

## **2012 Parent Survey Summary Harwinton-Burlington, Connecticut Region 10**

Archie C. Swindell, PhD, Quantitative Services  
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- 1) The same on-line survey given to parents of Region 10 public schools in 2010 was given again in 2012, both at about the same time as surveys of community youth. In 2012, both the youth and parent surveys focused on high school youth, and 156 parents and 12 non-parent adults responded. By criteria related to likelihood of underage drinking, the parent sample appears to accurately reflect the composition of youth who responded in their survey.
- 2) The full report of parent survey results is 23 pages long, and includes 22 data tables and a copy of the parent survey. It also includes comparisons of key responses: younger vs. older parents; parents of girls vs. boys; mothers vs. fathers, and whether a parent thinks his/her own child has used alcohol in the past 30 days.
- 3) The Strategic Plan included one goal for parents, to reduce the percentage who expressed an opinion that some underage drinking is acceptable, to “teach responsible drinking”. This opinion decreased by 58%, 2010 to 2012.
- 4) In 2012, parents are asked about their own child’s use of alcohol, cigarettes and marijuana, and results are mostly in close agreement with youth reports in their 2012 survey. The single exception is that parents underestimated the prevalence of marijuana use by older youth, in grades 11-12. The use of marijuana across the state and nation is either constant or rising (use of alcohol and cigarettes by youth are both declining), probably due to public discussion about legalized or “medical” marijuana.
- 5) According to parents of youth in grades 9-10, both alcohol and marijuana were less available in 2012 than in 2010. Parents mostly think youth who drink get their alcohol mostly from friends, a perception which has not changed since 2010, and which agrees with reports by the youth themselves.
- 6) There is much recent research documenting the damaging effects of alcohol on adolescent neurological development. Parents were asked if they are familiar with these concepts, and most indicated they are.
- 7) A surprisingly high percentage of high school parents expressed a lack of familiarity with Connecticut social host laws, which outlaw serving alcohol to a minor other than one’s own child.