

Needham Coalition for Youth Substance Abuse Prevention
Parent Survey of Norms, Behaviors, and Attitudes

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Needham Coalition for Youth Substance Abuse Prevention (NCYSAP) is conducting a survey of parents of 6th-12th graders in public and private schools. The purpose of this survey is to help the NCYSAP learn more about parent beliefs and perceptions regarding underage drinking and substance use. Your candid feedback will enable us to structure and implement targeted prevention initiatives to enhance youth health and safety. The results of this survey will be shared with you through our website and during the next academic year through health promotion activities and community-wide messaging.

It should only take about 10-12 minutes to answer the questions.

This survey is anonymous. Your responses cannot be traced to you. The data are being handled by Social Science Research and Evaluation, Inc., a non-profit research firm in Burlington, MA. No one will know how you answered the items in this survey. Please answer the questions based on what you actually think and do. Completing the survey is voluntary. You may skip any question you choose not to answer.

Thank you very much for your time and support.

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Background Information

1. Do you **currently** have any children in grades 6-12? (select *one*)
- ☐ No [**Note:** these individuals are opted-out of the survey]
- ☐ Yes [**Note:** these individuals are sent to Question #2]

Residence and School

2. Do you currently live in Needham, Massachusetts? (select *one*)
- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes
3. Do you currently have any children in public or private school in grades 6-12 in Needham? (select *one*)
- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes
4. Do you currently have any children in public or private school in grades 6-12 outside of Needham? (select *one*)
- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes
5. In which grade level is your oldest child in grades 6-12? (select *one*)
- ☐ 6th grade
- ☐ 7th grade
- ☐ 8th grade
- ☐ 9th grade
- ☐ 10th grade
- ☐ 11th grade
- ☐ 12th grade

6. Does your oldest child in grades 6-12 attend public school or private school? (select one)

- ☐ Public School
☐ Private School

Communication

This first series of questions asks about different types of communication you may have had with your child and/or with other parents. Please think about your oldest child in 6th-12th grade when answering these items.

7. During the past 7 days, on how many days did you eat dinner at home with your child? (select one)

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ☐ 0 days | ☐ 3 days | ☐ 6 days |
| ☐ 1 day | ☐ 4 days | ☐ 7 days |
| ☐ 2 days | ☐ 5 days | |

8. Have you communicated your family's guidelines and expectations around youth alcohol and drug use to your child? (select one)

- ☐ No ☐ Yes

9. During the past 30 days, have you talked to your child about the potential negative consequences associated with underage alcohol use? (select one)

- ☐ No ☐ Yes

10. During the past 30 days, have you talked to your child about the potential negative consequences associated with using marijuana? (select one)

- ☐ No ☐ Yes

11. During the past 30 days, have you talked to your child about the potential negative consequences associated with using prescription drugs that were not prescribed to them? (select one)

- ☐ No ☐ Yes

12. Have you ever talked with parents of your child's close friends to share and compare parental philosophies and standards regarding alcohol and drugs? (select one)

- ☐ No
☐ Yes

13. What I say has little influence on whether my child uses alcohol or drugs. (select one)

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| ☐ Strongly Disagree | ☐ No Opinion | ☐ Strongly Agree |
| ☐ Disagree | ☐ Agree | |

14. Which of the following strategies, if any, have you and your child discussed about how to protect themselves in an unsafe situation? (select all that apply)

- ☐ A verbal or written contract with your child not to ride in any vehicle driven by someone who has been drinking
☐ A verbal or written contract with your child to limit the use of alcohol or drugs
☐ A verbal or written contract with your child that prohibits any alcohol or drug use
☐ Call or text message
☐ Code word/way to get picked up without having to explain
☐ Ways to "say no"
☐ We have not discussed any strategies
☐ A Different Strategy (type-in): _____

Attitudes and Beliefs

These questions ask about your attitudes and beliefs about youth substance use. Remember to think about your oldest child in 6th-12th grade when answering these items.

15. Which of the following statements *best* represents your own belief about underage alcohol use? (select *one*)

- ☐ Youth drinking is never a good thing.
- ☐ Occasional youth drinking under supervision of his/her own parents is OK.
- ☐ Occasional youth drinking under supervision of a friend's parents is OK.
- ☐ Occasional youth drinking without adult supervision is OK as long as there is no driving involved.
- ☐ Any type of youth drinking is OK.

16. Which of the following statements *best* represents your own belief about youth marijuana use? (select *one*)

- ☐ Youth marijuana use is never a good thing.
- ☐ Occasional youth marijuana use under supervision of his/her own parents is OK.
- ☐ Occasional youth marijuana use under supervision of a friend's parents is OK.
- ☐ Occasional youth marijuana use without adult supervision is OK as long as there is no driving involved.
- ☐ Any type of youth marijuana use is OK.

17. I think it is okay to allow underage alcohol use at home as long as it is responsible and not excessive. (select *one*)

- ☐ Strongly Disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ No Opinion
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly Agree

18. I think it is okay to allow youth marijuana use at home as long as it is responsible and not excessive. (select *one*)

- ☐ Strongly Disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ No Opinion
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly Agree

19. How wrong do you think it would be for your child to.... (select *one per row*)

	Not At All Wrong	A Little Bit Wrong	Wrong	Very Wrong
Smoke tobacco	☐	☐	☐	☐
Have one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day	☐	☐	☐	☐
Smoke marijuana	☐	☐	☐	☐
Use prescription drugs not prescribed to them	☐	☐	☐	☐

20. Many parents set a bad example for their children by their own excessive alcohol use. (select *one*)

- ☐ Strongly Disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ No Opinion
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly Agree

21. Too many parents in Needham either provide alcohol for their children or turn a blind eye to underage alcohol use. (select *one*)

- ☐ Strongly Disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ No Opinion
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly Agree

22. Too many parents in Needham turn a blind eye to youth marijuana use. (select *one*)

- ☐ Strongly Disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ No Opinion
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly Agree

23. I believe the illegal use of prescription medications among youth is a problem in Needham. (select *one*)

- ☐ Strongly Disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ No Opinion
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly Agree

24. I believe schools should provide education programs for students my child's age that are designed to help prevent and reduce underage drinking and substance abuse. (select *one*)

- ☐ Strongly Disagree
☐ Disagree

- ☐ No Opinion
☐ Agree

- ☐ Strongly Agree

25. In which grade levels should schools provide evidence-based, age/developmentally appropriate substance abuse awareness and prevention curricula through health classes? (select all that apply)

- ☐ Never
☐ K-1st grade
☐ 2nd-3rd grade

- ☐ 4th-5th grade
☐ 6th grade
☐ 7th-8th grade

- ☐ 9th-10th grade
☐ 11th-12th grade

26. What are some effective ways/places to reach parents like you with prevention messages? (select all that apply)

- ☐ Bank, grocery store, or convenience store
☐ Cable television
☐ Church, mosque, or synagogue
☐ Doctor's Office
☐ Civic clubs/organizations

- ☐ Facebook or Twitter
☐ Commuter Rail
☐ MBTA Bus
☐ Newspaper (online)
☐ Newspaper (print)
☐ The Needham Patch

- ☐ Parent Newsletter from the school
☐ PTC Email/Newsletter
☐ Radio
☐ School Website
☐ Take-out restaurants

27. If the police became aware that Needham teens were drinking alcohol, what action would you support regarding the teens? (select all that apply)

- ☐ There should be no action against the teens
☐ Police should issue a verbal warning to the teens
☐ Police should call or contact the teens' parents
☐ Police should issue a ticket/notice to appear in court
☐ Police should arrest the offending teens
☐ Police should inform school personnel
☐ If on a Needham sports team, the school should enforce MIAA sanctions
☐ Police should refer the teens to a mandated substance abuse education class

28. What is the *main* reason you think some parents may allow their and other children to drink alcohol in their home? (select *one*)

- ☐ So the youth don't drink and drive
☐ So the drinking is supervised
☐ So the youth don't get arrested
☐ To teach youth to drink responsibly
☐ Other (type-in): _____

29. I would like other parents to call me to see if I will be home if their child is coming to my home for a social gathering. (select *one*)

- ☐ Strongly Disagree
☐ Disagree

- ☐ No Opinion
☐ Agree

- ☐ Strongly Agree

Perceptions

These questions ask about your perceptions about what actually occurs in Needham.

30. Estimate the percentage of Needham students in each of the following grade levels who did each of the following during the last 30 days. (choose a percentage between 0% and 100%)

	6 th -8 th Graders	9 th -12 th Graders
Drank at least one drink of alcohol (not including religious ceremonies)	[drop-down]	[drop-down]
Drank 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row (within a couple of hours)	[drop-down]	[drop-down]
Rode in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol	[drop-down]	[drop-down]
Used marijuana	[drop-down]	[drop-down]

31. Estimate the percentage of Needham students in each of the following grade levels who have ever used a prescription drug (such as Oxycontin, Percocet, Vicodin, codeine, Adderall, Ritalin, or Xanax) without a doctor's prescription. This includes using someone else's prescription or obtaining them illegally. (choose a percentage between 0% and 100%)

	6 th -8 th Graders	9 th -12 th Graders
Ever used a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription	[drop-down]	[drop-down]

32. What percentage of parents at your child's school do you think... (choose a percentage between 0% and 100%)

	% of Parents
Knowingly allow their children to attend parties where underage drinking occurs	[drop-down]
Knowingly allow their child to attend parties where marijuana use occurs	[drop-down]
Call to make sure that a parent is home before they allow their child to go to another parent's home for a social gathering	[drop-down]
Want to be called by other parents if they are hosting a gathering of students to make sure a parent will be home and that the child has permission for the gathering	[drop-down]

33. Among Needham youth my child's age who drank alcohol in the last 30 days (not including religious ceremonies), I believe they usually acquired the alcohol: (select one)

☐	From a party
☐	From a friend (not at a party)
☐	From home <u>with</u> parental knowledge
☐	From home <u>without</u> parental knowledge
☐	By him/herself from a store, tavern, bar, or public event (like a concert or sporting event)
☐	From a friend or someone s/he knows giving it to them or buying it for them
☐	From asking a stranger to buy it
☐	Having a friend purchase it or purchasing it themselves online
☐	Some other way

34. Among Needham youth my child's age who ever used prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription, I believe they usually acquired them: (select one)

☐	From a friend
☐	From home <u>without</u> parental knowledge
☐	From someone else <u>without</u> them knowing
☐	Purchasing them on the Internet
☐	Purchasing them someplace else
☐	Some other way

Behaviors

These questions ask about things that you currently do. Remember, your answers are anonymous and cannot be linked back to you.

35. Do you actively monitor or take stock of any alcohol present in your home? (select one)

- ☐ N/A – there is no alcohol in my home ☐ No
☐ Yes

36. Do you secure or lock-up any alcohol present in your home? (select one)

- ☐ N/A – there is no alcohol in my home ☐ No
☐ Yes

37. Do you actively monitor or take stock of any prescription medications in your home? (select one)

- ☐ N/A – there are no prescription medications in my home ☐ Yes
☐ No

38. Do you secure or lock-up prescription medications in your home? (select one)

- ☐ N/A – there are no prescription medications in my home ☐ Yes
☐ No

39. How often do you knowingly allow your child to attend parties where underage drinking occurs? (select one)

- ☐ Never ☐ Sometimes ☐ All of the time
☐ Rarely ☐ Most of the time

40. How often do you knowingly allow your child to attend parties where marijuana use occurs? (select one)

- ☐ Never ☐ Sometimes ☐ All of the time
☐ Rarely ☐ Most of the time

41. If you became aware that another parent of a student at your child's school was allowing teens (other than your own child) to drink alcohol at their home, what action would you take? (select all that apply)

- ☐ I wouldn't take any action ☐ I would call and talk to the parent
☐ I would call the police ☐ I would prohibit my child from going to that house
☐ I would call someone at my child's school ☐ Other (type-in): _____

42. How often do you call other parents to make sure they will be home before you allow your child to go to their house for a social gathering? (select one)

- ☐ I do not allow my child to go to social gatherings ☐ Sometimes
☐ Never ☐ Most of the time
☐ Rarely ☐ All of the time

43. How often do you allow your child to have friends over when you are not at home? (select one)

- ☐ Never ☐ Most of the time
☐ Rarely ☐ All of the time
☐ Sometimes

44. If my child has friends over to my house, I monitor their activities by doing things like walking through the area in which they are congregating and visually assessing for signs of substance use... (select one)

- ☐ Never ☐ Most of the time
☐ Rarely ☐ All of the time
☐ Sometimes

45. If my child is out with friends, I require them to tell me with whom and where they will be... (select *one*)

- ☐ Never
☐ Rarely
☐ Sometimes

- ☐ Most of the time
☐ All of the time

46. If my child is out with friends, I check-in with them by phone or text message at least one time while they are out... (select *one*)

- ☐ Never
☐ Rarely
☐ Sometimes

- ☐ Most of the time
☐ All of the time

47. I am asleep when my child comes home from being out with friends... (select *one*)

- ☐ Never
☐ Rarely
☐ Sometimes

- ☐ Most of the time
☐ All of the time

48. When my child comes home from being out with friends, I visually assess them for signs of substance use (e.g., bloodshot eyes, pupil dilation, coherence of speech, physical coordination, odor)... (select *one*)

- ☐ Never
☐ Rarely
☐ Sometimes

- ☐ Most of the time
☐ All of the time

49. When my child comes home from being out with friends, I engage them in a conversation to learn about their activities... (select *one*)

- ☐ Never
☐ Rarely
☐ Sometimes

- ☐ Most of the time
☐ All of the time

End of Survey

Thank you for your participation. If you have any questions about this survey, please contact:

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