Community Attitudes About Youth Substance Use

My TOWN,

A Coalition Working to Prevent Youth Substance Use Hoquiam, WA

Fall 2014

Report prepared by

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Introduction

In 2013, Grays Harbor County Public Health and Social Services Department received multi-year funding from Washington State Department of Social and Health Services' Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery to help the community of Hoquiam develop a plan to reduce underage alcohol use and its resulting consequences.

The My TOWN Coalition was formed to guide the planning process. My TOWN members include representatives from:

- Hoquiam School District
- Hoquiam businesses
- YMCA of Grays Harbor
- Hoquiam Police Department
- Washington Traffic Safety
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
- Educational Service District (ESD) 113/True North
- members of the faith community
- Grays Harbor County Juvenile Department
- substance abuse treatment professionals
- parents and other interested citizens

In September 2014, the My TOWN Coalition asked community residents aged 18 or older to complete a survey about youth substance use. The information collected by the survey is summarized in this report and will be used by the My TOWN Coalition to inform the strategies and priorities of their plan.

Methods

Survey instrument

The survey instrument was developed by Washington State Department of Social and Health Services' Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery. It consists of 31 questions related to demographics, opinions about youth substance use, knowledge about marijuana, and parenting practices. A copy of the survey instrument is in Appendix A.

Survey distribution

Copies of the survey were made available in English at Hoquiam High School's first home football game as well as at back-to-school open houses at Lincoln Elementary, Central Elementary, Hoquiam Middle and Hoquiam High schools during the month of September. Coalition members and partners also staffed a booth at the Logger's Playday street fair in Hoquiam on September 6.

An online version of the survey in both English and Spanish was also made available. Local partners, including Grays Harbor Radio and GraysHarborTalk.com, posted a link to the survey on their websites. Coalition members were asked to email the link out to their Hoquiam contacts.

To increase responses from Hispanic community members, Hoquiam High School staff mailed Spanish-version surveys to all households identified as Spanish-speaking in their district database.

Residents were able to complete the survey during the time period of September 1 – September 30.

Data analysis

Data were compiled by Washington State Department of Social and Health Services' Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery using SurveyMonkey software.

Results

415 residents completed the survey.

Demographics

Age of respondent

11% of respondents were 18-24 years old, 35% were 25-44 years old, and 53% were 45+ years old.

Age of respondent's children

38% of respondents had at least one child in grades 6 - 12.

Gender

70% of respondents were female; 30% were male.

Race/ethnicity

92% of respondents were white/Caucasian, 9% were Native American/Alaska Native. 6% were Hispanic or Latino.

Education

41% of respondents had a college or graduate degree, 33% had completed some college, 22% had completed high school, and 3% had not completed high school.

Opinions about youth substance use

Seriousness of issues

Most respondents felt that youth substance use and youth mental health issues were a moderate to serious problem in the community.

Issue	Respondents indicating that the issue is at least a moderate problem in the community.
Alcohol use	83%
Marijuana use	82%
Tobacco use	82%
Depression	81%
Suicide	69%
Driving under the influence	67%
Prescription drug abuse	57%

Ease of access to alcohol and marijuana

82% of respondents felt that if a youth wanted to get some alcohol, it would be easy. 84% felt that if a youth wanted to get some marijuana, it would be easy.

Law enforcement

54% of respondents agreed that law enforcement personnel are effective in their response to calls and requests about underage alcohol and drug use at parties or gatherings.

Legal consequences for youth that use alcohol or marijuana

Most respondents thought that youth should receive legal consequences if they use alcohol or marijuana.

	Respondents indicating that consequence if	at youth should receive the caught using			
Legal consequence	egal consequencealcoholmarijuana.				
Parents/caregivers should be notified.	84%	80%			
Youth should be required to complete a diversion program or community service.	82%	81%			
The school should be notified (student may have broken athletic department or scholarship policies).	62%	64%			
Youth should receive a fine.	42%	46%			
Youth should receive a jail sentence.	19%	24%			

<u>Legal consequences for adults that provide alcohol or marijuana to underage youth</u>

Most respondents thought that adults should receive legal consequences if they provide alcohol or marijuana to underage youth.

		that adults should receive the nt giving underage youth			
Legal consequence	alcoholmarijuana.				
Adults should receive a fine.	81%	82%			
Adults should be required to complete a	70%	72%			
diversion program or community service.	70%	7270			
Adults should receive a jail sentence.	58%	59%			
The parents/guardians of the youth caught					
using alcohol or marijuana should receive a	38%	37%			
fine.					

Perceptions of risk and harm

94% of respondents believe there is at least a moderate risk of people harming themselves and others when they drive under the influence of alcohol and 87% believed there is at least a moderate risk of people harming themselves and others when they drive under the influence of marijuana.

84% of respondents believe there is at least a moderate risk of youth harming themselves physically and in other ways when they use marijuana once or twice a week.

Knowledge and opinions about marijuana

Respondents were asked to share their knowledge and opinions about a variety of issues related to marijuana and the legislation making recreational use of marijuana legal for adults 21+ years old in Washington state.

		who believe the ent is	
Statement	true.	false.	Correct Answer
It is legal (okay) for youth (6-12 grade) to possess and/or use small amounts of marijuana.	2%	95%	False
It is illegal to provide marijuana to a minor (less than 21 years of age), even to your own kids at home.	74%	21%	True
Since marijuana is now available in health care settings, marijuana is not harmful.	7%	86%	False
Only people 21 and older can possess marijuana.	80%	10%	True ¹
Small amounts of marijuana can be used in public.	19%	67%	False

¹In reference to marijuana used for recreational purposes, not medical purposes.

Prescription drugs

Respondents were asked about how they manage their family's prescription drugs. 72% said that they always monitor prescription drugs that youth might misuse such as pain killers, anti-depressants, drugs for hyperactivity and sleeping pills. 40% said they don't always know where they can get rid of prescription drugs that they no longer need.

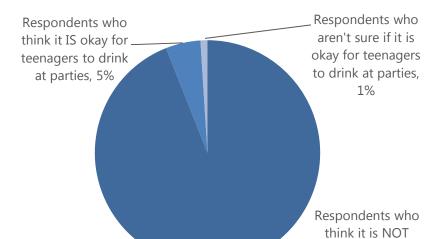
Parenting practices and opinions

Allowing youth to drink alcohol, use marijuana or use prescription drugs not prescribed to them

Almost all respondents think it is wrong or very wrong for youth in grades 6-12 to drink alcohol, use marijuana or use prescription drugs not prescribed to them.

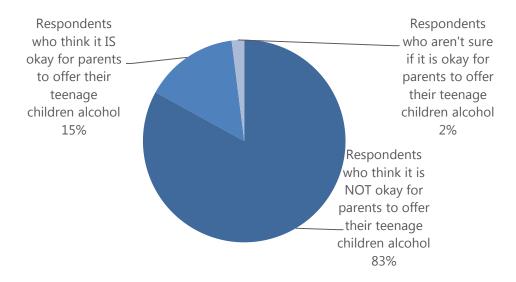
33% of respondents said they do not keep ANY alcohol in their home and another 61% said they NEVER allow youth to drink alcohol in their home. 1% said they allow youth to drink alcohol in their home on special occasions. Another 3% said they allow their own children to drink alcohol in their home, but not their children's friends. 1% said they allow youth to drink alcohol in their home only under supervision. 0% said they allow youth to drink alcohol in their home without any restrictions.

okay for teenagers to drink at parties, 94%



94% believe it is NEVER okay for teenagers to drink at parties.

83% believe it is NEVER okay for parents to offer their teenaged children alcoholic drinks in their home.



Although most respondents have a strict stance AGAINST underage drinking, 45% of respondents thought that most adults in the community feel it is okay for parents to offer their teenage children alcoholic drinks in their own home at least on special occasions.

63% of respondents said they do not keep ANY marijuana in their home and another 35% said they NEVER allow youth to use marijuana in their home. 0% said they allow

youth to use marijuana in their home on special occasions and 0% said they allow their own children to use marijuana in their home, but not their children's friends. 0% said they allow youth to use marijuana in their home only under supervision. 1% said they allow youth to use marijuana in their home without any restrictions.

Talking to their children about alcohol and marijuana

Of respondents with children in grades 6-12, 88% have talked with their children about the potential negative consequences of alcohol use in the last three months, 83% have talked about the potential negative consequences of marijuana use in the last three months and 67% have talked about the potential negative consequences of using prescription drugs that were not prescribed to them in the last three months.

45% of respondents wish they knew better what to say to their child about drugs and 18% thought that what they say will have little influence on whether their child uses drugs. 7% believe that drug education is best handled by the schools, not by parents. 64% believe that there are places in the community where parents can learn more about how to help prevent their children from using drugs.

Monitoring their children

Most respondents with children in grades 6-12 closely monitor their children when they go out in the evenings or on weekends, but they believe that other parents in the community don't monitor their own children as closely.

- 96% of respondents always ask their child who s/he will be with but only 7% think that other parents always ask their child too.
- 96% of respondent always ask their child where they are going but only 6% think that other parents always ask their child too.
- 90% of respondents always check to see if there will be adult supervision but only 6% think that other parents always check too.
- 89% of respondents always set a curfew and 85% always wait up until their child comes home but only 6% think that other parents always do this too.
- 61% of respondents always check their children for signs of substance use when they get home but only 6% think that other parents always check too.

Next steps

The My TOWN Coalition will use the information from the community survey, along with other Hoquiam-specific data, to continue to inform new strategies geared toward reducing underage alcohol (and other drug) use and its resulting consequences as well as to monitor the progress of selected and currently implemented strategies.

For more information

If you would like to learn more about this report or the My TOWN Coalition, contact Wilma Weber, Public Health Educator at wweber@co.grays-harbor.wa.us or (360) 500-4069.

Appendix A

ENGLISH

Community Prevention Wellness Initiative Community Survey

My TOWN Coalition

We are asking you to participate in this survey. The survey is about concerns about substance abuse among youth in our community. We will use these surveys to guide our work to develop effective substance abuse prevention programs for our community.

This survey is anonymous. That means we will not ask for your name or address. This survey is voluntary. That means that you can refuse to answer any question or stop the survey at any time. The survey will take 10 - 15 minutes.

Would you like more information about our coalition? You can contact us by phone and by email.

Phone: (360)500-4069

Email: mytowncoalition@gmail.com

2014 Community Survey

SEPT 2, 2014

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EVENT	DATE _	
	COMMUNITY DREVENTION WELL NECK INITIATIVE	

COMMUNITY SURVEY

My TOWN Coalition

cerns in your community.		THE REAL PROPERTY AND PERSONS ASSESSMENT OF THE PERSONS ASSESSMENT ASSESSMENT ASSESSMENT ASSESSMENT ASSESSMENT ASSESSMENT ASSESSMENT ASSESSMENT ASSE			
How much of a problem do you believe each of the following is among youth (6 – 12 th grade) in your community?	Not a problem	A minor problem	A moderate problem	A serious problem	Don't Know
Alcohol use					
Marijuana use					
Prescription drug misuse					
Other drugs (specify below*)					
Driving under the influence of alcohol, marijuana or other drugs?					
Tobacco					
Depression					
Suicide					
If a youth (6 – 12 th grade) wanted	Very Easy	Sort of Easy	Sort of Hard	Very Hard	
to get some <u>alcohol</u> , how easy	very Lasy	casy	пати	very manu	Don't Kn
to get some <u>alcohol</u> , how easy would it be for them to get some?					Don't Kn
to get some <u>alcohol</u> , how easy					
to get some <u>alcohol</u> , how easy would it be for them to get some? If a youth (6 – 12 th grade) wanted to get some <u>marijuana</u> , how easy would			Moderate risk	High risk	Don't Kn
to get some <u>alcohol</u> , how easy would it be for them to get some? If a youth (6 – 12 th grade) wanted to get some <u>marijuana</u> , how easy would it be for them to get some? How much do people risk harming themselves and others when they			☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐		

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	Please share your opinion about la	w enforcem Strongly	ent in you	r communit		Don't		
		Agree	Agree	Disagree	Disagree	Know		
4	Law enforcement personnel in our community are effective when they respond to calls and requests about underage alcohol and drug use at parties or gatherings.							
	se questions ask about your attitu grade) substance abuse.	des and cus	stoms rela	ated to unc	lerage yout	:h (6 –		
		□No, I d	o not keep	alcohol in m	y home.			
		□No, ne	ver.					
	Do you allow youth to drink alcohol	☐Yes, bu	it only on s	pecial occasi	ons.			
5	(more than a sip) in your home?	□Yes, m	y own child	l/children, bu	ıt not their fr	iends.		
	Select one.	☐Yes, bu	it only und	er supervisio	n.			
		□Yes						
		□ Don't Know						
		□No, I d	o not keep	marijuana ir	my home.			
		□No, ne	ver.					
	Do you allow youth to use	☐Yes, bu	it only on s	pecial occasi	ons.			
6	marijuana in your home?	\square Yes, my own child/children, but not their friends.						
	Select one.	☐Yes, bu	it only und	er supervisio	n.			
		□Yes						
		□Don't F	Cnow					
		\square No, we	do not use	these drugs	i.			
	Do you monitor prescription drugs	Never						
	that youth might misuse, such as pain killers, anti-depressants, drugs	Sometimes						
7	for hyperactivity, and sleeping pills?	☐ Most of the time						
	Select one.	□Always						
		□Don't K	now					
8	Do you know where in your commu	ınitv vou co	uld aet rid	of prescrip	tion drugs	that vou		
	no longer need?	Yes] _{No}		Know		
	There is a group of volunteers in your calcohol and drug use. Are you aware		ho are wor					
9	of this group/coalition?	□Yes] _{No}	□ Don't	Know		
	п 2 л							
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	Do you think there should be legal or	onsequenc	es if the po	lice catch		
10	a <u>youth</u> (6 - 12 th grade)	Yes		No	Don	't Know
	drinking <u>alcohol</u> ?					
	using <u>marijuana</u> ?					
11	Do you think there should be legal of an adult	onsequenc Yes		lice catch No	Don	't Know
	providing <u>alcohol</u> to a youth (6 – 12 th grade)?					
	providing <u>marijuana</u> to a youth (6 – 12 th grade)?"					
The	following questions are about pare	enting and	l underage	substance	abuse cor	icerns.
12	Are you a parent or guardian with any					
	children in 6 – 12 th grade?	□Ye		∐ No		on't Know
T6	k	_	Don't Kno			_
	ou have more than one child in 6 - wering these questions.					
13	During the past 3 months have you potential negative consequences as			5 th – 12 th g	rade) about	the
		Yes		No	Don'	t Know
	underage alcohol use?					
	using marijuana?					
	using prescription drugs that were not prescribed to them?					
14	For each of the next statements, ple disagree, or strongly disagree.	ease indica	ite whether	you stron	gly agree, a	gree,
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
	I wish I knew better what to say to my child about drugs (alcohol, tobacco, marijuana).					
	What I say will have little influence on whether my child uses drugs.					
	Drug education is best handled by the schools, not by parents.					
	There are places in my community where I can learn more about how to help prevent my child from using drugs.					
	How much do youth risk harming themselves physically and in	No Risk	Slight Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk	Don't Know
15	other ways when they use marijuana once or twice a week?					

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16	How wrong do you think it would be for your child (6 th – 12 th grade) to	Not At All Wrong	A Little Bit Wrong	Wrong	Very Wrong	Don't Know
	have one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day?					
	use marijuana once or twice a week?					
	use prescription drugs not prescribed to them?					
17	When your child (6 th – 12 th grade) often do YOU:	goes out ii	n the evenin		e weekend,	, how
	oiteii do <u>100</u> .	Never	Rarely	Some- times	Usually	Always
	Ask who he/she will be with?					
	Ask where he/she is going?					
	If my child is attending a party, check to see if the party will have adult supervision?					
	Set a time for your child to be home?					
	Wait up until your child comes home?					
	Check to see if your child is under the influence of alcohol or drugs (talk with them, smell breath, and check eyes)?					
18	How often do you think <u>MOST PARE</u> their child (6 th – 12 th grade) goes of	NTS IN YOut in the ev	UR COMMUN ening or on	NITY do th the week	e following end?	ı when
		Never	Rarely	times	Usually	Always
	Ask who he/she will be with?					
	Ask where he/she is going?					
	If their child is attending a party, check to see if the party will have adult supervision?					
	Set a time for their child to be home					
	Wait up until their child comes home?					
	Check to see if their child is under the influence of alcohol or drugs (talk with them, smell breath, check eyes)?					

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Den	nographics					
		□18-24	□ 25-34	□35-4	4	
19	What is your age?	□45-54	□55-64	□65+		
20	What is your gender?	☐ Female	□Male			
21	Are you of Hispanic Latino/Latina or Spanish origin?	Yes	□ No	☐ Don't Kno	w	
		□White				
		Black or Africa	an American			
	What is your race?	☐American Ind	ian, Alaska Nat	ive		
22		□Asian				
	Check all that apply.	□Native Hawaii	an or Other Pa	cific Islander		
		Other				
		☐ Don't know/N	lot sure			
		□English	Пса	ambodian/Khme	er	
23	What languages are spoken in your home?	□Spanish □Russian				
		□Somali				
	Check all that apply.	□Other				
		\square Never attended school \square High school graduate				
1212	What is the highest grade or year	☐Less than high school ☐Some College				
24	of school you completed?	☐Some high so	chool 🗆 Co	College/university graduate		
		☐ High school /	GED DPC	st graduate		
25	What is your zip code?					
We	have just a few more question	s These will	heln us witl	additional	nlanning	
770	mave just a rew more question	3. These will i	ncip us with	radunionar	planning.	
This	set of questions is about marijua	na.				
26	Are these statements True or False	?	True	False	Don't Know	
	Small amounts of marijuana can be u	sed in public.				
	It is legal (okay) for youth (6 - 12 th grade) to possess and/or use small amounts of marijuana.					
	Since marijuana is now available in health care settings, marijuana is not harmful.		, 🗆			
	It is illegal to provide marijuana to a minor (less than 21 years of age), even to your own kids at home.		¹			
	Only people 21 and older can possess	marijuana.				
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What are your opinions? VES but only on special occasions No Don't Know	The grad	following questions are about you le.	r opinions :	about al	cohol use am	ong yout	th (6 – 12 th
Do you believe it is OK for parents to offer their youth alcoholic beverages in their home? Do you think most adults in our community feel it is OK for parents to offer their youth alcoholic beverages in their home? This last set of questions are about consequences and underage substance abuse. What do you think the legal consequences should be in our community if the police catch a youth (6 - 12 th grade) drinking alcohol? Check all that apply. What do you think the legal consequences in our community should be if the police catch an adult providing alcohol to youth (6 - 12 th grade)? Check all that apply.				Yes	but only on special	No	
their youth alcoholic beverages in their home? Do you think most adults in our community feel it is OK for parents to offer their youth alcoholic beverages in their home? This last set of questions are about consequences and underage substance abuse. What do you think the legal consequences should be in our community if the police catch a youth (6 - 12 th grade) drinking alcohol? Check all that apply. What do you think the legal consequences in our community should be if the police catch an adult providing alcohol to youth (6 - 12 th grade)? Check all that apply. What do you think the legal consequences in our community should be if the police catch an adult providing alcohol to youth (6 - 12 th grade)? Check all that apply. Check all that apply.			rink at				
This last set of questions are about consequences and underage substance abuse. What do you think the legal consequences should be in our community if the police catch a youth (6 – 12 th grade) drinking alcohol? Check all that apply. What do you think the legal consequences should be in our community if the police catch a youth (6 – 12 th grade) drinking alcohol? What do you think the legal consequences in our community should be required to complete a diversion program or community service. The school should be notified (student may have broken athletic department or scholarship policies) Parents/caregivers should be notified. Other (please specify) Don't Know Adults should receive a fine. Adults should receive a jail sentence. Adults should be notified (student may have broken athletic department or scholarship policies) Parents/caregivers should be notified. Other (please specify) The parents/guardians of the youth caught using alcohol should receive a fine. The parents/guardians of the youth caught using alcohol should receive a fine. There should be no legal consequences for adults who provide alcohol to under age youth.							
What do you think the legal consequences should be in our community if the police catch a youth (6 - 12 th grade) drinking alcohol? Check all that apply. What do you think the legal consequences in our community should be required to complete a diversion program or community service. The school should be notified (student may have broken athletic department or scholarship policies) Parents/caregivers should be notified. Other (please specify) Don't Know Adults should receive a fine. Adults should receive a fine. Adults should be required to complete a diversion program or community service. The parents/guardians of the youth caught using alcohol should be no legal consequences for adults who provide alcohol to under age youth. Other (please specify) Other (please specify)		feel it is OK for parents to offer their					
What do you think the legal consequences should be in our community if the police catch a youth (6 – 12 th grade) drinking alcohol? Check all that apply. What do you think the legal consequences in our community should be required to complete a diversion program or community service. The school should be notified (student may have broken athletic department or scholarship policies) Parents/caregivers should be notified. Other (please specify) Don't Know Adults should receive a fine. Adults should receive a jail sentence. Adults should receive a jail sentence. Adults should receive a fine. The parents/guardians of the youth caught using alcohol should receive a fine. The parents/guardians of the youth caught using alcohol should receive a fine. There should be no legal consequences for adults who provide alcohol to under age youth. Other (please specify)	This	last set of questions are about co	nsequences	and ur	iderage subst	ance abu	ıse.
What do you think the legal consequences in our community should be if the police catch an adult providing alcohol to youth (6 - 12 th grade)? Check all that apply. Adults should receive a jail sentence. Adults should be required to complete a diversion program or community service. The parents/guardians of the youth caught using alcohol should receive a fine. There should be no legal consequences for adults who provide alcohol to under age youth.	28	consequences should be in our community if the police catch a youth (6 – 12 th grade) drinking <u>alcohol</u> ?	Youth sh Program The scho broken as	ould rece ould be r or comm ool should thletic de caregiver lease spe	eive a jail senter required to compunity service. If he notified (standard or school) If some services should be not	olete a div udent may holarship p	have
LIDON'T KNOW	29	consequences in our community should be if the police catch an <u>adult</u> providing <u>alcohol</u> to youth (6 – 12 th grade)?	☐ Adults sh program ☐ The pare alcohol sl ☐ There sh provide a	nould reconould be nould be recond to a local display to a local displ	eive a jail sente required to com nunity service. dians of the you ceive a fine. no legal consequ under age yout	plete a div ith caught iences for	using

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	What do you think the legal consequences should be in our community if the police catch youth (6 – 12 th grade) using marijuana? Check all that apply.	☐Youth should receive a fine.
30		Youth should receive a jail sentence.
		Youth should be required to complete a diversion program or community service.
		☐ The school should be notified (student may have broken athletic department or scholarship policies).
		\square Parents/caregivers should be notified.
		Other (please specify)
		□Don't Know
		☐ Adults should receive a fine.
		\square Adults should receive a jail sentence.
31	What do you think the legal consequences in our community should be if the police catch <u>adult</u> providing <u>marijuana</u> to youth (6 – 12 th grade)?	Adults should be required to complete a diversion program or community service.
		☐ The parents/guardians of the youth caught using marijuana should receive a fine.
	Check all that apply.	☐ There should be no legal consequences for adults who provide marijuana to underage youth.
		Other, please specify
		□Don't Know

Thank you for completing the survey! Your contribution is greatly appreciated.

Would you like to know more about our group? If yes, please go to the next page. Your contact information will be kept separate from this anonymous survey.

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COALITION NAME

If you would like to hear more about our coalition, please enter your
contact information below.
Name
Phone number
Email address
Contact information is kept separate from the anonymous survey