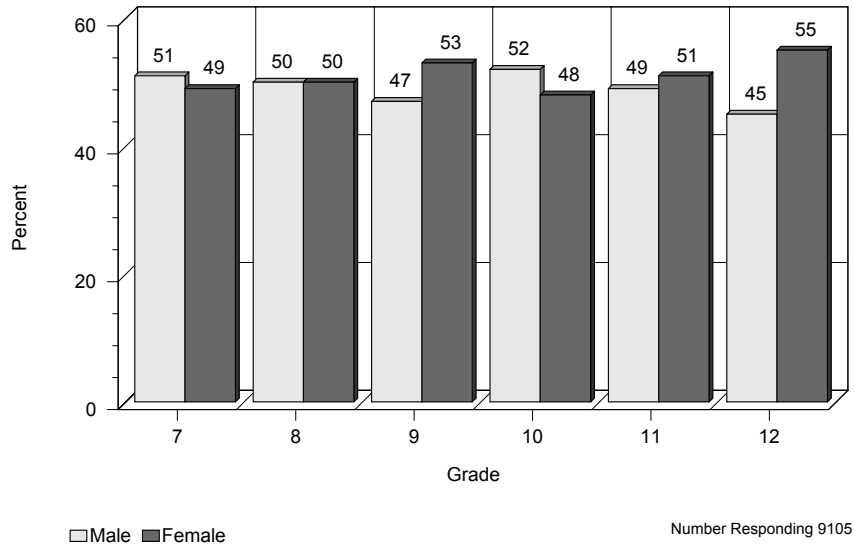

CHAPTER 3

Characteristics of New Hampshire Students and Their Families

This chapter provides a summary of demographic and family characteristics of the New Hampshire teens surveyed by the Teen Assessment Project. The 1998/99 Multi-Community Report reflects the survey results of 9,105 students which is 85% of the student populations of five school districts in New Hampshire (9% of all New Hampshire teens in grades 7 through 12). Overall, 49% of all students were male and 51% were female. Figure 3-1 shows the gender breakdown for each grade.

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
Grafton County				
SAU #48 -- Pemi-Baker School District	12/99	659	323	336
<i>Plymouth Regional High School</i>				
Hillsborough County				
SAU #42 -- Nashua School District	12/98	4,444	2,178	2,266
<i>Elm St. Junior High School</i>				
<i>Pennichuck Junior High School</i>				
<i>Fairgrounds Junior High School</i>				
<i>Nashua High School</i>				
Merrimack County				
SAU #51 -- Pittsfield School District	4/98	322	147	175
<i>Pittsfield Middle High School</i>				
Rockingham County				
SAU #16 -- Exeter Cooperative School District	10/99	2,045	1,004	1,041
<i>Cooperative Middle School</i>				
<i>Exeter High School</i>				
Strafford County				
SAU #11 -- Dover School District	11/99	1,635	823	812
<i>Dover Middle School</i>				
<i>Dover High School</i>				
Total		9,105	4,475	4,630

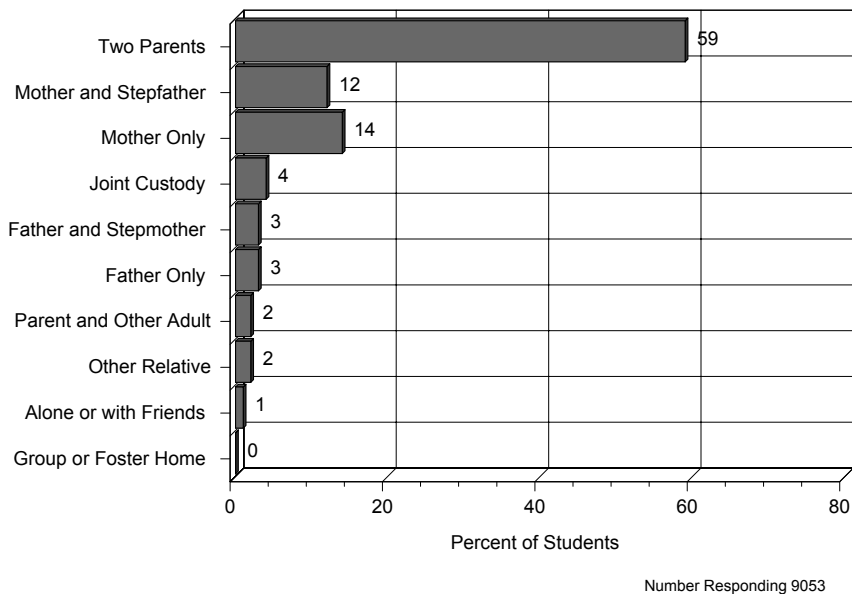
The following table shows the number of usable surveys from students in each grade.

Table 3-2: Usable Surveys

Grade	Total	Male	Female
7	1573	804	769
8	1580	792	788
9	1760	835	925
10	1580	814	766
11	1434	708	726
12	1178	528	650

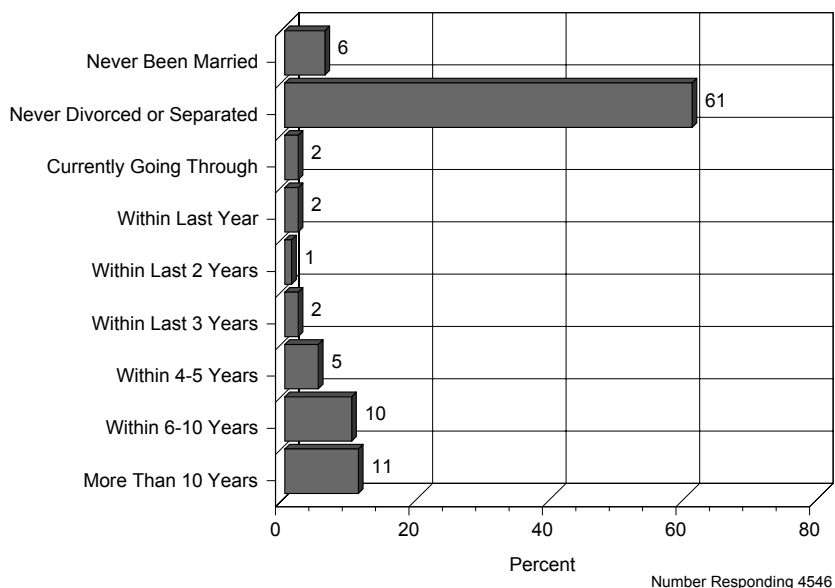
Student and Family Characteristics

Figure 3-2: Family Living Situations



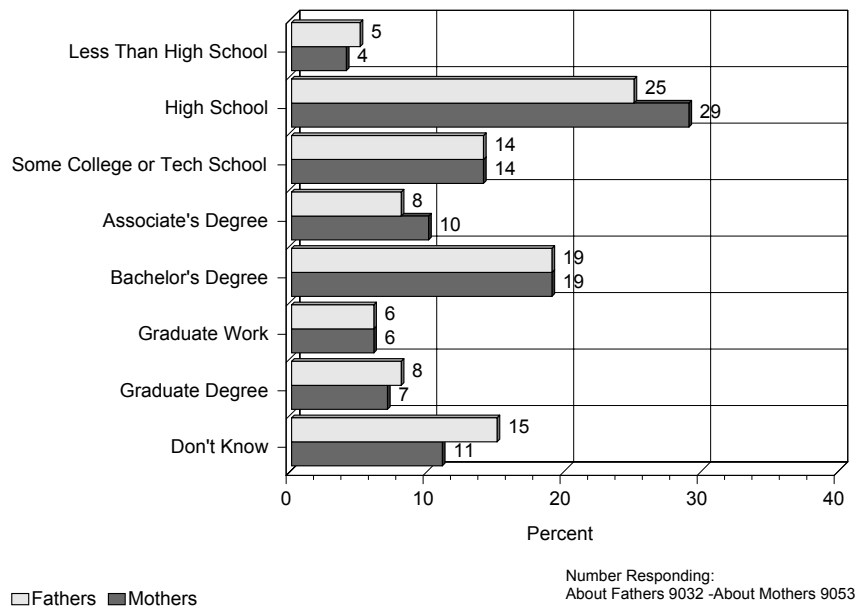
- Students reported a number of different family living situations. Most students live with two parents.
- Other common living situations are single parent households and step-family households.
- When looking at living situations by school level and gender, there are no differences.

Figure 3-3: Parents Divorced or Separated



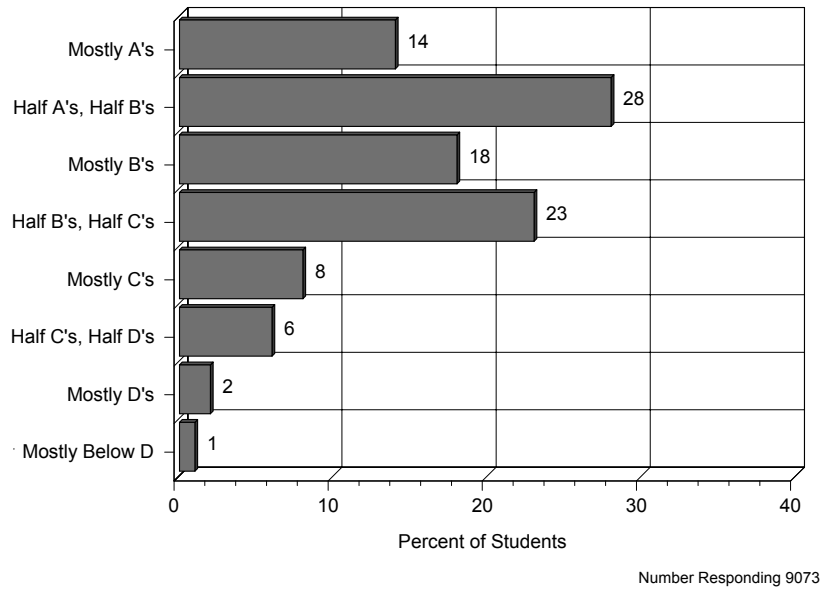
- Thirty-three percent (33%) of the students answering this question reported that their parents have been involved in a separation or divorce.

Figure 3-4: Parental Education Levels



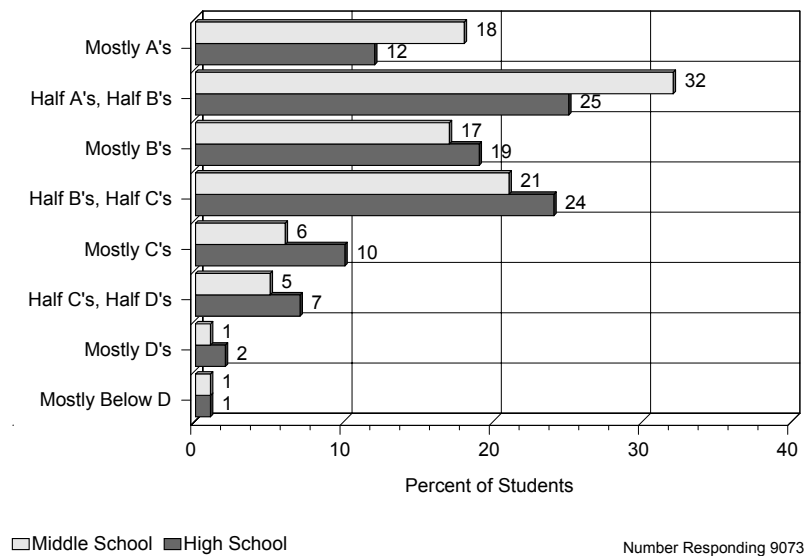
- Only 5% of all fathers and 4% of all mothers have less than a high school education.
- Thirty-three percent (33%) of the fathers and 32% of the mothers were reported to have a Bachelor's Degree or higher.

Figure 3-5: Average Student Letter Grade



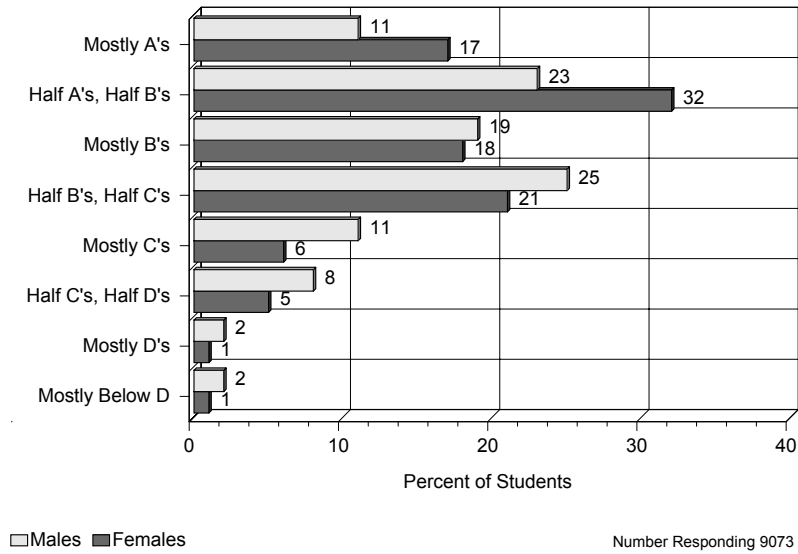
- Most youth (91%) taking the survey reported they usually receive an average grade of "C" or better on their report cards.
- Sixty percent (60%) of the students reported having a "B" average or higher.

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



- Middle school students reported higher letter grades than high school students.
- Sixty-seven percent (67%) of middle school youth reported a "B" average or higher, while 56% of high school youth are in the same category.

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



- Females reported higher average grades than males.
- Sixty-seven percent (67%) of females reported a "B" average or higher, versus 53% of males.