

# 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](http://www.healthyyouth.org)

Tompkins County Youth Services Dept. [www.tompkinscountyny.gov/youth](http://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](http://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.