
TAPPING INTO TEEN CONCERNS, PERCEPTIONS AND BEHAVIORS

2000-2001 Multi-Community Report

A Report of the Teen Assessment Project (TAP)
University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension

Project Director:

Charlotte W. Cross
Extension Specialist, Youth Development
Teen Assessment Project Director
University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension

Report compiled by:

Fran Chickering
Teen Assessment Project, Project Coordinator
University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension

Statistical consultation:

Dr. Rebecca Warner
Department of Psychology
University of New Hampshire

Technical support:

Stephanie Burns, Administrative Assistant
David Chapman, Work Study Student
Sarah Floyd, Work Study Student
Jennifer Marsh, AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer
Carolyn Soucy, AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer
Morgan Taylor, Work Study Student
Catie Waters, Work Study Student

The Teen Assessment Project is based on the work of:

Stephen A. Small, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Child and Family Studies
Cooperative Extension Service
Department of Child and Family Studies
201 Child & Family Studies Bldg., 1300 Linden Dr.,
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI 53706-1575

For further information concerning this report and the Teen Assessment Project contact:

Charlotte W. Cross
Extension Specialist, Youth Development
Teen Assessment Project Director
UNH Cooperative Extension
G05C Pettee Hall
55 College Road
Durham, NH 03824-3597
(603) 862-2495
e-mail: charlotte.cross@unh.edu

Impact Reporting: UNH Cooperative Extension is very interested to know how individuals and groups use “Tapping Into Teen Concerns, Perceptions and Behaviors”. If you use the information in this report for educational purposes, writing grants, planning community efforts, changing programs or policies, gaining positions for your organization, strengthening community linkages, or in any other way, please contact the individual listed above.

Thank you.

*UNH Cooperative Extension programs and policies are consistent with pertinent Federal and State Laws and regulations on non-discrimination regarding race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, veteran status, or marital status.
UNH, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, and New Hampshire counties cooperating.*

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	iii
Acknowledgments	vi
List of Figures	vii
List of Tables	xiii
Executive Summary	xiv
Chapter	
1. Introduction	1
Protective and Risk Factors in the Lives of Youth	3
2. Administration of the Teen Assessment Project	5
3. Characteristics of the Students and Their Families	7
Family Characteristics	9
School Characteristics	10
4. Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use	12
Overall Alcohol and Drug Use	12
Alcohol Use	18
Parental Influence on Teen Drinking	35
Tobacco Use	38
Parents' Role in Teen Smoking	44
Marijuana Use	47
Inhalant Use	55
Other Drug Use	59
Presentation of Comparable Data	60
5. Sexuality	65
Sexual Activity	65
Teenage Pregnancy	68
Contraception and Sexually Transmitted Diseases	70
Communication About Sexuality Issues	71
Parental Influence on Teen Sexual Activity	73
Presentation of Comparable Data	76

6. Physical and Mental Health Issues	77
Teen Worries	77
Support and Advice	79
Teen Depression and Suicide	81
Presentation of Comparable Data	88
7. Personal Safety and Violence	90
Sexual Harassment	90
Sexual Violence: Sexual Abuse	92
Weapons on School Property	94
Presentation Of Comparable Data	95
8. Parent-Teen Relationships	96
Parental Support and Love	96
Getting Along With Parents at Home	98
Communication	99
Decision-Making	101
Parental Monitoring	106
Parental Values	110
Parental Consequences	112
9. Student Time Use	114
Student Time Use	114
10. Perceptions of School and Community	118
Perceptions of School	118
Future Plans and Career Plans	120
Perceptions of Community	122
Social Responsibility	123
11. Understanding Teen Behaviors in the Context of Adolescent Development	124
Risk And Protective Factors	124
Cognitive Development	125
Peers	125
Parents	126
In Conclusion	126

12. Multivariate Model Predicting Teen Substance Use 127
 Multivariate Model 127
 Creation of the Factors 128
 Prediction of Increasing Substance Use 130
 Conclusion 133

13. Instrument Development, Reliability and Validity 134

References 136

Acknowledgments

The Teen Assessment Project (TAP) originated at the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1989 under the direction of Stephen A. Small, Ph.D. The University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension adopted the Teen Assessment Project for use with New Hampshire communities in 1993. The community Teen Assessment Projects utilized for this 2000-2001 Multi-Community Report were under the staff direction of Lauren Bressett, Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development, Cheshire County; Penny Turner, Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development, Hillsborough County; Deborah Maes, Extension Educator, Family Development, Grafton County; Dotty Burrows, Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development, Carroll County; Larry Barker, Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development, Coos County; and Sue Buteau, Extension Educator, Family Development, Coos County in cooperation with Charlotte Cross, Extension Specialist, Youth Development, Teen Assessment Project Director and Michele Gagne, Teen Assessment Project Coordinator.

This report was made possible through the support of the Endowment for Health. The Teen Assessment Project was funded through grants from NH State Incentive Grant (Grafton County); NH Office of Family Services (Coos County); the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Program (Carroll and Hillsborough Counties); the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (Cheshire County); and the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention through the Division for Children, Youth and Families, NH Department of Health and Human Services (Cheshire and Coos Counties).

It would be impossible to name the countless people and organizations who gave their support and encouragement during this process. We wish to thank all those involved in each aspect of the TAP process. We are grateful to the parents who allowed the voices of youth to be heard through this project. Appreciative thanks go to all the youth who were willing to share their concerns and perceptions with us.

Special thanks go to those who edited versions of this report: Lauren Bressett, Penny Turner, Dr. Rebecca Warner, and Janet Thompson.

List of Figures

Figure	Title	Page
1-1:	Ecological Model of Youth Development	2
3-1:	Students Taking the TAP Survey (By Grade and Gender)	7
3-2:	Family Living Situations	9
3-3:	Parents Divorced or Separated	9
3-4:	Parental Education Levels	10
3-5:	Self-Reported Average Student Letter Grade	10
3-6:	Self-Reported Average Student Letter Grade (By School Level)	11
3-7:	Self-Reported Average Student Letter Grade (By Gender)	11
4-1:	Alcohol and Drug Use (Any Use At All)	12
4-2:	Alcohol and Drug Use (Monthly or More Often)	13
4-3:	Alcohol and Drug Use (Weekly or More Often)	13
4-4:	Alcohol and Drug Use (Any Use at All, by School Level)	14
4-5:	Alcohol and Drug Use (Monthly or More Often, by School Level)	14
4-6:	Alcohol and Drug Use (Weekly or More Often, by School Level)	15
4-7:	Obtainability Of Alcohol and Other Drugs (Very Easy or Easy to Get, by School Level)	16
4-8:	Perceived Risk of Alcohol and Other Drug Use (No Risk or Slight Risk, by School Level)	17
4-9:	Perceived Risk of Alcohol and Other Drug Use (Great Risk, by School Level)	17
4-10:	Age Students Had Their First Drink of Alcohol (By Gender)	18
4-11:	Frequency of Alcohol Use (Of Those Who Have Had Alcohol, by School Level)	19
4-12:	Teens Who Drink Alcohol (Any Use at All, by Grade and Gender)	20
4-13:	Teens Who Drink Alcohol (Monthly or More Often, by Grade and Gender)	21
4-14:	Teens Who Drink Alcohol (Weekly or More Often, by Grade and Gender)	22
4-15:	Perceived Risk: Take 1 or 2 Drinks of an Alcoholic Beverage Nearly Every Day (By School Level)	23
4-16:	Perceived Risk: Take 1 or 2 Drinks of an Alcoholic Beverage Nearly Every Day (By Gender)	23
4-17:	Frequency of Binge Drinking (Number of Times in the Past Month)	24
4-18:	Frequency of Binge Drinking (Number of Times in the Past Month, by School Level)	24
4-19:	Binge Drinking (At Least Once in the Past Month, by Grade and Gender)	25

4-20:	Perceived Risk: Binge Drinking Once or Twice Each Weekend (By School Level)	26
4-21:	Perceived Risk: Binge Drinking Once or Twice Each Weekend (By Gender)	26
4-22:	Perceived Risk of Binge Drinking and History of Binge Drinking in the Past Month (By Gender)	27
4-23:	Risk Behaviors Among Those Teens Who Engage in Binge Drinking vs. Those Who Don't Engage in Binge Drinking	28
4-24:	Obtainability of Alcohol	29
4-25:	Obtainability of Alcohol (By School Level)	29
4-26:	Where Teens Get Alcohol (Of Those Who Drink)	30
4-27:	Where Teens Get Alcohol (Of Those Who Drink, by School Level)	30
4-28:	Where Teens Get Alcohol (Of Those Who Drink, by Gender)	31
4-29:	Where Teens Drink Alcohol (Of Those Who Drink)	31
4-30:	Where Teens Drink Alcohol (Of Those Who Drink, by School Level)	32
4-31:	Where Teens Drink Alcohol (Of Those Who Drink, by Gender)	32
4-32:	Teens Who Have Driven A Vehicle After Drinking or Using Drugs (In the Past Month, by Grade and Gender)	33
4-33:	Frequency of Driving a Vehicle After Drinking or Using Drugs (In the Past Month, by School Level)	34
4-34:	Relationship Between Teens' Perceptions of Parental Values and Monthly Teen Drinking (By Gender)	35
4-35:	Relationship Between Levels of Parental Monitoring and Monthly Teen Drinking (By Gender)	36
4-36:	Relationship Between Teens' Perceptions of Parental Consequences and Monthly Teen Drinking (By Gender)	37
4-37:	Age Students First Smoked a Whole Cigarette (By Gender)	38
4-38:	Teens Who Smoke Tobacco (Any Use at All, by Grade and Gender)	39
4-39:	Teens Who Smoke Tobacco (Monthly or More Often, by Grade and Gender)	40
4-40:	Teens Who Smoke Tobacco (Weekly or More Often, by Grade and Gender)	41
4-41:	Perceived Risk: Smoke One or More Packs of Cigarettes a Day (By School Level)	42
4-42:	Perceived Risk of Smoking One or More Packs of Cigarettes a Day and Monthly Teen Smoking (By Gender)	43
4-43:	Relationship Between Teens' Perceptions of Parental Values and Monthly Teen Tobacco Smoking (By Gender)	44
4-44:	Relationship Between Levels of Parental Monitoring and Monthly Teen Tobacco Smoking (By Gender)	45
4-45:	Relationship Between Teens Perceptions of Parental Consequences and Monthly Teen Smoking (By Gender)	46
4-46:	Teens Who Use Marijuana (Any Use at All, by Grade and Gender)	47

4-47:	Teens Who Use Marijuana (Monthly or More Often, by Grade and Gender)	48
4-48:	Teens Who Use Marijuana (Weekly or More Often, by Grade and Gender)	49
4-49:	Obtainability of Marijuana	50
4-50:	Obtainability of Marijuana (By School Level)	50
4-51:	Perceived Risk: Try Marijuana Once or Twice (By School Level)	51
4-52:	Perceived Risk: Try Marijuana Once or Twice (By Gender)	51
4-53:	Relationship Between Perceived Risk of Trying Marijuana Once or Twice vs. Any Use at All of Marijuana (By Gender)	52
4-54:	Perceived Risk: Smoke Marijuana Regularly (By School Level)	53
4-55:	Perceived Risk: Smoke Marijuana Regularly (By Gender)	53
4-56:	Relationship Between Perceived Risk of Smoking Marijuana Regularly and Teens' Monthly Use of Marijuana (By Gender)	54
4-57:	Age Students First Experimented with Inhalants (By Gender)	55
4-58:	Teens Who Use Inhalants (Any Use at All, by Grade and Gender)	56
4-59:	Perceived Risk: Inhalant Use (By School Level)	57
4-60:	Perceived Risk: Inhalant Use (By Gender)	57
4-61:	Perceived Risk of Inhalant Use and Any Use of Inhalants (By Gender)	58
5-1:	Sexual Activity of Teens (By School Level)	65
5-2:	Teens Who Have Ever Had Sexual Intercourse (By Grade and Gender)	66
5-3:	Frequency of Sexual Activity (By School Level)	67
5-4:	Frequency of Sexual Activity (By Gender)	67
5-5:	Birth Control Use by Sexually Active Teens (By Gender)	68
5-6:	Sexually Active Teens Who Always Use Birth Control (By Grade and Gender)	69
5-7:	Sexually Active Teens Who Always Use Birth Control (By School Level and Gender)	69
5-8:	Condom Use by Teens (Of Those Who Have Ever Had Sex, by Gender)	70
5-9:	Talks with Father or Mother About Whether or Not It's Okay to Have Sex (In the Past Year)	71
5-10:	Talks with Father or Mother About Birth Control (In the Past Year)	72
5-11:	Talks with Father or Mother About AIDS or STDs (In the Past Year)	72
5-12:	Relationship Between Levels of Parental Monitoring and Teen Sexual Activity (By Gender)	73
5-13:	Relationship Between Teens' Perceptions of Parental Consequences and Teen Sexual Activity (By Gender)	74
5-14:	Relationship Between Teens' Perceptions of Parental Values and Teen Sexual Activity (By Gender)	75
6-1:	Teen Worries (Quite a Bit or Very Much)	77
6-2:	Teen Worries (Quite a Bit or Very Much, by School Level)	78

6-3:	Teen Worries (Quite a Bit or Very Much, By Gender)	78
6-4:	Who Teens Would Talk to About Problems (By School Level)	79
6-5:	Who Teens Would Talk to About Problems (By Gender)	80
6-6:	Depression or Sadness Among Students (At Any Time in the Past Month, by Grade and Gender)	81
6-7:	Serious Thoughts About Killing Themselves (At Any Time in the Past Month, by Grade and Gender)	82
6-8:	Plans Made to Commit Suicide (At Any Time, by Grade and Gender)	83
6-9:	Plans Made to Commit Suicide (In the Past Year, by Grade and Gender)	84
6-10:	Plans Made to Commit Suicide (In the Past Month, by Grade and Gender)	85
6-11:	Suicide Attempts (At Any Time, by Grade and Gender)	86
6-12:	Suicide Attempts (In the Past Year, by Grade and Gender)	87
6-13:	Suicide Attempts (In the Past Month, by Grade and Gender)	87
7-1:	Sexual Harassment (By Grade and Gender)	91
7-2:	Sexual Harassment (By School Level and Gender)	91
7-3:	Teens Who Have Been Sexually Abused by an Adult (By Gender)	92
7-4:	Teens Who Have Been Sexually Abused by an Adult (By School Level)	93
7-5:	Number of Days Teens Carried Weapons onto School Property (In the Past Month, by School Level)	94
7-6:	Number of Days Teens Carried Weapons onto School Property (In the Past Month, by Gender)	94
8-1:	Parents Are There for Them	96
8-2:	Parental Support (Often or Very Often)	97
8-3:	Teens Who Feel Their Parents Are Interested in What They Learn and How They Are Doing in School (Strongly Agree or Agree, by Grade and Gender)	97
8-4:	Worry About Getting Along with Parents at Home	98
8-5:	Worry About Getting Along with Parents at Home (Quite a Bit or Very Much, by Grade and Gender)	98
8-6:	Teens Who Never or Rarely Had Good Talks with Fathers (In the Past Year)	99
8-7:	Teens Who Never or Rarely Had Good Talks with Mothers (In the Past Year)	100
8-8:	Parents' Decision-Making Style	101
8-9:	Parenting Style	102
8-10:	Frequency of Substance Use: Tobacco, Alcohol, Marijuana (By Gender)	103
8-11:	Link Between Parenting Style and Monthly or More Use of Tobacco, Alcohol, Marijuana	103
8-12:	Status of Teen Sexual Intercourse (By Gender)	104

8-13:	Link Between Parenting Style and Teen Sexuality	105
8-14:	Teens Who Report Parental Monitoring of Their Behavior (A Lot of the Time or Always)	106
8-15:	Teens Who Report Parental Monitoring of Their Behavior (A Lot of the Time or Always, by School Level)	107
8-16:	Teens Who Reported Parental Monitoring of Their Behavior (A Lot of the Time or Always, by Gender)	107
8-17:	Relationship Between Levels of Parental Monitoring and Monthly Teen Drinking (By Gender)	107
8-18:	Relationship Between Levels of Parental Monitoring and Montly Teen Smoking (By Gender)	108
8-19:	Relationship Between Levels of Parental Monitoring and Teen Sexual Activity (By Gender)	109
8-20:	Teens' Perceptions of Parental Consequences For Health Risk Behaviors	110
8-21:	Relationship Between Teens' Perceptions of Parental Values and Monthly Teen Drinking (By Gender)	110
8-22:	Relationship Between Teens' Perceptions of Parental Values and Monthly Teen Smoking (By Gender)	111
8-23:	Relationship Between Teens' Perceptions of Parental Values and Teen Sexual Activity (By Gender)	111
8-24:	Teens' Perceptions of Parental Consequences For Health Risk Behaviors	112
8-25:	Relationship Between Teens' Perceptions of Parental Consequences and Montly Teen Drinking (By Gender)	112
8-26:	Relationship Between Teens' Perceptions of Parental Consequences and Monthly Teen Smoking (By Gender)	113
8-27:	Relationship Between Teens' Perceptions of Parental Consequences and Teen Sexual Activity (By Gender)	113
9-1:	How Teens Spend Their Time (5 or More Hours a Week)	114
9-2:	How Teens Spend Their Time (5 or More Hours a Week, by School Level)	115
9-3:	How Teens Spend Their Time (5 or More Hours a Week, by Gender)	115
9-4:	How Teens Spend Their Time (16 or More Hours a Week)	116
9-5:	How Teens Spend Their Time (16 or More Hours a Week, by School Level)	116
9-6:	How Teens Spend Their Time (16 or More Hours a Week, by Gender)	117

10-1:	Enjoy Going to School (Strongly Agree or Agree, by Grade and Gender)	118
10-2:	School Rules Enforced Fairly (Strongly Agree or Agree, by Grade and Gender)	119
10-3:	Good Quality Education (Strongly Agree or Agree, by Grade and Gender)	119
10-4:	Teens Who Feel They Will Drop Out Before They Complete High School (Strongly Agree or Agree, by Grade and Gender)	120
10-5:	Future Plans After High School (Middle School Students, by Gender)	121
10-6:	Future Plans After High School (High School Students, by Gender)	121
10-7:	Neighborhood Support (Strongly Agree or Agree, by School Level)	122
10-8:	Neighborhood Monitoring (Strongly Agree or Agree, by School Level)	122
10-9:	Social Responsibility (Strongly Agree or Agree, By Gender)	123
12-1:	Multivariate Model Predicting Substance Use (Alcohol, Binge Drinking, Smoking, Marijuana; For Middle School Students)	131
12-2:	Multivariate Model Predicting Substance Use (Alcohol, Binge Drinking, Smoking, Marijuana; For High School Students)	132

List of Tables

Table	Title	Page
3-1:	School Districts Surveyed	8
3-2:	Usable Surveys	8
4-1:	2001 YRBS Data: Age of First Alcohol Use (Grades 9-12 only)	18
4-2:	2001 YRBS Data: Lifetime Alcohol Use (Grades 9-12 only)	19
4-3:	2001 YRBS Data: Current Alcohol Use (Grades 9-12 only)	21
4-4:	2001 YRBS Data: Episodic Heavy Drinking (Grades 9-12 only)	25
4-5:	Monitoring the Future Data: Perceived Harmfulness of Episodic Heavy Drinking	27
4-6:	2001 YRBS Data: Drove After Drinking Alcohol (Grades 9-12 only)	33
4-7:	2001 YRBS Data: Smoked a Whole Cigarette Before Age 13 (Grades 9-12 only)	38
4-8:	2001 YRBS Data: Lifetime Cigarette Use (Grades 9-12 only)	39
4-9:	2001 YRBS Data: Current Cigarette Use (Grades 9-12 only)	40
4-10:	Monitoring the Future Data: Perceived Harmfulness of Smoking Packs of Cigarettes ..	43
4-11:	2001 YRBS Data: Lifetime Marijuana Use (Grades 9-12 only)	47
4-12:	2001 YRBS Data: Current Marijuana Use (Grades 9-12 only)	48
4-13:	Monitoring the Future Data: Perceived Harmfulness of Trying Marijuana	52
4-14:	Monitoring the Future Data: Perceived Harmfulness of Regular Marijuana Use	54
4-15:	2001 YRBS Data: Lifetime and Current Inhalant Use (Grades 9-12 only)	56
4-16:	Monitoring the Future Data: Perceived Harmfulness of Trying Inhalants	58
4-17:	Other Drug Use	59
4-18:	Alcohol and Other Drug Use Comparison: Any Use At All (Grades 9-12 only)	61
4-19:	Alcohol and Other Drug Use Comparison: In The Past 30 Days/Month (Grades 9-12)	62
4-20:	Comparison of Alcohol Related Behaviors (Grades 9-12 only)	63
4-21:	Perceived Risk Comparison	64
5-1:	2001 YRBS Data: Ever Had Sexual Intercourse (Grades 9-12 only)	66
5-2:	Sexuality Comparison (Grades 9-12 only)	76
6-1:	2001 YRBS Data: Seriously Considered Attempting Suicide (Grades 9-12 only)	82
6-2:	2001 YRBS Data: Made a Suicide Plan (Grades 9-12 only)	84
6-3:	2001 YRBS Data: Attempted Suicide (Grades 9-12 only)	86
6-4:	Physical and Mental Health Comparison (Grades 9-12 only)	89
7-1:	2001 YRBS Data: Forced Sexual Intercourse	93
7-2:	Safety Comparison (Grades 9-12 only)	95