

Needham Parent/Caregiver Survey

An Assessment of Attitudes, Beliefs, and Behaviors
Related to Youth Health and Wellness

A Report to The Substance Prevention Alliance of Needham (SPAN)
and the Needham Public Health Department

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

BACKGROUND

- **Survey Sample.** A total of 180 parents/caregivers who have at least one child in grades 6-12 provided valid responses to the survey. It is estimated that the survey was completed by 10% of all households with at least one 6th-12th grader attending Needham public schools. [Page 2]
- **Respondent Characteristics.** Parent/caregiver respondents primarily identified as female (77%) and white (87%). Respondents were almost equally likely to report that their oldest child identified as male (50%) and female (46%). [Page 3]

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- Respondents reported feeling *Technology* (cell phones, social media, screen time), *Emotional and Mental Health* (worrying, stress, anxiety, depression), and *Youth Social Culture* (friendships, cliques, exclusion, teasing) are the biggest issues facing Needham youth. [Page 4]

HOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

- **Community Protective Factors.** Respondents reported feeling that there are *people in the community* (73% agreement) and *at school* (70%) *that their child can talk to about important things*, that *residents respect the values and beliefs of people from different races and cultures* (63%), and that *adults in Needham listen to what youth have to say* (58%). [Page 5]
- **Home Protective Factors.** Respondents reported that they often *talk to their child about what they are doing in school* (95% often or very often), *ask their child about their homework* (87%), *eat dinner together as a family* (79%), and *spend free time together as a family doing things like talking, exercising, watching TV, playing sports/games* (64%). [Page 6]

COMMUNICATION WITH CHILD AND OTHER PARENTS

- **Parent-Child Communication About Substance Use.** Almost all respondents (95%) indicated that they had *ever communicated their family's guidelines and expectations around youth alcohol and drug use to their child*. Since the beginning of the 2021-2022 academic year, respondents were most likely to have talked to their child about *alcohol use* (88%), *marijuana use* (79%), *tobacco use* (79%), *use of electronic vapor products* (77%), and *misuse of prescription drugs* (57%). [Page 7]
- **Effectiveness of Parent-Child Communication.** Most respondents believed they *can have an influence on whether their child chooses to use alcohol or other drugs* (88% agreement). [Page 8]
- **Capacity to Discuss Youth Substance Use with Child.** Many respondents believed they *have the knowledge and tools needed to have an effective discussion with my child about youth substance use* (81% agreement). [Page 9]
- **Communicating with Child About Safety Strategies.** Almost all respondents (99%) had discussed at least one safety strategy with their child related to situations when they might be faced with alcohol or other drug use. Respondents were most likely to report having discussed *calling home or sending a text message if the child feels unsafe* (92%) and *not feeling afraid to call home for help* (87%). [Page 10]
- **Communicating with Other Parents.** Over half of the respondents (53%) reported that they have *ever talked with other parents about alcohol and drug standards and parenting* and 68% feel that they could have an *open and non-judgmental discussion with other Needham parents/caregivers about youth alcohol and drug use*. [Page 11]

PARENTAL ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS ABOUT YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE

- **Feelings About Youth Substance Use.** The proportion of respondents who indicated feeling that it would be very wrong for their child to use different substances was as follows: *prescription drugs not prescribed to them* (98%), *other illegal drugs such as cocaine, heroin, or ecstasy* (98%), *having 1 or 2 alcoholic drinks nearly every day* (95%), *using an electronic vapor product* (82%), *smoking tobacco* (71%), *using marijuana* (58%), and *drinking alcohol occasionally* (29%). [Page 12]
- **Acceptability of Youth Substance Use.** Respondents were asked to report on their personal attitudes and beliefs about the acceptability of youth substance use in different situations. Respondents were least likely to agree that *youth marijuana use at home* (92% disagreement) and *youth marijuana use if no driving is involved* (86% disagreement) are acceptable behaviors. [Page 13]
- **Community Culture of Risk.** Two-fifths of respondents felt that *too many parents in Needham ignore underage alcohol use* (44%) and *youth marijuana use* (39%) and one-third felt that *too many parents set a bad example for their children by their own excessive use of substances* (34%). [Page 14]
- **Communication with Other Parents/Caregivers.** Over half of respondents indicated that they *feel comfortable contacting other parents* (60%) and *would like to receive calls from other parents* (54%) during situations in which a child indicates that they are going to someone else's home. [Page 15]
- **Consequences for Youth Alcohol Use (Police-Involved).** All respondents (100%) indicated that some action should be taken if police became aware of Needham teens drinking alcohol. Respondents were most likely to endorse *calling or contacting the teens' parents/caregivers* (96%). [Page 16]
- **Likely Actions if Other Parents Allow Teens to Drink Alcohol at their Home.** Respondents were asked what they would do if they learned that a parent of a child at their child's school was allowing teens to drink alcohol at their home. Respondents were most likely to report that they would *discuss it with their child* (86%) and that the action(s) they would take *depend on how well they know the other parents and the circumstances* (64%). [Page 18]
- **Likelihood of Involving Police During Youth Incidents.** Respondents were asked how likely they are to *contact law enforcement if they witnessed or became aware of Needham teens drinking, using substances, or engaging in other illegal behaviors*. Only around one-fifth of respondents (19%) indicated that they are likely to *contact law enforcement*. [Page 20]

PARENTAL PERCEPTIONS OF YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE AND RELATED BEHAVIORS

- **Parental Perceptions of Substance Use and Related Issues.** Parents of middle school youth estimated that 20% of youth in grades 6-8 *used an electronic vapor product* and 17% *drank alcohol* in the past 30 days – the two most common substances identified. Parents of high school youth estimated that 49% of youth in grades 9-12 *drank alcohol*, 38% *used marijuana*, and 32% *used an electronic vapor product* in the past 30 days. [Page 21]
- **Parental Perceptions of Other Parents' Attitudes and Behaviors.** At the middle grades level, respondents estimate that fewer than half of other middle school parents (46%) *want to receive a call during situations in which a child indicates that they are going to someone else's home*. At the high school level, respondents estimate that 45% of other high school parents *knowingly allow their child to attend parties where substance use occurs*. [Page 21]
- **Parental Perceptions of Primary Source of Alcohol by Youth.** Respondents whose oldest child is in middle school believe that youth in middle school obtain alcohol *from home without parental knowledge* (71%). Respondents whose oldest child is in high school believe that high school youth usually obtain alcohol *from a party* (29%), *from home without parental knowledge* (29%), and *from someone they know (over 21) giving it to them or buying it for them* (22%). [Page 22]

PARENTING BEHAVIORS

- **Preventive Actions.** Respondents reported that they frequently *require their child to tell them with whom and where they will be if they go out with friends* (72% very often) and infrequently *knowingly allow their child to attend parties of gatherings where underage drinking or other substance use likely occur* (67% never). [Page 23]
- **Monitoring and Engagement.** Respondents reported that they frequently *engage their child in a conversation to learn about their activities when they return home from being out with friends* (88% often or very often) and *check-in by phone or text message at least one time when their child is out with friends* (74% often or very often). [Page 24]
- **Preventing Access to Substances At Home.** Almost all respondents reported that there is usually *alcohol in their home* (90%), three-quarters (75%) reported that there is usually *prescription medication present in their home*, and 15% reported that there is usually *marijuana (including edibles) present in their home*. Among respondents who usually have these substances in their home, 61% reported *monitoring or securing alcohol*, 59% reported *monitoring or securing prescription medications*, and 74% reported *monitoring or securing marijuana*. [Page 25]

PREVENTION AND SUPPORT

- **Prevention Education for Parents/Caregivers.** Many respondents felt that parents in Needham need more education about the *Massachusetts Social Host Liability Law* (79% agreed or strong agreed) and education about *marijuana, CBD, and the new laws in Massachusetts* (72%). [Page 27]
- **Prevention Education for Youth.** Most respondents (91%) indicated that *schools should provide education programs for students their child's age that are designed to help prevent and reduce underage drinking and substance use*. Many (61%) were uncertain of the extent to which *current substance misuse prevention efforts at their child's school are comprehensive and effective*. [Page 28]
- **Awareness of Available Supports.** Over half of respondents reported that they are unaware of *school-based supports* (54% unaware) and *community-based supports* (54%) *available to students if they need help with a substance use issue*. [Page 29]
- **Knowledge of Needham Youth Diversion Program.** Respondents expressed low levels of *knowledge about the Needham Youth Diversion Program* – with only 12% indicating that they were at least somewhat knowledgeable. [Page 30]
- **Effective Ways/Places to Reach Parents.** Respondents indicated that the most effective ways to reach Needham parents with youth health information are through the *parent newsletter from the school* (79%), *social media [Facebook, Twitter, Instagram]* (74%), *PTO emails* (68%), the *school website* (59%), and *doctors' offices* (52%). [Page 31]
- **Positive Alternative Activities.** Respondents were asked to indicate what, if any, additional services, activities, or programs they would like to see in Needham to provide youth with positive alternatives to engaging in substance use. The largest number of respondents suggested more *school-sponsored social activities on weekends (game nights, dances, events)* and *more recreational spaces/activities for youth*. [Page 33]

BACKGROUND AND METHODS

The Substance Prevention Alliance of Needham (SPAN) and the Needham Public Health Department conducted a survey of parents/caregivers¹ of students in grades 6-12 to learn about their attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors regarding underage drinking, youth substance use, and wellness. The survey asked questions in seven broad domains: (1) health and wellness, (2) home and community life, (3) communication with child and other parents, (4) parental attitudes and beliefs about youth substance use, (5) parental perceptions of youth substance use and related behaviors, (6) parenting behaviors, and (7) prevention and support.

The anonymous survey, which consisted of 93 discrete questions, was administered as an online questionnaire between April 11 and June 22, 2022. To be eligible to take part in the survey, parents had to: (a) have at least one child in grades 6-12 in public or private school in Needham (regardless of town of residence) or (b) be a Needham resident with at least one child in grades 6-12 in a school outside of Needham.

This was the sixth time that the survey was implemented – it was also administered in 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017, and 2019. The survey was originally scheduled to occur in 2021 but was delayed 12-months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Reports on the earlier surveys are available separately.

Validity and Reliability

One of the challenges associated with survey research is the potential for error in the data. This can stem from multiple sources such as the same respondent submitting multiple surveys, poor question wording, lack of appropriate response options that accurately reflect the experiences of all potential respondents, frivolity, and misinterpretation of the underlying meaning of a question. Despite these challenges, there are several steps that can be taken to increase confidence in the results. For example:

1. Using clear and unambiguous language in the instructions – prominently indicating who the desired audience is (i.e., parents of 6th-12th graders) and indicating what the questions are about (i.e., beliefs, perceptions, and parenting behaviors).
2. Data screening – using visual and statistical screening to identify and remove cases in which the respondent provided obviously frivolous responses (i.e., always choosing the same or extreme response options for every item).
3. Identical case analysis – statistically identifying duplicate records to minimize the chances that the same person intentionally or unintentionally submitted multiple surveys.

While these are not failsafe methods, they do help to ensure a clean dataset that minimizes the chances that there are gross errors present in the final set of data. Each of these steps was taken during the administration and analysis of the Needham Parent/Caregiver Survey.

¹ The terms “parents” and “caregivers” are used interchangeably throughout this report.

Analysis Plan

Descriptive statistics are presented for each item in the survey (i.e., the number and percentage of all respondents that answered each response option for each item in the questionnaire). All items were also analyzed to examine the presence or absence of differences based on the grade level of the respondents' oldest child (grades 6-8: middle school vs. grades 9-12: high school) and the gender identity of the respondents' oldest child. Results of these analyses may help Needham better plan and align prevention activities and prevention messaging by understanding whether an issue exists among the parents of some youth and not others. Historical trends are presented, when available.

Note: *Direct* statistical comparisons between 2013-2019 and 2022 are not provided due to two factors: (1) a lower survey response rate in 2022 compared to earlier years and (2) the unknown influence of the COVID-19 pandemic on historical trends. Caution should be used when comparing data from the 2022 survey to earlier survey years. In general, it is better to examine the *pattern* in the historical trend versus the raw percentages from year to year.

Analytical Sample

A total of 221 individuals visited the survey webpage during the period that it was open. Forty-one (41) of these individuals (19% of those who visited) were removed from the final analytical sample.

The reason for removal of these cases is as follows:

- 40 individuals were removed because they did not answer any questions in the survey other than whether they currently have any children in grades 6-12.
- 1 individual was disqualified because they did not currently have any children in grades 6-12.

The final analytical sample consisted of 180 parents/caregivers who currently have at least one child in grade 6-12. The grade level of the respondents' oldest child in grades 6-12 is as follows:

	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
Final	10.6%	5.0%	6.1%	17.2%	19.4%	19.4%	22.2%
Sample	(19)	(9)	(11)	(31)	(35)	(35)	(40)

Results are generalizable only to those parents/caregivers who took part in the survey and may not reflect the perceptions, attitudes, or parenting behaviors of other members of the Needham community. According to the MA Department of Education, there were 2,947 public school students enrolled in Needham schools in grades 6-12 during the 2021-2022 academic year. Based on the number of children in grades 6-12 respondents reported having (286) and assuming only one parent responded per household, this survey likely captured 10% of all households with at least one 6-12th grader attending Needham public schools.

Note: As shown in the table above, parents/caregivers whose oldest child was in high school were more likely to respond to the 2022 survey than those whose oldest child was in middle school. When interpreting overall findings, the *average* age of the reference child is tenth grade – meaning that the findings are more representative of parents/caregivers whose oldest child is in high school.

FINDINGS – RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS

The survey was open to both residents of Needham and to parents who live outside of Needham but have a child in grades 6-12 in public or private school in Needham. Almost all respondents resided in Needham (98%) and most respondents (92.2%) were Needham residents whose oldest child in grades 6-12 attends Needham Public School. See Table 1.

Table 1: Residence and School System

School System	Needham Resident		TOTAL
	No	Yes	
Public School – Needham	2.2%	92.2%	94.4%
Public School – Outside of Needham	0.0%	0.6%	0.6%
Private School – Outside of Needham	0.0%	5.0%	5.0%
TOTAL	2.2%	97.8%	100.0%

Percentages are based on 180 survey respondents.

Respondents were asked to self-report on their and their oldest child’s gender identity and racial/ethnic identity. As shown in Table 2, respondents were primarily female (77%) and white (87%). Respondents were almost equally likely to report that their oldest child identifies as male (50%) and female (46%). Respondents were also asked to identify the primary language spoken in their home. Overall, 96% reported English was primary language spoken in their home. Additional languages spoken at home were Spanish (1 respondent), Chinese (1), French (1), Hebrew (1), and Swedish (1).

Table 2: Parent/Caregiver and Youth Demographics

	Parent/Caregiver	Youth
Gender Identity	N = 156	N = 180
Female/Woman/Girl	76.9%	46.1%
Male/Man/Boy	21.8%	50.0%
Transgender Male/Man/Boy	0.0%	0.6%
Transgender Female/Woman/Girl	0.0%	0.0%
Non-Binary/Gender Non-Conforming	0.0%	1.7%
Some Other Way	0.0%	0.6%
Prefer Not to Answer	1.3%	1.1%
Racial/Ethnic Identity	N = 158	N = 180
Black/African American	0.6%	4.4%
Asian	7.0%	7.8%
Hispanic or Latino(a)	5.1%	7.2%
Native American or Alaska Native	0.0%	0.0%
White	86.7%	87.8%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%
Some Other Way	1.3%	0.0%
Prefer Not to Answer	2.5%	2.8%

The racial/ethnic identity question sums to more than 100% because respondents could choose multiple categories.

FINDINGS – HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Respondents were presented with a list of ten health and wellness topic areas and were asked how much of an issue they feel each factor is in affecting the health and wellness of Needham youth in their oldest child’s age group. Respondents reported feeling that *Technology* (mean = 3.82), *Emotional and Mental Health* (3.71), and *Youth Social Culture* (3.29) are the biggest issues facing Needham youth in their child’s age cohort. See Table 3.

Table 3: Health and Wellness

Factors Affecting Youth Health and Wellness	Not An Issue	Minor Issue	Moderate Issue	Major Issue	Severe Issue	MEAN
Technology (cell phones, social media, screen time) (n=179)	2.8%	9.5%	15.1%	48.6%	24.0%	3.82
Emotional and Mental Health (worrying, stress, anxiety, depression) (n=180)	3.3%	8.3%	22.8%	45.6%	20.0%	3.71
Youth Social Culture (friendships, cliques, exclusion, teasing) (n=180)	8.9%	12.2%	28.9%	40.6%	9.4%	3.29
Academics (grades, homework, tests, academic pressure) (n=179)	5.6%	18.4%	39.1%	33.5%	3.4%	3.11
Physical Health (nutrition, weight, sleep, physical activity) (n=179)	11.2%	21.8%	38.0%	27.4%	1.7%	2.87
Social Justice (whether people are treated fairly and equitably no matter their background, human rights, racism, etc.) (n=180)	12.2%	29.4%	34.4%	21.7%	2.2%	2.72
Substance Use (alcohol, marijuana, vaping, other substances) (n=179)	16.8%	25.7%	36.9%	17.9%	2.8%	2.64
Community Culture (adults modeling unhealthy behaviors, toxic culture) (n=180)	22.8%	26.7%	31.1%	19.4%	0.0%	2.47
Physical Safety (bullying, violence, distracted or impaired driving) (n=180)	23.3%	27.8%	33.9%	13.9%	1.1%	2.42
Limited Opportunities/Activities for Youth (extra-curricular activities, community sports, organized social activities) (n=173)	41.6%	26.6%	19.7%	8.7%	3.5%	2.06

Mean scores range from a low of 1 (Not An Issue) to a high of 5 (Severe Issue).

Other Issues. Parents/caregivers were given the opportunity to identify other issues not listed in the table. Additional issues, identified by one or two respondents were:

- COVID-19
- Lack of diversity
- Excessive privilege and wealth in the community
- Materialism
- School rankings (no longer in the top 20)
- Teachers editorializing social issues in classrooms
- Everything surrounding choosing a college
- Sexual activity
- Student lack of empathy

Age/Grade. Respondents whose oldest child is in grades 9-12 were significantly more likely than those whose oldest child is in grades 6-8 to believe that *Substance Use* is an issue (mean = 2.23 middle school vs. 2.76 high school) and to believe that *Academics* is an issue (MS: 2.84, HS: 3.18).

Gender Identity. Respondents whose oldest child identifies as female were significantly more likely to perceive *Emotional and Mental Health* (female: 3.89, male: 3.52) as an issue in comparison to respondents whose oldest child identifies as male.

Trend. This item was added to the parent/caregiver survey for the first time in 2022.

FINDINGS – HOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

Four items asked respondents to share their perceptions of the community and four questions asked about the frequency of different behaviors in the home.

Community Protective Factors

Respondents were asked to rate their level of agreement with four items about community protective factors that provide support for Needham youth. Ratings across the four items were consistently in the Agree range of the scale (mean scores ranged between 3.55 and 3.86). Respondents were most likely to agree that *there are people outside of the family and school that their child can talk to about important things* (mean = 3.86) and were least likely to agree that *adults in Needham listen to what youth have to say* (3.55). See Table 4.

Table 4: Community Protective Factors

Community Protective Factors	Strongly Disagree		Neutral	Strongly Agree		MEAN
	Disagree	Disagree		Agree	Agree	
There are people outside of my family and the school that my child can talk to about things that are important to them (n=173)	0.0%	10.4%	16.2%	50.9%	22.5%	3.86
There are people at my child’s school that my child can talk to about things that are important to them (n=174)	0.6%	6.3%	23.6%	51.1%	18.4%	3.80
Needham residents respect the values and beliefs of people from different races and cultures (n=174)	0.0%	9.2%	28.2%	55.7%	6.9%	3.60
Adults in Needham listen to what youth have to say (n=174)	0.0%	5.7%	36.2%	55.2%	2.9%	3.55

Mean scores range from a low of 1 (Strongly Disagree) to a high of 5 (Strongly Agree).

Age/Grade. There were no statistically significant differences in the four items between respondents whose oldest child is in grades 6-8 versus grades 9-12 – indicating similar perceptions independent of whether their oldest child was in middle grades or high school.

Gender Identity. Respondents whose oldest child identifies as female were significantly more likely to report that *there are people outside of their family and the school that their child can talk to about things that are important to them* (female: 4.06, male: 3.66) in comparison to respondents whose oldest child identifies as male.

Trend. These items were added to the parent/caregiver survey for the first time in 2022.

Home Protective Factors

A parallel set of four questions asked respondents to indicate how frequently they engage in different behaviors with their child and family at home (e.g., frequency of eating dinner together as a family). Ratings across the four items were consistently in the Often to Very Often ranges of the scale (mean scores ranged between 3.86 and 4.53). Respondents were most likely to report that they frequently *talk to their child about what they are doing in school* (mean = 4.53) and were least likely to report that they frequently *spend time together as a family doing things* (3.86). See Table 5.

Table 5: Home Protective Factors

Home Protective Factors	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Very Often	MEAN
Talk to my child about what they are doing in school (n=174)	0.0%	0.0%	5.2%	36.2%	58.6%	4.53
Ask my child about their homework (n=174)	0.6%	0.6%	12.1%	34.5%	52.3%	4.37
Eat dinner together as a family (n=174)	0.6%	3.4%	17.2%	34.5%	44.3%	4.18
Spend free time together as a family doing things like talking, exercising, watching TV, playing sports/games (n=174)	0.6%	2.3%	33.3%	37.9%	25.9%	3.86

Mean scores range from a low of 1 (Never) to a high of 5 (Very Often).

Age/Grade. The frequency of *spending time together as a family doing things* was significantly higher among respondents whose oldest child is in grades 6-8 versus grades 9-12 (MS: 4.37, HS: 3.72).

Gender Identity. There were no statistically significant differences in the four items based on the gender identity of the respondents' oldest child.

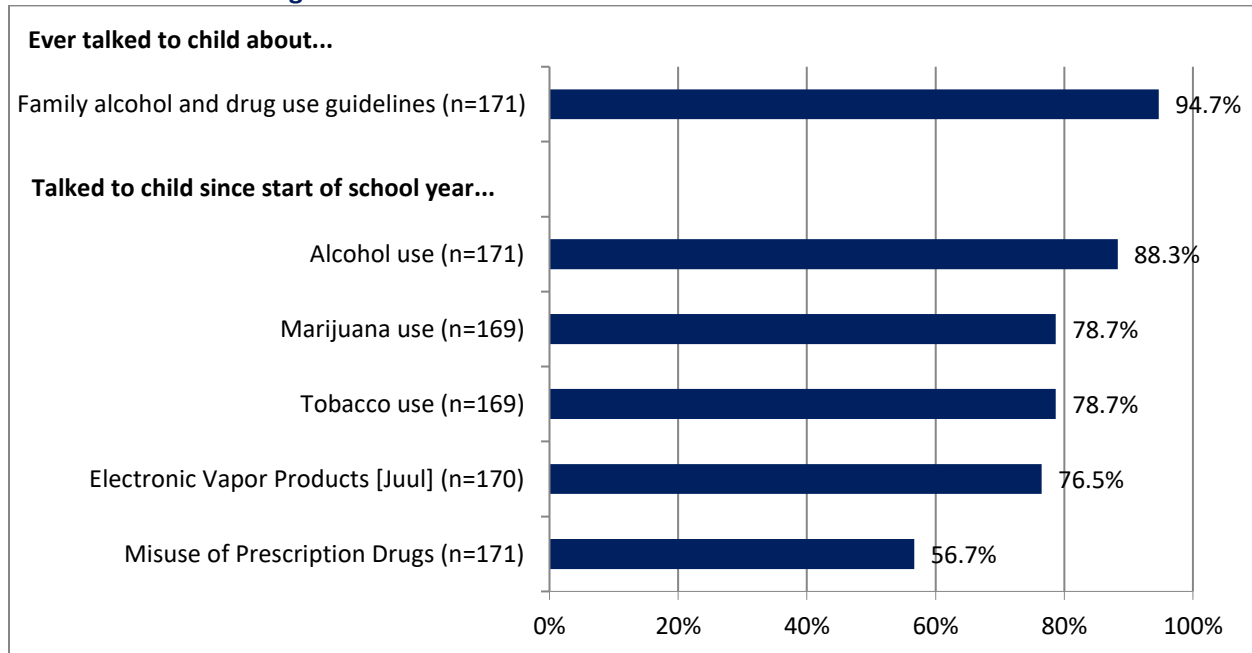
Trend. These items were added to the parent/caregiver survey for the first time in 2022.

FINDINGS – COMMUNICATION WITH CHILD AND OTHER PARENTS

Communication – Parent-Child Communication About Substance Use

Respondents were asked to indicate whether they had talked with their child about substance use issues. This section of the survey used a No or Yes scale. Almost all respondents (95%) indicated that they had *ever communicated their family’s guidelines and expectations around youth alcohol and drug use to their child*. Parents were most likely to have spoken to their child since the beginning of the school year about the potential negative consequences of using *alcohol* (88%) and least likely to have spoken to their child about using *prescription drugs that were not prescribed to them* (57%).

Figure 1: Parent-Child Communication About Substance Use



Percentages display respondents who answered “Yes” to each item.

Age/Grade. Respondents whose oldest child is in high school were significantly more likely than those whose oldest child is in middle school to report having *ever communicated their family’s guidelines and expectations around youth alcohol and drug use with their child* (MS: 84%, HS: 98%). Respondents whose oldest child is in middle school were significantly more likely than those whose oldest child is in high school to have talked with their child about the potential negative consequences of *tobacco products such as cigarettes or smokeless tobacco* since the start of the school year (MS: 92%, HS: 75%).

Gender Identity. There were no statistically significant differences in these items based on the gender identity of the respondents’ oldest child.

Trend. Comparable trend data from 2011 through 2022, when available, are presented in Table 6.

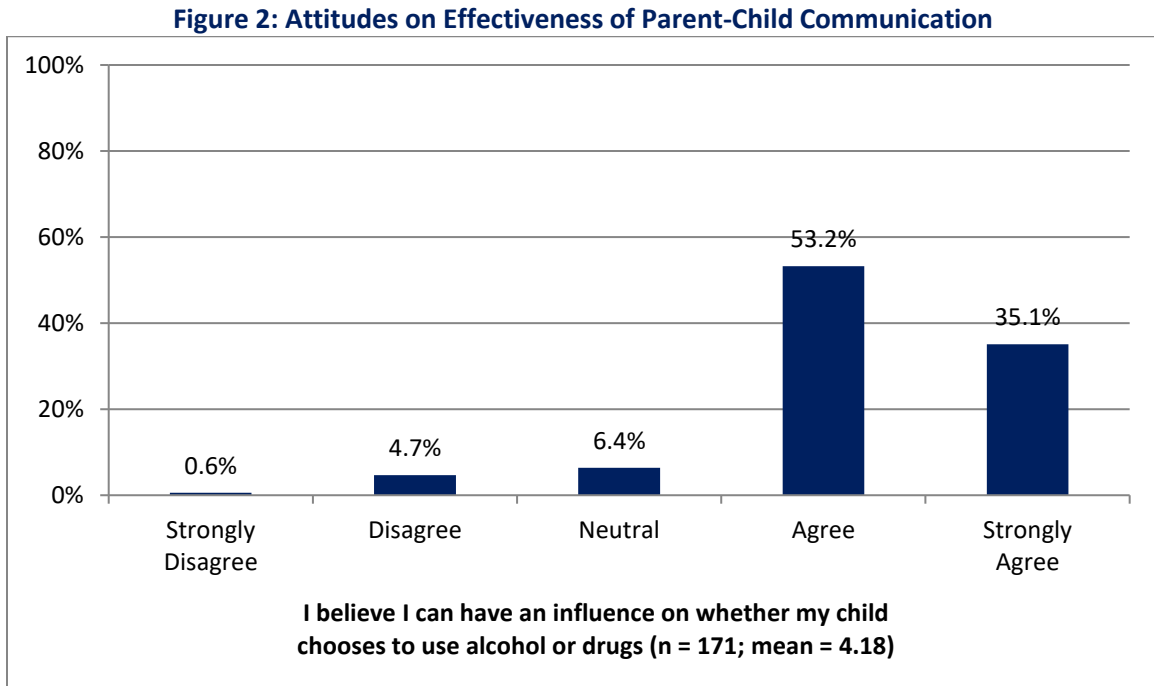
Table 6: Trend in Parent-Child Communication about Substance Use

Ever talked to child about...	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2022
Family alcohol and other drug guidelines	91.9%	93.9%	88.0%	88.6%	93.0%	94.7%

Percentages display respondents who answered “Yes” to the question.

Communication – Attitudes on Effectiveness of Parent-Child Communication

One of the factors that may influence the propensity of a parent to engage their child in a discussion about the use of alcohol or other drugs is whether the parent believes that such conversations will be effective. Respondents were asked to disagree or agree with the following statement, “*I believe that I can have an influence on whether my child chooses to use alcohol or other drugs.*” As shown in Figure 2, most respondents (88%) agreed or strongly agreed with this statement.



Mean scores range from a low of 1 (Strongly Disagree) to a high of 5 (Strongly Agree).

Age/Grade. There was no statistically significant difference between respondents whose oldest child is in grades 6-8 versus grades 9-12.

Gender Identity. There was no statistically significant difference based on the gender identity of the respondents’ oldest child.

Trend. Comparable trend data from 2011 through 2022, when available, are presented in Table 7.

Table 7: Trend in Attitudes on Effectiveness of Parent-Child Communication

I believe I have an influence on whether my child chooses to use alcohol or other drugs	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2022
% who <i>agreed or strongly agreed</i>	-	-	91.7%	91.3%	91.6%	88.3%
Mean (1-5)	-	-	4.24	4.17	4.19	4.18

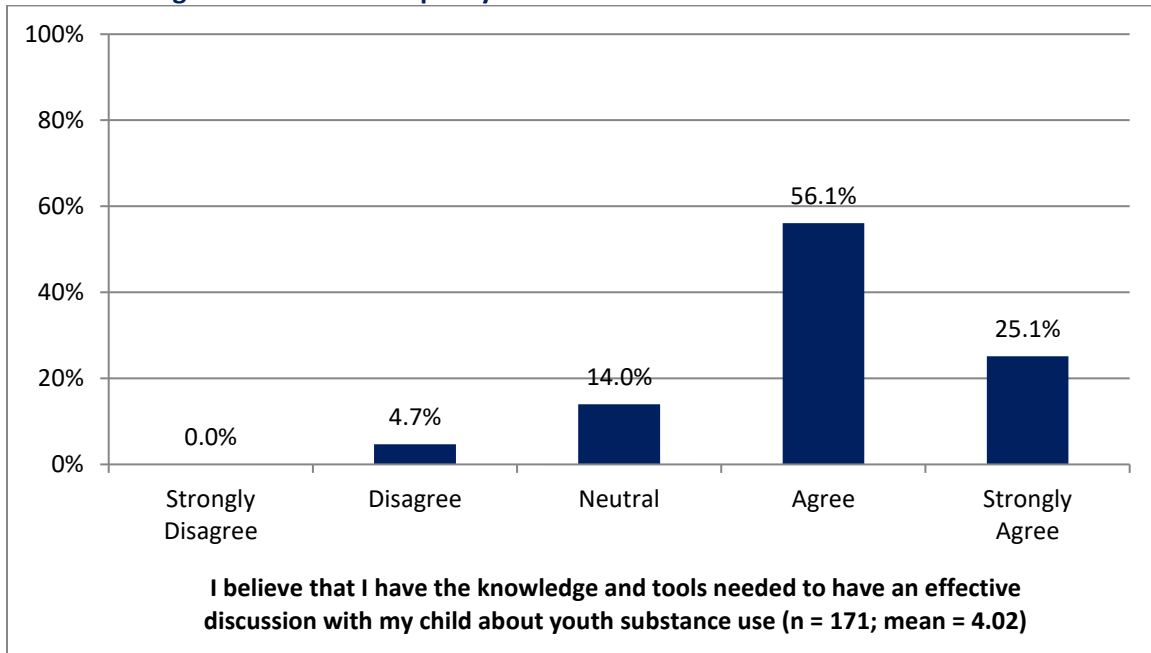
Mean scores range from a low of 1 (Strongly Disagree) to a high of 5 (Strongly Agree).

Communication – Perceived Capacity to Discuss Youth Substance Use with Child

A secondary factor that may influence the propensity of a parent to engage their child in a discussion about the use of alcohol or other drugs is whether the parent believes that they have the knowledge and tools needed to have an effective discussion.

Respondents were asked to disagree or agree with the following statement, “I believe that I have the knowledge and tools needed to have an effective discussion with my child about youth substance use.” As shown in Figure 3, a little over half of respondents (56%) agreed with this statement and 25% strongly agreed (81% combined).

Figure 3: Perceived Capacity to Discuss Youth Substance Use with Child



Mean scores range from a low of 1 (Strongly Disagree) to a high of 5 (Strongly Agree).

Age/Grade. There was no statistically significant difference between respondents whose oldest child is in grades 6-8 versus grades 9-12.

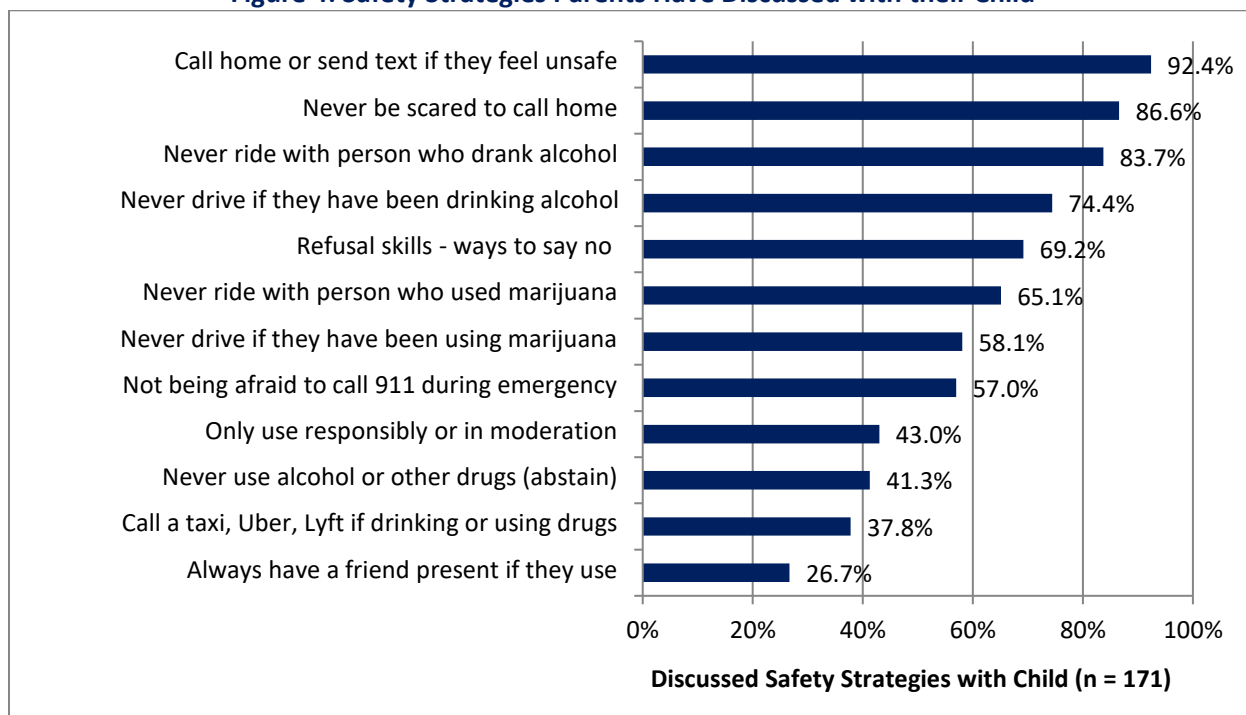
Gender Identity. There was no statistically significant difference based on the gender identity of the respondents' oldest child.

Trend. This item was added to the parent/caregiver survey for the first time in 2022.

Communication – Communicating with Child about Safety Strategies

Respondents were asked to indicate which, if any strategies, they have discussed with their child related to situations when they might be faced with alcohol or other drug use. Almost all respondents (99%) indicated that they had discussed at least one safety strategy with their child. Respondents were most likely to report having discussed *calling home or sending a text message if they feel unsafe* (92%) and *not feeling afraid to call home for help* (87%). Respondents were least likely to report discussing *having a close friend present if they choose to use alcohol or other drugs* (27%). See Figure 4.

Figure 4: Safety Strategies Parents Have Discussed with their Child



Percentages display respondents who answered “Yes” to each item.

Age/Grade. Respondents whose oldest child is in grades 9-12 were significantly more likely to report having talked with their child about *only using responsibly or in moderation* (MS: 11%, HS: 52%), *always having a close friend present* (MS: 11%, HS: 31%), *never riding in a vehicle driven by someone who has been drinking alcohol* (MS: 54%, HS: 92%), *never driving if they have been drinking alcohol* (MS: 43%, HS: 83%), *never riding in a vehicle driven by someone who has been using marijuana* (MS: 32%, HS: 74%), *never driving if they have been using marijuana* (MS: 30%, HS: 66%), and *calling a taxi or ride service like Uber or Lyft if they have been drinking alcohol or using drugs* (MS: 16%, HS: 44%).

Gender Identity. Respondents whose oldest child identifies as female were significantly more likely to report talking with their child about *always having a close friend present* (female: 38%, male: 17%).

Trend. Comparable trend data from 2011 through 2022, when available, are presented in Table 8.

Table 8: Trend in Number of Safety Strategies Discussed

	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2022
Average number of safety strategies discussed	-	-	-	5.44	5.14	7.47

Mean scores range from a low of 0 (No Strategies Discussed) to a high of 12 (All Strategies Discussed).

Other Safety Strategies. Respondents were given the opportunity to identify other safety strategies not listed in the table. Additional strategies, identified by one or two respondents were:

- Not posting about substance use on social media
- Being careful about unintentionally eating marijuana-infused edibles (candy, gummies)
- Covering drinks to prevent tampering
- What to do in a sexual assault situation

Communication – Communicating with Other Parents

Respondents were asked, “Have you ever talked with the parents/caregivers of your child’s close friends to share and compare parental philosophies and standards regarding alcohol and drugs?” Over half of the respondents (52.9%) reported that they have ever talked with other parents about alcohol and drug standards and parenting.

Respondents were also asked to indicate whether they feel that they could have an *open and non-judgmental discussion with other Needham parents/caregivers about youth alcohol and drug use* – 68% agreed or strongly agreed that they could have such a discussion with other parents/caregivers.

Table 9: Communicating with Other Parents

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	MEAN
I feel that I could have an open and non-judgmental discussion with other Needham parents/caregivers about youth alcohol and drug use (n=169)	2.4%	7.7%	21.9%	53.8%	14.2%	3.70

Mean scores range from a low of 1 (Strongly Disagree) to a high of 5 (Strongly Agree).

Age/Grade. There were no statistically significant differences on either of these two items between respondents whose oldest child is in grades 6-8 versus grades 9-12.

Gender Identity. There were no statistically significant differences on either of these two items based on the gender identity of the respondents’ oldest child.

Trend. Comparable trend data from 2011 through 2022, when available, are presented in Table 10.

Table 10: Trend in Talking with Other Parents About Standards and Parenting

Ever Talked with Other Parents About...	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2022
Alcohol and Other Drug Standards and Parenting	65.2%	63.4%	63.4%	57.8%	56.8%	52.9%

Percentages display respondents who answered “Yes” to the question.

FINDINGS – PARENTAL ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS ABOUT YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE

Parental Attitudes and Beliefs – Feelings About Youth Substance Use

Respondents were asked to indicate how wrong they feel it would be for their child to use seven different types of substances. Respondents expressed the strongest negative opinions for *youth use of prescription drugs not prescribed to the person taking them* (mean = 3.98); *other illegal drugs such as cocaine, heroin, or ecstasy* (3.98); and *having one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day* (3.94). Respondents expressed more moderate opinions related to *youth drinking alcohol occasionally* (2.82). See Table 11.

Table 11: Feelings About Youth Substance Use

How wrong do you think it would be for your child to...	Not At All Wrong	A Little Bit Wrong	Wrong	Very Wrong	MEAN
Use prescription drugs not prescribed to them (n=165)	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	98.2%	3.98
Use other illegal drugs [e.g., cocaine, heroin, ecstasy] (n=165)	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	98.2%	3.98
Have 1 or 2 alcoholic drinks nearly every day (n=164)	0.0%	0.6%	4.9%	94.5%	3.94
Use an electronic vapor product such as Juul (n=164)	0.0%	0.6%	17.1%	82.3%	3.82
Smoke tobacco (n=165)	0.0%	4.2%	24.8%	70.9%	3.67
Use marijuana (n=165)	1.8%	9.1%	30.9%	58.2%	3.45
Drink alcohol occasionally (n=165)	8.5%	29.1%	33.9%	28.5%	2.82

Mean scores range from a low of 1 (Not Wrong At All) to a high of 4 (Very Wrong).

Age/Grade. Respondents whose oldest child is in middle school were significantly more likely than their peers with older children to feel that *drinking alcohol occasionally* (MS: 3.35, HS: 2.67) would be wrong or very wrong for their child.

Gender Identity. Respondents whose oldest child identifies as female were significantly more likely than respondents whose oldest child identifies as male to feel that *youth marijuana use* (female: 3.58, male: 3.30) would be wrong or very wrong for their child.

Trend. Comparable trend data from 2011 through 2022, when available, are presented in Table 12.

Table 12: Trend in Feelings About Youth Substance Use

How wrong do you think it would be for your child to...	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2022
Use prescription drugs not prescribed to them	-	-	3.96	3.98	3.97	3.98
Use other illegal drugs [e.g., cocaine, heroin, ecstasy]	-	-	-	-	-	3.98
Have 1 or 2 drinks of alcohol nearly every day	-	-	3.95	3.94	3.95	3.94
Use an electronic vapor product such as Juul	-	-	-	-	3.83	3.82
Smoke tobacco	-	-	3.79	3.74	3.78	3.67
Use marijuana	-	-	3.71	3.60	3.63	3.45
Drink alcohol occasionally	-	-	3.25	3.09	3.04	2.82

Mean scores range from a low of 1 (Not Wrong At All) to a high of 4 (Very Wrong).

Parental Attitudes and Beliefs – Acceptability of Youth Substance Use

Respondents were asked to report on their personal attitudes and beliefs about the acceptability of youth substance use in different situations. Parents/caregivers were least likely to agree that *youth marijuana use at home* (mean = 4.45) and *youth marijuana use without driving* (4.41) are acceptable behaviors. See Table 13.

Table 13: Acceptability of Youth Substance Use [Reverse Scored]

Acceptability of Youth Substance Use	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	MEAN
I think it is OK to allow youth marijuana use at home if it is responsible and not excessive (n=165)	0.6%	2.4%	5.5%	33.9%	57.6%	4.45
Occasional youth marijuana use without adult supervision is OK if there is no driving involved (n=163)	0.6%	4.9%	8.6%	24.5%	61.3%	4.41
I think it is OK to allow adult-supervised youth alcohol use at another parent/caregiver’s home if it is responsible and not excessive (n=162)	0.6%	6.8%	6.8%	41.4%	44.4%	4.22
Occasional youth alcohol use without adult supervision is OK if there is no driving involved (n=164)	0.6%	12.8%	12.2%	32.9%	41.5%	4.02
I think it is OK to allow youth alcohol use at home if it is responsible and not excessive (n=165)	3.0%	17.6%	19.4%	35.8%	24.2%	3.61

Mean scores range from a low of 1 (Strongly Agree) to a high of 5 (Strongly Disagree).

Age/Grade. Respondents whose oldest child is in middle school were significantly less permissive of *adult-supervised youth alcohol use at another parent/caregiver’s home* (MS mean: 4.49, HS mean: 4.14) than those whose oldest child is in high school.

Gender Identity. There were no statistically significant differences on any of these items based on the gender identity of the respondents’ oldest child.

Trend. Comparable trend data from 2011 through 2022, when available, are presented in Table 14.

Table 14: Trend in Acceptability of Youth Substance Use at Home

	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2022
Disagree Underage Alcohol Use at Home is OK	-	80.3%	80.1%	77.6%	77.8%	60.0%
Disagree Youth Marijuana Use at Home is OK	-	95.8%	96.1%	94.9%	94.8%	91.5%

Represents the proportion of respondents who either disagree or strongly disagree.

Parental Attitudes and Beliefs – Community Culture of Risk

Respondents were asked to rate their agreement with six questions about their attitudes and beliefs about community culture of risk related to substance use. At the two extremes, parents/caregivers tended to agree that *other adults are supportive when an adult abstains from using alcohol at adult social gatherings* (mean = 2.21) and disagreed that *adults feel pressure to consume alcohol for social reasons at gatherings* (2.49). At the other end, respondents were neutral in their assessment of whether *parents/caregivers tend to ignore underage alcohol use* (3.47) and *youth marijuana use* (3.36).

Table 15: Community Culture of Risk

Community Culture of Risk	Strongly Disagree		Neutral	Strongly Agree		MEAN
	Disagree	Disagree		Agree	Agree	
Too many parents/caregivers in Needham ignore underage alcohol use (n=165)	0.0%	8.5%	47.9%	32.1%	11.5%	3.47
Too many parents/caregivers in Needham ignore youth marijuana use (n=165)	0.6%	10.9%	49.1%	30.9%	8.5%	3.36
Too many parents/caregivers in Needham set a bad example for their children by their own excessive use of substances (n=163)	1.2%	19.6%	44.8%	27.6%	6.7%	3.19
Adult alcohol consumption at school-sponsored sporting events (e.g., tailgating, alcohol in thermoses) is an issue in Needham (n=164)	6.1%	35.4%	46.3%	9.8%	2.4%	2.67
I think adults in Needham feel pressure to consume alcohol for social reasons at social gatherings in Needham (n=164)	12.2%	42.1%	31.1%	13.4%	1.2%	2.49
Other adults in Needham are supportive when an adult abstains from using alcohol at adult social gatherings (n=162) – [reversed mean score]	0.6%	1.9%	29.6%	53.7%	14.2%	2.21

Mean scores range from a low of 1 (Strongly Disagree) to a high of 5 (Strongly Agree) unless otherwise noted.

Age/Grade. Respondents whose oldest child is in high school were significantly more likely than those whose oldest child was in middle school to believe that *too many parents/caregivers in Needham turn a blind eye to underage alcohol use* (MS: 3.14, HS: 3.56) and *youth marijuana use* (MS: 3.00, HS: 3.46).

Gender Identity. Respondents whose oldest child identifies as female were significantly more likely to believe that *too many parents/caregivers in Needham turn a blind eye to underage alcohol use* (female: 3.62, male: 3.34) and to believe that *too many parents/caregivers in Needham set a bad examples for their children by their own excessive use of substances* (female: 3.35, male: 3.06).

Trend. Comparable trend data from 2011 through 2022, when available, are presented in Table 16.

Table 16: Trend in Parent Beliefs about Community Culture of Risk

	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2022
Too many parents/caregivers in Needham ignore underage alcohol use	41.6%	45.4%	33.8%	43.3%	42.0%	43.6%
Too many parents/caregivers in Needham ignore youth marijuana use	31.7%	34.9%	27.5%	27.2%	29.6%	39.4%

Represents the proportion of respondents who either Agree or Strongly Agree.

Parental Attitudes and Beliefs – Communication with Other Parents/Caregivers

Respondents were asked whether they would like other parents/caregivers to contact them and whether they are comfortable contacting other parents/caregivers during situations in which a child indicates they are going to someone else’s home.

As shown in Table 17, 60% of respondents either agree or strongly agree that they *feel comfortable calling other parents/caregivers* and 54% reported that they *would like to receive calls from other parents/caregivers*.

Table 17: Communication with Other Parents/Caregivers

Communication with Other Parents/Caregivers	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	MEAN
I am comfortable calling other parents/caregivers if my child is going to their home to make sure they are aware (n=163)	1.2%	12.9%	26.4%	39.9%	19.6%	3.64
I would like other parents/caregivers to call me if their child says they are coming to my home to make sure I am aware (n=164)	0.6%	12.8%	32.9%	32.3%	21.3%	3.61

Mean scores range from a low of 1 (Strongly Disagree) to a high of 5 (Strongly Agree).

Age/Grade. Respondents whose oldest child is in middle school were significantly more likely to report being *comfortable calling other parents/caregivers* (MS: 4.05, HS: 3.52).

Gender Identity. There were no statistically significant differences on either of these items based on the gender identity of the respondents’ oldest child.

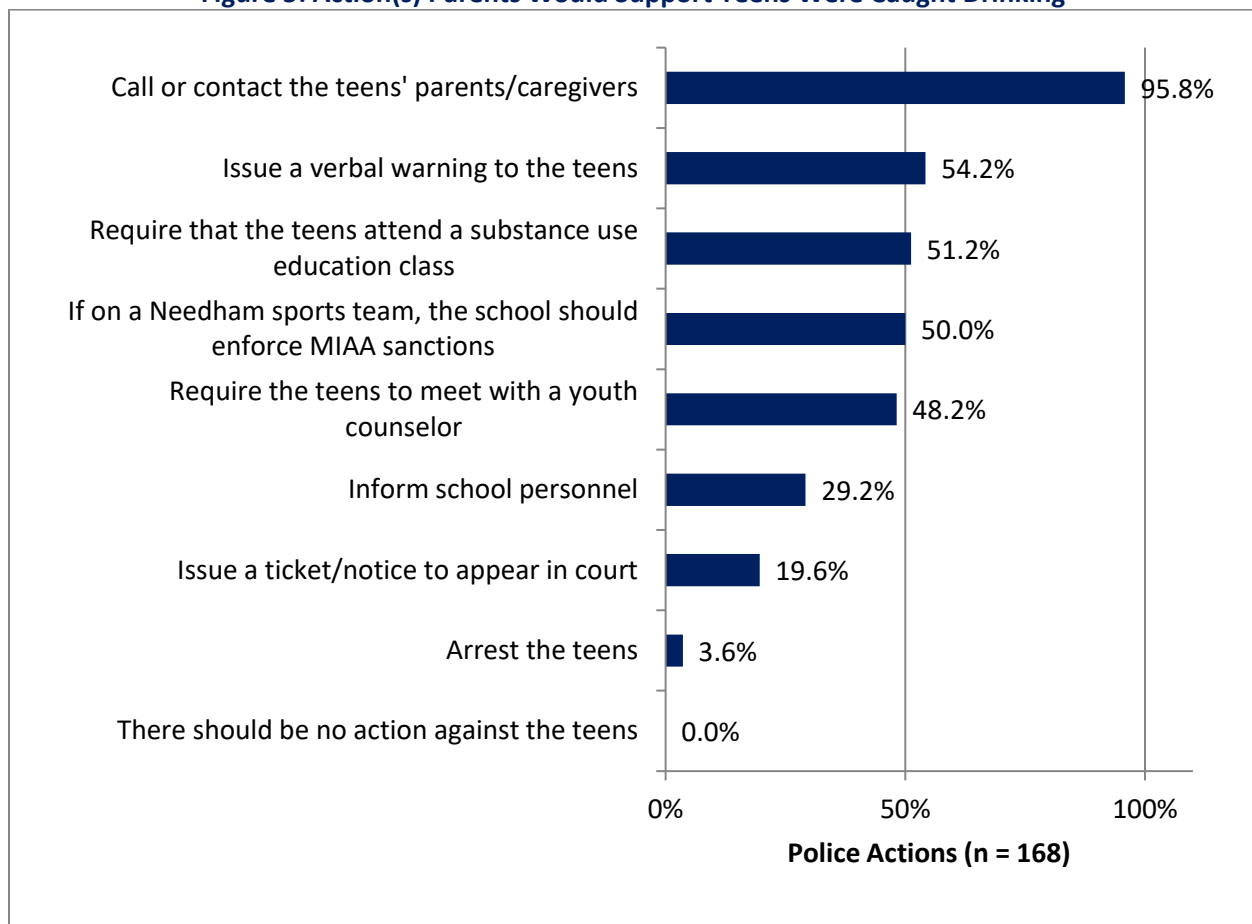
Trend. These items were added to the parent/caregiver survey for the first time in 2022.

Parental Attitudes and Beliefs – Consequences for Youth Alcohol Use (Police-Involved)

Respondents were asked to indicate which actions, if any, they would support if police became aware of Needham teens drinking alcohol.

All respondents (100%) indicated that some action should be taken if police became aware of Needham teens drinking alcohol. Respondents were most likely to endorse *calling or contacting the teens' parents/caregivers* (96%), *issuing a verbal warning to the teens* (54%), *requiring that the teens attend a substance use education class* (51%), *enforcing MIAA sanctions if the teens are on school sports teams* (50%), and *requiring that the teens meet with a youth counselor* (48%). Respondents were least likely to endorse law enforcement actions such as *issuing a ticket or notice to appear in court* (20%) or *arresting the teens* (4%).

Figure 5: Action(s) Parents Would Support Teens Were Caught Drinking



Represents the proportion of respondents endorsing each action. Percentages sum to more than 100% because respondents could choose multiple options.

Age/Grade. There were no statistically significant differences based on the grade level of the respondents' oldest child.

Gender Identity. There were no statistically significant differences based on the gender identity of the respondents' oldest child.

Trend. Comparable trend data from 2011 through 2022, when available, are presented in Table 18.

Table 18: Trend in Actions Parents Support if Teens Caught Drinking

Actions Parents/Caregivers Would Support...	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2022
Call or contact the teens' parents/caregivers	95.0%	97.7%	96.2%	96.0%	90.9%	95.8%
Issue a verbal warning to the teens	37.8%	37.9%	46.3%	44.9%	41.9%	54.2%
Require that the teens attend a substance use education class	39.4%	39.3%	33.6%	37.3%	35.9%	51.2%
If on a Needham sports team, the school should enforce MIAA sanctions	56.3%	58.2%	50.8%	49.8%	49.6%	50.0%
Require that the teens meet with a youth counselor	-	-	-	-	-	48.2%
Inform school personnel	34.0%	30.0%	27.6%	32.6%	30.0%	29.2%
Issue a ticket/notice to appear in court	24.8%	26.0%	21.5%	23.6%	21.5%	19.6%
Arrest the teens	9.0%	12.6%	7.0%	7.9%	4.8%	3.6%
There should be no action taken against the teens	0.2%	0.8%	0.9%	0.9%	0.2%	0.0%

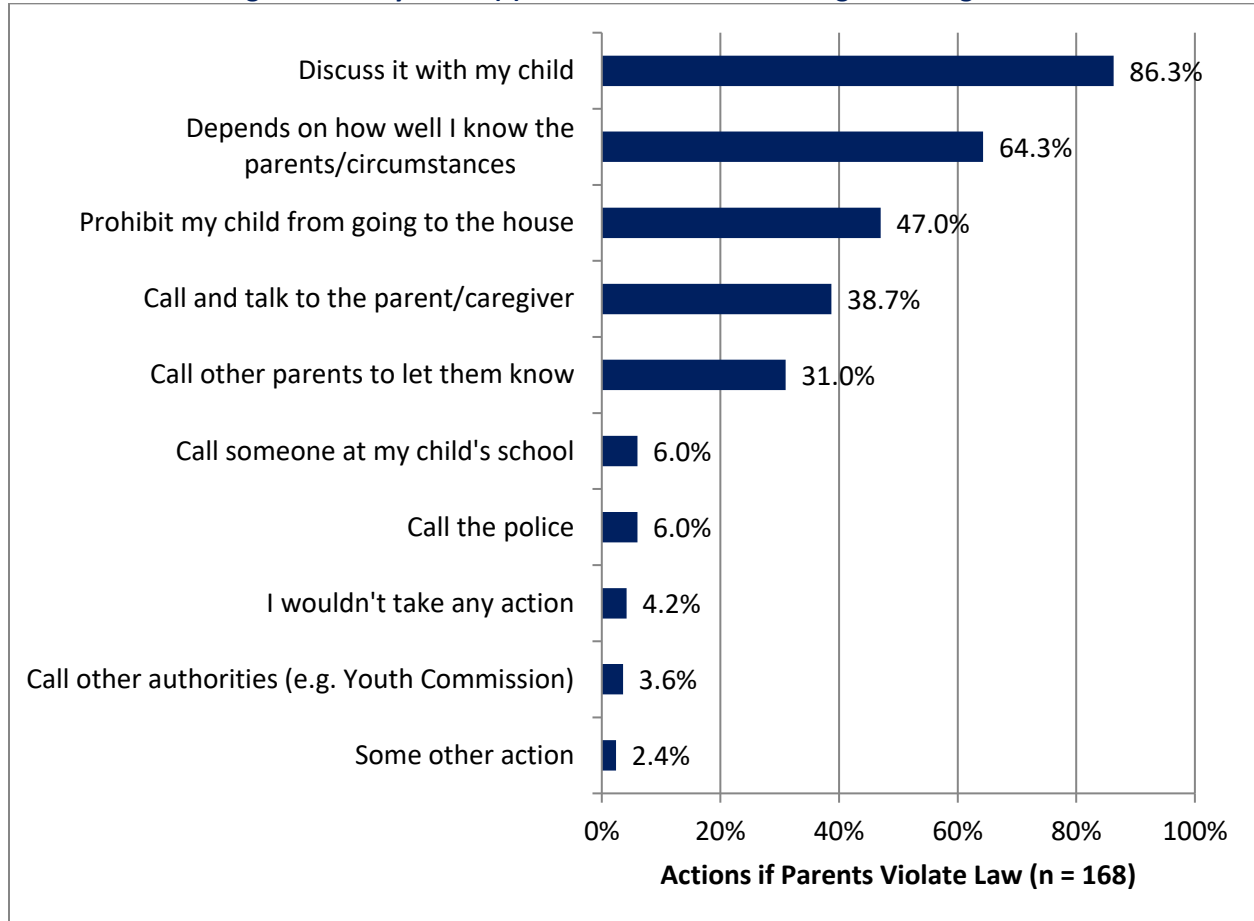
Represents the proportion of respondents endorsing each action. Percentages sum to more than 100% because respondents could choose multiple options.

Parental Attitudes and Beliefs – Likely Actions if Other Parents Allow Teens to Drink at their Home

Respondents were asked what they would do, if anything, if they learned that another parent of a child at their child’s school was allowing teens to drink alcohol at their home.

As shown in Figure 6, respondents were most likely to report that they would *discuss it with their child* (86%) and the action(s) they would take *depend on how well they know the other parents and the circumstances* (64%). Few respondents indicated that they would *call the police* (6%), *call the school* (6%), or *call other authorities* (4%). Only 4% reported that they *wouldn’t take any action*.

Figure 6: Likely Action(s) if Parents Violate Underage Drinking Laws



Represents the proportion of respondents endorsing each action. Percentages sum to more than 100% because respondents could choose multiple options.

Age/Grade. Respondents whose oldest child is in middle school were significantly more likely to report that they would *call someone at my child’s school* (MS: 14%, HS: 4%), *call other authorities* (MS: 11%, HS: 2%), and/or *call and talk to the parent/caregiver* (MS: 57%, HS: 34%).

Gender Identity. There were no statistically significant differences based on the gender identity of the respondents’ oldest child.

Trend. Comparable trend data from 2011 through 2022, when available, are presented in Table 19.

Table 19: Trend in Likely Actions if Parents/Caregivers Violate Law

	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2022
Discuss it with my child	-	-	76.5%	73.8%	70.0%	86.3%
Depends on how well I know the parents/caregivers and the circumstances	-	-	48.1%	51.3%	54.0%	64.3%
Prohibit my child from going to the house	-	-	59.6%	56.5%	47.9%	47.0%
Call and talk to the parent/caregiver	-	-	34.0%	31.1%	30.6%	38.7%
Call other parents to let them know	-	-	30.0%	28.9%	25.9%	31.0%
Call the police	-	-	5.6%	5.0%	3.4%	6.0%
Call someone at my child's school	-	-	4.9%	4.8%	4.9%	6.0%
I wouldn't take any action	-	-	2.0%	3.8%	5.3%	4.2%
Call other authorities (e.g., Youth Commission)	-	-	4.9%	2.7%	2.7%	3.6%
Some other action	-	-	1.6%	2.0%	0.4%	2.4%

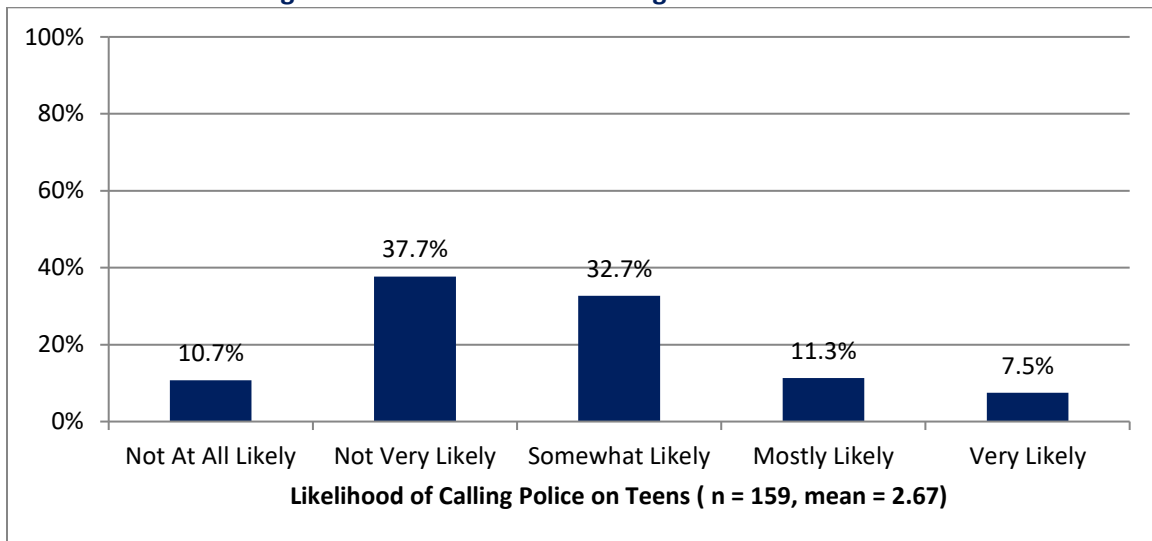
Represents the proportion of respondents endorsing each action. Percentages sum to more than 100% because respondents could choose multiple options.

Parental Attitudes and Beliefs – Likelihood of Involving Police During Youth Incidents

Respondents were asked how likely they are to contact law enforcement if they witnessed or became aware of Needham teens drinking, using substances, or engaging in other illegal behaviors.

As shown in Figure 7, only around one-fifth of respondents (18.8%) indicated that they are mostly or very likely to *contact law enforcement concerning teens drinking, using substances, or engaging in other illegal behaviors*.

Figure 7: Likelihood of Contacting Police About Teens



Mean scores range from a low of 1 (Not At All Likely) to a high of 5 (Very Likely).

Age/Grade. Respondents whose oldest child is in middle school were significantly more likely to report that they would *contact law enforcement if they witnessed or became aware of Needham teens drinking, using substances, or engaging in other illegal behaviors* (MS: 3.17, HS: 2.53).

Gender Identity. There were no statistically significant differences based on the gender identity of the respondents’ oldest child.

Trend. Comparable trend data from 2011 through 2022, when available, are presented in Table 20.

Table 20: Trend in Likelihood of Contacting Police About Teens

	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2022
Likelihood of calling police on teens drinking, using substances, or engaging in other illegal behaviors	-	-	-	26.2%	25.5%	18.8%

Represents the proportion of respondents who were either Mostly Likely or Very Likely.

FINDINGS – PARENTAL PERCEPTIONS OF YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE AND RELATED BEHAVIORS

Perceptions – Parental Perceptions of Substance Use and Related Issues

Parents were asked to estimate the percentage of Needham students in 6-8th grade and 9-12th grade who engage in substance use and related issues. Respondents were only asked to estimate use among the age group of their oldest child (i.e., parents of 6-8th graders estimated use for 6-8th graders and parents of 9-12th graders estimated use among 9-12th graders).

As shown in Table 21, respondents whose oldest child is in middle school estimate that 20% of 6th-8th graders used an electronic vapor product in the past 30 days and estimate that 17% used marijuana in the past 30 days. Respondents whose oldest child is in high school estimate that 49% of 9th-12th graders drank alcohol in the past 30 days and estimate that 38% used marijuana in the past 30 days.

Table 21: Parent Perception of Substance Use and Related Issues

Estimate % of Needham Students Who...	6-8 th Grade (Estimate)	9 th -12 th Grade (Estimate)
Drank alcohol (past 30 days)	17.1%	48.7%
Binge drank (past 30 days)	7.1%	23.7%
Rode with Driver Who Drank Alcohol (30-days)	25.0%	19.0%
Used marijuana (past 30 days)	13.0%	38.4%
Used electronic vapor product (past 30 days)	20.0%	32.3%
Used illegal drug other than marijuana (30 days)	5.8%	12.4%
Ever misused prescription drugs	8.8%	18.7%

Represents *estimates* provided by respondents about the percentage of others who engage in different behaviors.

Perceptions – Parental Perceptions of Other Parents’ Attitudes and Behaviors

Parents were asked to estimate the percentage of parents at their child’s school who they think have certain attitudes and engage in certain behaviors. Since respondents were asked about parents at their child’s school, these data are presented separately for parents whose oldest child is in 6-8th grade and parents whose oldest child is in 9-12th grade. As shown in Table 22, respondents whose oldest child is in high school think that 45% of *other* parents/caregivers knowingly allow their child to attend parties where substance use occurs.

Table 22: Parent Perception of Other Parents’ Attitudes and Behaviors

What % of PARENTS/CAREGIVERS at your child’s school do you think...	Parents/Caregivers of OTHER 6-8 th graders	Parents/Caregivers of OTHER 9-12 th graders
Knowingly allow their children to attend parties where substance use occurs	9.1%	44.9%
Call to make sure that a parent is home before they allow their child to go to another home for a social gathering	36.2%	19.0%
Want to receive a call (from other parents) if their own child is hosting a social gathering	46.0%	33.4%

Represents *estimates* provided by respondents about the percentage of others who engage in different behaviors.

Perceptions – Parental Perceptions of Primary Source of Alcohol by Youth

Respondents were asked to identify what they believe is the *primary* source of alcohol among Needham youth their child’s age who drank alcohol in the last 30 days.

As shown in Table 23, respondents whose oldest child is in middle school overwhelmingly believe that youth in middle school obtain alcohol *from home without parental knowledge* (71%). Respondents whose oldest child is in high school believe that high school youth usually obtain alcohol *from a party* (29%), *from home without parental knowledge* (29%), and *from someone they know (over 21) giving it to them or buying it for them* (22%).

Table 23: Parent Perception of Primary Source of Alcohol by Youth

Perceived Primary Source of Alcohol by Youth	6-8 th Grade	9 th -12 th Grade
From a party	5.9%	28.9%
From an underage friend (not at a party)	2.9%	8.3%
From home with parental knowledge	5.9%	5.8%
From home without parental knowledge	70.6%	28.9%
By him/herself from a store, tavern, bar, or public event with a fake ID	2.9%	1.7%
By him/herself from a store, tavern, bar, or public event without a fake ID	0.0%	0.0%
From someone they know (over 21) giving it to them or buying it for them	5.9%	22.3%
From asking a stranger to buy it	0.0%	0.0%
Having a friend purchase it or purchasing it themselves online	2.9%	3.3%
Some other way	2.9%	0.8%

Represents *estimates* provided by respondents about the percentage of others who engage in different behaviors.

FINDINGS – PARENTING BEHAVIORS

Parenting Behaviors – Preventive Actions

Respondents were asked to indicate the frequency with which they engage in three preventive actions related to youth substance use.

As shown in Table 24, respondents reported that they frequently *require their child to tell them with whom and where they will be if they go out with friends* (72% very often) and infrequently *knowingly allow their child to attend parties or gatherings where underage drinking or other substance use likely occur* (67% never). The frequency of reports of *calling other parents or caregivers* varied widely across respondents.

Table 24: Parenting Behaviors – Preventive Actions

Monitoring and Engagement	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Very Often	MEAN
Require your child to tell you with whom and where they will be if they go out with friends (n=159)	0.0%	0.0%	5.0%	23.3%	71.7%	4.67
Call other parents/caregivers if my child is going to their home to make sure they are aware (n=159)	21.4%	25.2%	23.3%	18.9%	11.3%	2.74
Knowingly allow your child to attend parties or gatherings where underage drinking or other substance use likely occurs (n=158)	66.5%	15.8%	12.7%	3.2%	1.9%	1.58

Mean scores range from a low of 1 (Never) to a high of 5 (Very Often).

Age/Grade. Respondents whose oldest child is in high school were significantly more likely than those whose oldest child was in middle school to knowingly allow their child to attend parties or gatherings where underage drinking or other substance use likely occurs (MS: 1.00, HS: 1.75).

Gender Identity. There were no statistically significant differences based on the gender identity of the respondents' oldest child.

Trend. Comparable trend data from 2011 through 2022, when available, are presented in Table 25.

Table 25: Trend in Parenting Behaviors – Preventive Actions

	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2022
Require your child to tell you with whom and where they will be if they go out with friends	-	96.9%	97.5%	96.7%	96.9%	95.0%
Call other parents/caregivers if my child is going to their home to make sure they are aware	-	38.1%	42.9%	38.5%	34.7%	30.2%
Knowingly allow your child to attend parties or gatherings where underage drinking or other substance use likely occurs	-	-	-	-	-	5.1%

Represents the proportion of respondents who reported Often or Very Often

Parenting Behaviors – Monitoring and Engagement

Respondents were asked to indicate the frequency with which they engage in three monitoring and engagement actions related to youth substance use. As show in Table 26, respondents reported that they frequently *engage their child in a conversation to learn about their activities when they return home from being out with friends* (52% very often) and *check-in by phone or text message at least one time when their child is out with friends* (49% very often). The frequency of reports of *visually assessing their child for signs of substance use when they come home from being out with friends* varied widely across respondents.

Table 26: Parenting Behaviors – Monitoring and Engagement

Monitoring and Engagement	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Very Often	MEAN
Engage your child in a conversation to learn about their activities when they return from being out with friends (n=158)	0.6%	0.6%	10.7%	35.8%	52.2%	4.38
Check-in by phone or text message at least one time when your child is out with friends (n=159)	1.3%	4.4%	20.3%	25.3%	48.7%	4.16
Visually assess your child for signs of substance use when they come home from being out with friends (n=159)	22.6%	10.1%	14.5%	22.6%	30.2%	3.28

Mean scores range from a low of 1 (Never) to a high of 5 (Very Often).

Age/Grade. Respondents whose oldest child is in high school were significantly more likely than those whose oldest child was in middle school to *visually assess their child for signs of substance use when they come home from being out with friends* (MS: 2.44, HS: 3.52).

Gender Identity. There were no statistically significant differences based on the gender identity of the respondents’ oldest child.

Trend. Comparable trend data from 2011 through 2022, when available, are presented in Table 27.

Table 27: Trend in Parenting Behaviors – Monitoring and Engagement

	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2022
Engage your child in a conversation to learn about their activities when they return from being out with friends	-	90.2%	92.6%	93.0%	90.6%	88.0%
Check-in by phone or text message at least one time when your child is out with friends	-	81.1%	81.2%	83.2%	81.1%	74.0%
Visually assess your child for signs of substance use when they come home from being out with friends	-	57.7%	60.7%	61.0%	62.0%	52.8%

Represents the proportion of respondents who reported Often or Very Often

Parenting Behaviors – Preventing Access from Home

Three questions in the survey examined the extent to which respondents take various actions to prevent access to alcohol, prescription drugs, and marijuana [including edibles] when these substances are present in their home.

As shown in Table 28, almost all respondents reported that there is usually alcohol in their home (90%), three-quarters (75%) reported that there is usually prescription medication present in their home, and 15% reported that there is usually marijuana (including edibles) present in their home.

Table 28: Parenting Behaviors – Preventing Access from Home

Preventing Access from Home	Alcohol (n=159)	Prescription Medication (n=158)	Marijuana [including edibles] (n=159)
This is usually not in my home	10.1%	25.3%	85.5%
I don't actively monitor or keep track of this when it is in my home	35.2%	30.4%	3.8%
I actively monitor and keep track of this when it is in my home but don't lock it up or secure it	42.1%	33.5%	4.4%
I actively keep track of this when it is in my home and lock it up or secure it	12.6%	10.8%	6.3%

Represents the proportion of all respondents who take these actions.

Among respondents who usually have these substances in their home, 61% reported monitoring or securing alcohol, 59% reported monitoring or securing prescription medications, and 74% reported monitoring or securing marijuana. See Table 29.

Table 29: Parenting Behaviors – Preventing Access from Home (WHEN PRESENT IN HOME)

Preventing Access from Home (WHEN PRESENT)	Alcohol in Home (n=143)	Prescription Medication in Home (n=118)	Marijuana [including edibles] in Home (n=23)
I don't actively monitor or keep track of this when it is in my home	39.2%	40.7%	26.1%
I actively monitor and keep track of this when it is in my home but don't lock it up or secure it	46.9%	44.9%	30.4%
I actively keep track of this when it is in my home and lock it up or secure it	14.0%	14.4%	43.5%

Represents the proportion of respondents who take these actions when the substance is present in their home.

Age/Grade. There were no statistically significant differences based on the age/grade level of the respondents' oldest child.

Gender Identity. There were no statistically significant differences based on the gender identity of the respondents' oldest child.

Trend. Comparable trend data from 2011 through 2022, when available, are presented in Table 30.

Table 30: Trend in Parenting Behaviors – Preventing Access from Home

	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2022
Actively Monitor or Take Stock of Any Alcohol Present in the Home	55.0%	61.5%	58.6%	57.4%	57.6%	46.9%
Secure or Lock-Up Any Alcohol Present in the Home	13.9%	12.8%	11.6%	11.5%	12.6%	14.0%
Actively Monitor or Take Stock of Any Prescription Medication in the Home	56.8%	55.3%	53.5%	54.1%	61.0%	44.9%
Secure or Lock-Up Any Prescription Medication Present in the Home	13.5%	16.2%	11.8%	13.1%	15.6%	14.4%

Represents the proportion of respondents who take these actions when the substance is present in their home.

FINDINGS – PREVENTION AND SUPPORT

Prevention and Support – Prevention Education for Parents/Caregivers

Respondents were asked to indicate whether they feel that parents/caregivers in Needham need more education related to: (a) the Massachusetts Social Host Liability Law; (b) marijuana, CBD, and the new laws in Massachusetts; and (c) electronic vapor devices.

As shown in Table 31, respondents tended to agree that Needham parents/caregivers need more education in all three of these areas. Mean scores ranged between a high of 3.97 for education about the *Massachusetts Social Host Liability Law* to 3.57 for *electronic vapor devices* (both falling within the Agree range of the scale).

Table 31: Prevention Education for Parents/Caregivers

Prevention Education for Parents/Caregivers	Strongly Disagree		Neutral	Strongly Agree		MEAN
	Disagree	Disagree		Agree	Agree	
Parents/caregivers in Needham need more education about the Massachusetts Social Host Liability Law (n=158)	1.3%	3.8%	15.8%	55.1%	24.1%	3.97
Parents/caregivers in Needham need more education about marijuana, CBD, and the new laws in Massachusetts (n=157)	0.0%	7.0%	21.0%	52.2%	19.7%	3.85
Parents/caregivers in Needham need more education about electronic vapor devices [vaping] (n=158)	1.3%	12.0%	28.5%	44.9%	13.3%	3.57

Mean scores range from a low of 1 (Strongly Disagree) to a high of 5 (Strongly Agree).

Age/Grade. There were no statistically significant differences based on the age/grade level of the respondents’ oldest child.

Gender Identity. Respondents whose oldest child identifies as female were significantly more likely to report that Needham parents need more education about the *Massachusetts Social Host Liability Law* (female: 4.11, male: 3.84).

Trend. These items were added to the parent/caregiver survey for the first time in 2022.

Prevention and Support – Prevention Education for Youth

Two questions assessed whether respondents feel that schools should provide education programs for students their child’s age that are designed to help prevent and reduce underage drinking and substance use and whether they feel that the substance misuse awareness and prevention curriculum at their child’s school is comprehensive and effective.

As shown in Table 32, respondents tended to agree that *schools should provide education programs for students their child’s age that are designed to help prevent and reduce underage drinking and substance use* (mean = 4.27). Respondents were largely neutral in their assessment of the *comprehensiveness and effectiveness of the substance misuse awareness and prevention curriculum at their child’s school* (3.17).

Table 32: Prevention Education for Youth

Prevention Education for Youth	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	MEAN
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 use (n=158)	0.0%	3.8%	5.7%	50.6%	39.9%	4.27
I believe the substance misuse awareness and prevention curriculum at my child’s school is comprehensive and effective (n=157)	1.3%	9.6%	61.1%	27.4%	0.6%	3.17

Mean scores range from a low of 1 (Strongly Disagree) to a high of 5 (Strongly Agree).

Age/Grade. There were no statistically significant differences based on the age/grade level of the respondents’ oldest child.

Gender Identity. Respondents whose oldest child identifies as female were significantly more likely to believe *schools should provide education programs for students their child’s age that are designed to help prevent and reduce underage drinking and substance use* (female: 4.40, male: 4.18).

Trend. Comparable trend data from 2011 through 2022, when available, are presented in Table 33.

Table 33: Trend in Prevention Education for Youth

	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2022
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 use	89.2%	93.2%	92.4%	93.7%	94.0%	90.5%
I believe the substance misuse awareness and prevention curriculum at my child’s school is comprehensive and effective	-	-	-	39.1%	38.5%	28.0%

Represents the proportion of respondents who reported Agree or Strongly Agree.

Prevention and Support – Awareness of Available Supports

Two questions assessed whether respondents are familiar with school- and community-based supports available to students if they need help with a substance use issue.

As shown in Table 34, respondents tended to report that they are unaware of *school- and community-based supports available to students if they need help with a substance use issue* – with over half of respondents expressing disagreement with both statements.

Table 34: Awareness of Available Supports

Awareness of Available Supports	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	MEAN
I am aware of the school-based supports available to students if they need help with a substance use issue (n=157)	8.3%	45.9%	26.1%	17.8%	1.9%	2.59
I am aware of the community-based supports available to students if they need help with a substance use issue (n=157)	10.2%	43.9%	26.1%	15.9%	3.8%	2.59

Mean scores range from a low of 1 (Strongly Disagree) to a high of 5 (Strongly Agree).

Age/Grade. There were no statistically significant differences based on the age/grade level of the respondents’ oldest child.

Gender Identity. There were no statistically significant differences based on the gender identity of the respondents’ oldest child.

Trend. These items were added to the parent/caregiver survey for the first time in 2022.

Prevention and Support – Knowledge of Needham Youth Diversion Program

Survey respondents were asked whether they are familiar with the Needham Youth Diversion Program (<https://www.spanneedham.org/nydp>), which serves as an alternative to processing youth 14 to 18 years of age and younger within the juvenile justice system. As part of this program, youth caught using substances or engaging in other risky behaviors are assigned community service or some other type of restitution versus the incident appearing on their permanent record.

As shown in Table 35, respondents expressed low levels of knowledge about the Needham Youth Diversion Program – with only 12% indicating that they were at least somewhat knowledgeable.

Table 35: Knowledge of Needham Youth Diversion Program

	Not At All	Not Very	Somewhat	Mostly	Very	MEAN
How knowledgeable are you about the Needham Youth Diversion Program (n=159)	61.0%	27.0%	10.1%	0.6%	1.3%	1.54

Mean scores range from a low of 1 (Not At All Knowledgeable) to a high of 5 (Very Knowledgeable).

Age/Grade. Respondents whose oldest child is in high school were significantly more likely to indicate knowledge about the Needham Youth Diversion Program (MS: 1.33, HS: 1.60).

Gender Identity. There were no statistically significant differences based on the gender identity of the respondents' oldest child.

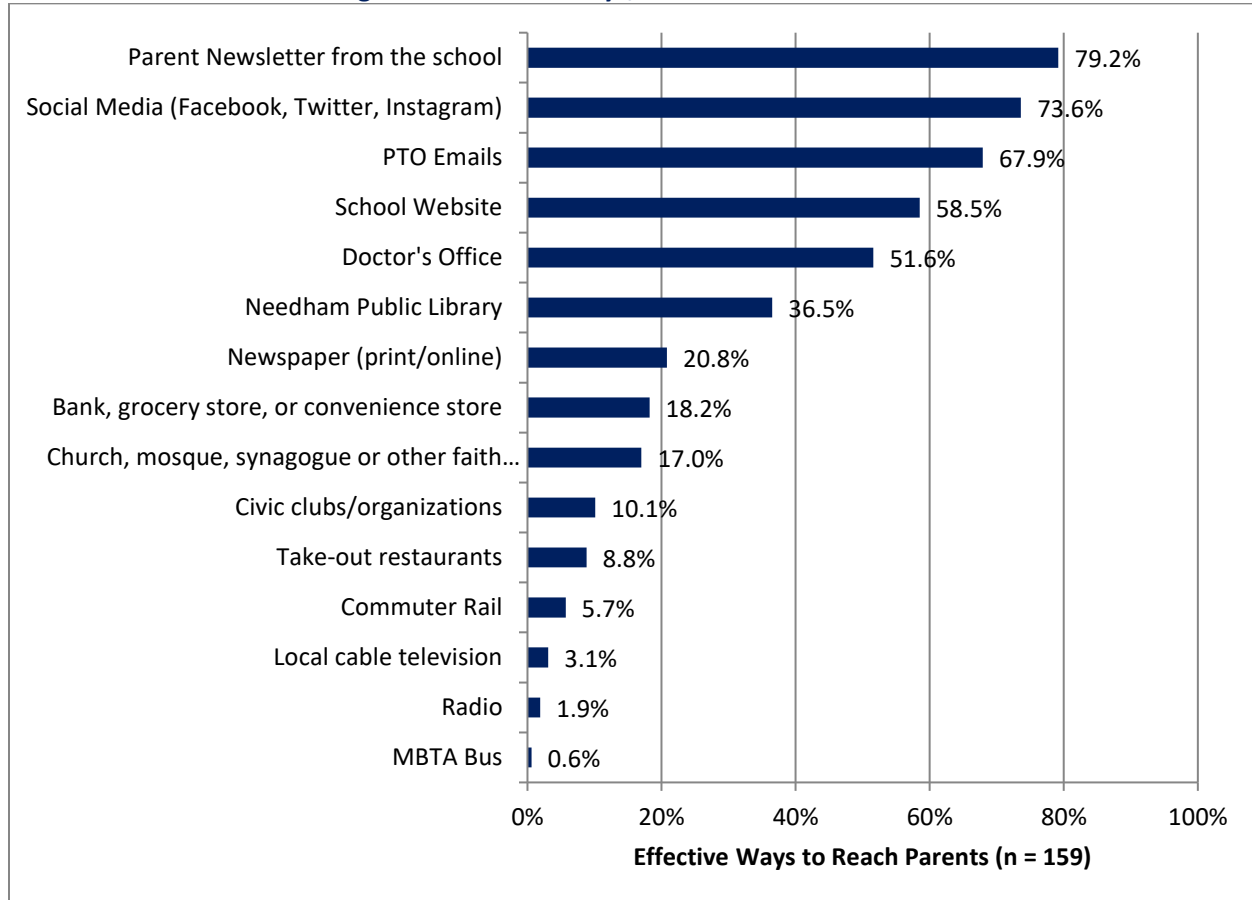
Trend. This item was added to the parent/caregiver survey for the first time in 2022.

Prevention and Support – Effective Ways/Places to Reach Parents

Respondents were provided with a list of different options and were asked to identify what they feel are effective ways/places to reach Needham parents/caregivers with youth health information.

As shown in Figure 8, the largest proportion of respondents indicated that the most effective ways to reach Needham parents with youth health information are through the *parent newsletter from the school* (79%), *social media [Facebook, Twitter, Instagram]* (74%), *PTO emails* (68%), the *school website* (59%), and *doctors' offices* (52%).

Figure 8: Effective Ways/Places to Reach Parents



Represents the proportion of respondents identifying each way/place. Percentages sum to more than 100% because respondents could choose multiple options.

A sub-set of respondents identified a *different method* (2.5%). These respondents (n=4) felt that other effective ways/places to reach parents/guardians with prevention messages include:

- Direct mail or email
- Local sporting events
- Needham Community Education
- Speakers on the Needham Channel (promoted on social media)

Age/Grade. There were no statistically significant differences based on the grade level of the respondents' oldest child.

Gender Identity. There were no statistically significant differences based on the gender identity of the respondents' oldest child.

Trend. Comparable trend data from 2011 through 2022, when available, are presented in Table 36.

Table 36: Trend in Effective Ways/Places to Reach Parents

	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2022
Parent Newsletter from the school	78.4%	82.4%	82.6%	76.3%	72.1%	79.2%
Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)	26.5%	29.9%	36.7%	47.6%	50.6%	73.6%
PTO Emails	75.2%	66.3%	73.0%	64.2%	61.2%	67.9%
School Website	66.4%	66.1%	61.6%	53.4%	50.0%	58.5%
Doctor's Office	47.1%	54.2%	57.4%	54.8%	55.8%	51.6%
Newspaper (print/online)	60.0%	55.2%	46.4%	35.8%	26.7%	20.8%
Bank, grocery store, or convenience store	21.3%	22.3%	23.6%	20.7%	19.6%	18.2%
Church, mosque, synagogue, or other faith community	32.6%	29.8%	24.5%	26.2%	24.6%	17.0%
Civic clubs/organizations	23.3%	20.8%	20.2%	19.0%	18.0%	10.1%
Take-out Restaurants	10.8%	11.4%	10.5%	10.2%	9.3%	8.8%
Commuter Rail	11.0%	13.0%	14.9%	16.4%	15.9%	5.7%
Local cable television	14.5%	17.5%	14.9%	16.6%	13.4%	3.1%
Radio	7.8%	11.6%	9.1%	13.5%	12.0%	1.9%
MBTA Bus	4.4%	6.1%	6.7%	6.8%	8.7%	0.6%

Represents the proportion of respondents identifying each way/place. Percentages sum to more than 100% because respondents could choose multiple options.

Prevention and Support – Positive Alternative Activities

Respondents were asked to indicate what, if any, additional services, activities, or programs they would like to see in Needham to provide youth with *positive alternatives* to engaging in substance use.

Twenty-five (25) of the respondents to the survey provided recommendations for positive alternatives to engaging in substance use. The complete list of themes appears below:

- More school-sponsored social activities on weekends (game nights, dances, events) (7)
- Recreation Center (basketball courts, ping pong tables, games) (6)
- Intramural sports (3)
- More extracurricular activities/options at schools (3)
- More options for older kids – most activities are focused on elementary ages (3)
- Skateboard Park (3)
- Decreased pool fees for teens during summer (2)
- More jobs (after-school or summer employment) for teens (2)
- Peer-based wellness supports (2)
- Open ice-skating rink hours during winter (1)
- PTC-sponsored events (1)

**APPENDIX A:
Spring 2022 Survey Instrument**

SUBSTANCE PREVENTION ALLIANCE OF NEEDHAM (SPAN)

Parent/Caregiver Survey of Norms, Attitudes, and Behaviors

Spring 2022



Introduction

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

The Substance Prevention Alliance of Needham (SPAN) and the Needham Public Health Department are conducting a survey of parents/caregivers of 6th - 12th graders. The purpose of this survey is to help us learn more about parent/caregiver beliefs and perceptions regarding underage drinking and substance use. Your candid feedback will enable us to structure and implement targeted prevention initiatives to enhance the health and safety of Needham youth. 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 15 minutes to answer the questions.

This survey is anonymous. Your responses cannot be traced to you. These data are being handled by Social Science Research and Evaluation, Inc., a non-profit research firm. No one will know how you answered the items in this survey. Please answer the questions based on what you 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.

Karen R. Shannon
Needham Division of Public Health
kshannon@needhamma.gov

For more information about SPAN, please visit our website at: www.spanneedham.org

Thank you very much for your participation in this survey

SECTION 1. Background Information

These first questions will help determine your eligibility to participate in the survey and will help us describe which groups of parents/caregivers took part in the survey.

1. **Do you currently live in Needham?** (Choose one)

- No Yes

2. **Please indicate how many children you have in each of the following grade/age ranges.** (Choose one per row)

	0	1	2	3	4	5+
Pre-Kindergarten	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kindergarten – 5 th Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 th Grade – 8 th Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 th Grade – 12 th Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Graduated High School/College/Working	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

[**Note:** Those with no children in grades 6-12 are sent to the disqualification page and thanked for their participation.]

Think about your oldest child in grades 6-12.

3. **What grade is this child currently in?** (Choose one – this question is required)

- 6th grade 7th grade 8th grade 9th grade 10th grade 11th grade 12th grade

4. **How does this child identify their gender?** (Choose one)

- Female / Woman / Girl
 Male / Man / Boy
 Transgender Male / Man / Boy
 Transgender Female / Woman / Girl
 Non-Binary / Gender Non-Conforming
 Some Other Way (please specify): _____
 Prefer Not to Answer

5. **How does this child identify their race/ethnicity?** (Choose all that apply)

- Black / African American
 Asian
 Hispanic or Latino(a)
 Native American or Alaska Native
 White
 Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
 Some Other Way (please specify): _____
 Prefer Not to Answer

6. **Does this child attend school in Needham?** (Choose one)

- No Yes

7. **Does this child attend public school?** (Choose one)

- No Yes

SECTION 2. Health and Wellness

The following questions are about health and wellness in Needham. Please think about your oldest child in grades 6-12 when answering these questions.

How much of an issue do you feel each of the following factors are in affecting the health and wellness of Needham youth in your oldest child's age group? (Choose one per row)

	Not an Issue	Minor Issue	Moderate Issue	Major Issue	Severe Issue
8. Youth Social Culture (friendships, cliques, exclusion, teasing)	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
9. Community Culture (adults modeling unhealthy behaviors, toxic culture)	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
10. Physical Health (nutrition, weight, sleep, physical activity)	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
11. Emotional and Mental Health (worrying, stress, anxiety, depression)	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
12. Physical Safety (bullying, violence, distracted or impaired driving)	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
13. Substance Use (alcohol, marijuana, vaping, other substances)	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
14. Technology (cell phones, social media, screen time)	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
15. Academics (grades, homework, tests, academic pressure)	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
16. Social Justice (whether people are treated fairly and equitably no matter their background, human rights, racism, etc.)	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
17. Limited Opportunities/Activities for Youth (extra-curricular activities, community sports, organized social activities)	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
18. Other Issue (type-in): _____	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION 3. Home and Community Life

The following questions are about home and community life in Needham. Please think about your oldest child in grades 6-12 when answering these questions.

How much do you disagree or agree with the following statements? (Choose one per row)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
19. Adults in Needham listen to what youth have to say	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
20. Needham residents respect the values and beliefs of people from different races and cultures	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
21. There are people at my child's school that my child can talk to about things that are important to them	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
22. There are people outside of my family and the school that my child can talk to about things that are important to them	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>

How often do you do the following things? (Choose one per row)

	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Very Often
23. Talk to my child about what they are doing in school	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
24. Ask my child about their homework	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
25. Eat dinner together as a family	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
26. Spend free time together as a family doing things like talking, exercising, watching TV, playing sports/games	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION 4. Communication

The following questions are about communication with your child and other adults in the community. Please think about your oldest child in grades 6-12 when answering these questions.

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

- No Yes

Since the beginning of the school year, have you talked with your child about the potential negative consequences associated with... (Choose one per row)

	No	Yes
28. ...underage alcohol use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
29. ...using tobacco products such as cigarettes or smokeless tobacco?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
30. ...using marijuana?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
31. ...using an electronic vapor product (e.g., Juul)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
32. ...using prescription drugs that were not prescribed to them?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

- No Yes

How much do you disagree or agree with the following statements? (Choose one per row)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
34. I believe that I can have an influence on whether my child chooses to use alcohol or other drugs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
35. I believe that I have the knowledge and tools needed to have an effective discussion with my child about youth substance use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
36. I feel that I could have an open and non-judgmental discussion with other Needham parents/caregivers about youth alcohol and drug use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

37. Which of the following safety strategies, if any, have you discussed with your child related to situations when they might be faced with alcohol or other drug use? (Choose all that apply)

- Never using alcohol or other drugs while they are a minor (abstinence)
- Refusal strategies – ways to say no if someone offers them alcohol or other drugs
- Call home or send a text message if they feel unsafe
- Not feeling afraid to call home for help because they are frightened about being punished
- Not feeling afraid to call the police or emergency medical services (911) if there is a medical emergency (e.g., alcohol poisoning, someone gets hurt, etc.)
- Only using responsibly or in moderation if they do choose to use alcohol or other drugs
- Always having a close friend present if they choose to use alcohol or other drugs
- Never riding in a vehicle driven by someone who has been drinking alcohol
- Never driving a vehicle if they have been drinking alcohol
- Never riding in a vehicle driven by someone who has been using marijuana
- Never driving a vehicle if they have been using marijuana
- Call a taxi or ride service like Uber or Lyft if they have been drinking alcohol or using drugs
- Other: _____

SECTION 5. Attitudes and Beliefs

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

How much do you disagree or agree with the following statements? (Choose one per row)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
38. I think it is OK to allow youth alcohol use at home if it is responsible and not excessive	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
39. I think it is OK to allow adult-supervised youth alcohol use at another parent/caregiver's home if it is responsible and not excessive	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
40. Occasional youth alcohol use without adult supervision is OK if there is no driving involved	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
41. I think it is OK to allow youth marijuana use at home if it is responsible and not excessive	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
42. Occasional youth marijuana use without adult supervision is OK if there is no driving involved	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
43. I would like other parents/caregivers to call me if their child says they are coming to my home to make sure I am aware	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
44. I am comfortable calling other parents/caregivers if my child is going to their home to make sure they are aware	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>

How much do you disagree or agree with the following statements? (Choose one per row)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
45. Too many parents/caregivers in Needham turn a blind eye to underage alcohol use	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
46. Too many parents/caregivers in Needham turn a blind eye to youth marijuana use	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
47. Too many parents/caregivers in Needham set a bad example for their children by their own excessive use of substances	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
48. Adult alcohol consumption at school-sponsored sporting events (e.g., tailgating, alcohol in thermoses) is an issue in Needham	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
49. Other adults in Needham are supportive when an adult abstains from using alcohol at adult social gatherings	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
50. I think adults in Needham feel pressure to consume alcohol for social reasons at gatherings in Needham	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>

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

	Not At All Wrong	A Little Bit Wrong	Wrong	Very Wrong
51. smoke tobacco	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
52. drink alcohol occasionally	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
53. have one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
54. use marijuana	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
55. use an electronic vapor product (vaping, Juul)	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
56. use prescription drugs not prescribed to them	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
57. use other illegal drugs (such as cocaine, heroin, ecstasy)	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>

58.If the police became aware of Needham teens drinking alcohol, what action(s) would you support being taken?

(Choose **all** that apply)

- There should be no action taken against the teens
- Issue a verbal warning to the teens
- Call or contact the teens' parents/caregivers
- Issue a ticket/notice to appear in court
- Arrest the teens
- Inform school personnel
- If on a Needham sports team, the school should enforce MIAA sanctions
- Require that the teens meet with a youth counselor
- Require that the teens attend a substance use education class
- Other: _____

59.If you became aware that another parent/caregiver of a student at your child's school was allowing teens to drink alcohol in their home, what action(s) would you take? (Choose **all** that apply)

- I wouldn't take any action
- My response would depend on how well I know the other parents/caregivers and the circumstances
- I would call the police
- I would call someone at my child's school
- I would call other authorities (e.g., Needham Youth Commission)
- I would call and talk to the parent/caregiver
- I would call other parents/caregivers to let them know
- I would discuss it with my child
- I would prohibit my child from going to that home
- Other: _____

SECTION 6. Perceptions

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

[Note: Question #28 and #29 are based on the answer to Question #3. If the oldest child is in grades 6-8 the questions asks about grades 6-8. If the oldest child is in grades 9-12 the questions ask about grades 9-12]

Estimate the percentage of Needham students in [grade range] who did each of the following by moving the slider to choose a percentage between 0% and 100%.

	Grade Range
60. drank at least one drink of alcohol (not including for religious ceremonies) in the last 30 days	[slider scale]
61. drank 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row (within a couple of hours) in the last 30 days	[slider scale]
62. rode in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol in the last 30 days	[slider scale]
63. used marijuana in the last 30 days	[slider scale]
64. used an electronic vapor product in the last 30 days	[slider scale]
65. used any illegal drug other than marijuana or inhalants (such as cocaine, heroin, methamphetamines, ecstasy, or other illegal drugs) in the last 30 days	[slider scale]
66. ever used a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription	[slider scale]

What percentage of parents/caregivers at your child's school do you think...

	% of Parents
67. knowingly allow their child to attend parties where substance use occurs	[slider scale]
68. call other parents/caregivers to make sure that someone will be home if their child is invited over for a social gathering	[slider scale]
69. want other parents/caregivers to call them to make sure they will be home if their child is hosting a social gathering	[slider scale]

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

- 1 From a party
- 2 From an underage friend (not at a party)
- 3 From home with parental knowledge
- 4 From home without parental knowledge
- 5 By him/herself from a store, tavern, bar, or public event (like a concert or sporting event) with a fake ID
- 6 By him/herself from a store, tavern, bar, or public event without a fake ID
- 7 From someone they know over 21 giving it to them or buying it for them
- 8 From asking a stranger to buy it
- 9 Having a friend purchase it or purchasing it themselves online
- 10 Some other way

SECTION 7. Parenting Behaviors

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

How often do you do the following? (Choose one per row)

	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Very Often
71. Call other parents/caregivers if my child is going to their home to make sure they are aware	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
72. Knowingly allow your child to attend parties or gatherings where underage drinking or other substance use likely occurs	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
73. Require your child to tell you with whom and where they will be if they go out with friends	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
74. Check-in by phone or text message at least one time when your child is out with friends	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
75. Visually assess your child for signs of substance use when they come home from being out with friends	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
76. Engage your child in a conversation to learn about their activities when they return from being out with friends	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>

77. Which of the following best describes how you monitor and store alcohol if it is present in your home? (Choose one)

- 1 There is usually no alcohol in my home
- 2 I don't actively monitor or keep track of the alcohol in my home
- 3 I actively monitor and keep track of the alcohol in my home, but don't lock-up or secure the alcohol
- 4 I actively keep track of and lock-up or secure the alcohol in my home

78. Which of the following best describes how you monitor and store prescription medication if it is present in your home? (Choose one)

- 1 There is usually no prescription medication in my home
- 2 I don't actively monitor or keep track of prescription medication in my home
- 3 I actively monitor and keep track of prescription medication in my home, but don't lock it up or secure it
- 4 I actively keep track of and lock-up or secure prescription medication in my home

79. Which of the following best describes how you monitor and store marijuana (including edibles) if it is present in your home? (Choose one)

- 1 There is usually no marijuana in my home
- 2 I don't actively monitor or keep track of marijuana in my home
- 3 I actively monitor and keep track of marijuana in my home, but don't lock it up or secure it
- 4 I actively keep track of and lock-up or secure marijuana in my home

80. How likely are you to contact law enforcement if you witnessed or became aware of Needham teens drinking, using substances, or engaging in other illegal behaviors? (Choose one)

- 1 Not At All Likely
- 2 Not Very Likely
- 3 Somewhat Likely
- 4 Mostly Likely
- 5 Very Likely

81. How knowledgeable are you about the Needham Youth Diversion Program? (Choose one)

- 1 Not At All Knowledgeable
- 2 Not Very Knowledgeable
- 3 Somewhat Knowledgeable
- 4 Mostly Knowledgeable
- 5 Very Knowledgeable

SECTION 8. Prevention and Support

How much do you disagree or agree with the following statements? (Choose one per row)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
82. Parents/caregivers in Needham need more education about the Massachusetts Social Host Liability Law	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
83. Parents/caregivers in Needham need more education about electronic vapor devices (vaping)	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
84. Parents/caregivers in Needham need more education about marijuana, CBD, and the new laws in Massachusetts	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
85. 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 use	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
86. I believe that the substance misuse awareness and prevention curriculum at my child's school is comprehensive and effective	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
87. I am aware of the school-based supports available to students if they need help with a substance use issue	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
88. I am aware of the community supports available to students if they need help with a substance use issue	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>

89. What are some effective ways/places to reach Needham parents/caregivers like you with youth health information?

(Choose all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Bank, grocery store, convenience store | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Newspaper (print/online) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Local cable television | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Parent Newsletter from Schools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Church, mosque, synagogue, or other faith community | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 PTO Emails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Doctor's office | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Radio |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Civic clubs/organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 School website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Take-out restaurants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Needham Public Library | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Commuter Rail | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 MBTA Bus | |

90. What, if any, additional services, activities, or programs would you like to see in Needham to provide youth with positive alternatives to engaging in substance use? (type in)

SECTION 9. Closing Questions

These last questions are about you. Their only purpose is to help us describe the individuals who responded to this survey.

91. How do you identify your gender? (Choose one)

- 1 Female / Woman / Girl
- 2 Male / Man / Boy
- 3 Transgender Male / Man / Boy
- 4 Transgender Female / Woman / Girl
- 5 Non-Binary / Gender Non-Conforming
- 6 Some Other Way (please specify): _____
- 7 Prefer Not to Answer

92. How do you identify your race/ethnicity? (Choose all that apply)

- Black / African American
- Asian
- Hispanic or Latino(a)
- Native American or Alaska Native
- White
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- Some Other Way (please specify): _____
- Prefer Not to Answer

93. What is the primary language spoken in your home? (Choose one)

- English
- Spanish
- Portuguese
- Chinese (including Cantonese and Mandarin)
- French Creole
- Russian
- Korean
- Arabic
- Some Other Language (please specify): _____
- Prefer Not to Answer

End of Survey

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

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You may now close this window.

For more information about SPAN, please visit our website at: www.spanneedham.org

If there are additional ways in which you would like to contribute to SPAN based on your individual skills, talents, and expertise, please feel free to reach out directly to [Karen Shannon](mailto:kshannon@needhamma.gov) via email to discuss these opportunities.