

2016 Communities that Care Youth® Survey

Summary of Highlights · Tompkins County · Spring, 2017

Comparison Report · Male and Females

Community Coalition for Healthy Youth www.healthyyouth.org

Tompkins County Youth Services Dept. www.tompkinscountyny.gov/youth

This summary accompanies the 2016 Tompkins County Summary of Highlights which reports on responses of 3,960 Tompkins County 7-12th graders to the biannual Communities that Care® Youth Survey. Please visit www.healthyyouth.org.

This summary compares the experiences and attitudes of students who identified as male and female. Responses from each group were equal, 50%. (Please also see the comparison report for straight, male or female students as compared with LGBTQ+ students.) We examined all survey questions by domain areas (family, community, school, individual/peer) and noted differences of 5% or more between the male and female students. These differences of 5% or greater are reflected in this report. Any differences of 10% or more are shaded in blue.

COMMUNITY LIFE

| | Male | Female |
|---|------|--------|
| I live in a rural area | 48% | 54% |
| I'd like to get out of my neighborhood | 22% | 28% |
| I know at least one adult who used illegal drugs in the past year | 31% | 36% |
| I know at least one adult who got drunk or high in the past year | 49% | 58% |

OBSERVATIONS—COMMUNITY

Females report a less positive experience in their community than males. Females are more likely to know adults who have used drugs or been drunk or high in the past year. More females said they would like to get out of their neighborhood. A higher rate of females reported living in a rural area.

FAMILY LIFE

| | Male | Female |
|---|------|--------|
| We argue about the same things in my family over and over | 34% | 41% |
| Someone in my family has a history of problems with alcohol or drug use | 26% | 35% |
| I have a sibling who has used alcohol | 32% | 38% |
| I feel very close to my father | 79% | 69% |
| I share my thoughts and feelings with my father | 64% | 54% |
| I feel very close to my mother | 88% | 82% |
| My parents would catch me if I carried a handgun without their permission | 83% | 90% |

OBSERVATIONS—FAMILY

Males report closer relationships to both mothers and fathers than females. Females report more family members with history of alcohol use. Females also say their families argue about the same things over and over. Males are less likely than females to say their parents would catch them if they carried a handgun without parental permission.

EXPERIENCES WITH FRIENDS & PEERS

| | Male | Female |
|--|------|--------|
| Two or more of my 4 best friends participate in extracurricular activities | 80% | 85% |

OBSERVATIONS—FRIENDS AND PEERS

There were few differences in the experience of males and females with regard to their friends. The one item with a difference of 5% or more is that females report more than males that their friends are involved in extracurricular activities.

Females

report trying to do their best in school more than males

Males

report feeling closer to both their mothers and fathers than females

SCHOOL LIFE

| | Male | Female |
|---|------|--------|
| I try to do my best work at school | 79% | 89% |
| Teachers ask me to work on special classroom projects | 41% | 36% |
| The school lets my parents know when I've done something well | 43% | 38% |
| Someone said something hurtful to me at school within the last 30 days | 38% | 27% |
| Someone did something to exclude me at school within the last 30 days | 21% | 13% |
| Someone has cyberbullied me within the past 30 days | 14% | 8% |
| I've had no experience with bullying (verbal, physical, cyber, excluding) at school in the past 30 days | 47% | 60% |
| School staff are available immediately to help with hurtful behaviors | 32% | 42% |
| There's a trusted adult at school who could help me with problems | 55% | 61% |
| I feel welcomed and appreciated by school adults | 51% | 59% |
| Students treat each other with respect | 37% | 42% |
| School rules are fairly enforced | 38% | 47% |

OBSERVATIONS—SCHOOL

Females report trying their best in school at a higher rate than males. Males report more positive notice by teachers than females. Males also report that they experience more bullying (verbal, physical, cyber) than females. Females report more helpful, trusted, and welcoming adults at school and fairly enforced school rules than males. Females also report that students treat each other with respect at a higher rate than males.

Males
report
experiencing
more bullying
than females

Females
report higher
rates of
depression
than males

INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCE

| | Male | Female |
|--|------|--------|
| I participated in extracurricular activities in the past year | 79% | 86% |
| It's OK to beat people up if they start the fight | 39% | 23% |
| Picking a fight with someone is wrong | 79% | 86% |
| I've done something dangerous on a dare monthly or more | 10% | 5% |
| I've done crazy things even if they're dangerous monthly or more | 19% | 12% |
| I strongly disapprove of people my age using alcohol regularly | 56% | 63% |
| There is moderate/great risk of harm from using alcohol regularly | 76% | 83% |
| There is moderate/great risk of harm from regular binge drinking (5+ drinks) | 84% | 89% |
| Sometimes I think life is not worth it | 16% | 33% |
| At times, I think I'm no good at all | 24% | 44% |
| All in all, I'm inclined to think I'm a failure | 14% | 28% |
| In the past year, I felt depressed or sad most days, even if I felt OK sometimes | 20% | 39% |
| Age first tried alcohol | 13.2 | 13.5 |
| Age first tried marijuana | 13.7 | 14.0 |
| Age first tried cigarettes | 12.5 | 13.2 |

OBSERVATIONS—INDIVIDUAL

There was no difference of 5% or greater for experience with any of the substances included in the survey between male and female youth. Females and males have different attitudes about fighting and taking risks, however, with males more accepting of both. Females report greater participation in extracurricular activities than males. Females report greater risk of harm and disapproval of teen alcohol use. The age of first use of substances is younger for males than for females.

One area with substantial difference between males and females is in the four questions concerning mental health. For all four, females rates were significantly higher: in two cases, twice those of males.