

# 2016 Communities that Care Youth® Survey

## Summary of Highlights · Tompkins County · Spring, 2017

Comparison Report · Students identifying their race as White, (WO), compared with students identifying by any other race or by two or more races (SOC)

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. This is one of several comparison reports that disaggregates and examines results by sub-groups. Please visit [www.healthyyouth.org](http://www.healthyyouth.org).

This summary compares the experiences of students by how they identified their race. Students who identified their race as White and did not choose any additional race (WO) represent 74% of those surveyed. The remaining 26% are students who identified their race as one or more of these options: Black/African American; American Indian/Native American, Eskimo or Aleut; Spanish/Hispanic/Latino; Asian or Pacific Islander; Other; or who chose White in combination with one or more of the other answer options (SOC). (NYS Dept. of Education School Report Cards show 22% of Tompkins County students in grades K-12 are Students of Color and 78% are White.)

We examined all survey questions by domain areas (family, community, school, and individual) and noted differences of 5% or more between the WO and SOC students. These differences of 5% or greater are reflected in this report.

| SCHOOL LIFE   |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|
|   | WO  | SOC |
| There's a trusted adult at school who could help me with problems     | 55% | 46% |
| I feel welcomed and appreciated by school adults                      | 53% | 45% |
| School staff are available immediately to help with hurtful behaviors | 38% | 30% |
| Students treat each other with respect                                | 38% | 32% |
| School rules are fairly enforced                                      | 42% | 34% |
| I've changed schools in the past year                                 | 26% | 35% |
| I've changed schools 5 or more times since Kindergarten               | 8%  | 15% |

### OBSERVATIONS—SCHOOL

Students of Color (SOC) are less likely than White (WO) students to say they feel welcomed and appreciated by school adults and that there is a trusted adult at school who could help them if they needed. WO students report higher rates of student respect for each other and fair enforcement of school rules. SOC are much more likely than WO students to have changed schools, both in the past year and since Kindergarten.

| INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCE  |      |      |
|--|------|------|
|  | WO   | SOC  |
| I attend religious services monthly or more                    | 23%  | 29%  |
| I strongly disapprove of people my age using alcohol regularly | 60%  | 55%  |
| When I'm an adult, I'll use alcohol                            | 53%  | 45%  |
| Age of first marijuana use                                     | 15.0 | 14.5 |
| Age of first regular alcohol use                               | 15.8 | 15.3 |

### OBSERVATIONS—INDIVIDUAL

There was no difference of 5% or greater between Students of Color (SOC) and White (WO) youth with regard to use of any of the substances included in the survey. However, there are attitude differences: SOC youth reported lower disapproval of youth alcohol use than WO youth but also lower intention to use alcohol as an adult. SOC report a younger age of first use for alcohol and marijuana than WO youth. SOC report higher rates of regular attendance at religious services. There was no difference of 5% or greater for any of the four questions concerning mental health.

**FAMILY LIFE**

|  | WO  | SOC |
|--|-----|-----|
| English is used most often at my home                            | 98% | 84% |
| My parents give me lots of chances to do fun things with them    | 80% | 75% |
| My parents tell me they're proud of me                           | 74% | 67% |
| I share my thoughts and feelings with my father                  | 60% | 54% |
| I got alcohol at home without parent permission                  | 14% | 9%  |
| My parents watched me perform in a school event in the past year | 52% | 43% |
| My parents volunteered at my school in the past year             | 15% | 10% |
| I've changed homes in the past year                              | 16% | 25% |
| I've changed homes 5 or more times since Kindergarten            | 10% | 17% |

**COMMUNITY LIFE**

|   | WO  | SOC |
|---|-----|-----|
| In my neighborhood, there are many adults I could talk to about something important | 45% | 39% |
| There are people in my neighborhood who encourage me to do my best                  | 53% | 47% |
| I'd miss my neighborhood if I had to move   | 76% | 69% |
| It would be easy for me to get alcohol if I wanted to                               | 35% | 28% |
| The police would catch a kid who drank alcohol                                      | 26% | 31% |
| Scouting is available for people my age   | 78% | 71% |
| 4-H is available for people my age  | 69% | 61% |
| I live in a rural area  | 57% | 43% |
| I live in an urban/suburban area  | 42% | 58% |

**OBSERVATIONS—FAMILY**

The Family and Community domains had the most differences of 5% or greater between White (WO) youth and Students of Color (SOC). In the Family domain, WO youth state more often than SOC youth that their parents are proud of them and give them chances to spend time together doing fun things. WO youth report closer relationships their fathers than SOC youth. (Relationships with mothers did not have differences of 5%.) They also report higher parental involvement in their school than SOC youth. WO students are more likely to sneak alcohol from home without parent permission than SOC youth. SOC youth are more likely to change homes and to move frequently than WO youth.

**OBSERVATIONS—COMMUNITY**

White (WO) youth report more positive connections to community adults, with neighbors they could talk to, and who encourage them. They report more availability of programs and activities than Students of Color (SOC). WO youth are more likely to say they would miss their neighborhood if they had to move. SOC report lower rates than WO youth of saying that alcohol is easily available. They also report at higher rates than WO youth that the police would catch a kid who used alcohol. More WO youth report that they live in rural areas and more SOC report living in urban/suburban areas.

**17%** of Students of Color have changed homes 5 or more times since Kindergarten

**76%** of White Students would miss their neighborhood if they had to move

**29%** of Students of Color attend regular religious services

**35%** of White Students say it would be easy to get alcohol