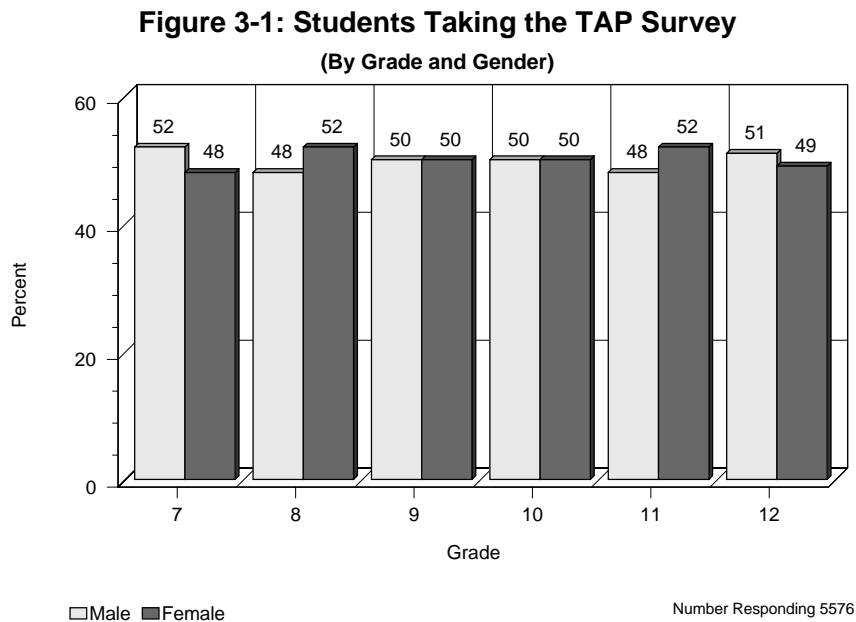


# CHAPTER 3

## Characteristics of the Monadnock Region Students and Their Families

This chapter sets the stage by providing a summary of demographic and family characteristics of the students who participated in the survey.

This report reflects the survey results of 5,576 students. Students in grades 7 through 12 were surveyed in SAUs 29, 38, and 60. SAUs 1 and 47 surveyed students in ninth through twelve grade. These youth represent 85% of the 7th-12th grade population in SAU 29; 88% of the student population in SAU 38; and 77% of the student population in SAU 60. In SAU 1, 77% of students in grades 9-12 are represented, and SAU 47 has 82% of its 9-12 grade youth represented. Overall, 84% of youth in the Monadnock Region are represented in this report. Of all the youth responding to the survey, 50% were male and 50% were female. Figure 3-1 shows the grade and gender breakdown of the sample. For both the middle school and high school students, 50% were male and 50% were female.



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

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

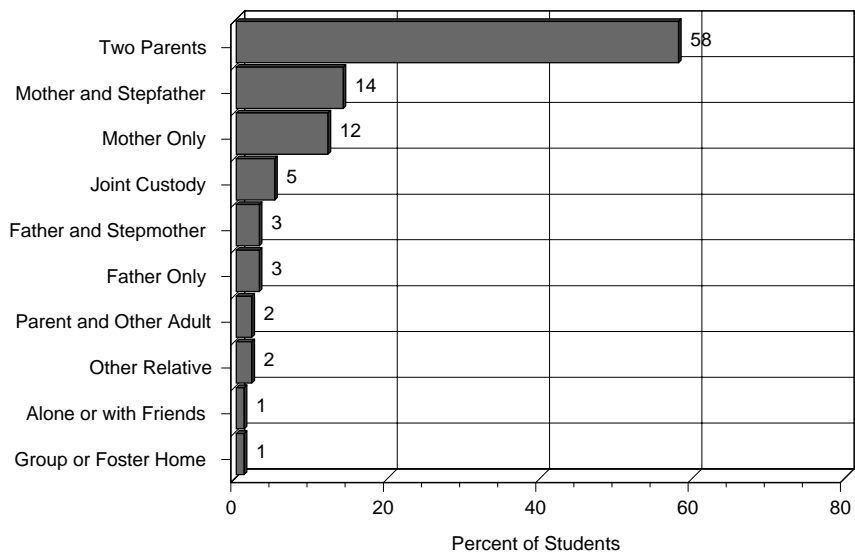
**Table 3-1: Student Characteristics**

	Grade	Male	Female
873	7 <sup>th</sup> graders	457	416
865	8 <sup>th</sup> graders	412	453
1187	9 <sup>th</sup> graders	591	596
1072	10 <sup>th</sup> graders	537	535
863	11 <sup>th</sup> graders	418	445
716	12 <sup>th</sup> graders	366	350

**Family Characteristics**

Students reported a number of different family living situations. Figure 3-2 shows most students (58%) live with two parents (biological or adoptive). Other common living situations are single parent households (15%) and step-family households (17%). The remaining 11% of students live in other living situations. When looking at living situations by school level and gender, there are no differences.

**Figure 3-2: Family Living Situations**



Number Responding 5558

Thirty-seven percent (37%) of students reported their parents have been involved in a separation or divorce. This contrasts with the number of students who say their parents have never been divorced or separated (58%). 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**

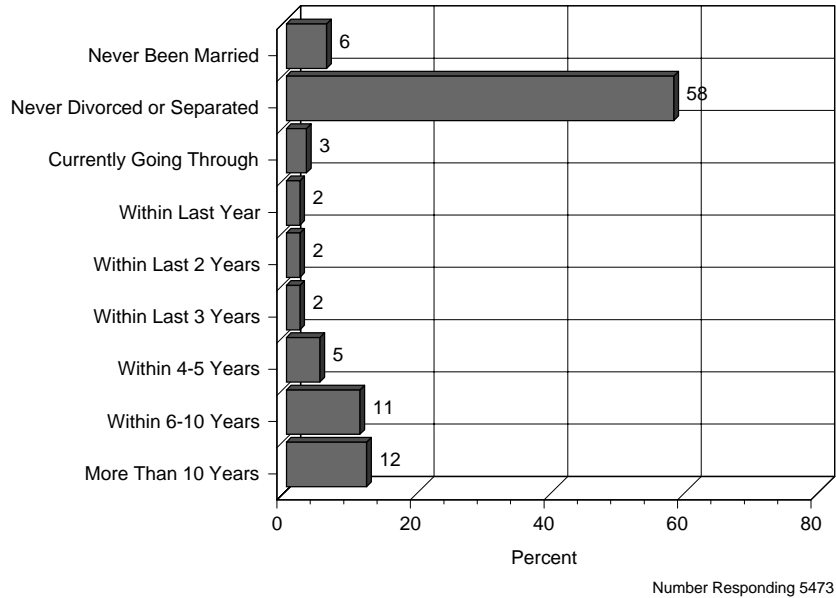
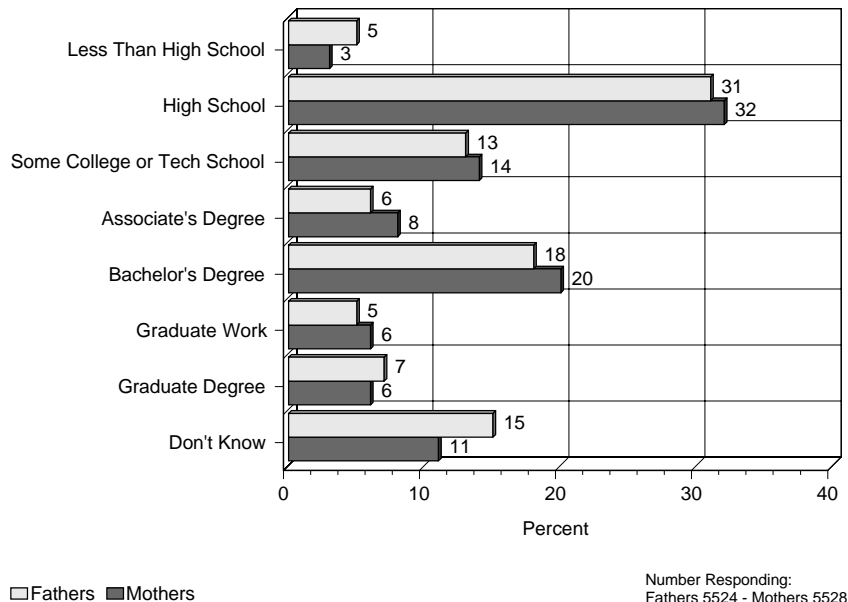
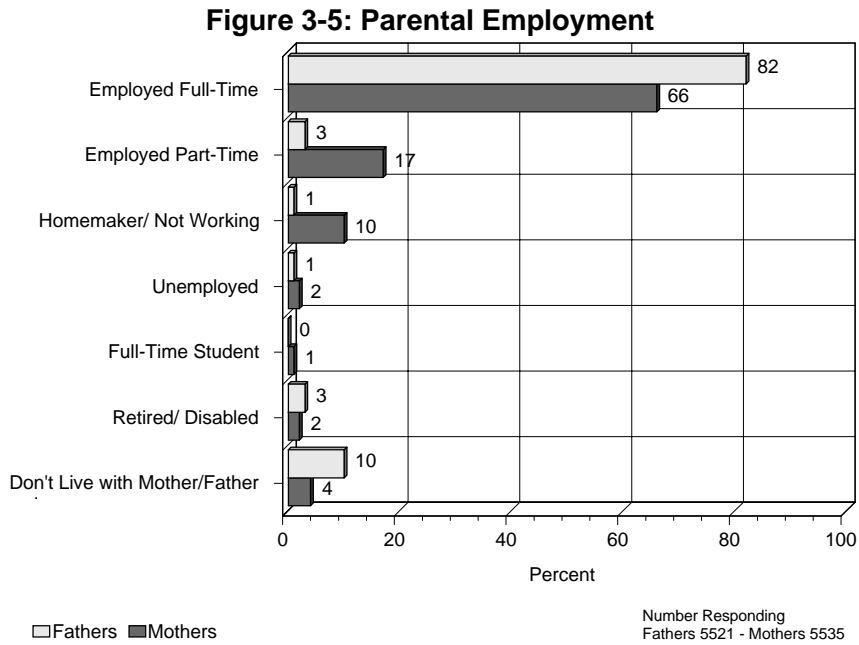


Figure 3-4 shows the range of parental education. Only 5% of all fathers and 3% of all mothers have less than a high school education. In addition, 30% of the fathers and 32% of the mothers were reported to have a Bachelor's Degree or higher. There were no major differences in education levels of mothers and fathers.

**Figure 3-4: Parental Education Levels**



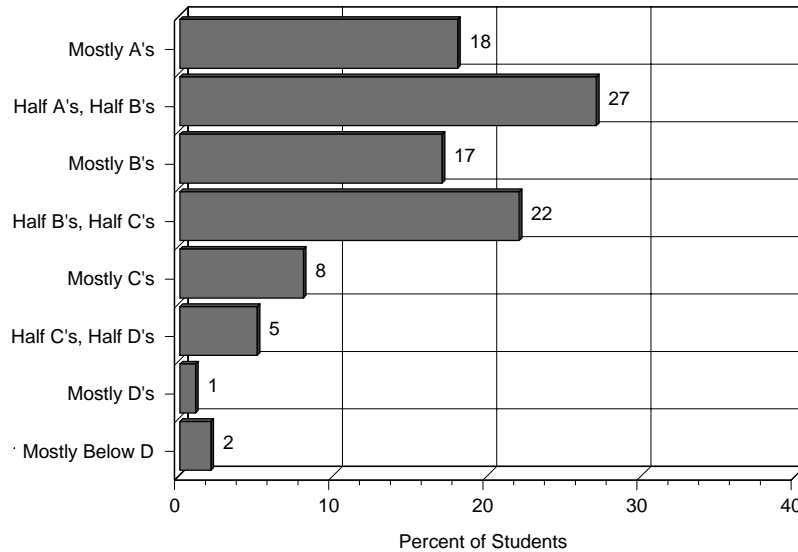
Teens reported 85% of their fathers were employed outside the home on either a full-time (82%) or part-time (3%) basis, and 83% of their mothers were employed on either a full-time (66%) or part-time (17%) basis. Figure 3-5 shows the full breakdown of parental employment.



**School Characteristics**

Most youth (92%) taking the survey reported they usually receive an average grade of "C" or better on their report cards. Sixty-two percent (62%) of the students reported having a "B" average or higher. Figure 3-6 shows the range of answers for the average letter grade teens receive.

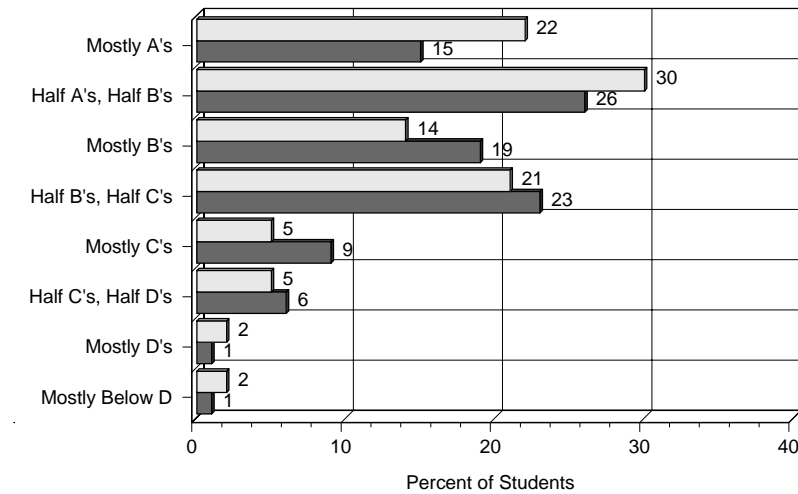
**Figure 3-6: Average Student Letter Grade**



Number Responding 5561

Figure 3-7 shows the average letter grade by school level. Middle school students reported higher letter grades than high school students. Sixty-six percent (66%) of middle school youth reported a "B" average or higher, while 60% of high school youth report the same.

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



□ Middle School ■ High School

Number Responding 5561

Figure 3-8 shows the differences in average letter grades by gender. It shows females reported higher average grades than males. Sixty-eight percent (68%) of females reported a "B" average or higher, versus 56% of males.

**Figure 3-8: Average Student Letter Grade (By Gender)**

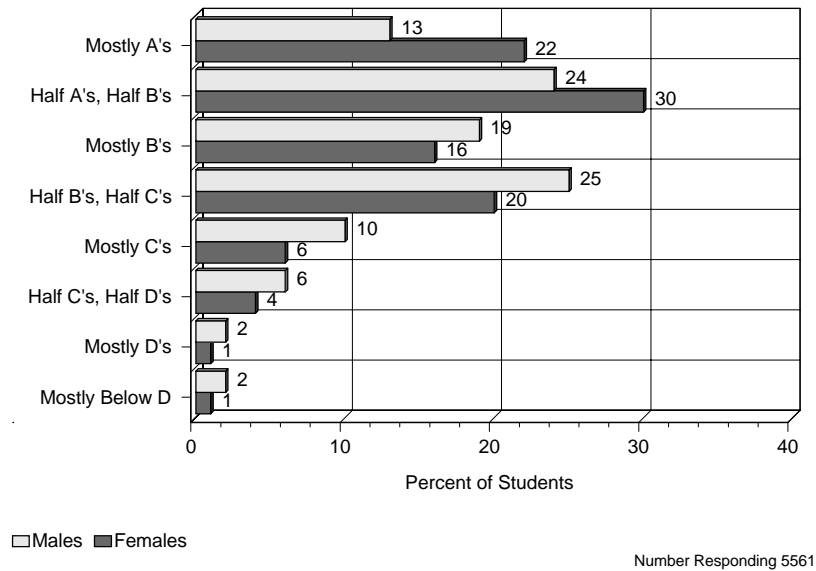
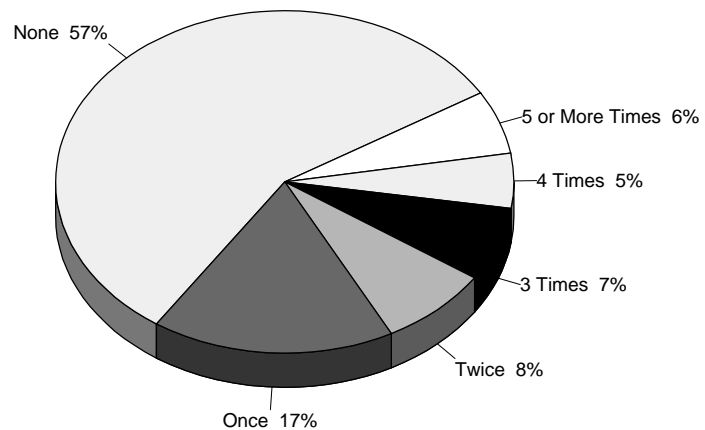


Figure 3-9 shows the number of times students reported having had to change schools (since 1<sup>st</sup> grade) because they moved. Forty-three percent (43%) of students have changed schools at least once since 1st grade.

**Figure 3-9: Number of Times Teens Have Had to Change Schools**



Number Responding 5566