

SERAC

Community Survey

2022

Summary Report
August 2022



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SERAC Community Survey 2022 Summary Report

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This community survey was sponsored by SERAC and was administered in May and June of 2022. The survey was administered online using the SurveyMonkey.com website and software. It was open to any adult residing in 41 communities in Southeastern Connecticut served by SERAC. Responses were voluntary and anonymous. All information is reported only in summary form. Individual survey respondents did not receive an incentive for participation. The Local Prevention Council in the community that achieved the highest participation rate in SERAC's Community Survey received an incentive.

The questions in this survey are based on questions included in a survey instrument used by SERAC to determine attitudes, perceptions, and behaviors of youth with regard to substance use and mental health. The youth survey was derived from the Connecticut Governor's Prevention Initiative for Youth (GPIY) survey which was designed to ascertain prevalence, attitudes and behaviors related to mental health and the use of substances (tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs).

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DISCLAIMER

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METHODS

The survey instrument used to collect the data for this report was based on the SERAC Standard Youth Survey which has been administered to youth throughout Connecticut. Some questions derived from the Quantitative Services Parent Survey [1] were used with permission.

The survey was administered online using the SurveyMonkey.com website. Efforts were made to encourage participation of community members throughout the region. A total of 1357 responses were collected from residents of 38 of 41 communities in the region. Responses from 509 respondents were excluded for the following reasons: 1) failure to answer questions other than the demographic questions (412), 2) reported age <18 (42), or 3) no town reported or town of residence not in the target region (55). The remaining 848 responses were then merged with 245 responses from a town that collected their own Community Survey during an overlapping timeframe as the SERAC Community Survey. The rates in this report are based on the responses from the total 1093 respondents who represent 37 of the 41 communities in the target region.

The data have been weighted to correct for imbalances in sample sizes from the various communities. Weights were calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Community population (as a percent of the regional population)}}{\text{Community responses (as a percent of regional responses)}}$$

For example, if a community represents 0.6% of the regional population and had 0.11% of regional responses, the weight for each of the responses from that community would be 5.56 (0.6%/0.11%).

All statistical and tabulation computations were carried out using SPSS® version 28. Data checking and formatting operations were done using Microsoft Excel. The final report was produced using Microsoft Word. All software is licensed to SERAC.

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RESULTS

A total of 1357 responses were collected. Responses from a total of 509 respondents (37.5% of the sample size) were excluded for failure to answer any questions other than the demographic questions, reporting age less than 18 or reporting no town or a town of residence outside of the SERAC region. The responses from the remaining 848 respondents were then merged with a local town's sample of 245 for a final sample size of 1093. The final sample represents 37 of the 41 communities in the targeted region and are summarized in this report (Table 1). Most respondents (82%) were female (Table 2). About three quarters (79%) were between the ages of 36 and 65. Nearly all (92%) were White. About 64% of all respondents reported having children of school age enrolled in public or private school or home-schooled (Table 3). About 25% of parents reported that their oldest child was in Elementary School (Pre-K to grade 5), 24% reported their oldest child was in Middle School (grades 6, 7, 8) and 51% reported that their oldest child was in High School (grades 9-12; Table 4). Child gender was roughly equal (Table 5).

Respondents who reported being parents were instructed to answer subsequent questions with regard to their oldest child enrolled in Grade 12 or below in 2021-2022. Non-parents were asked to consider the average youth in grade 10 when responding. These results are weighted.

Overall, about 33% of parents reported that their oldest child spends ***no time after school without an adult present***. The rates range from 84% among elementary aged children to 10% among high school aged children (Table 6). About 12% of parents reported that their oldest child spends ***more than 4 hours after school without an adult present***. *This question was not asked of non-parents.*

Overall, most parents (72%) reported that it is ***definitely true*** that when their oldest child is away from home they know where they are and who they are with (Table 7). *This question was not asked of non-parents.*

Nearly 95% of all parents reported that it is ***definitely true*** that their family has clear rules discouraging their oldest child from smoking cigarettes/using tobacco (93%), using electronic cigarettes (93%), or using prescription drugs without a prescription (94%; Table 8). Slightly fewer parents reported that it is ***definitely true*** that their family has clear rules discouraging their oldest child from drinking alcoholic beverages (87%) or using marijuana (88%). Only about 78% of all parents reported that it is ***definitely true*** that their family has clear rules discouraging their oldest child from gambling. *This question was not asked of non-parents.*

Respondents were asked how easy they thought it would be for youth get various substances if they wanted to (Table 9). Among parents, illicit drugs (59% ***very hard***) and prescription drugs without a prescription (48% ***very hard***) were perceived as the hardest to get while alcohol (25% ***very hard***) was perceived as the easiest to get. Compared to parents, non-parents perceive that all things are more easily accessible to youth (***% very hard for all items <15%***).

Parents were asked whether they thought their oldest child had engaged in certain behaviors in the past 30 days (Table 10). Nearly 18% of parents thought that their oldest child had used

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energy drinks while about one in 10 parents thought that their oldest child had used alcohol (10%) in the past 30 days. Fewer parents thought that their oldest child had used electronic cigarettes (7%), marijuana (7%), or cigarettes (4%) in the past 30 days. Fewer than 5 parents (n<5) thought that their oldest child had gambled for money in the past 30 days. No parents (0%) thought that their oldest child had used an energy drink containing alcohol or used prescription drugs not prescribed to them in the past 30 days. *This question was not asked of non-parents*

Respondents were asked about their perception of sources of alcohol among youth who drink (Table 11). The most commonly reported sources among parents were **friends** (73%), **parents without permission** (72%), and **a party without an adult's permission** (70%). While the most commonly reported sources among non-parents were the same as those among parents, the percentage of non-parents who thought youth had gotten alcohol from those sources tended to be much higher [**friends** (100%), **parents without permission** (99.9%), and **a party without an adult's permission** (99.9%)].

Respondents were asked about the behaviors of the adults in their household (Table 12). In general, similar percentages of parents and non-parents report that an adult in their household smokes cigarettes (about 10-11%), uses electronic cigarettes (6-8%), and uses marijuana (22-26%). However, the percentage of non-parents who report that an adult in their household uses alcohol (78%) tends to be higher than the percentage among parents (71%). Similarly, non-parents tend to gamble (37%) more than parents (24%). Among parents, the percentage of households in which an adult gambles, uses alcohol, smokes cigarettes, or uses marijuana tends to be relatively constant regardless of the age or grade of the oldest child. However, the percentage of households in which an adult uses electronic cigarettes tends to decline from 13% among households in which the oldest child is in elementary school to 4% among households in which the oldest child is in high school.

Respondents were asked about their perception about the potential for harm to youth who use various substances (Table 13). Compared to parents, non-parents tend to be more likely to report that there is **great harm** associated with use of most substances (cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, alcohol, or prescription drugs not prescribed to them) by youth. However, more parents (39%) feel that there is a **great risk** associated with the use of marijuana by youth than non-parents (32%).

Respondents were asked how they felt about youth use of various substances or engaging in gambling (Table 14). In general, the percentage of parents who think it is **very wrong** for youth to engage in various behaviors tends to be higher than the percentage of non-parents who think it is **very wrong**. Overall, the largest percentage of adults think it would be **very wrong** for youth to use prescription drugs not prescribed to them (96% of parents, 93% of non-parents). The smallest percentage of adults think it would be **very wrong** for youth to gamble (73% of parents, 51% of non-parents).

Respondents were asked if they thought youth should be allowed to use alcohol and marijuana so they can learn to use these substances responsibly (Table 15). Although most adults do not agree with this statement, the percentage of parents who feel it is **definitely not true** (85%) tends to be higher than the percentage of non-parents (77%) for both substances. About 1% of parents and 3% of non-parents report that they are **unsure** whether youth should be allowed to use

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alcohol while 4% of parents and 2% of non-parents report they are **unsure** whether youth should be allowed to use marijuana.

Respondents were asked if they had provided various substances to youth in the past year (Table 16). Over 90% of parents and nonparents reported that there had NOT been a party at their house in the past year at which alcohol was consumed by youth in the past year. Over 94% of parents and non-parents reported that no youth had used marijuana or electronic cigarettes at a party at their house. Nearly all (99%) of parents and non-parents reported that no youth consumed any other drugs or illicit substances at a party at their house in the past year.

Respondents were asked if they had purchased various substances for youth under the age of 21 in the past year (Table 17). Fewer than 5 parents reported that they had purchased alcohol, marijuana, or electronic cigarettes for youth under 21 in the past year, while fewer than 5 non-parents reported purchasing marijuana for youth in the past year. Nearly all parents and non-parents reported not purchasing any substances for youth under 21 in the past year.

Respondents were asked whether alcohol, marijuana, and prescription medications were secured in their homes (Table 18). Parents and non-parents appear most likely to report securing prescription medication in their homes and least likely to report securing marijuana in their homes.

Respondents were asked how confident they were in what to do if they believed their oldest child was abusing a substance or substances (Table 19). Overall, about 50% of parents report being **very confident** about what to do while 39% report being **fairly confident** about what to do if their oldest child was abusing substances.

Respondents were asked to answer several questions regarding emerging issues related to COVID-19, awareness of the 21 for a Reason campaign, the legalization of marijuana in Connecticut, and important community issues. These results are unweighted.

Respondents were asked in what ways the COVID-19 pandemic affected their feelings, behaviors, and well-being (Table 20). Overall, about 73% of parents and 69% of non-parents reported feelings **a lot MORE** or **a little MORE** anxious during the pandemic than normal. About 56% of parents and 52% of non-parents reported feeling down, sad, or depressed **a lot MORE** or **a little MORE** than normal during the pandemic, while 36% of parents and 33% of non-parents reported similarly about feeling down, sad, or depressed for more than 2 weeks during the pandemic.

Respondents were asked whether they had read, seen, or heard anything about the 21 for a Reason campaign in the past 60 days (Table 21). About 5% of parents and 9% of non-parents reported that they had seen something about the campaign within the past 60 days. Of those that had seen the campaign (Table 22), most reported seeing it on Facebook (parents 50%; non-parents 36%) followed by the SERAC website (parents 19%; non-parents 32%).

When asked about the legalization of marijuana in Connecticut, both parents and non-parents reported similar percentages regarding their perceptions (Table 23). About 13-15% of respondents reported that the legalization would change their perception about marijuana use while 57-62% reported that they expected the change to increase rates of marijuana use. About 56% expect that the legalization of marijuana will increase access of marijuana to underage youth

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(under 21) and 52-55% expect to see the legalization lead to more harms associated with marijuana use, such as impaired driving and dependence. About 37% of parents and 40% of non-parents are in favor of a marijuana dispensary opening up in their community (Table 24).

Respondents were asked to identify and rank some important issues their community is facing (Table 25). The most common issue identified was mental health issues among both parents (83%) and non-parents (84%), followed by alcohol and vaping. On average, mental health was ranked highest among respondents followed by the “other” category in which respondents wrote in their own responses. Common responses in the “other” category included racism, poverty, affordable housing, access to healthcare, bullying, domestic violence, and issues with the government (as in ineffective use of tax revenue and ineffective representation).

REFERENCES

1. Swindell, A. (2008). Quantitative Services Parent Survey.

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Table 1: Participation by Reported Community of Residence (respondents included in the analysis)

Community*	% of respondents	Weight
Ashford	3.48%	0.30
Brooklyn	4.21%	0.50
Canterbury	0.46%	2.72
Chaplin	0.18%	2.88
Colchester	23.24%	0.16
Columbia	0.18%	7.06
Coventry	0.09%	32.84
East Lyme	21.87%	0.21
Eastford	0.09%	4.47
Griswold	1.01%	2.79
Groton	1.10%	2.09
Hampton	0.09%	4.65
Killingly	1.92%	2.27
Lebanon	0.46%	3.83
Ledyard	1.83%	2.06
Lisbon	0.18%	5.65
Mansfield	1.19%	5.46
Montville	4.30%	1.06
New London	0.55%	12.39
North Stonington	6.59%	0.19
Norwich	2.01%	4.89
Old Lyme	0.18%	10.19
Plainfield	2.47%	1.49
Pomfret	0.37%	2.87
Preston	5.49%	0.22
Putnam	0.46%	4.97
Salem	1.56%	0.66
Scotland	0.27%	1.41
Sprague	0.37%	1.98
Sterling	0.55%	1.60
Stonington	0.37%	12.40
Thompson	5.03%	0.45
Voluntown	0.55%	1.15
Waterford	2.84%	1.70
Willington	0.09%	14.87
Windham	1.19%	5.04
Woodstock	3.20%	0.63

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Table 2: Demographics of Survey Respondents (unweighted)

	Parent	Non-parent	All
Gender			
Female	83.3%	79.6%	82.0%
Male	13.8%	18.3%	15.4%
Transgender Female	n<5	0.0%	n<5
Transgender Male	n<5	n<5	n<5
Non-Binary	0.0%	n<5	n<5
Gender Fluid	n<5	n<5	n<5
I prefer to self-describe	n<5	0.0%	n<5
I prefer not to say	1.3%	n<5	n<5
Age			
18 to 25 years	n<5	3.3%	1.4%
26 to 35 years	8.0%	11.1%	9.1%
36 to 45 years	45.6%	8.6%	32.2%
46 to 55 years	39.2%	22.2%	33.0%
56 to 65 years	6.2%	27.5%	13.9%
Over 65 years	0.7%	27.3%	10.3%
Race and Ethnicity			
White/Caucasian	90.4%	94.9%	92.1%
Black/African American	0.7%	n<5	0.8%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.2%	n<5	1.5%
Native American	n<5	n<5	n<5
Hispanic/Latino	2.3%	1.5%	2.0%
Multiracial/Mixed Race	4.1%	2.0%	3.3%

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Table 3: Individuals Reporting School Age Children

	Response	Percent
Do you have any children of school age enrolled in public or private school or home-schooled?	Yes	63.8%
	No	36.2%
	Total	100%

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Table 4: Grade of Oldest Child (Parents only)

Category	Grade	Percent	Category Percent
Elementary (Pre-K to 5)	Pre-K	1.1%	25.5%
	K	3.6%	
	1	2.9%	
	2	4.7%	
	3	3.6%	
	4	4.3%	
	5	5.3%	
Middle School (6, 7,8)	6	7.0%	23.8%
	7	8.2%	
	8	8.6%	
High School (9-12)	9	9.6%	50.6%
	10	15.5%	
	11	13.8%	
	12	11.8%	
Total		100%	100.0%

Table 5: Gender of Oldest Child

	Percent
Female	48.3%
Male	48.3%
Transgender Female	n<5
Transgender Male	n<5
Non-Binary	1.4%
Gender Fluid	n<5
Other	0.9%
Total	100%

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Table 6: Unsupervised Time (Parents Only)

Question	Response	Parents (oldest child)			
		Elementary	Middle School	High School	Total
On a regular weekday, how many hours does your oldest child usually spend after school without an adult present?	None	84.1%	29.2%	10.4%	32.7%
	Less than 1 hour	10.3%	33.0%	17.7%	19.6%
	1 to 2 hours	n<5	28.3%	43.7%	29.7%
	Up to 4 hours	0.0%	n<5	10.4%	6.1%
	More than 4 hours	4.7%	6.6%	17.7%	11.9%

Table 7: Parental Monitoring (Parents only)

Question	Response	Parents (oldest child)			
		Elementary	Middle School	High School	Total
When my child is away from home, I know where he/she is and who he/she is with.	Definitely NOT True	0.0%	n<5	n<5	n<5
	Mostly NOT True	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%	1.1%
	Mostly True	n<5	27.4%	36.8%	25.8%
	Definitely True	99.1%	71.7%	59.7%	72.1%

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Table 8: Family Rules – My family has clear rules discouraging my oldest child from doing the following (Parents Only)

Question	Response	Parents (oldest child)			
		Elementary	Middle School	High School	Total
Smoking cigarettes or using tobacco	Definitely NOT True	0.0%	n<5	n<5	n<5
	Mostly NOT True	n<5	n<5	0.0%	n<5
	Mostly True	5.6%	7.5%	6.0%	6.3%
	Definitely True	93.5%	89.7%	93.5%	92.6%
Using electronic cigarettes	Definitely NOT True	0.0%	n<5	n<5	n<5
	Mostly NOT True	n<5	n<5	0.0%	n<5
	Mostly True	4.7%	6.5%	6.1%	5.9%
	Definitely True	94.4%	90.7%	93.5%	93.0%
Drinking alcoholic beverages	Definitely NOT True	0.0%	n<5	0.0%	n<5
	Mostly NOT True	n<5	n<5	n<5	n<5
	Mostly True	5.6%	8.3%	15.6%	11.4%
	Definitely True	93.5%	88.9%	83.5%	87.2%
Using marijuana	Definitely NOT True	0.0%	n<5	n<5	n<5
	Mostly NOT True	n<5	n<5	7.8%	4.5%
	Mostly True	6.5%	7.5%	7.4%	7.2%
	Definitely True	92.6%	89.7%	84.4%	87.7%
Using prescription drugs not prescribed to them	Definitely NOT True	0.0%	n<5	n<5	n<5
	Mostly NOT True	0.0%	n<5	n<5	n<5
	Mostly True	5.6%	6.5%	4.3%	5.2%
	Definitely True	94.4%	90.7%	94.4%	93.5%
Gambling	Definitely NOT True	n<5	n<5	2.2%	1.6%
	Mostly NOT True	n<5	n<5	7.9%	5.2%
	Mostly True	8.3%	30.2%	11.8%	15.3%
	Definitely True	88.9%	66.0%	78.2%	77.9%

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Table 9: Ease of Access – If your oldest child wanted to, how EASY would it be for them to get:

Question	Response	Parents (oldest child)				Non-Parents
		Elementary	Middle School	High School	Total	10 th grade
Alcoholic beverages	Very Easy	7.6%	31.1%	40.9%	30.7%	47.0%
	Sort of Easy	16.2%	11.3%	25.0%	19.6%	41.9%
	Sort of Hard	20.0%	42.5%	18.5%	24.6%	8.0%
	Very Hard	56.2%	15.1%	15.5%	25.1%	3.0%
Electronic Cigarettes	Very Easy	n<5	8.4%	34.5%	20.3%	63.8%
	Sort of Easy	9.5%	6.5%	30.6%	19.8%	31.5%
	Sort of Hard	10.5%	38.3%	14.7%	19.4%	4.0%
	Very Hard	79.0%	46.7%	20.3%	40.5%	0.7%
Cigarettes	Very Easy	6.9%	n<5	28.7%	17.1%	56.5%
	Sort of Easy	n<5	5.7%	28.7%	16.9%	33.8%
	Sort of Hard	9.8%	53.8%	17.4%	24.4%	8.7%
	Very Hard	81.4%	38.7%	25.2%	41.6%	1.1%
Marijuana	Very Easy	n<5	7.5%	31.4%	18.9%	52.7%
	Sort of Easy	4.8%	22.4%	21.8%	18.0%	39.6%
	Sort of Hard	12.5%	31.8%	27.1%	24.8%	7.1%
	Very Hard	79.8%	38.3%	19.7%	38.4%	n<5
Prescription drugs without a prescription	Very Easy	n<5	5.7%	9.1%	6.4%	18.4%
	Sort of Easy	n<5	4.8%	17.7%	10.9%	49.1%
	Sort of Hard	9.6%	38.1%	43.7%	34.3%	28.1%
	Very Hard	87.5%	51.4%	29.4%	48.4%	4.4%
Illicit drugs	Very Easy	n<5	n<5	3.9%	2.5%	15.5%
	Sort of Easy	5.8%	n<5	17.2%	10.6%	43.9%
	Sort of Hard	9.6%	17.8%	40.1%	27.5%	29.5%
	Very Hard	83.7%	80.4%	38.8%	59.4%	11.1%

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Table 10: Perceived Recent Use by Oldest Child – In the past 30 days, do you think your oldest child did the following? (Parents only)

Question	Parents			
	Elementary	Middle School	High School	Total
Used cigarettes	0.0%	0.0%	7.4%	3.8%
Used electronic cigarettes	0.0%	0.0%	13.8%	7.2%
Drank alcoholic beverages	0.0%	0.0%	18.9%	9.8%
Used an energy drink	0.0%	10.4%	29.4%	17.8%
Used an energy containing alcohol	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Used marijuana	0.0%	0.0%	13.0%	6.8%
Used prescription drugs not prescribed to them	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Gambled for money	0.0%	0.0%	n<5	n<5

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Table 11: Alcohol Sources – How often do you think youth who drink get their alcoholic beverages from the following sources?

Question	Response	Parents (oldest child)				Non-Parents
		Elementary	Middle School	High School	Total	10 th grade
Their parents with permission	Ever	16.3%	43.2%	75.4%	54.6%	88.9%
Their parents without permission	Ever	24.5%	74.8%	90.5%	71.7%	99.9%
Friends	Ever	21.2%	75.0%	93.9%	72.8%	100.0%
A sister or brother	Ever	17.2%	70.5%	88.3%	68.5%	99.3%
Other people buy it for them	Ever	13.3%	46.8%	89.1%	62.1%	97.4%
A party with an adult's permission	Ever	21.4%	42.1%	80.1%	58.0%	96.3%
A party without an adult's permission	Ever	22.4%	63.6%	92.2%	69.5%	99.9%
A store (they buy it themselves)	Ever	n<5	5.3%	42.5%	24.8%	60.1%
A restaurant without an adult's permission	Ever	7.2%	6.3%	28.5%	18.6%	44.9%
A delivery service (DoorDash, Uber Eats, Grubhub)	Ever	n<5	21.6%	33.9%	24.3%	68.3%

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Table 12: Adult Behaviors –Do any adults who live in your household engage in the following behaviors?

Question	Parents (oldest child)				Non-Parents
	Elementary	Middle School	High School	Total	10 th grade
Smoke cigarettes	10.2%	10.4%	11.7%	11.0%	9.9%
Electronic cigarettes	13.1%	9.4%	4.3%	7.6%	6.5%
Use alcohol	76.6%	72.9%	68.1%	71.3%	78.3%
Use marijuana	20.6%	24.5%	22.1%	22.3%	26.2%
Use any illicit drugs or substances	4.8%	0.0%	6.9%	4.8%	3.2%
Gamble	21.9%	26.2%	24.2%	24.2%	36.5%

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Table 13: Perceived Harm – How much do you think youth risk harming themselves if they do the following?

Question	Response	Parents (oldest child)				Non-Parents
		Elementary	Middle School	High School	Total	10 th grade
Smoke cigarettes (1+ packs/day)	No Risk	28.3%	15.1%	14.3%	17.9%	1.6%
	Slight Risk	7.5%	n<5	13.5%	9.7%	11.2%
	Moderate Risk	7.5%	5.7%	16.1%	11.5%	18.6%
	Great Risk	49.1%	70.8%	49.6%	54.5%	64.8%
	I don't know	7.5%	4.7%	6.5%	6.3%	3.8%
Electronic cigarettes	No Risk	29.2%	15.0%	12.9%	17.3%	1.2%
	Slight Risk	7.5%	5.6%	7.3%	7.0%	5.9%
	Moderate Risk	7.5%	26.2%	11.6%	14.2%	27.9%
	Great Risk	49.1%	49.5%	61.6%	55.7%	61.3%
	I don't know	6.6%	n<5	6.5%	5.8%	3.6%
Drink alcohol (5+ 1- 2x/wk)	No Risk	33.6%	14.2%	6.9%	15.1%	1.1%
	Slight Risk	n<5	4.7%	13.0%	8.8%	7.9%
	Moderate Risk	n<5	7.5%	19.0%	11.9%	14.4%
	Great Risk	50.5%	68.9%	53.7%	56.5%	74.8%
	I don't know	11.2%	4.7%	7.4%	7.7%	1.7%
Drink alcohol (1-2 daily)	No Risk	35.8%	15.0%	12.6%	18.7%	2.0%
	Slight Risk	n<5	4.7%	9.1%	6.3%	8.2%
	Moderate Risk	0.0%	4.7%	17.7%	10.4%	26.2%
	Great Risk	50.9%	71.0%	52.4%	56.5%	60.5%
	I don't know	11.3%	4.7%	8.2%	8.1%	3.0%
Use marijuana (1-2x/wk)	No Risk	30.8%	15.0%	7.4%	14.8%	2.0%
	Slight Risk	7.5%	11.2%	31.2%	20.7%	22.6%
	Moderate Risk	n<5	33.6%	19.0%	18.7%	39.4%
	Great Risk	44.9%	34.6%	38.5%	39.1%	31.6%
	I don't know	14.0%	5.6%	3.9%	6.7%	4.3%
Use prescription drugs not prescribed to them	No Risk	29.0%	16.0%	12.1%	17.1%	1.4%
	Slight Risk	n<5	n<5	6.9%	5.0%	7.5%
	Moderate Risk	n<5	n<5	15.2%	8.8%	14.4%
	Great Risk	50.5%	72.6%	58.0%	59.7%	74.4%
	I don't know	16.8%	5.7%	7.8%	9.5%	2.4%

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Table 14: Disapproval of Youth Use – How wrong do you think it is for youth to do the following?

Question	Response	Parents (oldest child)				Non-Parents
		Elementary	Middle School	High School	Total	10 th grade
Smoke tobacco	Not at all wrong	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%
	A little bit wrong	0.0%	0.0%	n<5	n<5	2.3%
	Wrong	n<5	24.5%	19.6%	16.3%	44.4%
	Very wrong	99.1%	75.5%	78.7%	82.8%	51.9%
Use electronic cigarettes	Not at all wrong	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.6%
	A little bit wrong	0.0%	4.7%	n<5	1.8%	1.6%
	Wrong	n<5	18.9%	16.5%	13.3%	43.6%
	Very wrong	99.1%	76.4%	82.3%	84.9%	53.1%
Drink alcohol (5+ 1-2x/wk)	Not at all wrong	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	n<5
	A little bit wrong	0.0%	0.0%	n<5	n<5	n<5
	Wrong	n<5	0.0%	5.2%	2.9%	11.5%
	Very wrong	99.1%	100.0%	93.9%	96.6%	87.9%
Drink alcohol (1-2 daily)	Not at all wrong	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	n<5
	A little bit wrong	4.7%	0.0%	n<5	1.4%	n<5
	Wrong	n<5	n<5	7.4%	4.3%	16.5%
	Very wrong	94.3%	99.1%	92.2%	94.4%	83.0%
Smoke marijuana	Not at all wrong	4.7%	0.0%	n<5	1.4%	2.1%
	A little bit wrong	0.0%	0.0%	6.8%	3.5%	15.1%
	Wrong	0.9%	18.1%	24.5%	17.2%	31.8%
	Very wrong	94.3%	81.9%	68.2%	78.0%	51.0%
Use prescription drugs not prescribed to them	Not at all wrong	0.0%	0.0%	5.2%	2.7%	n<5
	A little bit wrong	0.0%	0.0%	n<5	n<5	0.0%
	Wrong	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%	1.6%	6.9%
	Very wrong	100.0%	100.0%	91.4%	95.5%	92.6%

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Summary Report**

Table 14: Disapproval of Youth Use – How wrong do you think it is for youth to do the following? (Continued)

Question	Response	Parents (oldest child)				Non-Parents
		Elementary	Middle School	High School	Total	10 th grade
Gamble	Not at all wrong	4.7%	0.0%	n<5	1.4%	n<5
	A little bit wrong	0.0%	n<5	4.7%	3.2%	6.5%
	Wrong	5.7%	30.2%	27.2%	22.7%	42.1%
	Very wrong	89.6%	67.0%	67.7%	72.7%	51.1%

Table 15: Youth Permission to Use Substances

Question	Response	Parents (oldest child)				Non-Parents
		Elementary	Middle School	High School	Total	10 th grade
I think that youth in my oldest child’s grade should be allowed to drink, so they learn how to drink responsibly.	Definitely NOT True	96.3%	94.4%	76.6%	85.6%	77.2%
	Mostly NOT True	n<5	n<5	7.8%	5.2%	13.9%
	Mostly True	0.0%	n<5	13.9%	7.4%	5.0%
	Definitely True	0.0%	n<5	n<5	n<5	n<5
	I don’t know	n<5	0.0%	n<5	1.3%	3.1%
I think that youth in my oldest child’s grade should be allowed to use marijuana, so they learn how to use marijuana responsibly.	Definitely NOT True	96.0%	99.0%	74.2%	85.2%	76.3%
	Mostly NOT True	n<5	n<5	6.8%	4.1%	18.8%
	Mostly True	0.0%	0.0%	12.7%	6.7%	2.6%
	Definitely True	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	I don’t know	n<5	0.0%	6.3%	4.1%	2.2%

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Table 16: Youth Substance Use at Party at Home

During the past year, has there been a party at your home at which any of the following substances was consumed by your oldest child's friends?	Response	Parents (oldest child)				Non-Parents
		Elementary	Middle School	High School	Total	10 th grade
Alcohol	Yes	4.8%	n<5	12.1%	7.7%	4.8%
	No	95.2%	98.1%	84.0%	90.0%	95.2%
	I don't know	0.0%	n<5	3.9%	2.3%	0.0%
Marijuana	Yes	0.0%	0.0%	6.8%	3.6%	n<5
	No	100.0%	99.0%	90.5%	94.7%	97.8%
	I don't know	0.0%	n<5	2.7%	1.7%	1.9%
Electronic Cigarettes	Yes	0.0%	0.0%	8.7%	4.6%	1.5%
	No	100.0%	99.0%	88.1%	93.5%	97.4%
	I don't know	0.0%	n<5	3.2%	1.9%	1.1%
Other drugs or illicit substances	Yes	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	No	100.0%	99.0%	98.2%	98.8%	99.0%
	I don't know	0.0%	n<5	n<5	1.2%	0.9%

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Table 177: Purchasing Substances for Youth

During the past year, have you purchased any of the following for somebody under the age of 21?	Response	Parents (oldest child)				Non-Parents
		Elementary	Middle School	High School	Total	10 th grade
Alcohol	Yes	0.0%	0.0%	n<5	n<5	0.8%
	No	100.0%	100.0%	99.1%	99.5%	99.2%
	I don't know	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Marijuana	Yes	0.0%	n<5	0.0%	n<5	n<5
	No	100.0%	99.0%	100.0%	99.8%	99.8%
	I don't know	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Electronic Cigarettes	Yes	0.0%	n<5	0.0%	n<5	0.0%
	No	100.0%	99.0%	100.0%	99.8%	100.0%
	I don't know	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other drugs or illicit substances	Yes	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	No	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	I don't know	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

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Table 18: Securing Products in Home

Question	Response	Parents				Non-Parents
		Elementary	Middle School	High School	Total	10 th grade
Alcohol is secured in my home.	Does not apply	13.1%	10.5%	16.0%	14.0%	32.0%
	Definitely NOT True	17.8%	54.3%	46.8%	41.5%	26.4%
	Mostly NOT True	14.0%	4.8%	7.8%	8.6%	12.1%
	Mostly True	31.8%	16.2%	15.6%	19.6%	12.8%
	Definitely True	23.4%	14.3%	13.9%	16.3%	16.7%^
Marijuana is secured in my home.	Does not apply	73.6%	76.6%	80.4%	77.9%	80.8%
	Definitely NOT True	4.7%	0.0%	5.7%*	4.1%	3.2%
	Mostly NOT True	0.0%	n<5	0.0%	n<5	7.3%^
	Mostly True	n<5	15.0%***	n<5	5.0%	2.7%
	Definitely True	18.9%	7.5%	12.6%***	12.9%	6.0%
Any prescription drugs are secured in my home.	Does not apply	21.7%	35.8%	26.0%	27.3%	32.1%
	Definitely NOT True	9.4%	n<5	20.8%	14.0%	13.8%
	Mostly NOT True	n<5	n<5	3.5%	3.2%	15.1%
	Mostly True	14.2%	32.1%**	22.5%	22.8%	16.9%^
	Definitely True	52.8%	24.5%	27.3%	32.7%**	22.0%

*Corresponds to about 29% **when does not apply are removed**

Corresponds to about 50% **when does not apply are removed

***Corresponds to about 64% **when does not apply are removed**

^Corresponds to about 25% **when does not apply are removed**

^^Corresponds to about 38% **when does not apply are removed**

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Summary Report**

Table 19: Confidence in Knowing What to Do

How confident are you that you would know	Response	Parents (oldest child)			
		Elementary	Middle School	High School	Total
what to do if you believed your oldest child was abusing a substance or substances?	Very confident	57.9%	55.7%	45.0%	50.7%
	Fairly confident	38.3%	40.6%	38.1%	38.7%
	Not too confident	n<5	n<5	16.0%	9.9%
	Not at all confident	n<5	0.0%	n<5	n<5

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Emerging Issues – The following section details the results of the emerging issues questions using the sample of 995 respondents who answered these questions. These results are unweighted.

Table 20: Impact of COVID-19

In what ways has the COVID-19 pandemic affected your feelings, behaviors, and well-being?	Response	Parents				Non-Parents
		Elementary	Middle School	High School	Total	10 th grade
Feeling anxious	A lot LESS	n<5	n<5	n<5	n<5	2.0%
	Slightly LESS	n<5	0.0%	2.8%	1.9%	n<5
	No change/the same	14.7%	26.3%	24.3%	22.3%	23.1%
	A little MORE	42.6%	49.1%	44.8%	45.2%	45.4%
	A lot MORE	36.8%	22.8%	25.0%	27.5%	24.0%
	Not applicable	3.7%	n<5	2.4%	2.4%	4.3%
Feeling down, sad, or depressed	A lot LESS	n<5	n<5	n<5	0.9%	n<5
	Slightly LESS	n<5	n<5	2.1%	1.9%	1.4%
	No change/the same	34.3%	36.8%	35.4%	35.4%	36.0%
	A little MORE	45.3%	44.7%	43.1%	44.0%	36.3%
	A lot MORE	12.4%	8.8%	13.9%	12.4%	15.7%
	Not applicable	5.1%	6.1%	5.2%	5.4%	9.4%
Feeling down, sad, or depressed for more than 2 weeks	A lot LESS	n<5	n<5	n<5	1.7%	2.0%
	Slightly LESS	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%	1.1%	2.0%
	No change/the same	49.6%	50.0%	48.3%	49.0%	47.2%
	A little MORE	29.2%	26.3%	27.8%	27.8%	21.6%
	A lot MORE	6.6%	7.0%	9.7%	8.3%	11.1%
	Not applicable	12.4%	14.0%	11.1%	12.1%	16.2%

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Summary Report**

Table 20: Impact of COVID-19 (Continued)

In what ways has the COVID-19 pandemic affected your feelings, behaviors, and well-being?	Response	Parents				Non-Parents
		Elementary	Middle School	High School	Total	10 th grade
Feeling lonely	A lot LESS	3.7%	n<5	n<5	2.2%	1.7%
	Slightly LESS	3.7%	0.0%	2.4%	2.2%	2.6%
	No change/the same	42.2%	49.6%	47.8%	46.8%	39.6%
	A little MORE	32.6%	30.4%	30.4%	31.0%	30.2%
	A lot MORE	10.4%	6.1%	8.7%	8.5%	15.1%
	Not applicable	7.4%	11.3%	9.3%	9.3%	10.8%
Having problems with friends or family	A lot LESS	n<5	n<5	2.1%	2.2%	3.7%
	Slightly LESS	5.2%	n<5	3.1%	3.2%	2.3%
	No change/the same	51.1%	55.3%	55.7%	54.5%	57.5%
	A little MORE	26.7%	28.9%	27.3%	27.5%	18.4%
	A lot MORE	7.4%	7.0%	4.5%	5.8%	5.2%
	Not applicable	7.4%	5.3%	7.3%	6.9%	12.9%
Having access to mental health supports (ex. Counselors, therapists, etc.)	A lot LESS	n<5	4.3%	6.9%	4.8%	2.3%
	Slightly LESS	9.6%	6.1%	4.8%	6.3%	4.3%
	No change/the same	57.0%	53.0%	54.3%	54.7%	53.1%
	A little MORE	11.9%	15.7%	13.1%	13.4%	8.5%
	A lot MORE	4.4%	6.1%	6.9%	6.1%	7.1%
	Not applicable	16.3%	14.8%	13.8%	14.7%	24.7%

**SERAC Community Survey 2022
Summary Report**

Table 20: Impact of COVID-19 (Continued)

In what ways has the COVID-19 pandemic affected your feelings, behaviors, and well-being?	Response	Parents				Non-Parents
		Elementary	Middle School	High School	Total	10 th grade
Using alcohol	A lot LESS	n<5	7.0%	n<5	2.8%	3.8%
	Slightly LESS	n<5	n<5	4.2%	3.5%	1.7%
	No change/the same	52.6%	46.1%	49.5%	49.5%	49.9%
	A little MORE	18.5%	16.5%	18.5%	18.1%	14.6%
	A lot MORE	7.4%	4.3%	5.6%	5.8%	4.1%
	Not applicable	17.0%	22.6%	20.9%	20.3%	25.9%
Using alcohol delivery systems (DoorDash, Uber Eats, Grubhub, Drizly)	A lot LESS	n<5	n<5	2.1%	1.7%	3.1%
	Slightly LESS	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	No change/the same	45.2%	27.0%	32.6%	34.6%	30.6%
	A little MORE	4.4%	n<5	n<5	2.4%	2.3%
	A lot MORE	n<5	n<5	n<5	1.3%	1.7%
	Not applicable	47.4%	67.0%	63.2%	60.0%	62.3%
Using E-cigarettes or vaping	A lot LESS	n<5	n<5	n<5	2.0%	2.0%
	Slightly LESS	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	n<5
	No change/the same	41.5%	21.1%	28.8%	30.4%	26.5%
	A little MORE	n<5	n<5	0.0%	n<5	n<5
	A lot MORE	n<5	0.0%	1.7%	1.1%	n<5
	Not applicable	54.1%	73.7%	68.1%	65.7%	69.8%

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Summary Report**

Table 20: Impact of COVID-19 (Continued)

In what ways has the COVID-19 pandemic affected your feelings, behaviors, and well-being?	Response	Parents				Non-Parents
		Elementary	Middle School	High School	Total	10 th grade
Using marijuana or THC	A lot LESS	n<5	n<5	n<5	1.1%	2.0%
	Slightly LESS	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	No change/the same	42.2%	21.7%	29.9%	31.2%	24.2%
	A little MORE	3.7%	7.0%	3.8%	4.5%	6.6%
	A lot MORE	n<5	0.0%	n<5	1.3%	2.3%
	Not applicable	50.4%	70.4%	63.9%	61.9%	65.0%
Using prescription drugs for the purpose of getting high	A lot LESS	n<5	0.0%	n<5	1.1%	2.0%
	Slightly LESS	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	n<5
	No change/the same	40.0%	20.4%	28.2%	29.5%	25.6%
	A little MORE	n<5	0.0%	0.0%	n<5	n<5
	A lot MORE	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Not applicable	57.0%	79.6%	70.4%	69.0%	71.8%
Using other substances	A lot LESS	n<5	0.0%	n<5	1.1%	1.7%
	Slightly LESS	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	No change/the same	40.3%	20.9%	29.3%	30.2%	25.5%
	A little MORE	n<5	0.0%	n<5	1.3%	n<5
	A lot MORE	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Not applicable	56.0%	79.1%	67.9%	67.4%	71.6%

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Table 21: Awareness of **21 for a Reason** Campaign

	Response	Parents	Non-Parents
In the past 60 days, have you read, seen, or heard anything about the <i>21 for a Reason</i> campaign?	Yes	5.0%	8.8%
	No	95.0%	91.2%
	Total	100%	100.0%

Table 22: Where did you read, see, or hear about the **21 for a Reason** Campaign

	Parents (n=32)	Non-Parents (n=31)
Billboards	18.8%	n<5
Radio	n<5	25.8%
TV	15.6%	16.1%
Brochure/Newspaper	n<5	29.0%
Facebook	50.0%	35.5%
Instagram	15.6%	n<5
21 for a Reason website	n<5	n<5
SERAC website	18.8%	32.3%
Bus advertisement	0.0%	n<5
Vape stores	0.0%	0.0%
Liquor stores	n<5	n<5
Other (restaurant, magazine, email, community center)	n<5	n<5

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Table 23: Legalization of Marijuana in Connecticut

Do you think the legalization of marijuana in Connecticut has/will...	Response	Parents (oldest child)				Non-Parents
		Elementary	Middle School	High School	Total	10 th grade
Change your perception about marijuana use?	Yes	17.8%	19.3%	11.9%	15.0%	13.6%
	No	67.4%	69.3%	74.5%	71.6%	74.1%
	I don't know	14.8%	11.4%	13.6%	13.5%	12.2%
Increase rates of marijuana use?	Yes	49.6%	62.3%	66.4%	61.4%	57.0%
	No	42.1%	28.1%	22.0%	28.3%	29.6%
	I don't know	8.3%	9.6%	11.5%	10.3%	13.4%
Increase access of marijuana to underage youth (under 21)?	Yes	45.2%	54.4%	62.7%	56.5%	56.2%
	No	40.7%	31.6%	22.0%	28.7%	27.2%
	I don't know	14.1%	14.0%	15.3%	14.7%	16.6%
Lead to more harms associated with marijuana use, such as impaired driving and dependence?	Yes	38.5%	50.4%	58.7%	51.9%	55.3%
	No	42.2%	33.6%	21.5%	29.3%	26.9%
	I don't know	19.3%	15.9%	19.8%	18.8%	17.8%

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Table 24: Community Marijuana Dispensary

	Response	Parents	Non-Parents
Are you in favor of a marijuana dispensary opening in your community?	Yes	36.6%	39.8%
	No	36.3%	40.1%
	I'm not sure	27.1%	20.2%

Table 25: Community Issues

	Parents	Non-Parents	Mean Rank	Minimum Rank	Maximum Rank
Alcohol use	42.5%	50.1%	5.5	4	7
Marijuana use	32.6%	34.6%	6.0	6	6
Vaping	51.1%	45.0%	6.5	5	8
Heroin use	24.0%	34.0%	6.5	5	8
Drug overdoses	34.0%	49.9%	5.5	4	7
Mental Health	82.6%	83.6%	1.5	1	2
Suicide	24.5%	33.7%	6.0	3	9
Gambling	14.5%	29.2%	6.0	3	9
Other (racism, poverty, affordable housing, access to healthcare, bullying, domestic violence, government issues)	11.4%	9.9%	1.5	1	2