4.4	
BRISTOL	7.5	
CORNWALL	5.6	
FERRISBURG	12.5	
GOSHEN	0.0	
GRANVILLE	0.6	
HANCOCK	0.0	
LEICESTER	0.0	
LINCOLN	1.9	
MIDDLEBURY	18.1	
MONKTON	4.4	
NEW HAVEN	3.1	
ORWELL	0.6	
PANTON	1.9	
RIPTON	1.3	
SALISBURY	3.8	
SHOREHAM	2.5	
STARKSBORO	5.0	
VERGENNES	13.1	
WALTHAM	1.3	
WEYBRIDGE	4.4	
WHITING	0.6	
Other	3.1	

TABLE 2. Referent child demographics

	Total Sample	
What is the age of your child?	(n=156)	
10 or younger	2.6	
11	14.7	
12	16.7	
13	12.2	
14	11.5	
15	11.5	
16	17.3	
17	10.3	
18	2.6	
19	0.0	
20	0.0	
21 or older	0.6	
What is the grade of your child?	(n=151)	
6 th	17.2	
7 th	17.2	
8 th	14.6	
9 th	11.3	
10 th	9.9	
11 th	17.9	
12 th	11.9	
Does your child identify as...	(n=157)	
Female	50.3	
Male	49.0	
Transgender	0.0	
Other	0.6	

TABLE 3. Frequency of talking with child about dangers of using substances

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			
	6-8	9-12	Total Sample	
Using alcohol?	(n=70)	(n=74)	(n=148)	
0 times	18.6	4.1	10.8	
1 to 2 times	20.0	16.2	17.6	
A few times	34.3	39.2	37.2	
Many times	27.1	40.5	34.5	
Using marijuana or cannabis?	(n=66)	(n=73)	(n=143)	
0 times	21.2	8.2	14.0	
1 to 2 times	28.8	17.8	23.1	
A few times	31.8	35.6	34.3	
Many times	18.2	38.4	28.7	
Using prescription drugs that are not prescribed to them or using them in ways other than prescribed by their doctor?	(n=66)	(n=72)	(n=141)	
0 times	36.4	25.0	30.5	
1 to 2 times	25.8	26.4	25.5	
A few times	28.8	18.1	23.4	
Many times	9.1	30.6	20.6	
Using e-cigarettes or vaping devices?	(n=66)	(n=70)	(n=138)	
0 times	30.3	11.4	20.3	
1 to 2 times	22.7	20.0	21.7	
A few times	18.2	34.3	26.8	
Many times	28.8	34.3	31.2	
Driving after drinking alcohol or riding in vehicle driven by someone who has been drinking?	(n=66)	(n=72)	(n=140)	
0 times	25.8	12.5	18.6	
1 to 2 times	28.8	16.7	23.6	
A few times	27.3	26.4	26.4	
Many times	18.2	44.4	31.4	













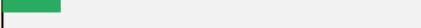



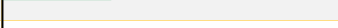
Driving after using marijuana/cannabis or riding in a vehicle driven by someone who has been using marijuana/cannabis?	(n=66)	(n=72)	(n=140)	
0 times	47.0	23.6	34.3	
1 to 2 times	15.2	19.4	18.6	
A few times	22.7	19.4	20.7	
Many times	15.2	37.5	26.4	

TABLE 4. Perceptions regarding acceptability of teen substance use

	Total Sample	
It's okay for teens to drink alcoholic beverages occasionally.	(n=145)	
Strongly agree	0.7	
Agree	9.7	
Disagree	32.4	
Strongly disagree	55.9	
Don't know	1.4	
It's okay for teens to smoke cigarettes occasionally.	(n=135)	
Strongly agree	0.7	
Agree	2.2	
Disagree	11.9	
Strongly disagree	85.2	
Don't know	0.0	
It's okay for teens to use marijuana or cannabis occasionally.	(n=135)	
Strongly agree	0.7	
Agree	8.2	
Disagree	22.2	
Strongly disagree	68.9	
Don't know	0.0	

It's okay for teens to use electronic vaping devices like e-cigarettes, Juuls, vape pens, etc. occasionally.	(n=134)	
Strongly agree	0.8	
Agree	0.8	
Disagree	11.2	
Strongly disagree	87.3	
Don't know	0.0	

TABLE 5. Perceived risk to teens from using substances

	Total Sample	
Drink alcohol occasionally	(n=143)	
No risk	0.7	
Slight risk	14.7	
Moderate risk	34.3	
Great risk	50.4	
Use marijuana or cannabis once or twice a week?	(n=144)	
No risk	1.4	
Slight risk	11.1	
Moderate risk	31.3	
Great risk	56.3	
Use e-cigarettes or vaping devices nearly every day?	(n=144)	
No risk	2.8	
Slight risk	2.8	
Moderate risk	7.6	
Great risk	86.8	

TABLE 6. Ease of access to substances kept in the home
















	Total Sample	
Alcohol	(n=143)	
Very likely	14.7	
Somewhat likely	30.8	
Not very likely	31.5	
Not at all likely	12.6	
Not applicable (alcohol is never kept in our home)	10.5	
Marijuana or cannabis (in any form including plants, edibles, waxes, concentrates, etc.)	(n=142)	
Very likely	2.8	
Somewhat likely	7.0	
Not very likely	12.7	
Not at all likely	17.6	
Not applicable (marijuana/cannabis is never kept in our home)	59.9	
Prescription medications	(n=143)	
Very likely	6.3	
Somewhat likely	14.7	
Not very likely	23.1	
Not at all likely	36.4	
Not applicable (prescription medications are not kept in our home)	19.6	

TABLE 7. Substances that parent believes child has used
























Which, if any, of these substances do you know or suspect that your child has used in the past 30 days? (Check all that apply)				
	Grade Level of Referent Child			
	6-8	9-12	Total Sample	
	(n=64)	(n=73)	(n=140)	
Alcohol	0.0	15.1	7.9	
Marijuana or cannabis	0.0	13.7	7.9	
Tobacco	0.0	2.7	1.4	
E-cigarettes or vaping devices (e.g. Juul devices)	0.0	6.9	3.6	
Prescription medications (in ways other than as prescribed to them)	0.0	1.4	0.7	
Other substances (specify)	0.0	0.0	0.0	
I don't think my child has used any substances	100.0	78.1	87.9	

TABLE 8. Perceptions regarding parent influence on and impacts of teen substance use

	Total Sample	
It's okay for adults to use marijuana or cannabis in front of children because it is legal in Vermont.	(n=142)	
Strongly agree	0.0	
Agree	4.9	
Disagree	25.4	
Strongly disagree	66.9	
Don't know	2.8	
Using substances at a young age increases the risk of dependency and addiction.	(n=137)	
Strongly agree	59.1	
Agree	35.8	
Disagree	2.9	
Strongly disagree	0.0	
Don't know	2.2	
Teen brain development can be hurt by drinking alcohol.	(n=136)	
Strongly agree	72.1	
Agree	26.5	
Disagree	0.0	
Strongly disagree	0.7	
Don't know	0.7	
Teen brain development can be hurt by using marijuana/cannabis.	(n=134)	
Strongly agree	69.4	
Agree	27.6	
Disagree	0.8	
Strongly disagree	0.8	
Don't know	1.5	


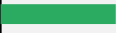




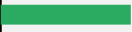








Teen's mental health can be hurt by using marijuana/cannabis.	(n=134)	
Strongly agree	64.2	
Agree	29.1	
Disagree	1.5	
Strongly disagree	1.5	
Don't know	3.7	
Talking with your child about alcohol and drug use makes a difference in the choices they make.	(n=134)	
Strongly agree	63.4	
Agree	32.8	
Disagree	1.5	
Strongly disagree	0.8	
Don't know	1.5	
There are places in my community where I can learn more about how to help prevent my child from using alcohol and drugs.	(n=134)	
Strongly agree	34.3	
Agree	47.0	
Disagree	3.7	
Strongly disagree	0.8	
Don't know	14.2	

TABLE 9. Confidence in ability to talk with child about substance use




How confident are you in being able to talk effectively with your child about alcohol and drugs?				
	Grade Level of Referent Child			
	6-8	9-12	Total Sample	
	(n=63)	(n=72)	(n=139)	
Very confident	57.1	69.4	64.0	
Somewhat confident	41.3	26.4	33.1	
Not very confident	1.6	4.2	2.9	
Not at all confident	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Undecided or don't know	0.0	0.0	0.0	

TABLE 10. Aspects of talking with child that parent wishes they were better at or would like more information










Which specific aspects of talking to your child about alcohol and drugs, if any, do you most wish you were better at or would like to have more information? (Please check up to <u>three</u> choices)...				
	Grade Level of Referent Child			
	6-8	9-12	Total Sample	
	(n=62)	(n=70)	(n=136)	
Knowing how and when to start these conversations	19.4	11.4	15.4	
Knowing the facts about what percent of students your child's age use alcohol and drugs	29.0	21.4	25.0	
Knowing the facts about the risks of using various substances	21.0	18.6	19.9	
Knowing how to respond to questions about your own past (or present) substance use	27.4	20.0	23.5	
Getting your child to share his or her experiences and views	40.3	37.1	39.0	
Listening attentively to what your child has to say	14.5	18.6	16.9	
Getting your child's full attention	16.1	30.0	23.5	
Knowing how to respond if your child admits to using substances	33.9	47.1	40.4	
Other	3.2	5.7	4.4	












TABLE 11. Topics for which parents are likely to seek information or guidance

For which of the following topics are you likely to seek information or guidance during the upcoming year? (Check all that apply)				
	Grade Level of Referent Child			
	6-8	9-12	Total Sample	
	(n=60)	(n=70)	(n=134)	
Preventing my child from using alcohol or other drugs	16.7	20.0	18.7	
Helping my child connect with positive role models, peers and activities	56.7	42.9	48.5	
Helping my child deal with stress or mental health issues	65.0	62.9	63.4	
Setting limits on my child's night time and weekend activities	23.3	25.7	23.9	
Negative effects of teen marijuana/cannabis use	8.3	8.6	8.2	
Negative effects of teen e-cigarette use or vaping	8.3	8.6	8.2	
State laws regarding medical and non-medical use of marijuana/cannabis by underage persons	1.7	7.1	4.5	
State laws regarding use of e-cigarettes or vaping devices by underage persons	0.0	5.7	3.0	
Ways I can support efforts in my community to prevent and reduce teen substance use	18.3	27.1	23.9	
Other topics related to protecting my child's safety and well-being	6.7	4.3	6.0	
None of the above	11.7	12.9	12.7	

TABLE 12. Preferred ways to obtain information about parenting topics


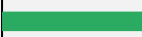
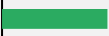












What would be your preferred ways to get information about the parenting topics of interest to you? (Please check up to <u>three</u> choices)				
	Grade Level of Referent Child			
	6-8	9-12	Total Sample	
	(n=59)	(n=68)	(n=131)	
Online via specific health or parenting informational websites	61.0	57.4	58.8	
Social media (e.g. Google, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube)	37.3	30.9	33.6	
Printed materials (such as newsletters, brochures, tip sheets, etc.)	23.7	26.5	25.2	
In-person group presentations or community meetings	5.1	13.2	9.9	
Virtual group presentations or community meetings	20.3	20.6	19.9	
In-person small group classes or support groups	8.5	5.9	6.9	
Virtual small group classes or support groups	6.8	4.4	5.3	
Periodic emails or text messages from trusted organizations or service providers	30.5	38.2	34.4	
Meeting individually with teacher, counselor, doctor, or other service provider	18.6	11.8	14.5	
Talking with other parents in person	20.3	13.2	16.0	
Talking with other parents online	13.6	7.4	9.9	
Other	1.7	2.9	2.3	

TABLE 13. Awareness of and engagement with UWAC’s Talk It’s Important Campaign

	Grade Level of Referent Child			
	6-8	9-12	Total Sample	
Over the past 6 months, have you seen or heard any information about (or from) a media campaign called Talk. It’s important that is designed to help parents understand the importance of talking with their teen about the risks of substance use?	(n=59)	(n=70)	(n=133)	
Yes	27.1	21.4	24.1	
No	62.7	65.7	64.7	
Not sure	10.2	12.9	11.3	
Where did you see or hear the information? Please check all that apply.¹			Total Sample (n=45)	
Facebook or Instagram			44.4	
United Way of Addison County website			20.0	
Newspaper			22.2	
Communication from school			17.8	
Printed material or flyer (e.g. in grocery bag, on pizza box, in a water bottle we received)			17.8	
Directly from someone I know			13.3	
Not sure			28.9	
Other			4.4	




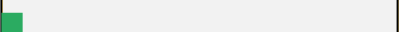


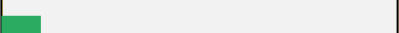
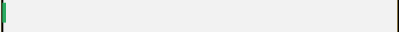



¹ Sample size for this item is based on a “yes” or “not sure” response to previous question.

TABLE 14. Effects of seeing the Talk. It's important campaign¹

As a result of seeing the Talk. It's important information...		
	Total Sample	
I feel more confident in talking with my child about substance use.	(n=45)	
Agree	37.8	
Neutral	35.6	
Disagree	0.0	
Not sure	26.7	
I have more information to help my child better understand the negative impacts of substance use.	(n=44)	
Agree	34.1	
Neutral	38.6	
Disagree	4.6	
Not sure	22.7	
I have created more opportunities to bring up the topic of substance use with my child.	(n=44)	
Agree	38.6	
Neutral	36.4	
Disagree	4.6	
Not sure	20.5	
I have been able to communicate my expectations around substance use to my child.	(n=44)	
Agree	38.6	
Neutral	36.4	
Disagree	4.6	
Not sure	20.5	

¹ Sample size for these items are based on a "yes" or "not sure" response to the first question in table 13.

TABLE 15. Respondent demographics

	Total Sample	
What is your age?	(n=130)	
18-24	0.0	
25-34	3.9	
35-44	51.5	
45-54	38.5	
55-64	5.4	
65 or older	0.8	
Do you identify as...	(n=110)	
Female	90.0	
Male	10.0	
Transgender	0.0	
Other	0.0	
How do you usually describe yourself (check all that apply)	(n=110)	
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.0	
Black or African American	0.0	
Hispanic or Latino/a	0.9	
Native American/Alaska Native	0.9	
White	98.2	
Multi-racial	0.9	
Other	0.9	