
CHAPTER 8

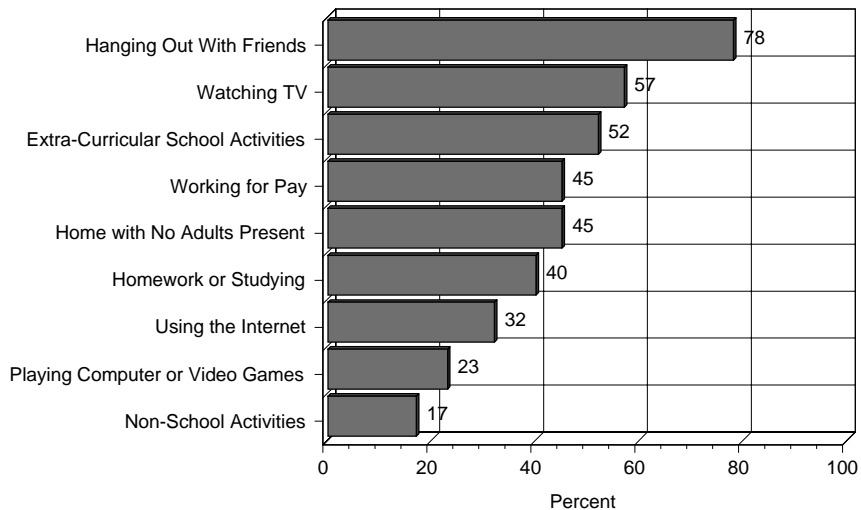
Student Time Use

This chapter is comprised of a series of charts showing how local youth spend their time outside of school. The charts allow for easy comparisons between the different ways local youth spend their time by illustrating the number of hours per week youth spend on each activity.

Student Time Use

Figure 8-1 shows the overall percentages of those students who spend five or more hours doing a particular activity; Figure 8-2 shows those who spend 16 or more hours in the same activity. This is followed by a pair of charts showing the differences between middle school and high school youth for those activities; Figure 8-3 shows the levels for five or more hours and Figure 8-4 shows 16 or more hours. Finally, there is a pair of charts to show the differences on the basis of gender, with Figure 8-5 showing the rates for five or more hours involved in the activity, and Figure 8-6 showing the rates for 16 or more hours.

**Figure 8-1: How Teens Spend Their Time
(5 or More Hours a Week)**



Number Responding:
Ranges from 216-223

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

**Figure 8-2: How Teens Spend Their Time
(16 or More Hours a Week)**

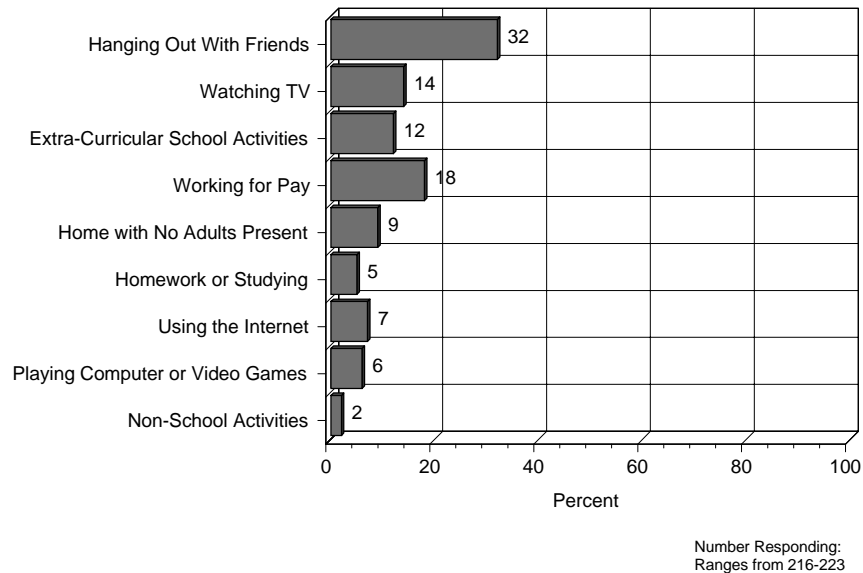


Figure 8-3 shows that middle school students spend more time than high school students watching TV, doing homework or studying, and playing computer or video games. High school students spend more time than middle school students hanging out with friends, working for pay and being home alone with no adults present.

**Figure 8-3: How Teens Spend Their Time
(5 or More Hours a Week, by School Level)**

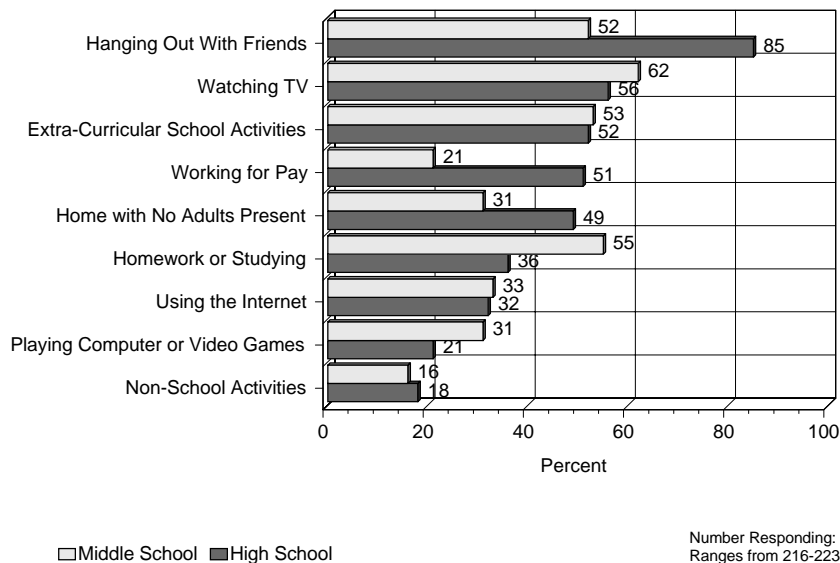


Figure 8-4, like Figure 8-3, shows that while middle school students are more likely than high school students to watch TV, high school students spend more time working for pay.

Figure 8-4: How Teens Spend Their Time
(16 or More Hours a Week, by School Level)

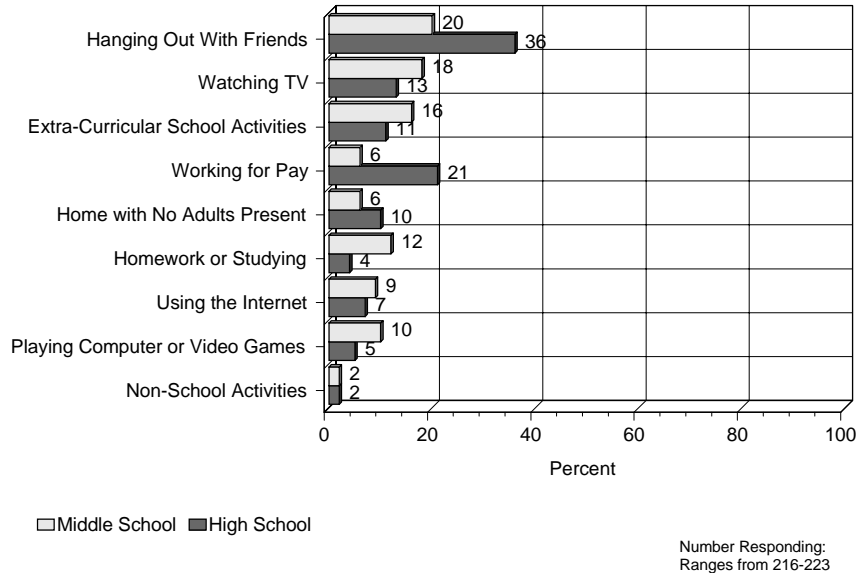
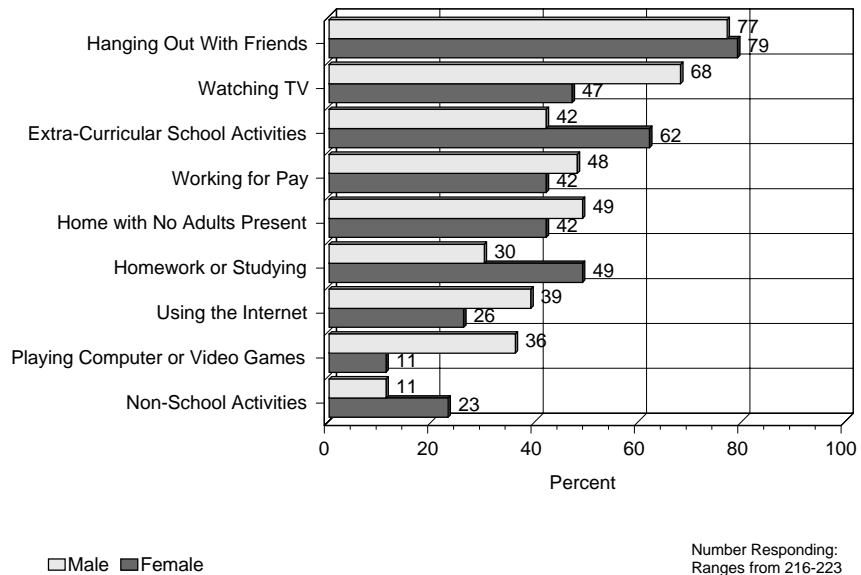


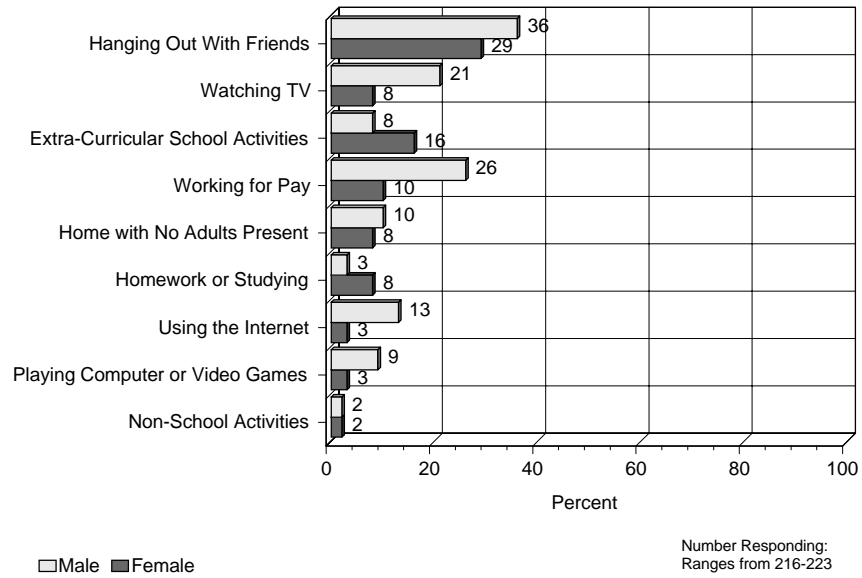
Figure 8-5 reports that males are more likely than females to spend time watching TV, working for pay and using the Internet. Females are more likely to spend time getting involved with extra curricular activities and doing homework or studying.

Figure 8-5: How Teens Spend Their Time
(5 or More Hours a Week, by Gender)



As with Figure 8-5, Figure 8-6 shows that males are more likely than females to watch TV, work for pay, and use the Internet. Females are more likely than males to spend time getting involved in extra-curricular school activities and doing homework or studying.

Figure 8-6: How Teens Spend Their Time
(16 or More Hours a Week, by Gender)



Having a part-time job can provide teens with a number of beneficial experiences including opportunities to develop responsibility and self-reliance. They also learn to deal more effectively with others and acquire knowledge about business and consumer matters. However, working more than 15-20 hours per week may entail costs. Working too many hours can diminish involvement in school activities and is associated with increased absenteeism, decline in school performance, higher levels of emotional distress, substance use and earlier age of sexual activity (Greenberger and Steinberg, 1986; Resnick et al., 1997).