

CHAPTER 3

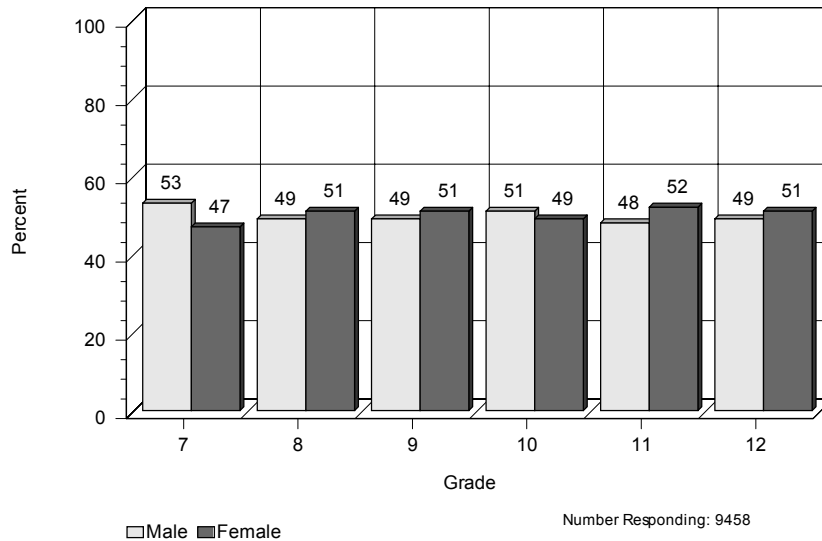
Characteristics of the Students and Their Families

To give readers an overview, this chapter provides a summary of demographic and family characteristics of the teens surveyed by the Teen Assessment Project.

The 2000-2001 TAP Multi-Community Report reflects the survey results of 9,458 students. The surveys were administered to 7th through 12th grade students in the Conway, Keene area, Monadnock Regional, Fall Mountain Regional, Gorham, Berlin, Linwood, and Merrimack school districts. In the Peterborough and Jaffrey/Rindge school districts students in grades 9 through 12 completed the survey. The total of 9,458 surveys represent approximately 82% of the total enrolled middle and high school students of these school districts. In 2000-2001 there were approximately 42,078 middle school/junior high school students and 60,469 high school youth enrolled in New Hampshire schools.

Figure 3-1 shows the breakdown of the 2000-2001 TAP Multi-Community sample. Fifty percent (50%) of the students were male; 50% were female.

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



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

Table 3-1: School Districts Surveyed

	Date Surveyed	Total Usable Surveys	Males	Females
Carroll County				
SAU #9 – Conway School District	10/01	1028	506	522
Cheshire County				
SAU #29 – Chesterfield, Harrisville, Keene, Marlow, Marlborough, Nelson, Westmoreland	3/00	1945	966	979
SAU #38 – Monadnock Regional School District	3/00	1594	794	800
SAU #47 – Jaffrey/Rindge School District	3/00	361	168	193
SAU #60 – Fall Mountain Regional School District	3/00	803	416	387
Student nonresponse for school district	3/00	9	4	5
Coos County				
SAU #20 – Gorham School District	4/00	265	134	131
SAU #7 – Berlin School District	2/01	768	389	379
Grafton County				
SAU #68 – Lin-Wood Cooperative School District	11/00	142	66	76
Hillsborough County				
SAU #26 -- Merrimack School District	1/00	1856	921	935
SAU #1 – Peterborough School District	4/00	687	339	348
Total		9,458	4,703	4,755

The following table shows the number of usable surveys from students in each grade.

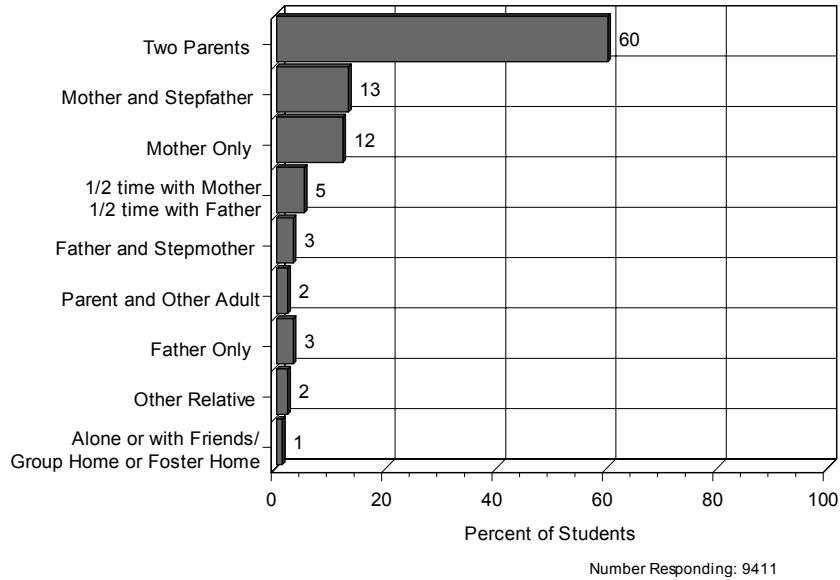
Table 3-2: Usable Surveys

Grade	Total	Male	Female
7	1531	805	726
8	1532	747	785
9	1874	917	957
10	1760	890	870
11	1500	726	774
12	1261	618	643

Family Characteristics

Students reported a number of different family living situations. Figure 3-2 shows most students (60%) live with two parents (biological or adoptive). Other common living situations are single parent households (15%) and step-family households (16%). The remaining 10% of students live in other living situations.

Figure 3-2: Family Living Situations



Thirty-six percent (36%) of students reported their parents have been involved in a separation or divorce. Sixty-one percent (61%) indicated their parents have never been divorced or separated. As Figure 3-3 shows, the length of time since divorce ranges from currently happening now to more than ten years ago.

Figure 3-3: Parents Divorced or Separated

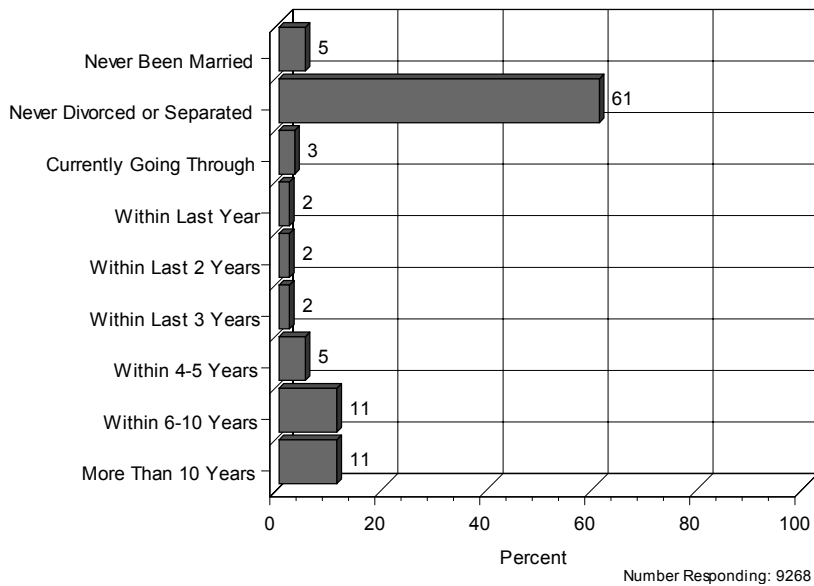
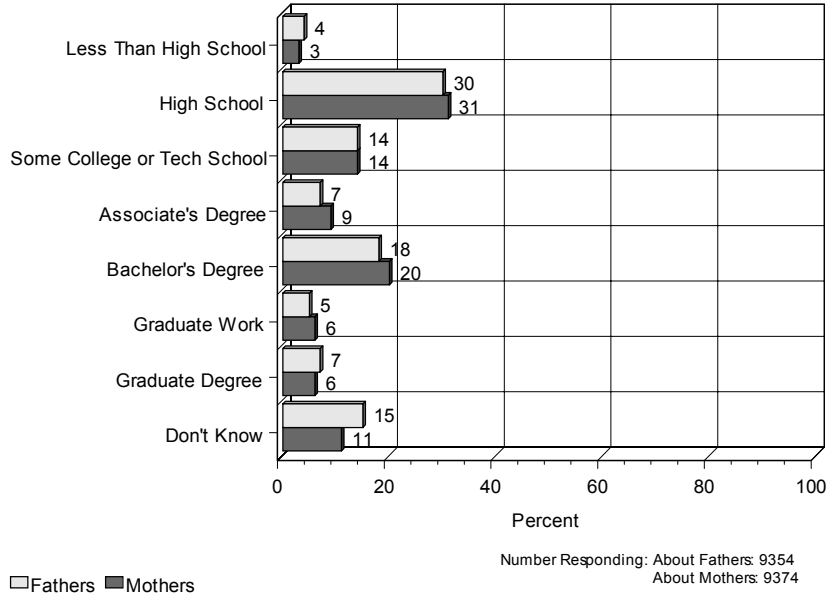


Figure 3-4 shows the range of parental education. Only 4% of all fathers and 3% of all mothers have less than a high school education. In addition, 30% of the fathers and 31% of the mothers were reported to have a bachelor's degree or higher.

Figure 3-4: Parental Education Levels



School Characteristics

Most youth (92%) taking the survey reported they usually receive an average grade of “C” or better on their report cards. Sixty-four percent (64%) of the students reported having a “B” average or higher. Figure 3-5 shows the range of answers for the average letter grade teens receive.

Figure 3-5: Self-Reported Average Student Letter Grade

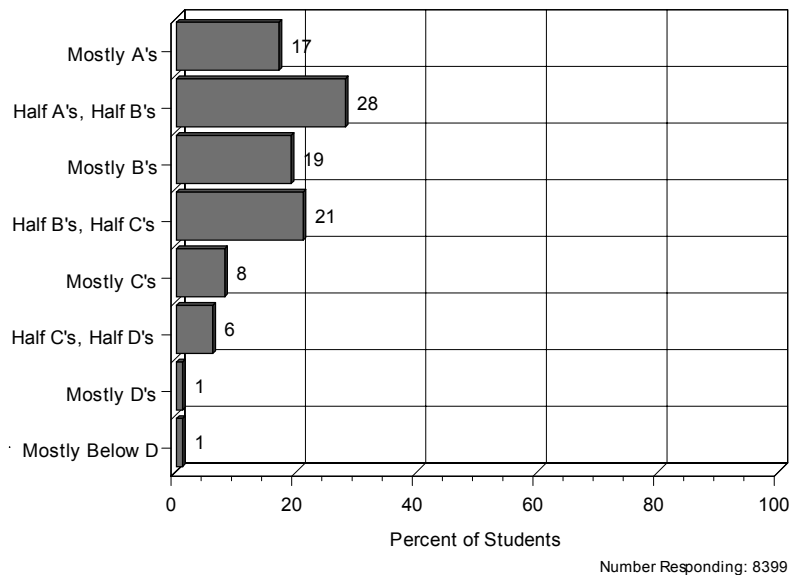


Figure 3-6 shows the average letter grade by school level. Middle school students reported higher letter grades than high school students. Sixty-eight percent (68%) of middle school youth reported a “B” average or higher, while 60% of high school youth report the same.

Figure 3-6: Average Student Letter Grade (By School Level)

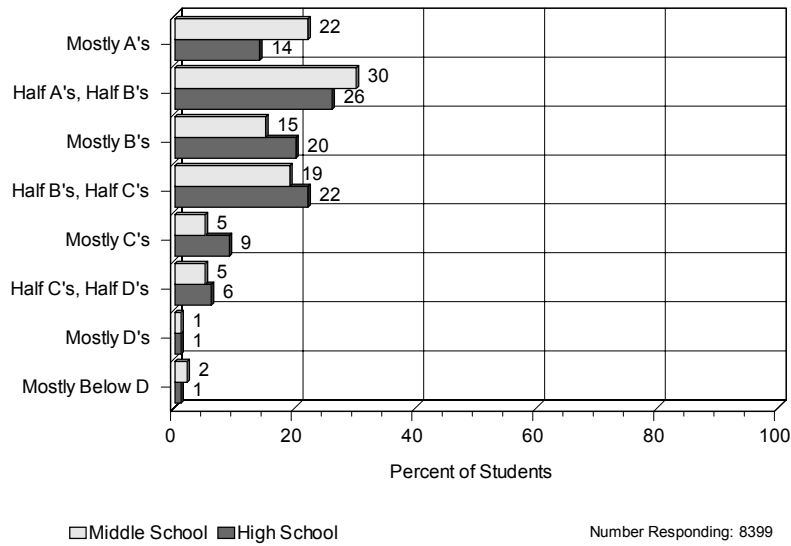


Figure 3-7 shows the differences in average letter grades by gender. It shows females reported higher average grades than males. Seventy percent (70%) of females reported a “B” average or higher, versus 57% of males.

Figure 3-7: Average Student Letter Grade (By Gender)

