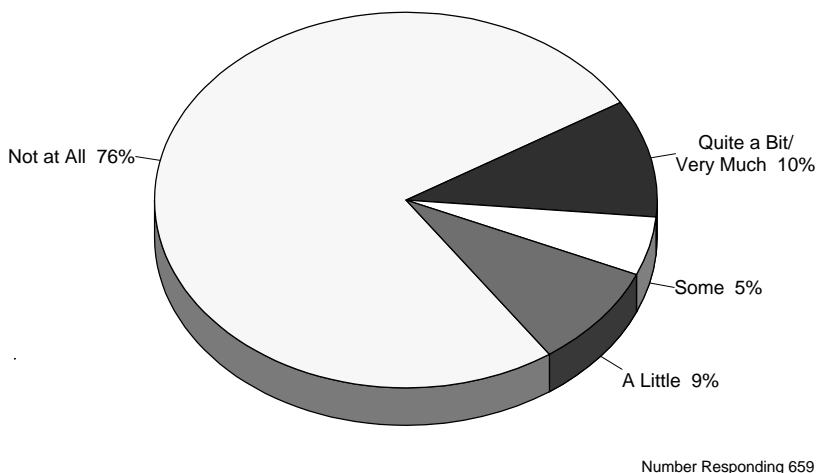

CHAPTER 4

Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Use

Recent statistics indicate many of New Hampshire's youth drink. One major concern about adolescent alcohol use is the fatalities resulting from automobile accidents, the leading cause of death among adolescents. In addition, frequent alcohol use during adolescence is one of the best predictors of problem drinking in adulthood (Hawkins & Graham, 1997). Frequent alcohol use often puts individuals at risk for various behavioral (e.g., suicide), psychological (e.g., depression), social (e.g., divorce), and vocational (e.g., unemployment) consequences (Midanik & Tam, 1996; Newcomb and Bentler, 1988). For these reasons, we need to be concerned about teen alcohol and other drug use and the impact it has on other behaviors. In addition to surveying about teens' drug and alcohol use, we also asked youth if they worried about their parent(s)' drinking too much or using drugs. Our survey revealed some local youth worry about their parent(s)' drinking or drug use. Figure 4-1 shows 24% of all teens indicated they worry to some degree about alcohol or drug abuse in their family.

**Figure 4-1: Parental Alcohol or Drug Abuse
as a Teen Worry**



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

Overall Alcohol and Drug Use

Figure 4-2 shows the percentage of all teens who have used various substances at any time in the past. Alcohol (65%) is the most commonly used substance at the "any use at all" level, followed by smoking tobacco (46%) and marijuana (39%).

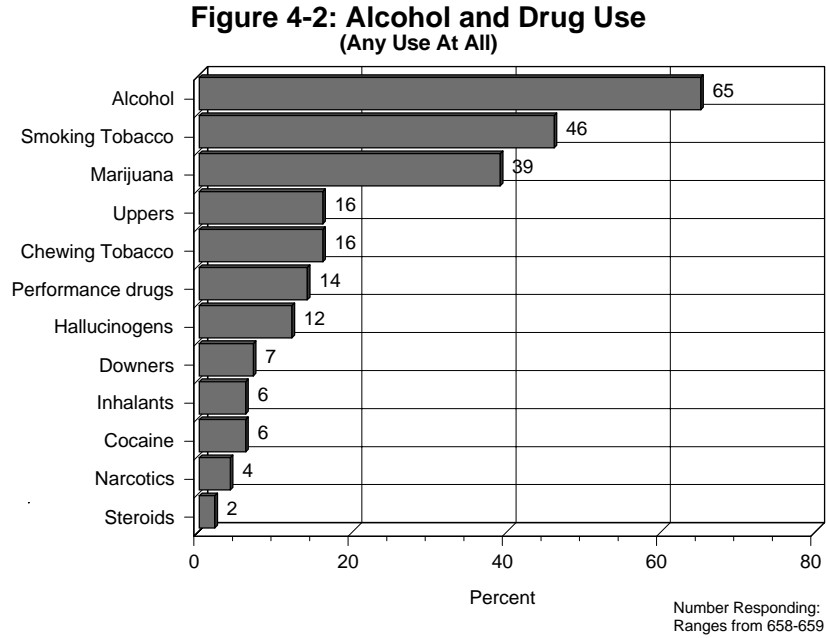


Figure 4-3 shows the percent of teens who use alcohol or other drugs on a monthly or more often basis. Alcohol is the substance most often used at this level (35%), followed by smoking tobacco (21%) and marijuana (19%).

**Figure 4-3: Alcohol and Drug Use
(Monthly or More Often)**

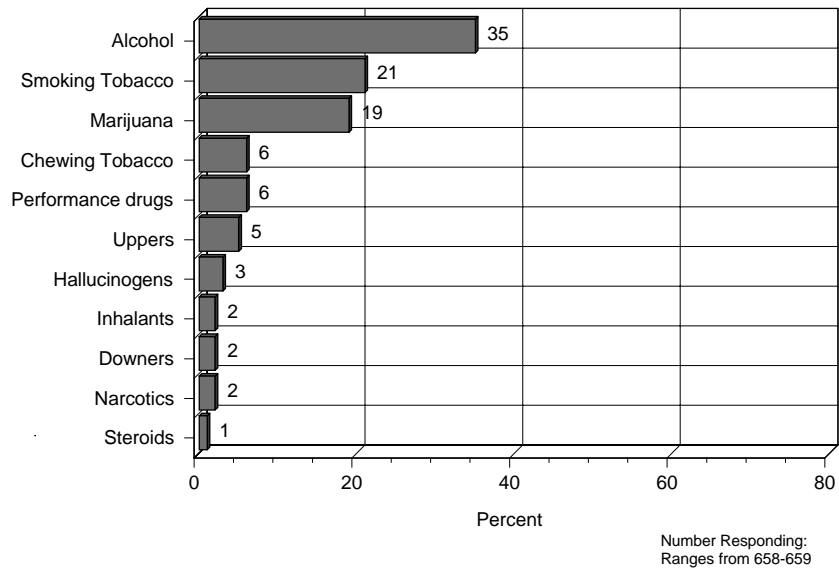


Figure 4-4 shows the percent of all teens who use various substances "once or twice a week" or more often. Smoking tobacco (16%) is the most commonly used drug at this level of frequency, followed by alcohol (13%), then marijuana (12%).

**Figure 4-4: Alcohol and Drug Use
(Weekly or More Often)**

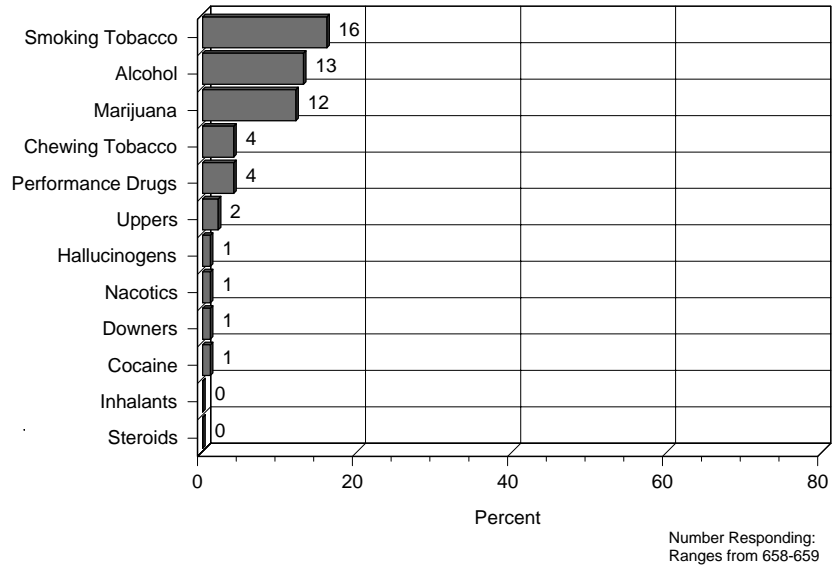


Figure 4-5 shows more males than females have used chewing tobacco and performance enhancing drugs at the "any use at all" level. There are slight gender differences in steroid and hallucinogen use (more males use), and alcohol and marijuana use (more females use).

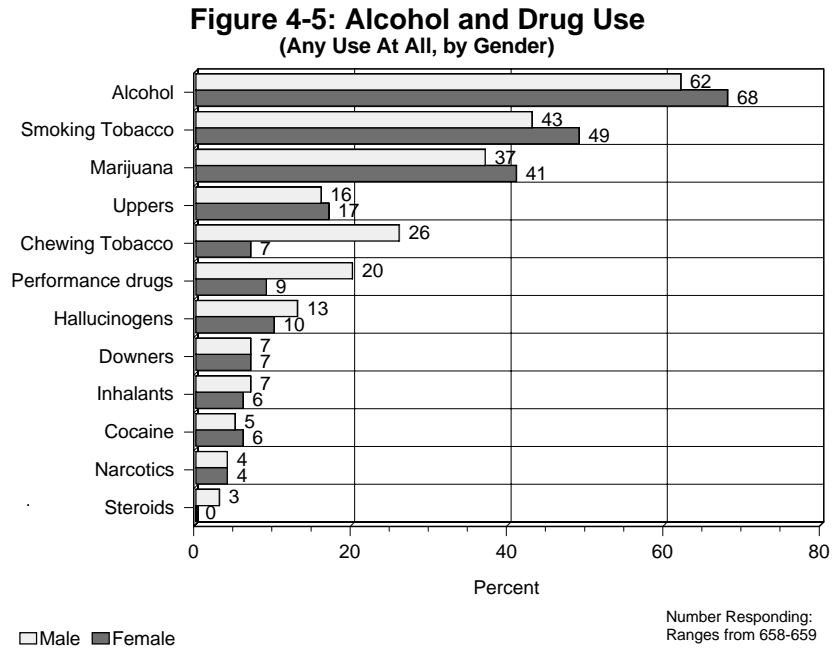


Figure 4-6 shows gender differences in monthly or more often use of performance enhancing drugs and chewing tobacco. Males are more likely to use these substances than are females. There are also slight gender differences in alcohol, smoking tobacco, and marijuana. At this level of frequency, females are slightly more likely to use alcohol and smoking tobacco, while males are slightly more likely to use marijuana.

Figure 4-6: Alcohol and Drug Use
(Monthly or More Often, by Gender)

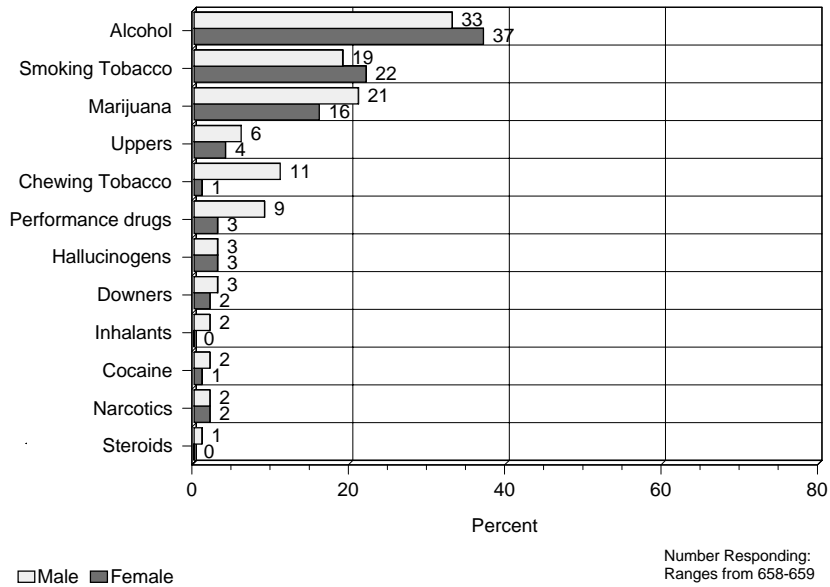
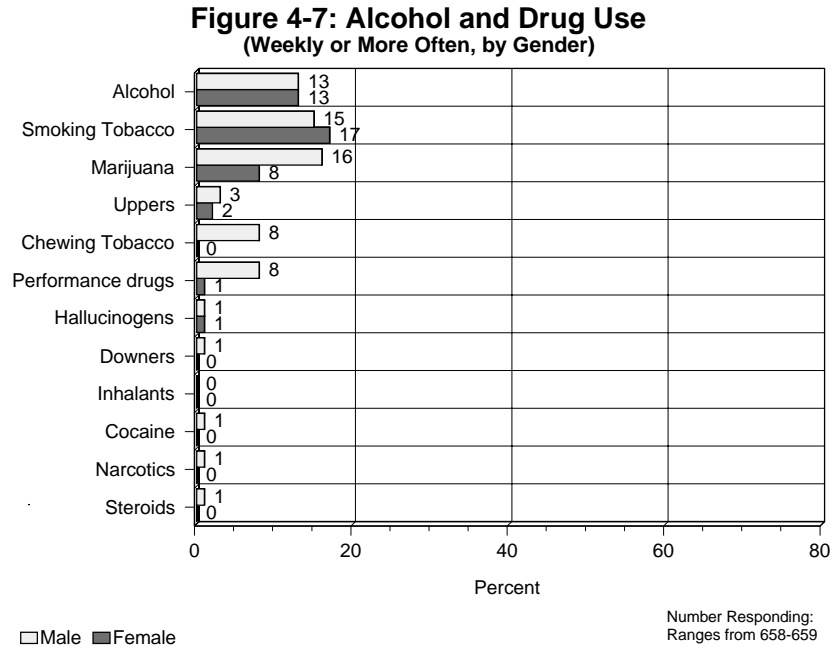
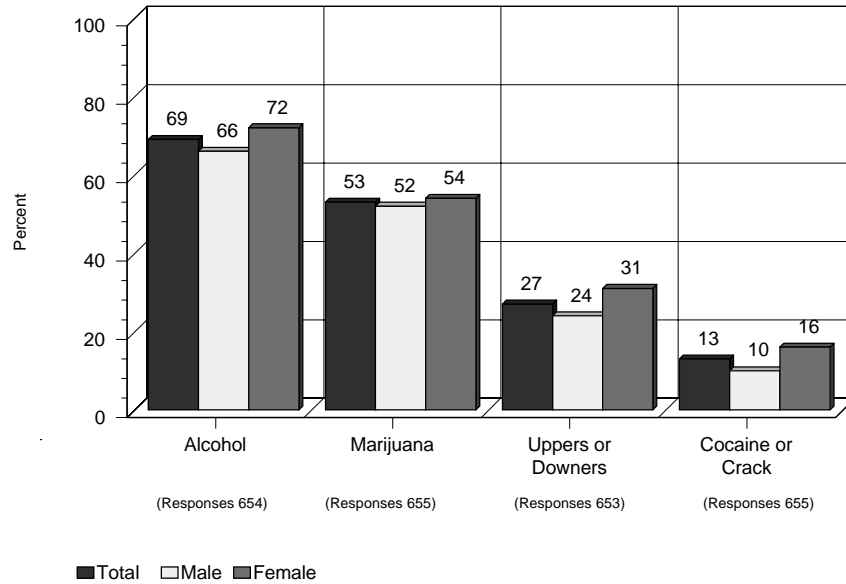


Figure 4-7 shows gender differences in weekly or more often use of marijuana, chewing tobacco, and performance enhancing drugs. Males are more likely to use these substances than females.



Obtainability. Figure 4-8 shows the perceived ease of obtaining alcohol and other drugs on the basis of gender. It is worth noting over half of high school youth believe alcohol and marijuana are easy or very easy to get. More females than males find it easy to get alcohol and other drugs. Generally, as youth move from the 9th to the 12th grade they find it easier to obtain all of these drugs.

Figure 4-8: Obtainability Of Alcohol and Other Drugs
(Very Easy or Easy to Get, by Gender)



Perceived Risk. We asked local teens a series of questions regarding how risky they thought certain behaviors are. We asked, "How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they: smoke one or more packs of cigarettes a day; try marijuana once or twice; smoke marijuana regularly; use inhalants; take 1 or 2 drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day; and have 5 or more drinks at one time?" Figure 4-9 shows those youth who consider these activities to be of "no risk" or "slight risk". Males were more likely than females to say that all of these activities are of "no" or "slight risk." The largest gender differences can be seen in daily and binge drinking.

**Figure 4-9: Perceived Risk of Alcohol & Other Drug Use
(No Risk or Slight Risk, by Gender)**

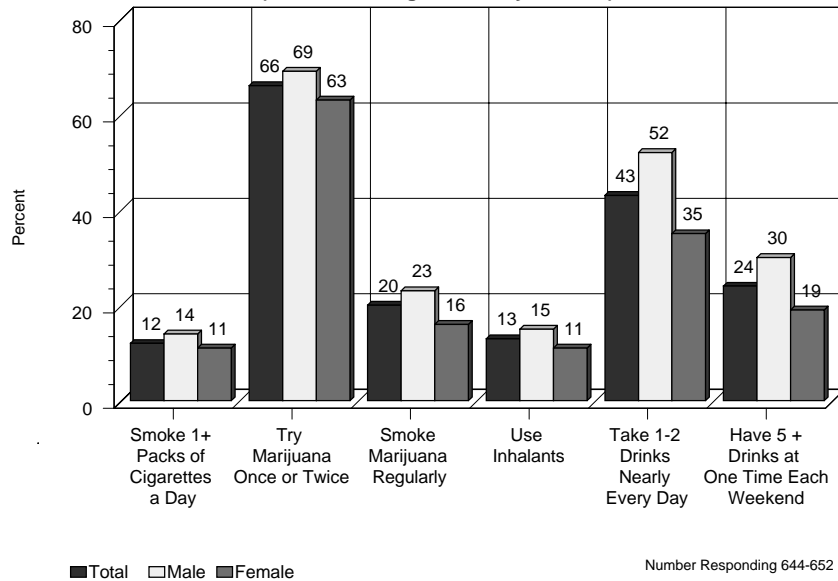
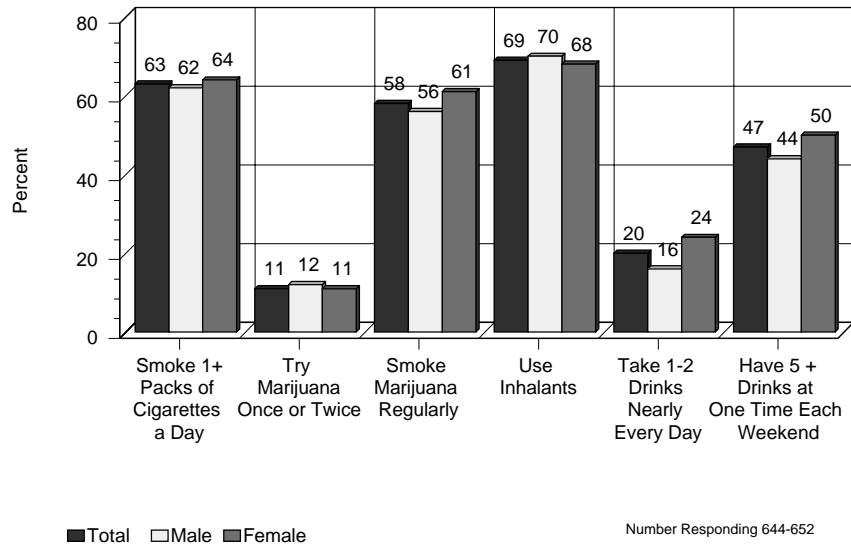


Figure 4-10 shows those who consider these activities to be of “*great risk*”. The largest gender difference can be seen in daily and binge drinking and regular marijuana smoking. Females are more likely than males to say these activities carry “*great*” risk. As students get older, they are more likely to believe using inhalants and smoking cigarettes are very risky, while they are less likely to think binge drinking and smoking marijuana regularly are very risky.

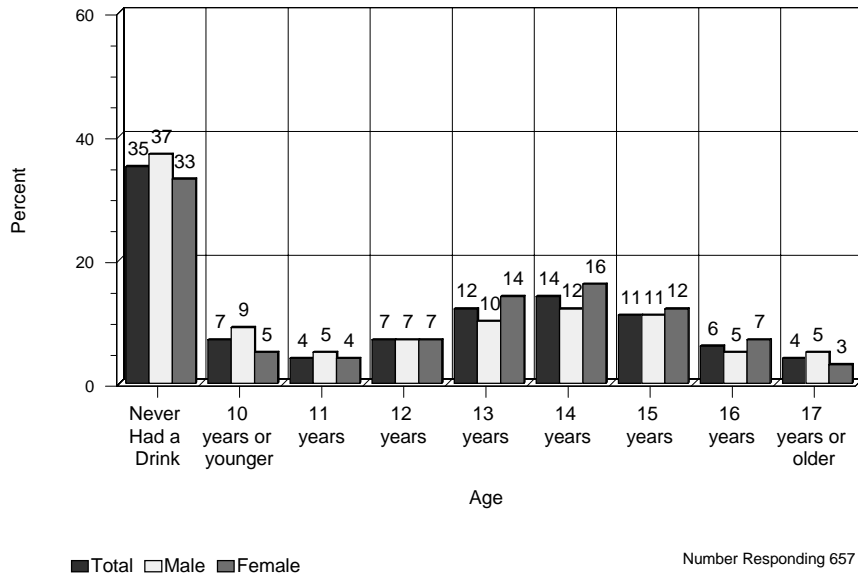
**Figure 4-10: Perceived Risk of Alcohol & Other Drug Use
(Great Risk, by Gender)**



Alcohol Use

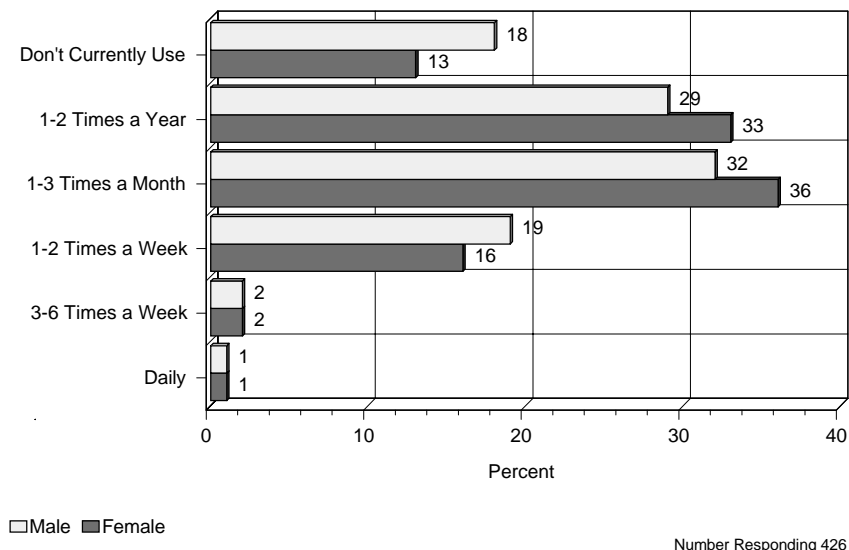
Figure 4-11 shows how old students were when they first consumed alcohol. The average age students first drank alcohol was 14 years old.

Figure 4-11: Age Students Had Their First Drink of Alcohol (By Gender)

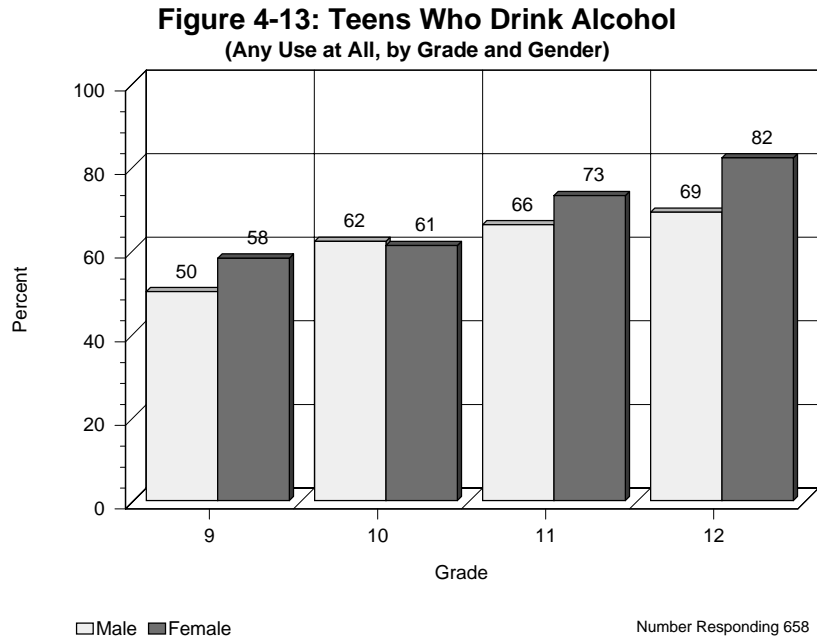


Frequency. Overall, 65% of local teens have at some point consumed alcohol. Figure 4-12 shows how often local teens consumed beer on the basis of gender. Gender differences are slight.

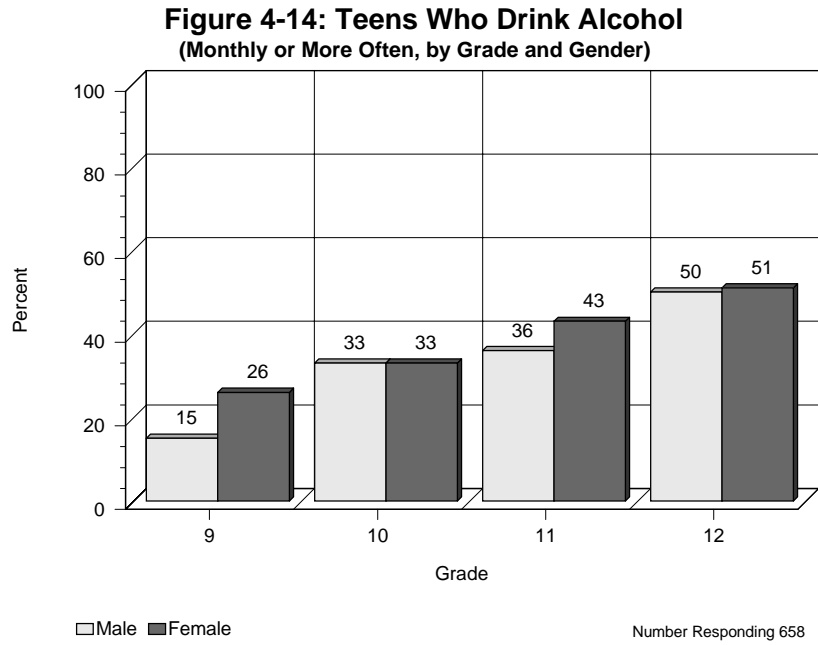
Figure 4-12: Frequency of Alcohol Use (Of Those Who Have Had Alcohol, by Gender)



The consumption of alcohol increases as teens grow older. Figure 4-13 summarizes the percentages of males and females, at each grade level, who reported having consumed alcohol some time in the past. Gender differences are found in all grades except 10th. Females in the 9th, 11th, and 12th grades are more likely to have used alcohol at any time in the past than males.

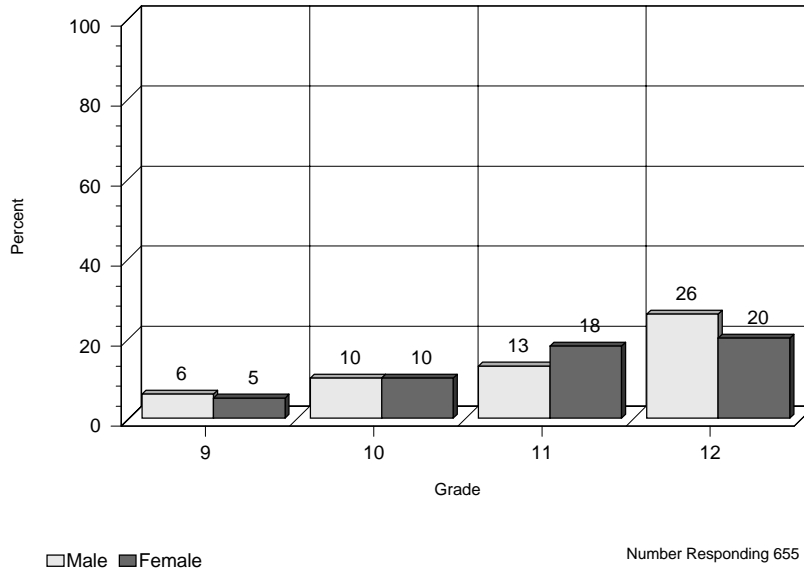


Monthly use of alcohol is shown in Figure 4-14. Overall, 35% of local youth reported consuming alcohol once a month or more often (males, 33%; and females, 37%). Gender differences are found in grades 9 and 11; females use alcohol more than males in these grades.



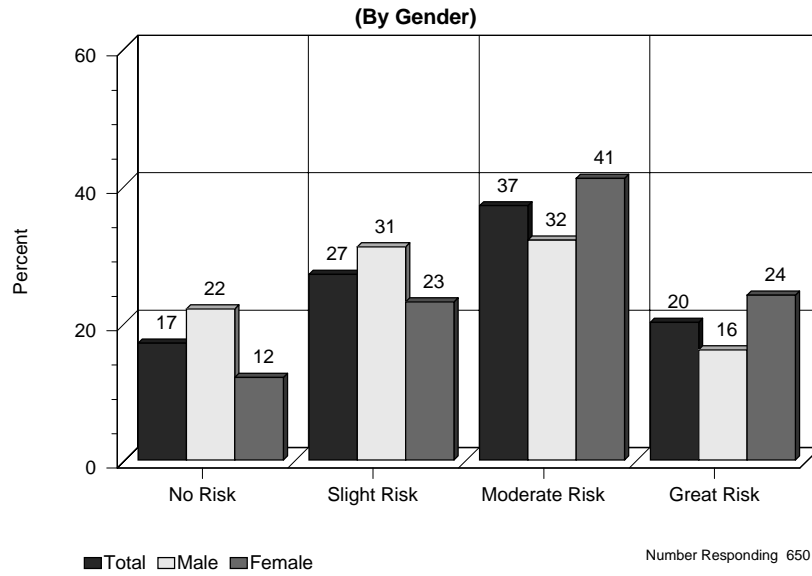
Weekly or more often use of alcohol is noted in Figure 4-15. Thirteen percent (13%) of all youth reported the consumption of alcohol at least once a week or more often (males, 13%; and females, 13%). Gender differences are found in the 11th and 12th grades. Weekly use is higher for 11th grade females and 12th grade males.

Figure 4-15: Teens Who Drink Alcohol
(Weekly or More Often, by Grade and Gender)



Perceived Risk of Drinking. We asked local youth how risky they thought taking one or two drinks nearly every day is. Overall, 20% felt taking one or two drinks every day carries a great risk. Figure 4-16 shows the breakdown by gender.

Figure 4-16: Perceived Risk: Take 1 or 2 Drinks of an Alcoholic Beverage Nearly Every Day



Binge Drinking. Local teens were asked the question, "During the past month have you had 5 or more alcoholic drinks at one time?" A drink was defined "a glass of wine or beer, a bottle or can of beer, a shot of liquor or a mixed drink." Figure 4-17 shows the responses to this question. Thirty-nine percent (39%) of teens reported having 5 or more drinks at one time (binge drinking) at least once in the past month. As Figure 4-18 shows, the gender differences are slight.

Figure 4-17: Frequency of Binge Drinking
(Number of Times in the Past Month)

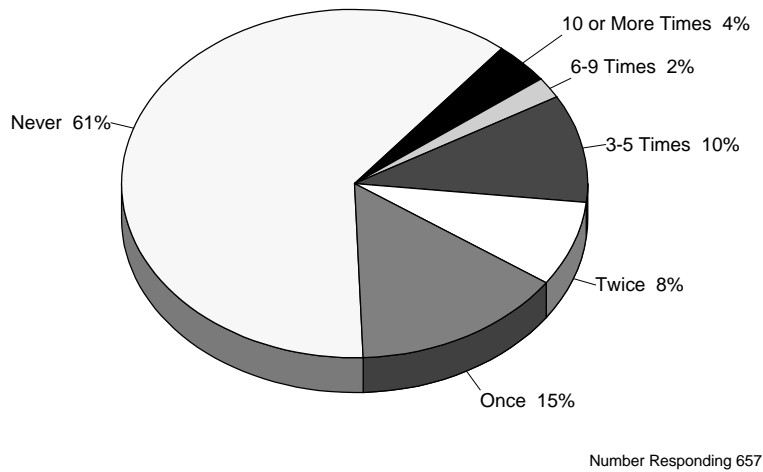


Figure 4-18: Frequency of Binge Drinking
(Number of Times in the Past Month, by Gender)

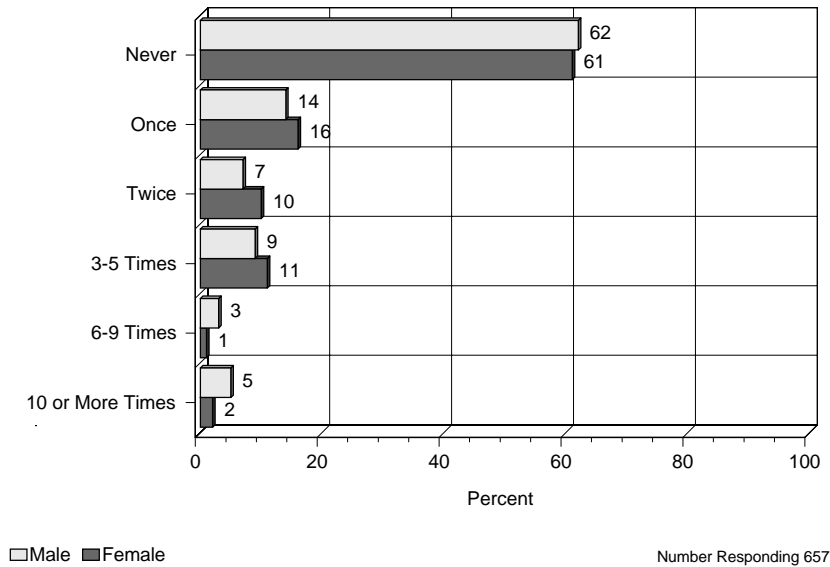
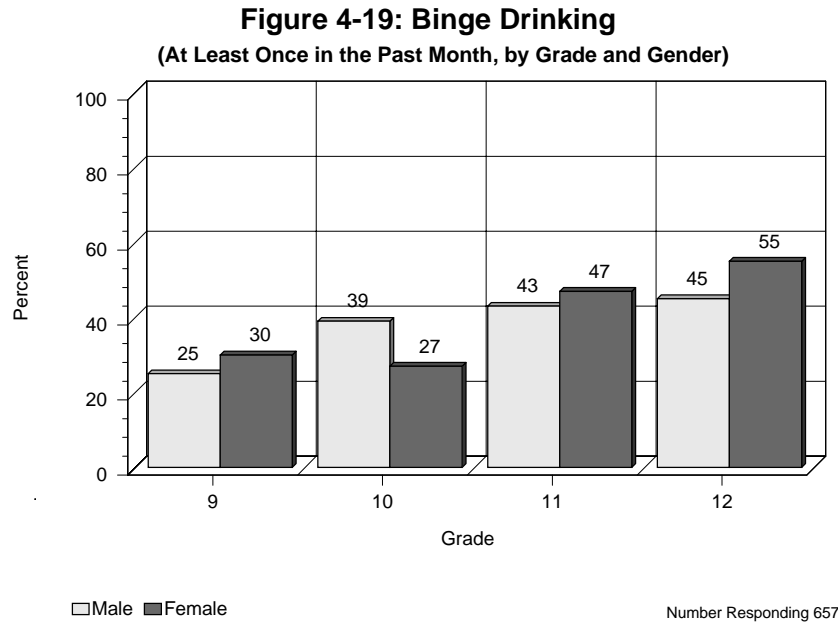


Figure 4-19 shows teens' drinking 5 or more drinks in a row (binge drinking) increases at nearly every grade level. In all but 10th grade, more females reported binge drinking than males. The gender difference is greatest in the 10th grade. In the 10th grade, 39% of males and 27% of females report binge drinking. Frequent binge drinking can indicate a pattern of abusive drinking that may require professional attention.



The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey found nationally, 33.4% (N.H., 35.5%) of high school youth (*grades 9-12*) reported drinking heavily at least once during the month before they were surveyed (Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, 1998). TAP found 39% of Pemi-Baker youth, *grades 9-12*, have had 5 or more drinks in a row at least once in the past month. New Hampshire ranks 9th out of 33 states surveyed by the CDC.

Perceived Risk of Binge Drinking. We asked local youth how much they felt people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they have 5 or more drinks at one time (binge drinking) once or twice each weekend. In all, 47% reported they felt it was a great risk; 24% said they felt it was no or slight risk. Figure 4-20 shows the responses broken down by gender.

**Figure 4-20: Perceived Risk: Binge Drinking
Once or Twice Each Weekend
(By Gender)**

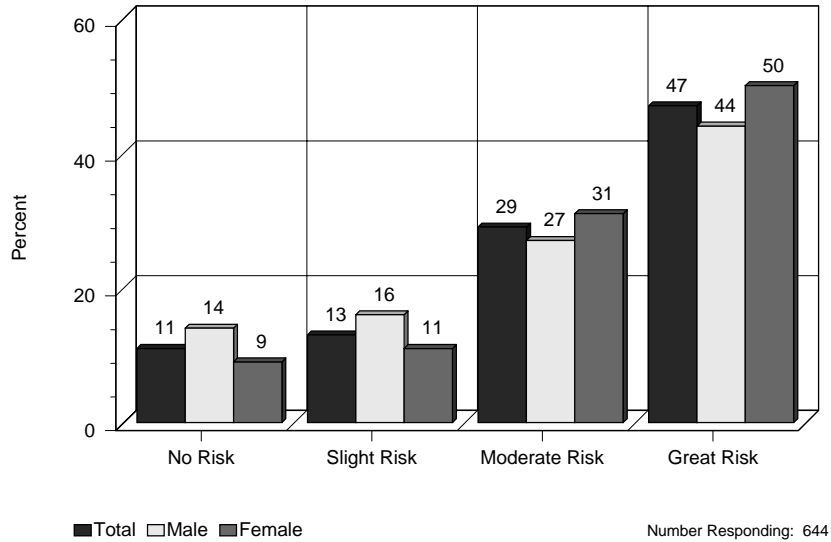
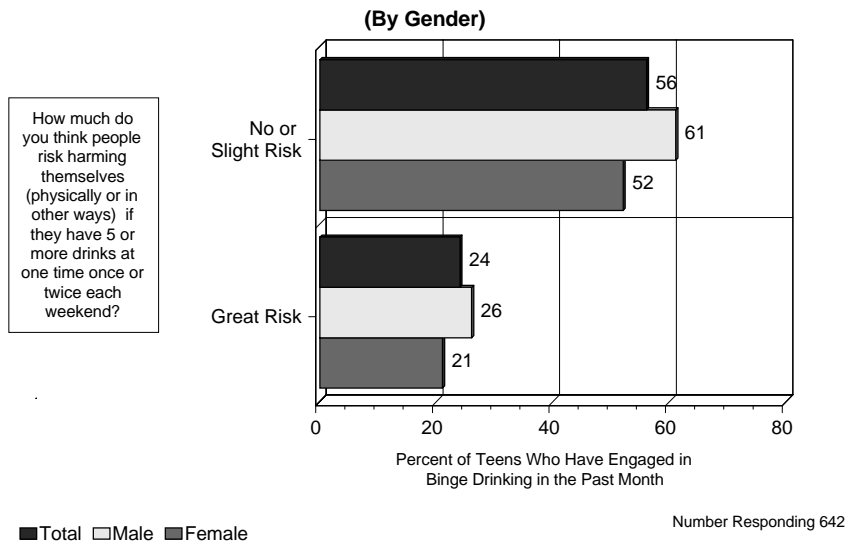


Figure 4-21 shows 56% teens who consider having 5 or more drinks in a row at one time (binge drinking) as a "no risk" or "slight risk" have engaged in binge drinking at least once in the past month. Of those who consider binge drinking a great risk, only 24% have done so.

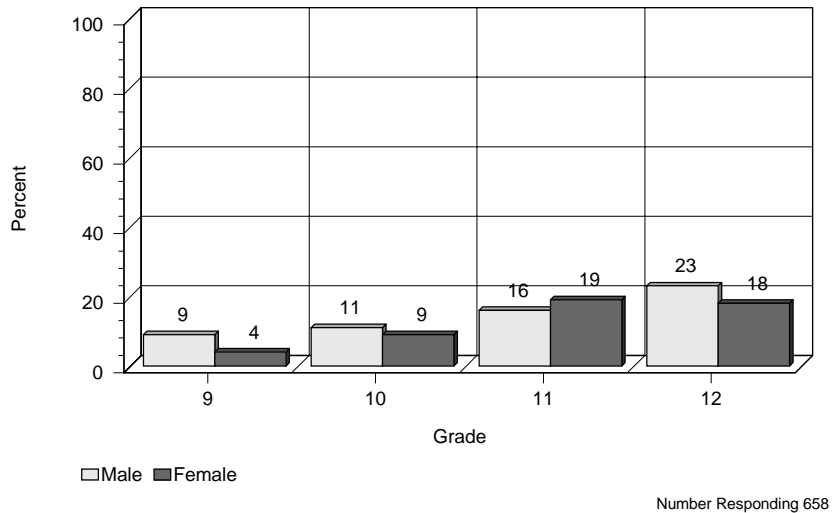
Figure 4-21: Perceived Risk: Binge Drinking Every Weekend vs. Those Who Have Engaged in Binge Drinking at Least Once in the Past Month



The Monitoring the Future Study conducted in 1998 found 53% of 10th grade students and 43% of 12th grade students surveyed think binge drinking carries great risk (Johnson, O'Malley and Bachman, 1999). TAP found in the local area, 47% of 10th grade students and 42% of 12th grade students reported they felt doing so has great risk.

Drinking and Driving. The issue of teens driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs is a major concern. We asked local youth, "During the past month, how many times have you driven a motorized vehicle (car, truck, motorcycle, snowmobile, etc.) after drinking alcohol or using drugs?" Thirteen percent (13%) of all local youth said they drove at least once in the past month after drinking alcohol or using drugs (males, 14%; and females, 12%). Figure 4-22 displays the percentage of teens who have driven a vehicle at least once in the past month after drinking or using drugs by grade and gender.

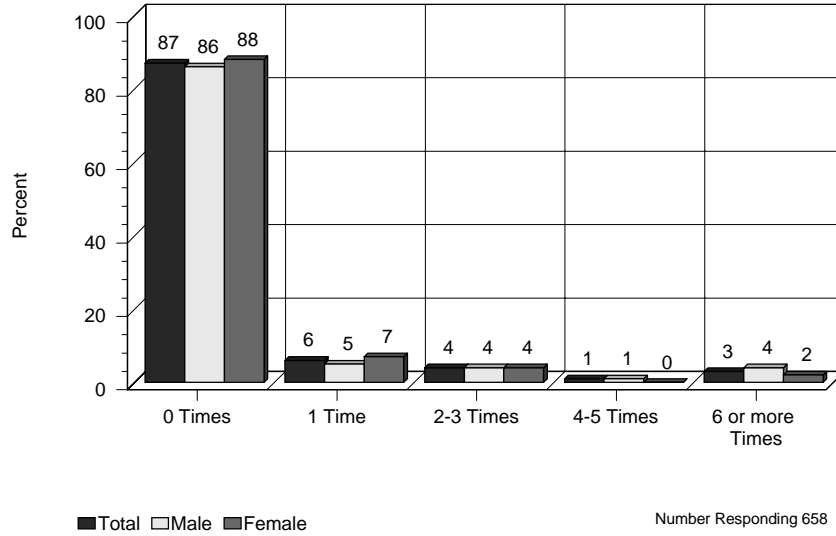
Figure 4-22: Teens Who Have Driven A Vehicle After Drinking or Using Drugs (In the Past Month, by Grade and Gender)



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (1998) found nationally, 16.9% of high school youth had driven a vehicle after drinking alcohol in the month preceding the survey. For N.H., this statistic is 13% of high school youth (CDC, 1998). New Hampshire ranked 27th out of the 33 states surveyed by the CDC.

Figure 4-23 shows the frequency of driving after drinking or using drugs by gender.

Figure 4-23: Frequency of Driving in a Vehicle After Drinking or Using Drugs (In the Past Month, by Gender)



Another concern is the issue of teens riding with a driver who may be intoxicated or "high". We asked local youth, "During the past month, how many times have you ridden in a car, truck, motorcycle or snowmobile with a driver who had been drinking or using drugs?" Figure 4-24 displays how many teens rode with a driver (either a friend or an adult) who had been drinking or using drugs in the past month, by grade and gender.

Figure 4-24: Teens Who Have Ridden in a Vehicle With a Driver Who Had Been Drinking or Using Drugs (At Least Once in the Past Month, by Grade and Gender)

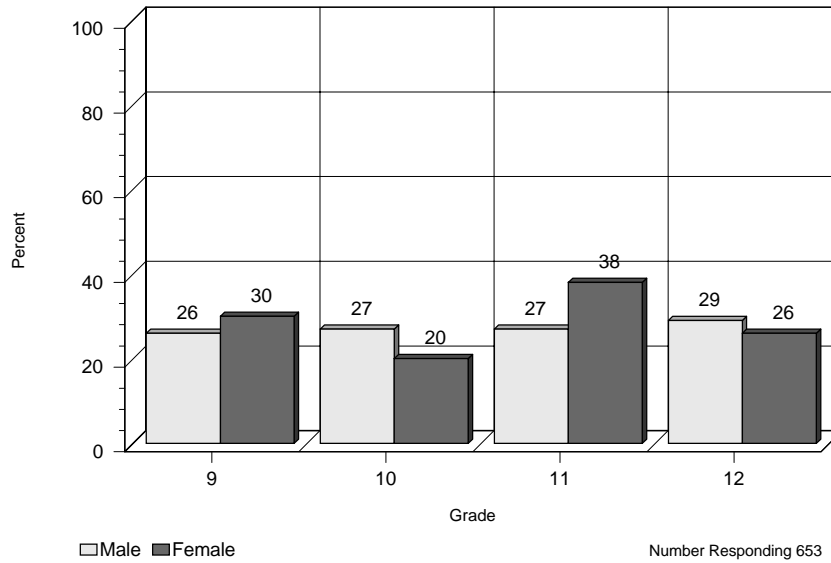
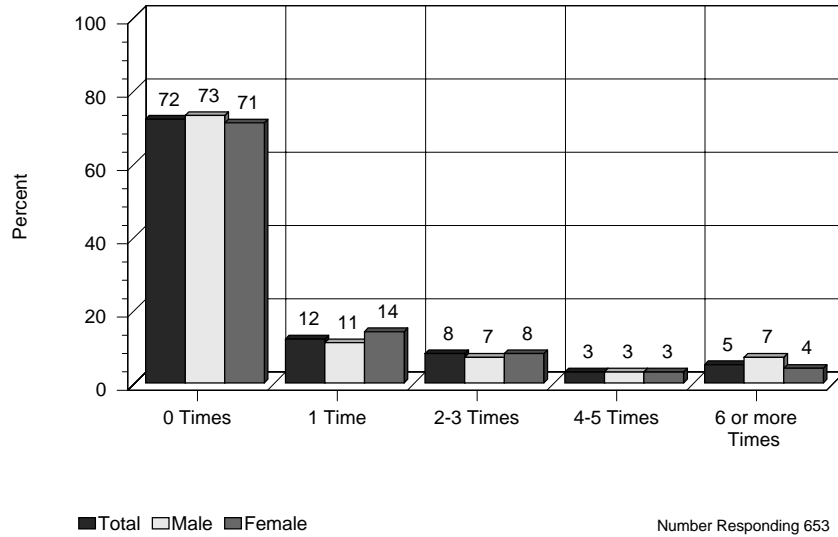


Figure 4-25 shows the frequency of riding with an intoxicated or "high" driver broken down by gender.

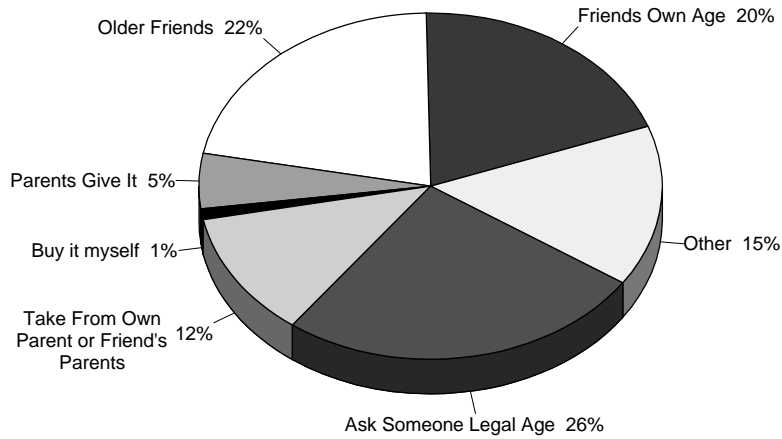
Figure 4-25: Frequency of Riding in a Vehicle With a Driver Who Had Been Drinking or Using Drugs (In the Past Month, by Gender)



Nationally, 36.6% (N.H., 30%) of high school students had ridden with a driver who had been drinking alcohol in the month preceding the survey (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1998). New Hampshire ranks 28th out of the 33 states surveyed by the CDC.

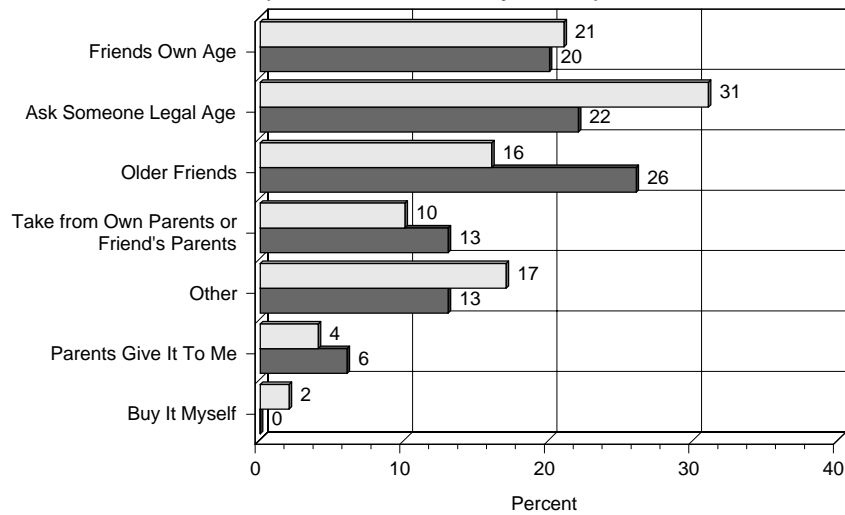
Obtainability of Alcohol. The survey asked local youth where they get alcohol. Figure 4-26 shows how students who use alcohol responded. The most commonly reported source of alcohol was from friends their own age or older (42%). As Figure 4-27 shows, males who drink are more likely to obtain alcohol by asking someone of legal age (31%). Females who drink are more likely to get it from friends their own age or older (46%).

**Figure 4-26: Where Teens Get Alcohol
(Of Those Who Drink)**



Number Responding 382

**Figure 4-27: Where Teens Get Alcohol
(Of Those Who Drink, by Gender)**



□ Male ■ Female

Number Responding 382

Teens were asked, "If you drink alcohol, where do you most often do it?" As shown in Figure 4-28, teens are much more likely to drink at a party than anywhere else (62%).

Figure 4-28: Where Teens Drink Alcohol
(Of Those Who Drink)

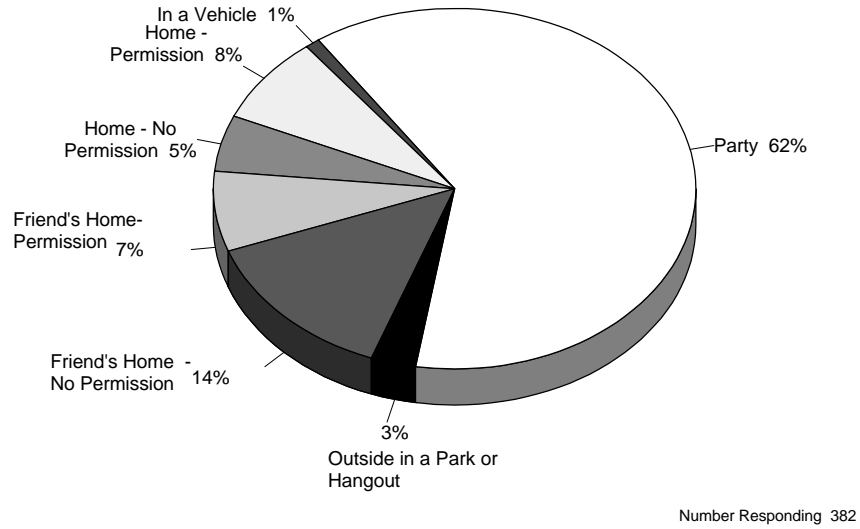
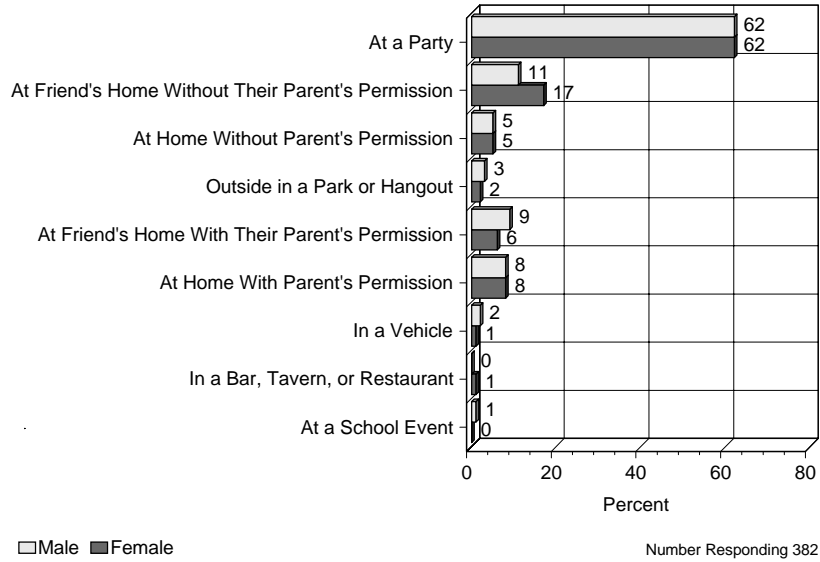


Figure 4-29 shows a party is again the most common place for males and females to drink (62%).

Figure 4-29: Where Teens Drink Alcohol
(Of Those Who Drink, by Gender)



As Figure 4-30 shows, 69% of students surveyed think it is "easy" or "very easy" to obtain beer, wine or hard liquor.

Figure 4-30: Obtainability of Beer, Wine, and Liquor

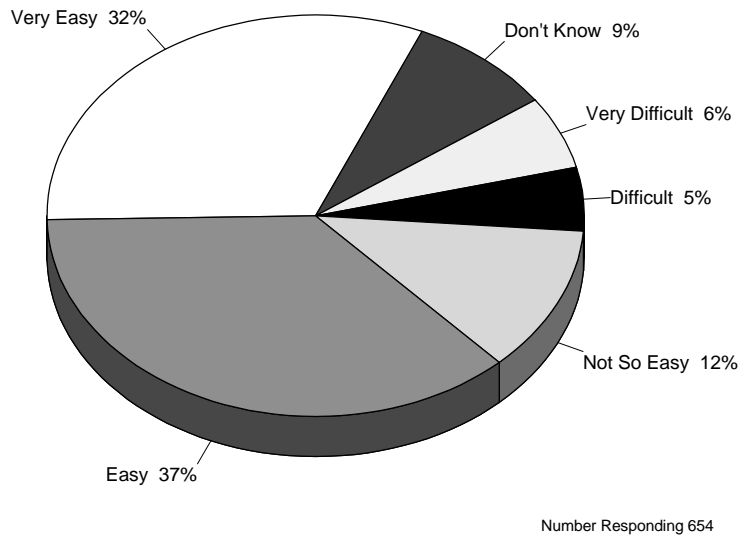
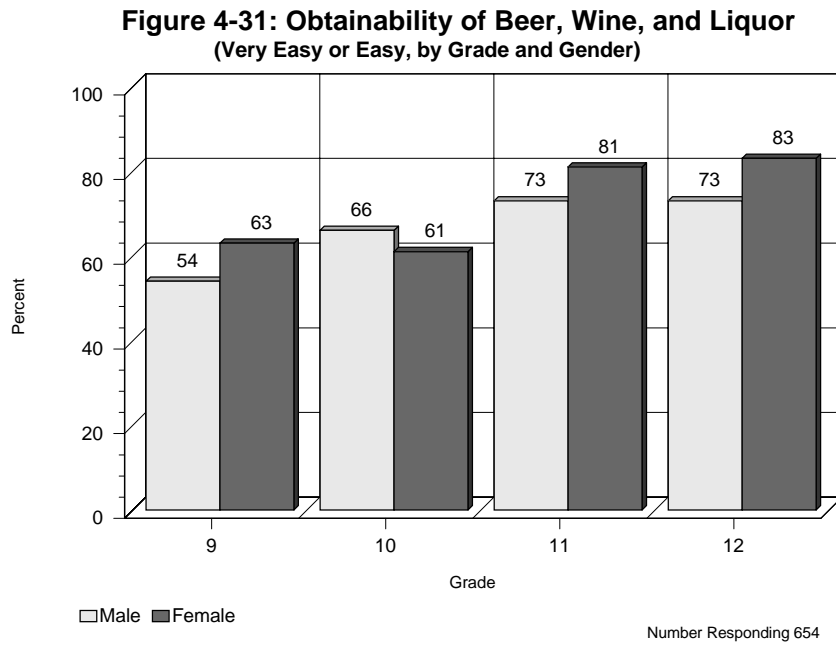


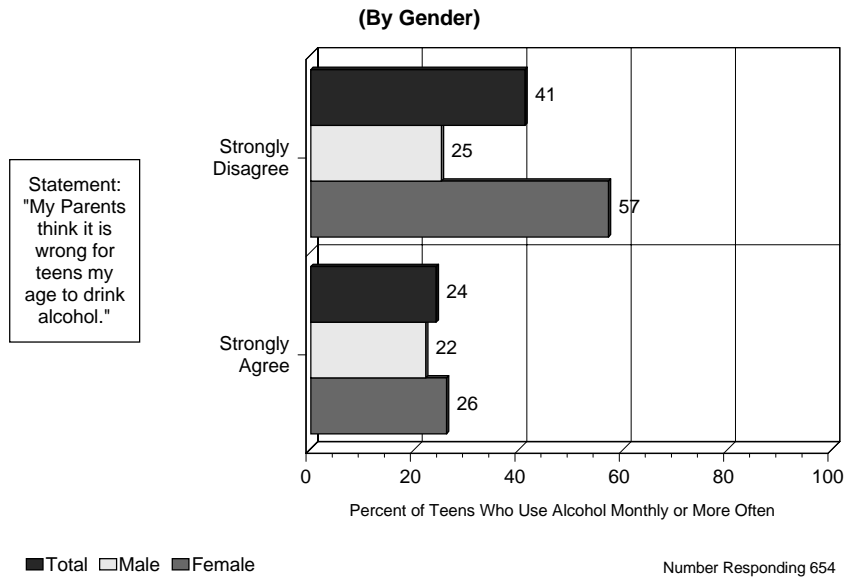
Figure 4-31 shows that older students find it easier to get alcohol than younger students. Overall, 66% of males and 72% of females find it very easy or easy to alcohol.



On the positive side, it is important to note that 35% of local students reported never having used alcohol (males, 37%; and females, 32%). About two-thirds of all teens surveyed (62%) report never having had 5 or more drinks in a row (binge drinking) in the past month (males, 62%; and females, 61%).

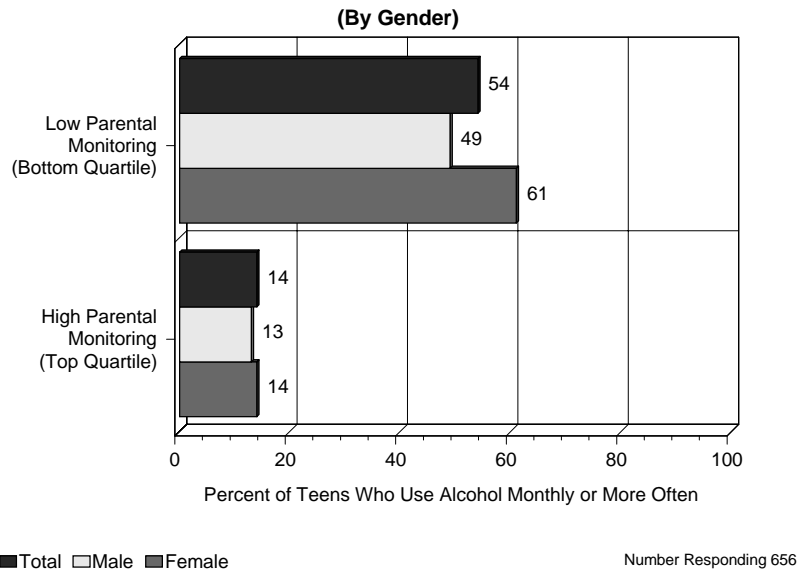
Parents' Role in Teen Drinking. Parents can play an important role in teens' decisions about drinking alcohol (Ary et al., 1999; Ary & Duncan, 1999; Flannery, Williams & Vazsonyi, 1999). Teens' perceptions of their parents' values about drinking may influence their decision whether or not to drink. As Figure 4-32 shows, teens who feel strongly that their parents would not approve of teens their age drinking are much less likely to drink. Of those who feel strongly that their parents would not approve, 24% drink alcohol monthly or more often. Of those who do not believe that their parents think it is wrong for teens their age to drink, 41% drink monthly. Teens' perceptions of their parents' values appear to have more of an effect upon females' levels of monthly drinking than males'.

Figure 4-32: Relationship Between Teens' Perceptions of Parental Values and Levels of Monthly Teen Drinking



Research has also suggested parental monitoring can be an important factor in preventing adolescent problem behavior (Ary & Duncan, 1999; Flannery, Williams & Vazsoryi, 1999; Rodgers, 1999). Figure 4-33 shows a strong relationship between parental monitoring and local teens not drinking. Parental monitoring refers to parents' supervision and awareness of their child's activities (see Chapter 7 pp. 112-113). Sixty-one percent (61%) of females with low monitoring by parents drink alcohol on a monthly basis or more, while 14% of females with high monitoring reported drinking at this level. The effect of high monitoring on monthly drinking is also strong for males. Only 13% of the males with high parental monitoring drank monthly or more often, while 49% of the males with low monitoring drank monthly or more often.

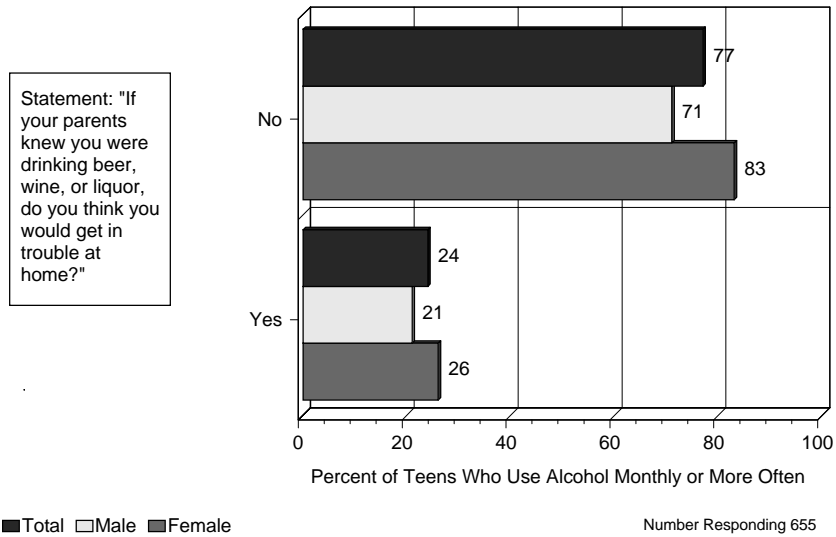
Figure 4-33: Relationship Between Parental Monitoring and Levels of Monthly Teen Drinking



Another strong factor influencing local teen drinking is whether or not teens believe they will get in trouble at home if they drink. As Figure 4-34 shows, both males and females are much less likely to drink alcohol on a monthly or more basis if they believe their drinking will get them in trouble at home (77% vs. 24%).

Figure 4-34: Relationship Between Monthly Teen Drinking and Thinking They Will Get In Trouble At Home

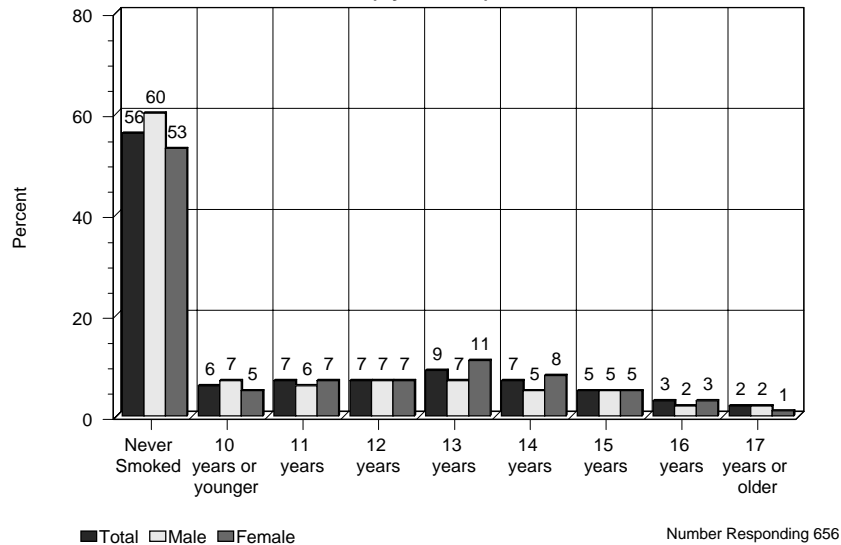
(By Gender)



Tobacco Use

Smoking tobacco is one of the most harmful risk factors affecting a person's health. Studies have found that teens who smoke cigarettes are more likely to use alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs (Lewinsohn, Rohde & Brown, 1999, Merrill, Kleber, Shwartz, Liu & Lewis, 1999). Following alcohol (beer, wine, or hard liquor), smoking tobacco is the second most commonly used chemical substance by local teens when considering any use at all. Locally, 46% of youth have smoked tobacco at some time in the past. Figure 4-35 shows the age at which students first smoked a whole cigarette. The average age students first smoked a whole cigarette is 13 years old.

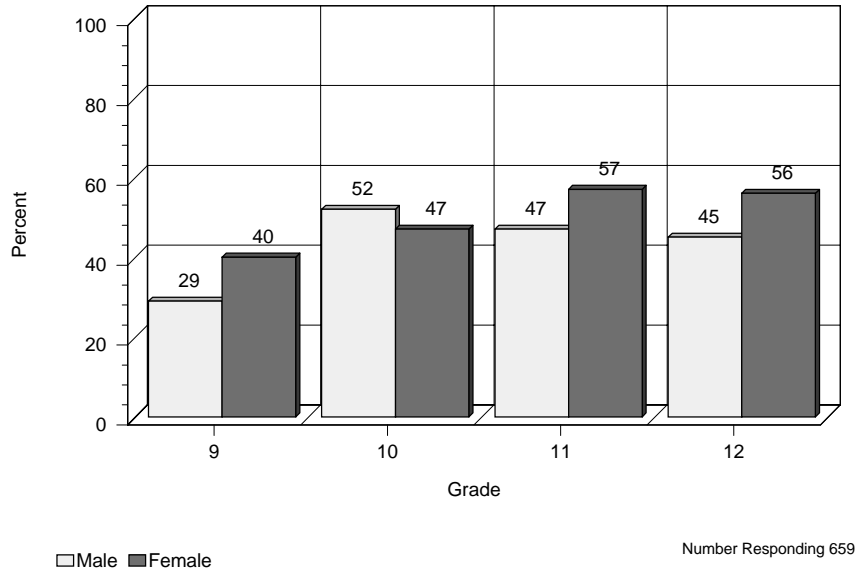
Figure 4-35: Age Students First Smoked a Whole Cigarette (By Gender)



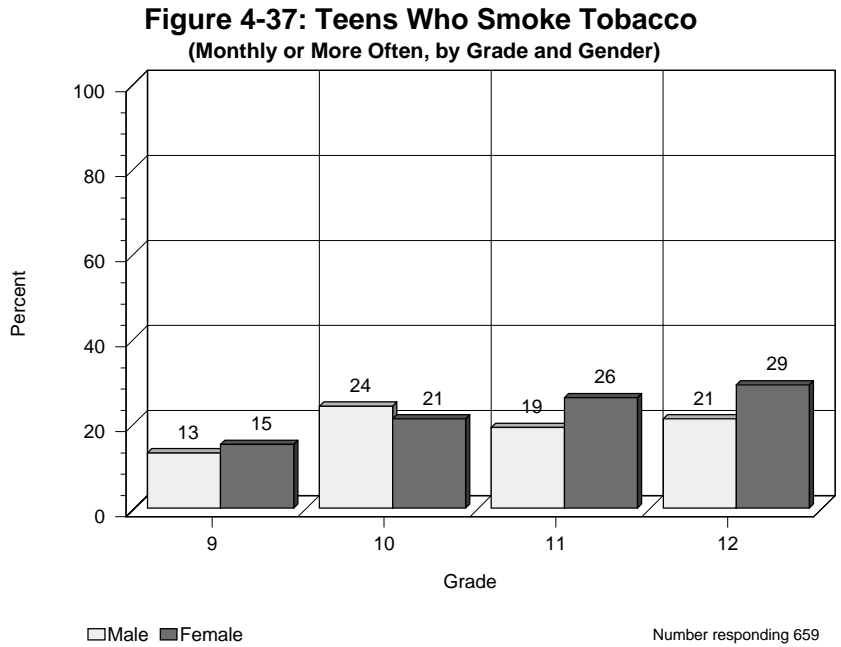
A recent study by the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey found that, nationally, 70.2% (N.H., 69.1%) of high school youth (*grades 9-12*) have tried cigarette smoking (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1998). New Hampshire ranks 20th out of the 33 states surveyed by the CDC.

Frequency. Figure 4-36 shows "any use at all" of smoking tobacco, on the basis of gender and grade level. As with drinking, generally more teens smoke tobacco as they get older.

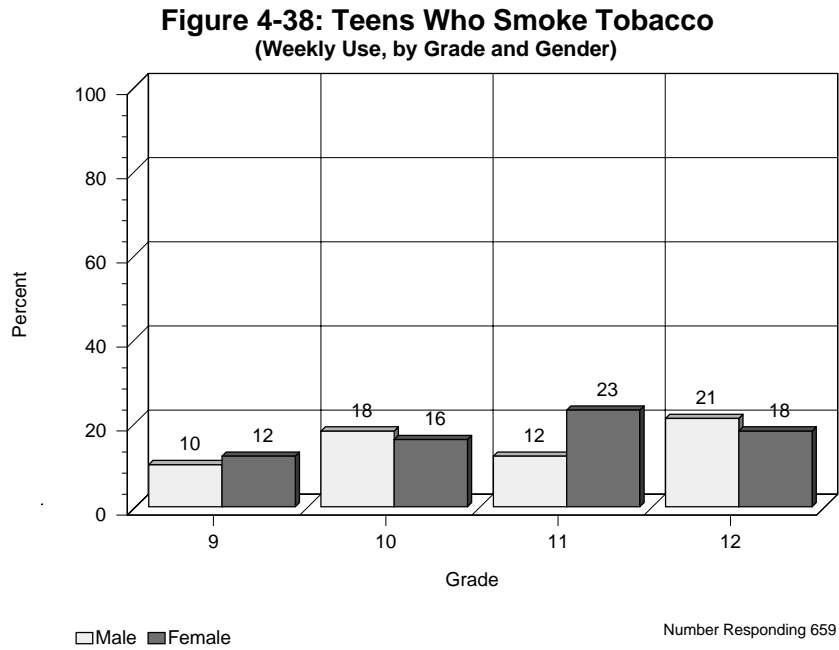
Figure 4-36: Teens Who Smoke Tobacco
(Any Use at All, by Grade and Gender)



Twenty-one percent (21%) of local teens reported smoking tobacco monthly or more often (male, 19%; and female, 22%). Figure 4-37 shows the monthly use of smoking tobacco, on the basis of gender and grade level.

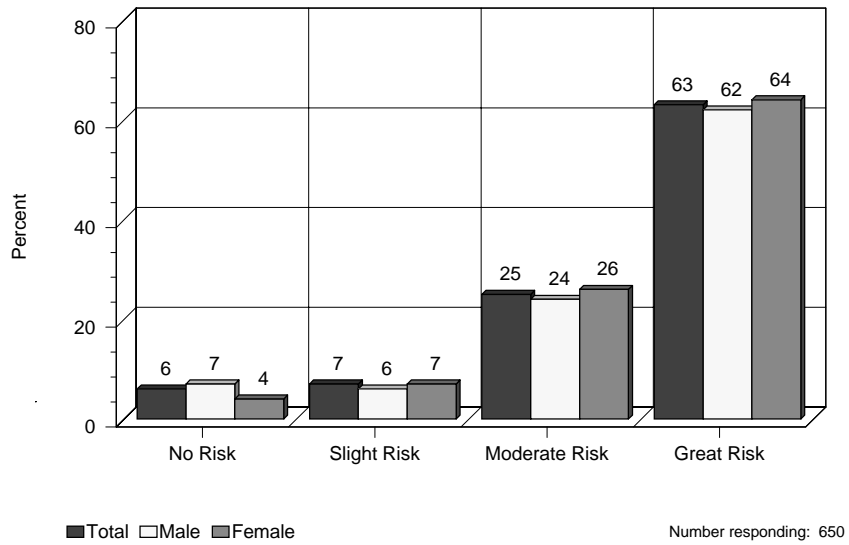


Sixteen percent (16%) of students surveyed reported they smoke weekly or more often. Figure 4-38 shows in the 12th grade, 18% of females and 21% of males reported smoking tobacco at least once a week or more often. This level of tobacco use is considered to be a smoking habit.



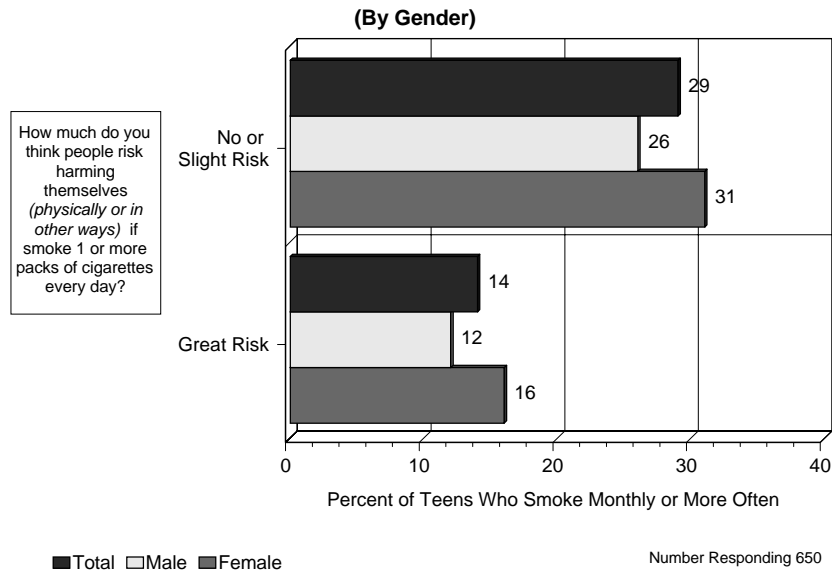
Perceived Risk. We asked local students, "How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they smoke one or more packs of cigarettes a day?" Figure 4-39 shows responses broken down by gender.

Figure 4-39: Perceived Risk: Smoke One or More Packs of Cigarettes a Day (By Gender)



Twenty-nine percent (29%) of those who consider smoking one or more packs of cigarettes a day to be of no or slight risk smoke monthly or more often. Of those who consider smoking to be of great risk, 14% smoke monthly or more often. Those who perceive greater risk are less likely to smoke. Figure 4-40 shows the responses by gender.

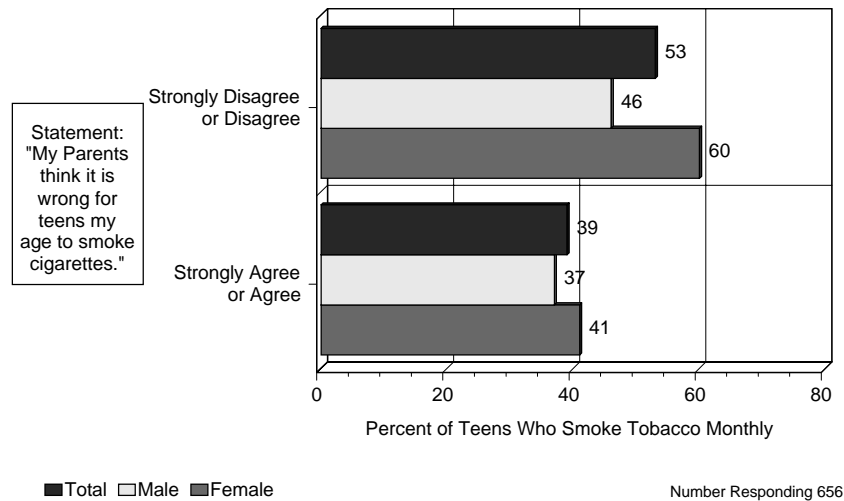
Figure 4-40: Perceived Risk of Smoking One or More Packs of Cigarettes a Day and Monthly Teen Smoking



The Monitoring the Future Study conducted in 1998 found 62% of 10th grade students and 71% of 12th grade students surveyed think one or two packs of cigarettes daily carries a great risk (Johnson et al., 1999). TAP found 65% of local 10th grade students and 64% of local 12th grade students said they felt doing so has great risk.

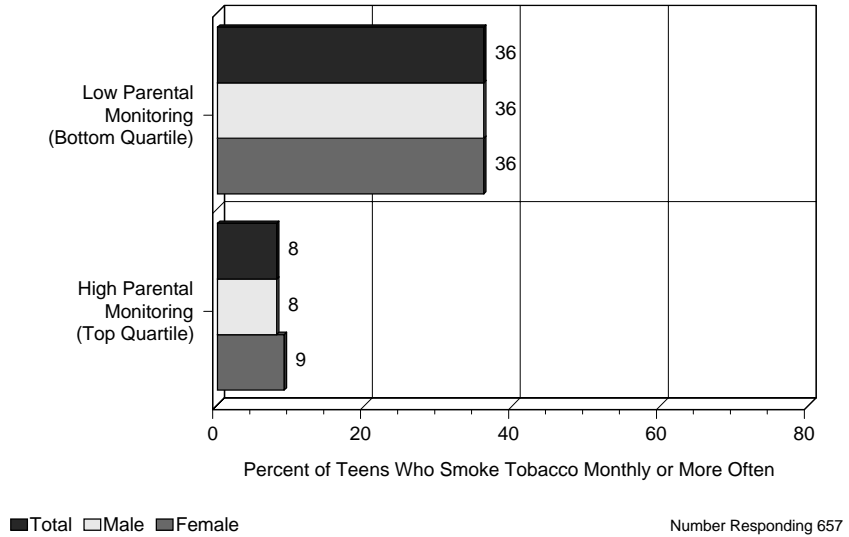
Parents' Role in Teen Tobacco Smoking. As with alcohol, parents are influential in teens' decisions about tobacco smoking. Teens' perceptions of their parents' values about tobacco smoking may influence their decision to smoke or not smoke. As Figure 4-41 shows, teens who strongly agree or agree their parents think it is wrong for teens their age to smoke cigarettes are less likely to smoke. Of those who strongly agree or agree their parents think it is wrong, 39% smoke tobacco monthly. Of those who do *not* believe their parents think it is wrong for teens their age to smoke tobacco, 53% smoke monthly. Teens' perceptions of their parents' values about smoking have a stronger effect upon females' levels of monthly smoking than males'.

Figure 4-41: Relationship Between Teens' Perceptions of Parental Values and Levels of Monthly Teen Tobacco Smoking (By Gender)



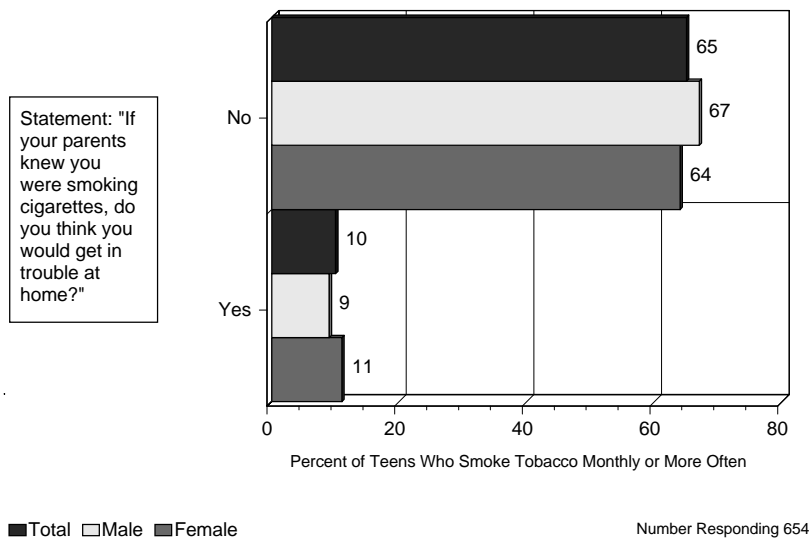
Parental monitoring positively affects levels of teen tobacco smoking. Figure 4-42 shows teens with a high level of parental monitoring are less likely to smoke tobacco monthly (8%) than are teens with a low level of parental monitoring (36%). There is no difference between males and females.

Figure 4-42: Relationship Between Parental Monitoring and Levels of Monthly Teen Tobacco Smoking (By Gender)



Teens believing they will get in trouble at home also appears to have a strong influence on their behavior. Figure 4-43 shows the responses of students to the question of whether they thought they would get in trouble at home if their parents knew they smoked tobacco. Males who did not think they would get in trouble at home over this issue were far more likely (67%) to smoke tobacco on a weekly basis than were those who did think they would be in trouble (9%). Females were also much more likely to smoke weekly if they thought they would not get in trouble (not get in trouble, 64%; get in trouble, 11%).

Figure 4-43: Relationship Between Teens' Level of Monthly Smoking and Thinking They'll Get In Trouble At Home (By Gender)



Marijuana Use

Frequency. Following alcohol and tobacco, marijuana is the third most reported substance used by local youth when considering "any use at all". Thirty-nine percent (39%) of all students reported having used marijuana at some time. Figure 4-44 shows the breakdown for any marijuana use at all by gender and grade level.

Figure 4-44: Teens Who Use Marijuana
(Any Use at All, by Grade and Gender)

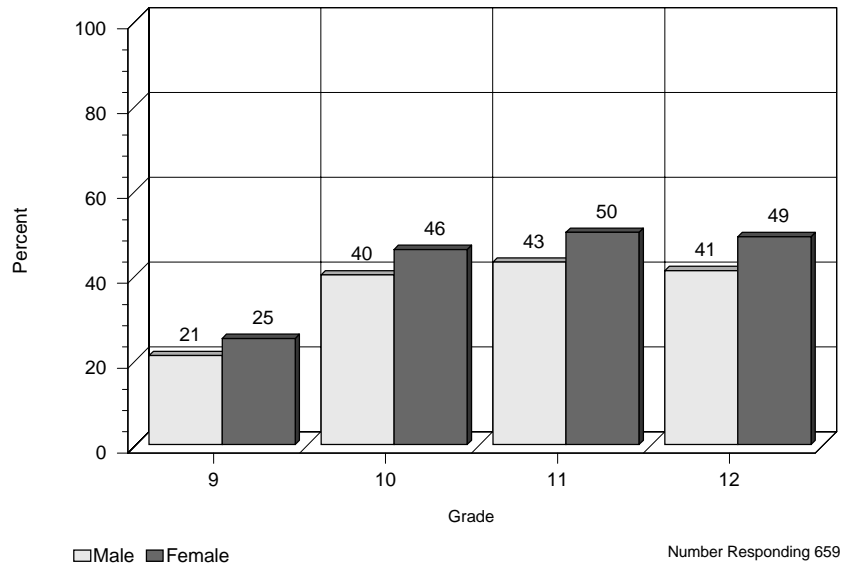
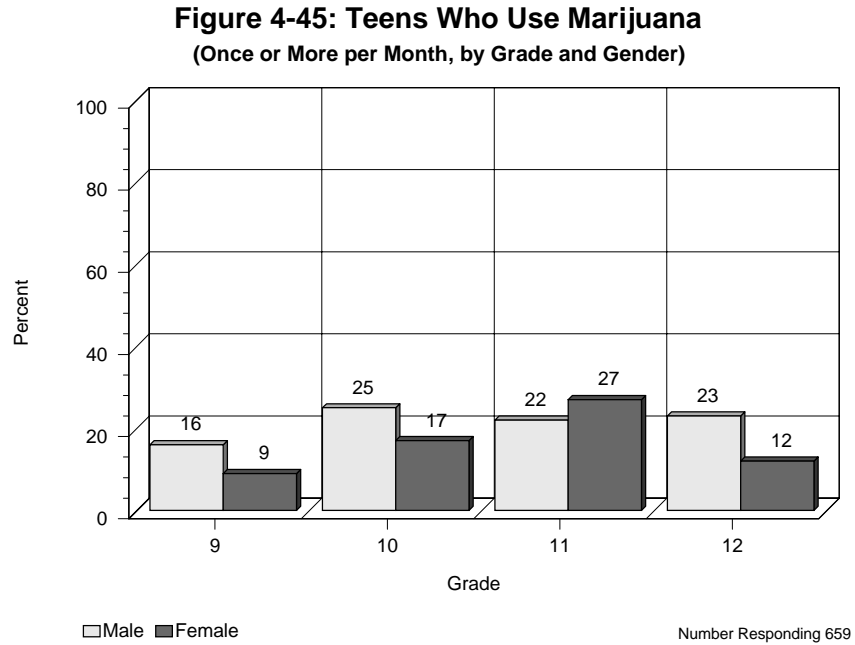


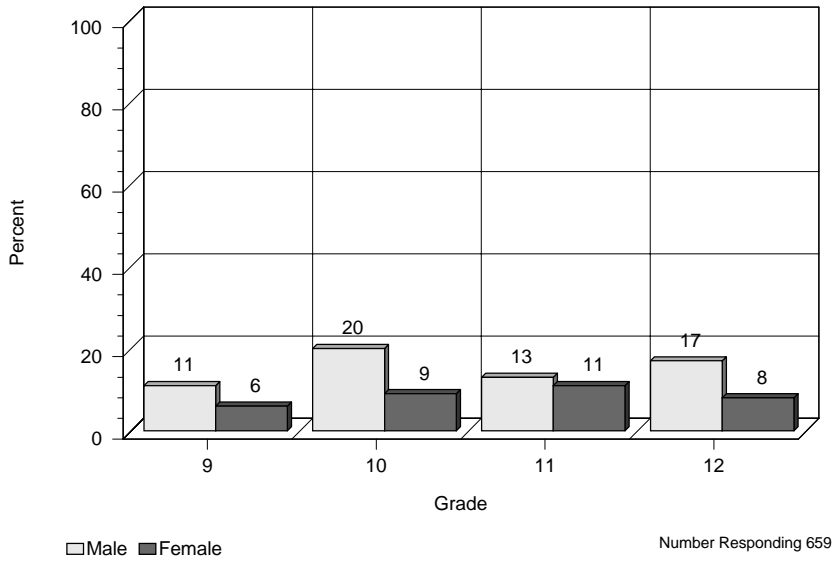
Figure 4-45 shows the breakdown of monthly marijuana use by grade and gender. Overall, 19% of all local youth reported using marijuana on a monthly or more often basis.



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (1998) found 26.2% (N.H., 32.0%) of high school youth (*grades 9-12*) used marijuana one or more times during the 30 days preceding the survey. New Hampshire ranks 2nd out of 33 states surveyed by the CDC.

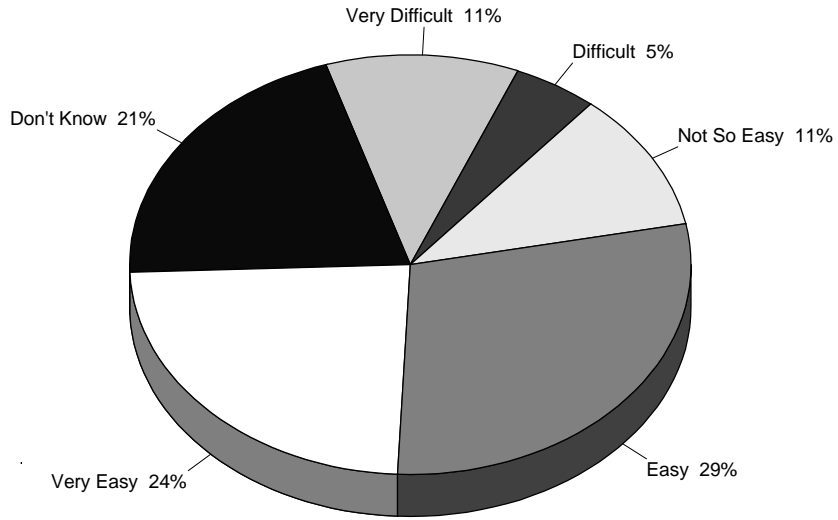
Figure 4-46 shows weekly marijuana use by grade and gender. Twelve percent (12%) of all students reported using marijuana at least once a week. For males, weekly marijuana use is highest in grade 10 (20%). Females' weekly use of marijuana is highest in grade 11 (11%).

Figure 4-46: Teens Who Use Marijuana
(Once or More per Week, by Grade and Gender)



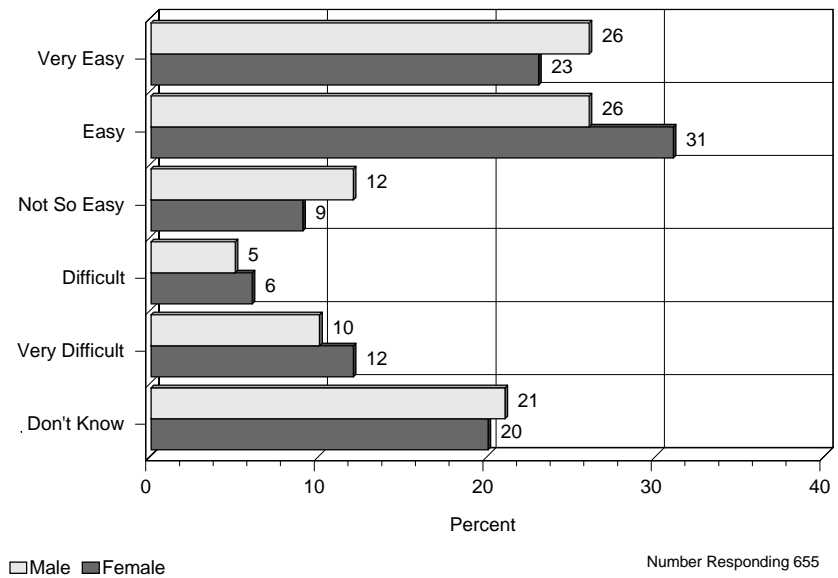
Obtainability. Overall, as Figure 4-47 shows, 53% of students tell us it is "very easy" or "easy" to obtain marijuana. Figure 4-48 shows there is little difference between males and females.

Figure 4-47: Obtainability of Marijuana



Number Responding 655

Figure 4-48: Obtainability of Marijuana (By Gender)



Number Responding 655

Perceived Risk. We asked students, "How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they try marijuana once or twice?" Figure 4-49 reveals 66% of students responded they felt this experimentation with marijuana carried "no" or "slight" risk (males, 69%; and females, 64%).

Figure 4-49: Perceived Risk: Try Marijuana Once or Twice (By Gender)

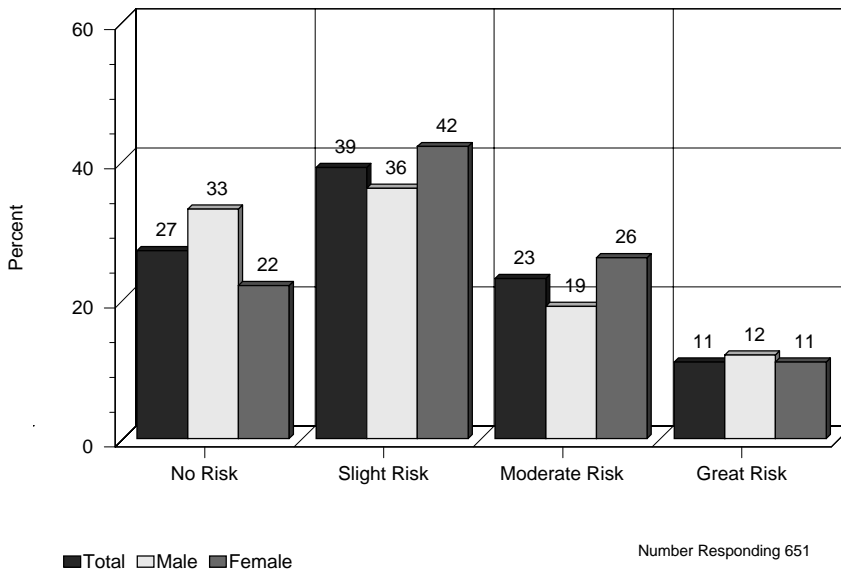
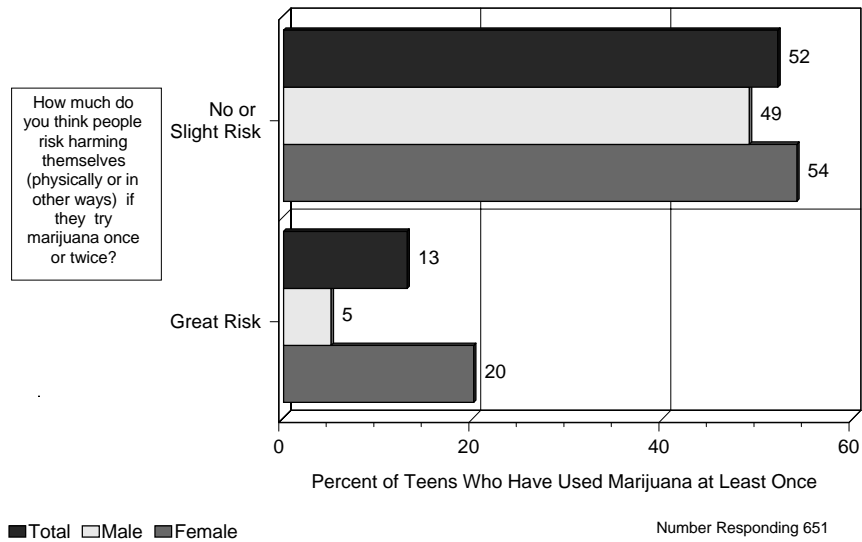


Figure 4-50 shows 52% of those who consider trying marijuana once or twice to be of “no” or “slight” risk have used marijuana at least once. Of those who consider this to be of great risk, 13% reported using marijuana at least once.

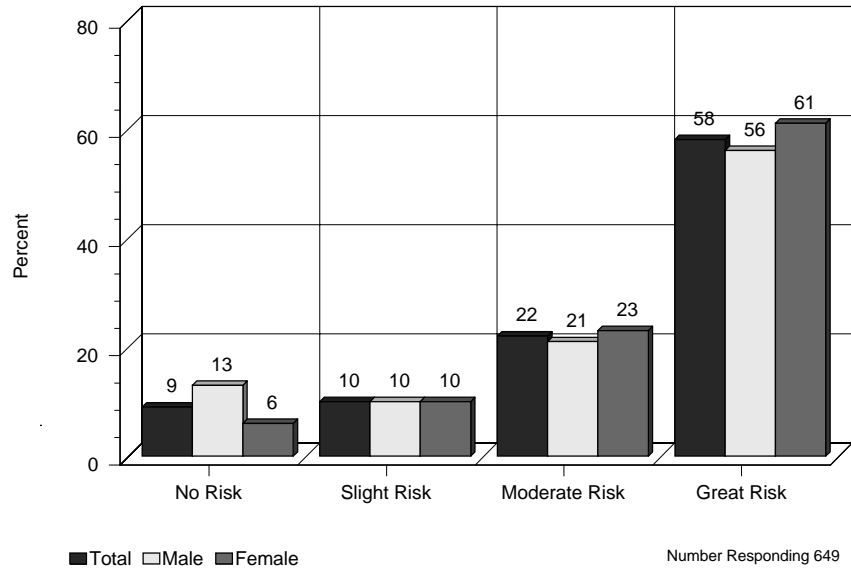
Figure 4-50: Relationship Between Perceived Risk of Trying Marijuana Once or Twice vs. Any Use at All of Marijuana (By Gender)



The Monitoring the Future Study conducted in 1998 found 20% of 10th grade students and 17% of 12th grade students surveyed think trying marijuana carries a great risk (Johnson et al., 1999). TAP found 15% of local 10th grade students and 9% of local 12th grade students said they felt doing so has great risk.

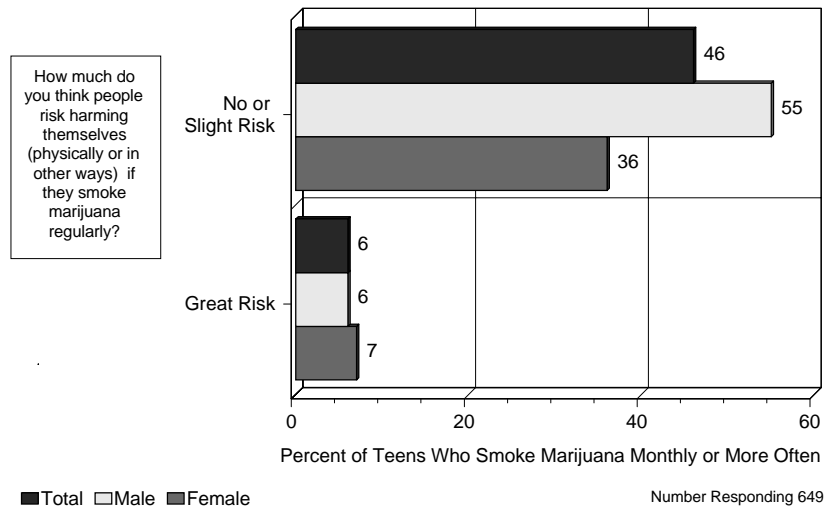
We also asked youth, "How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they smoke marijuana regularly?" Figure 4-51 shows 19% consider regular use of marijuana to be of "no" or "slight" risk (males, 23%; and females, 16%).

Figure 4-51: Perceived Risk: Smoke Marijuana Regularly (By Gender)



TAP data indicate those who consider regular marijuana use to be of great risk are less likely to smoke marijuana monthly or more often. Figure 4-52 shows 46% of those who consider smoking marijuana regularly to be of “no” or “slight” risk smoke monthly or more often. Only 6% of those who consider smoking to be of great risk use marijuana monthly or more often.

Figure 4-52: Relationship Between Teens' Perceived Risk of Smoking Marijuana Regularly and Teens' Monthly Use of Marijuana (By Gender)



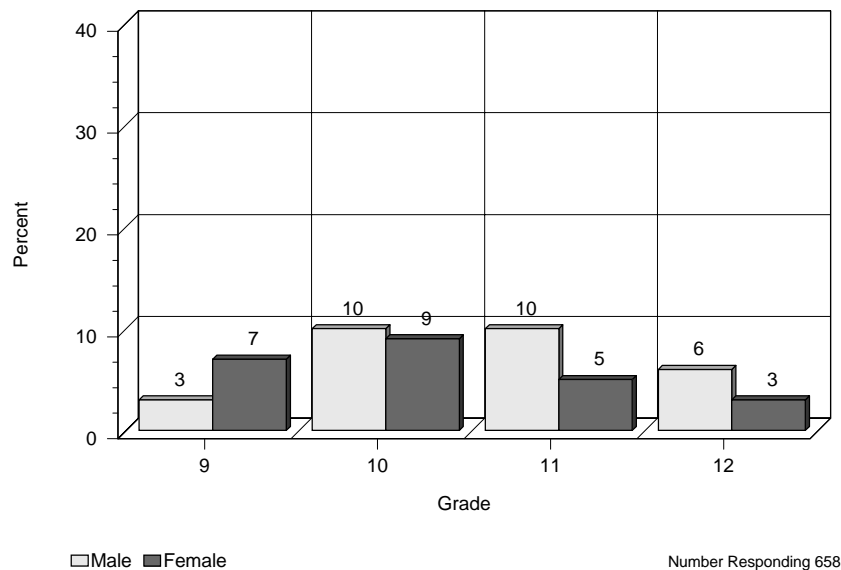
The Monitoring the Future Study conducted in 1998 found 66% of 10th grade students and 59% of 12th grade students think regular marijuana smoking carries a great risk (Johnson et al., 1999). TAP found 61% of local 10th grade students and 51% of local 12th grade students said they felt doing so has great risk.

Inhalant Use

Inhalants are also used by local teens. Some examples of inhalants are glue, white-out correction fluid, gasoline, contents of spray cans and paint thinners. Inhalants are particularly dangerous because they are so accessible to young people. Nine percent (9%) of local teens reported having used inhalants at some time in the past. Figure 4-53 shows the breakdown for any use at all, by grade level and gender. One percent (1%) of local youth reported using inhalants monthly or more often (males, 2% and females, 0%).

We asked students "If you have used inhalants, how old were you when you first used inhalants?" Ninety-one percent (91%) of those responding said they had never used inhalants. Of those who reported they have used inhalants, 36% said the first time was at 12 years of age or younger (males, 22%; females, 48%). The average age students first tried inhalants was 13 years old.

Figure 4-53: Teens Who Use Inhalants
(Any Use at All, by Grade and Gender)



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (1998) found 16.0% (N.H. 24.7%) of the nation's high school youth (*grades 9-12*) have sniffed or inhaled intoxicating substances at least once in their lifetime. New Hampshire ranks 3rd out of 33 states surveyed (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1998).

Perceived Risk. We asked local students, "How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they use inhalants?" Figure 4-54 shows that 13% of local youth feel doing so has "no" or "slight risk" (males, 15%, and females, 11%).

**Figure 4-54: Perceived Risk: Inhalant Use
(By Gender)**

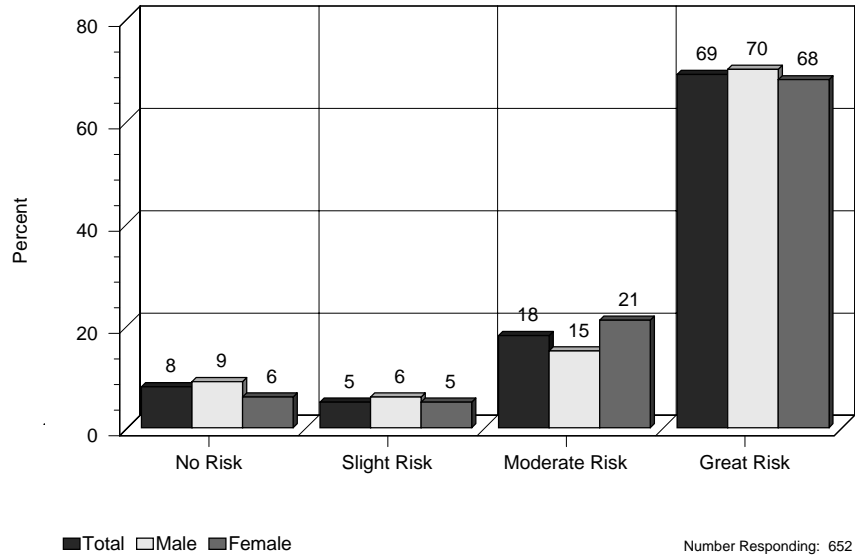
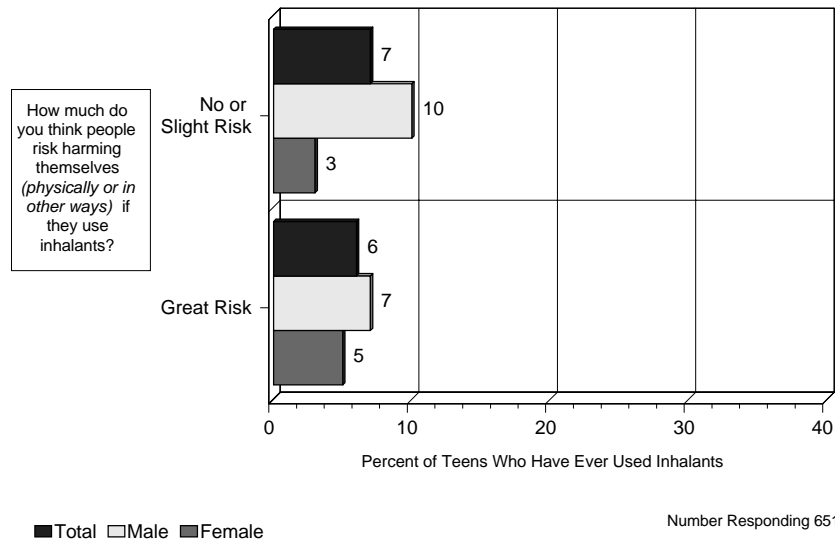


Figure 4-55 shows the perceived risk of inhalant use versus any use of inhalants. TAP data indicated youth's perception of risk has little to do with their use of inhalants. Those who perceive inhalant use to be of “no” or “slight risk” are nearly as likely to use inhalants as are those who perceive it to be a “great risk.”

Figure 4-55: Perceived Risk of Inhalant Use and Any Use of Inhalants (By Gender)



The Monitoring the Future Study conducted in 1998 asked 10th graders about the perceived harmfulness of inhalants. Their data found 48% of 10th grade students think trying inhalants once or twice carries great risk (Johnson et al., 1999). TAP found 69% of local 10th grade students said they felt doing so has great risk. Awareness of the risks of inhalant use appears to grow as teens get older.

Other Drugs

It is important to note that although drugs other than alcohol, smoking tobacco, and marijuana are not as commonly used, they are in fact being used by local teens. They are each dangerous and life-threatening to our youth and the use of these drugs should be acknowledged. The table below shows rates of use broken down by any use at all, monthly use, and weekly use by local teens. This information can also be viewed in graph form in the first section of Chapter Four, **Overall Alcohol and Drug Use**.

Type of Drug	Any Use At All	Monthly Use	Weekly Use
Hallucinogens	12%	3%	1%
Uppers	16%	5%	2%
Cocaine	6%	1%	1%
Chewing Tobacco	16%	6%	4%
Downers	7%	2%	1%
Narcotics	4%	2%	1%
Steroids	2%	1%	0%
Performance Drugs	14%	6%	4%