

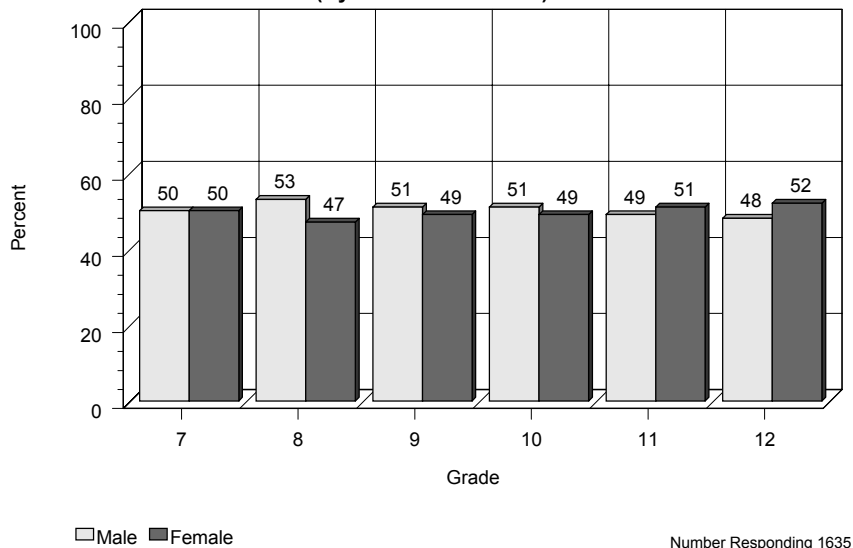
CHAPTER 3

Characteristics of the Dover School District Students and Their Families

In order to provide readers with an overview of local teens, this chapter presents a summary of demographic and family characteristics of students who participated in the survey.

This report reflects the survey results of 1,635 students in the Dover School District. Of these students 17% are from Barrington, 73% from Dover, 9% from Nottingham, and 1% from other areas. These youth represent 83% of the total student population in November 1999; 83% of middle school students (grades 7 through 8) and 84% of high school students (grades 9 through 12) are represented in the total number useable surveys. Of all the youth responding to the survey, 50% were male and 50% were female. Figure 3-1 shows the grade and gender breakdown of the sample. Of the middle school students, 51% were male and 49% were female. Of the high school students, 50% were male and 50% were female.

Figure 3-1: Grade and Gender of Students Taking the TAP Survey
(By Grade and Gender)



Note: Due to rounding, some graphs may not total 100%.

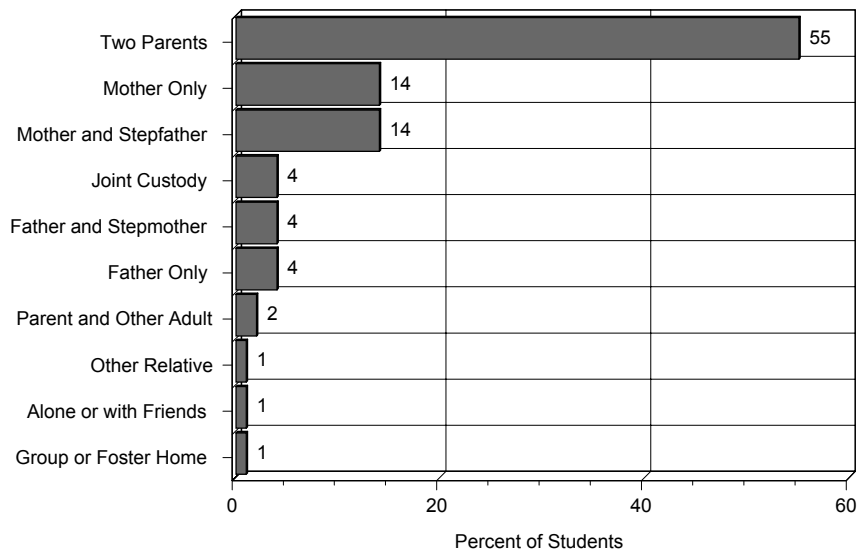
The following chart shows the numbers of students in each grade.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
7 th graders	109 (50%)	109 (50%)	218
8 th graders	120 (53%)	107 (47%)	227
9 th graders	180 (51%)	175 (49%)	355
10 th graders	161 (51%)	152 (49%)	313
11 th graders	141 (49%)	146 (51%)	287
12 th graders	112 (48%)	123 (52%)	235

Family Characteristics

Students reported a number of different family living situations. Figure 3-2 shows most students (55%) live with two parents. Other common living situations are single parent households at 18%, and blended or step-family households at 18%. The remaining 9% of students live in other living situations.

Figure 3-2: Family Living Situations



Number Responding 1620

When looking at living situations by school level (middle school vs. high school), there are a few small differences. More high school students (57%) than middle school students (51%) live in two parent families. The rate for middle school students who live in the "mother and stepfather" situation (16%) is slightly more than the rate for high school students (13%).

Thirty-six percent (36%) of students reported their biological parents have been involved in a separation or divorce. This contrasts with the number who said their parents have never been divorced or separated (56%). As Figure 3-3 shows, the length of time since divorce ranges from currently being in the process of divorce to having occurred more than ten years ago.

Figure 3-3: Biological Parents Divorced or Separated

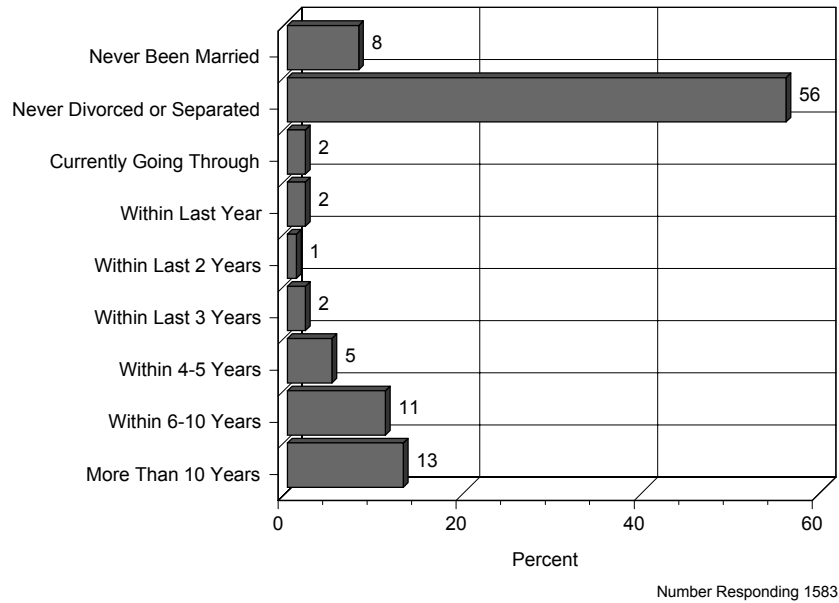
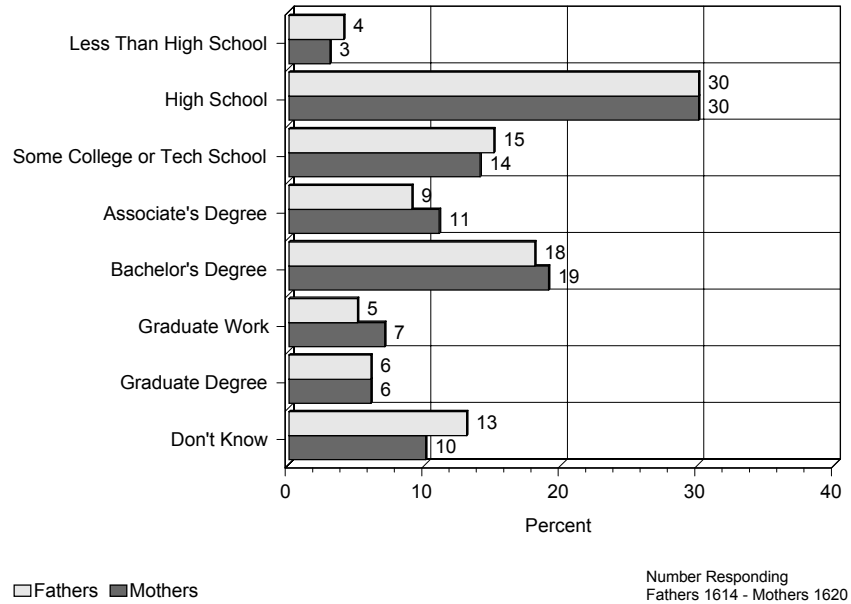


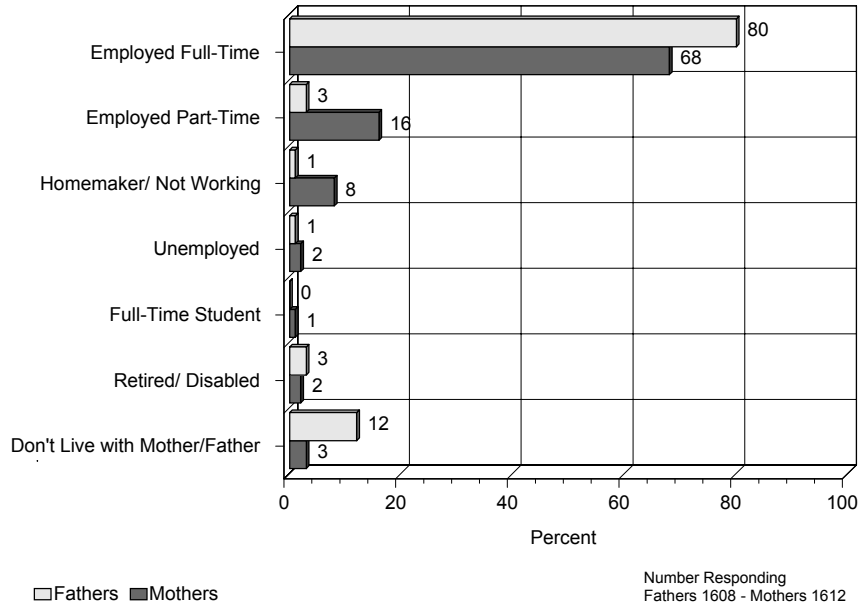
Figure 3-4 shows the range of parental education. Only 4% of all fathers and 3% of all mothers have less than a high school education. In addition, 29% of the fathers and 32% of the mothers were reported to have a Bachelors Degree or higher. There were no major differences in other education levels of mothers and fathers.

Figure 3-4: Parental Education Levels



Teens reported that 83% of their fathers were employed outside the home on either a full-time (80%) or part-time (3%) basis, and that 84% of their mothers were employed on either a full-time (68%) or part-time (16%) basis. Figure 3-5 shows the full breakdown of parental employment.

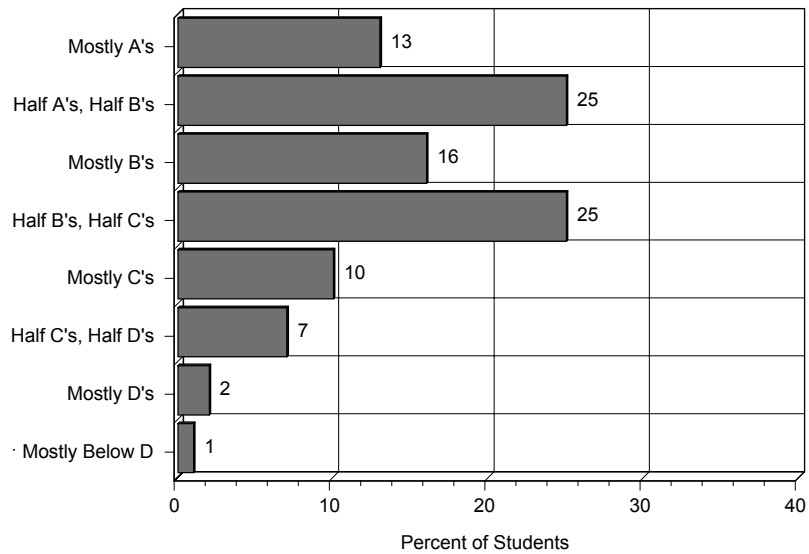
Figure 3-5: Parental Employment



School Characteristics

Most youth (89%) taking the survey reported they usually receive grades averaging "C" or better on their report cards. Fifty-four percent (54%) of the students reported having a "B" average or higher. Figure 3-6 shows the range of answers for average grade level teens receive.

Figure 3-6: Average Student Letter Grade



Number Responding 1631

Figure 3-7 shows the average letter grade by school level (middle school vs. high school). The middle school students reported higher letter grade levels than high school students. Sixty percent (60%) of middle school youth reported a "B" average or higher, while 51% of high school youth are in the same category.

**Figure 3-7: Average Student Letter Grade
(By School Level)**

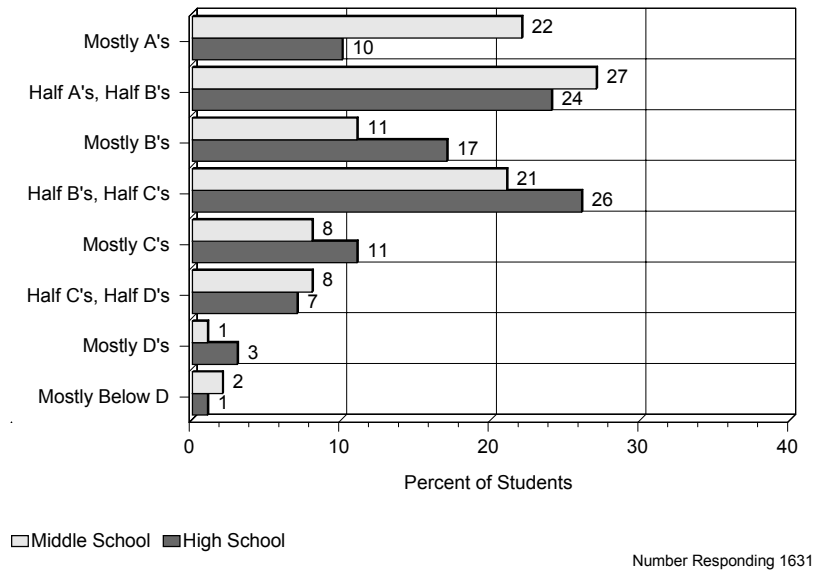


Figure 3-8 shows the differences in average letter grade levels by gender. It shows that females reported higher grade averages than males. Sixty-four percent (64%) of females reported a "B" average or higher, versus 44% of males.

**Figure 3-8: Average Student Letter Grade
(By Gender)**

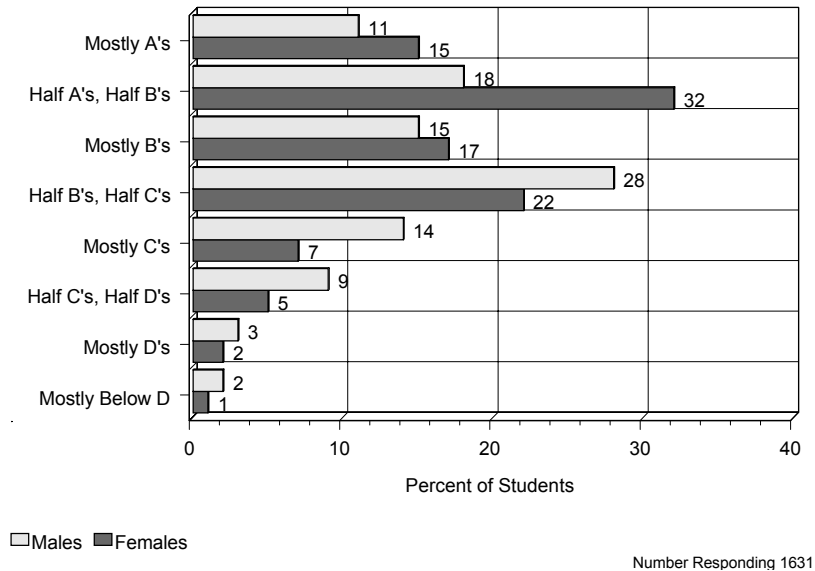
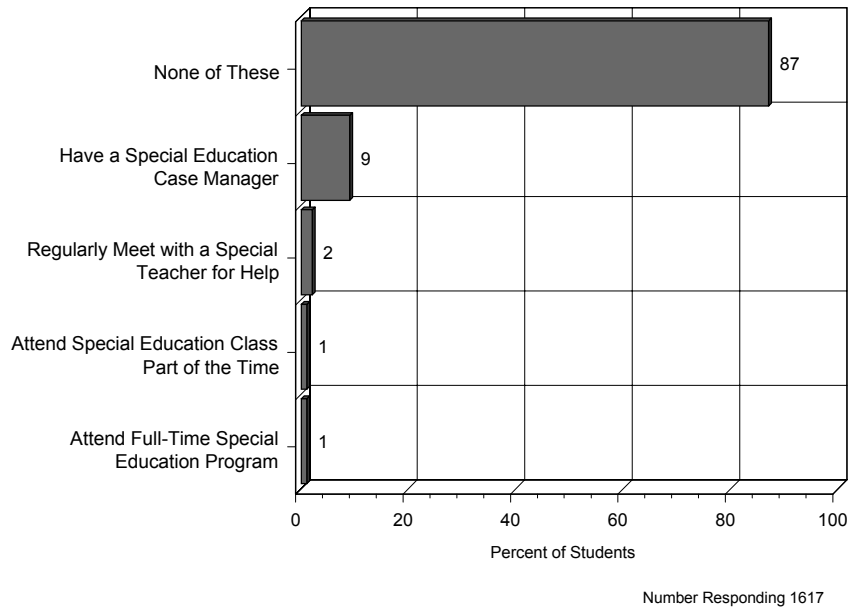


Figure 3-9 reports the breakdown of students on the basis of any special needs assistance they receive.

Figure 3-9: School Population and Special Needs



Forty-seven percent (47%) of students have had to change schools at least once since they began school because their family moved. Students were also asked if the schools they previously attended were public or non-public. Figure 3-10 shows most Dover School District students have attended a different public school previous to their current school. There is no difference between middle school (97%) and high school (95%).

Figure 3-10: Students' Previous Schools

