
CHAPTER 8

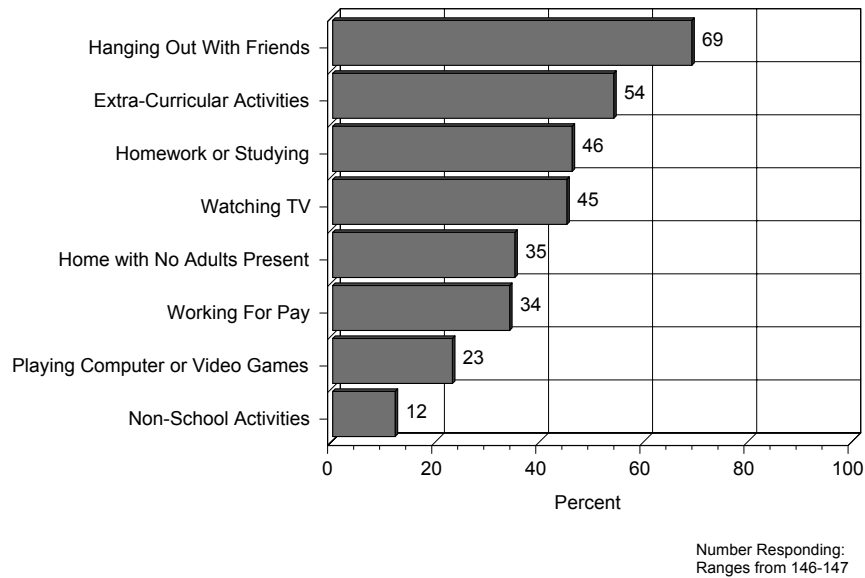
Student Time Use

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 a week doing a particular activity.

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



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

Figure 8-2 shows those who spend 16 or more hours a week in the same activities.

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

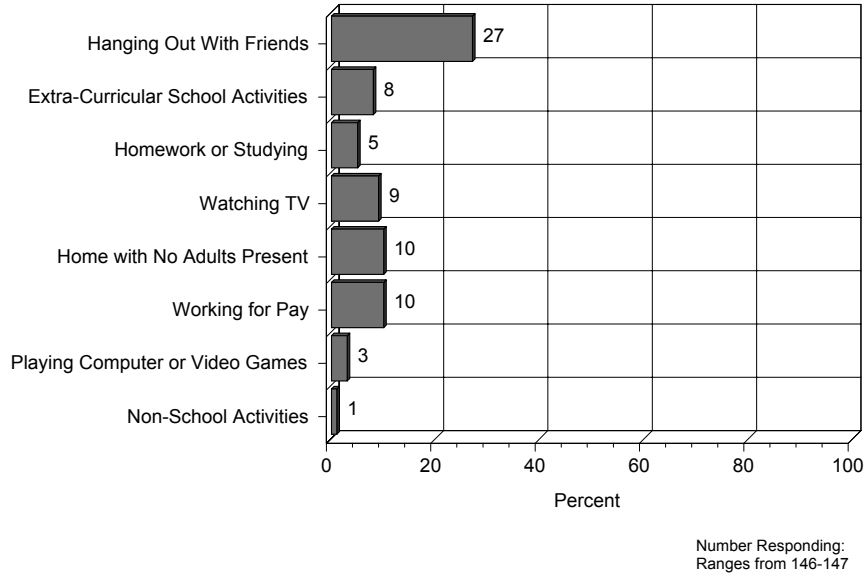


Figure 8-3 shows that middle school students spend more time than high school students playing computer or video games. Middle and high school students spend the same amount of time doing homework or in non-school activities.

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

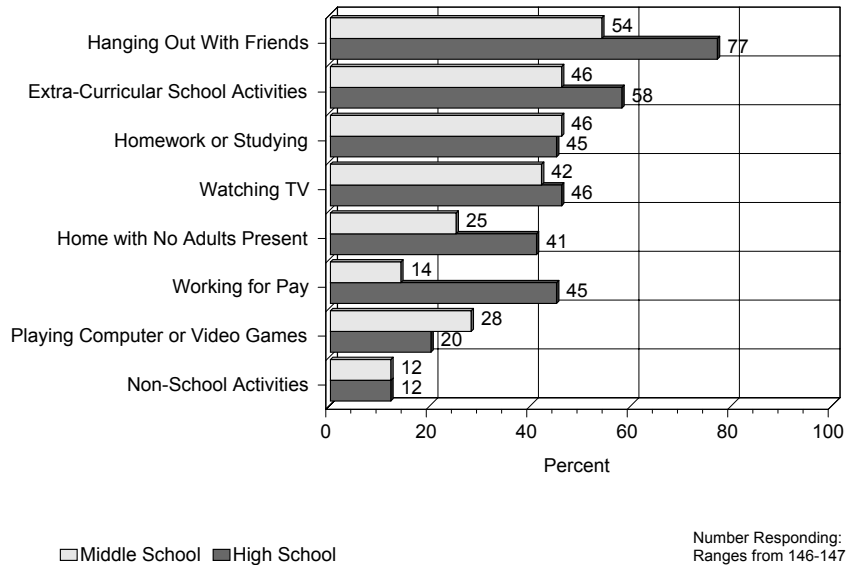


Figure 8-4, like Figure 8-3, shows that middle school students are more likely than high school students to play computer or video games.

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

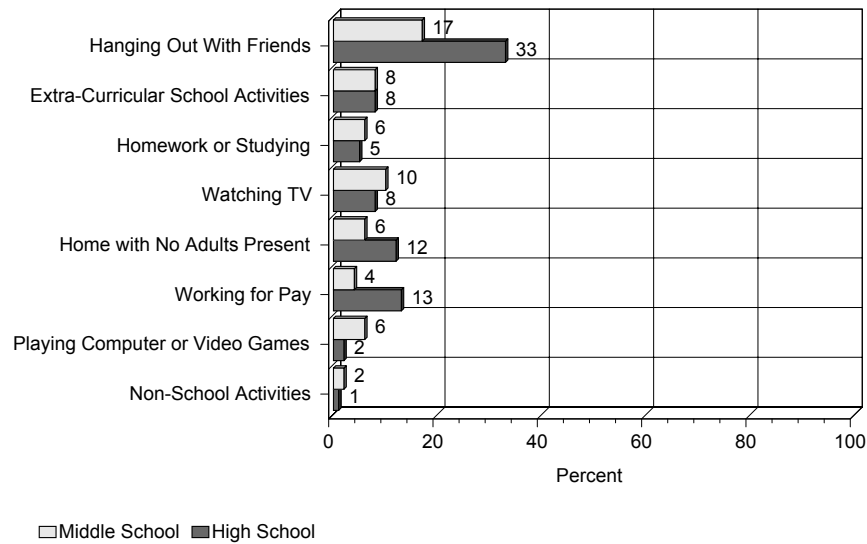
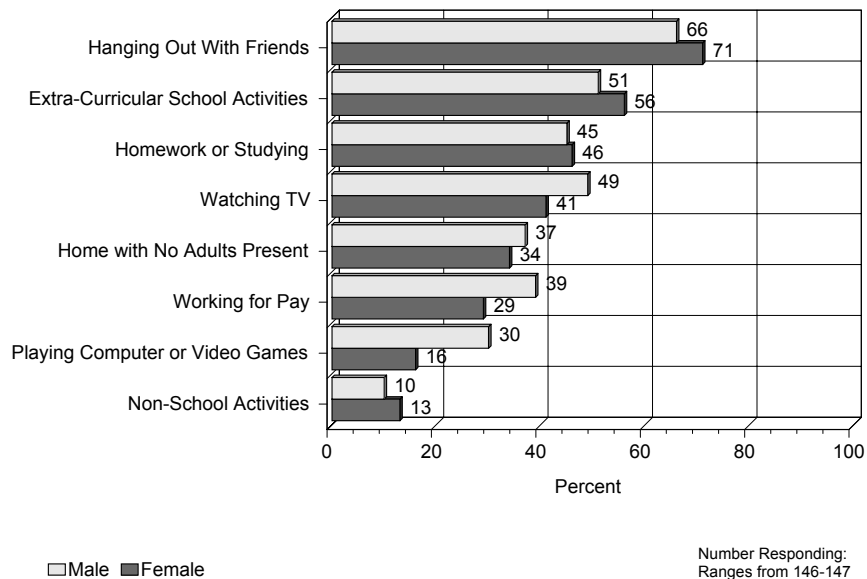


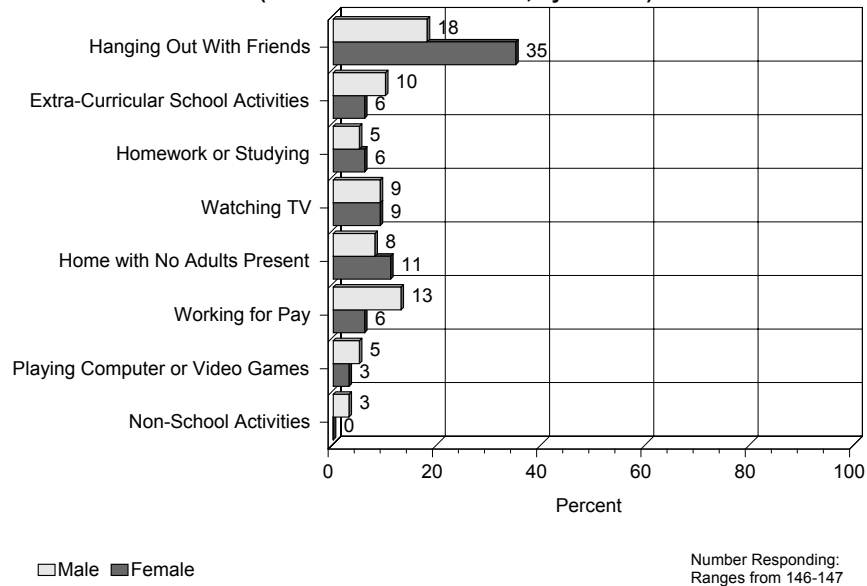
Figure 8-5 shows that males are more likely than females to spend time watching TV, working for pay, and playing computer or video games. Females are more likely to spend time getting involved with extra curricular activities and hanging out with friends.

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 work for pay and females are more likely than males to hang out with their friends. While at the five or more hours a week level more females than males were involved in extra-curricular activities, at the sixteen or more hours a week level males are more likely to be involved in extra-curricular activities.

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).