

Routt County Parent Survey 2010 Summary Results

The Grand Futures Prevention Coalition collected data on parents' beliefs and perceptions about the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs by their youth in Routt County in order to inform youth substance use prevention efforts in the county. Data collection began in October 2010 and was completed in December 2010. Data was collected through a questionnaire that was administered on paper and online. This report presents a brief summary of the results.

Sample size and representation~

A total of 235 valid surveys were collected. As can be seen in the table below, the majority of the surveys completed were paper surveys with only 16.2% of the surveys completed online. The majority of the online surveys (36) were completed by parents in the Steamboat Springs School District.

Type of Survey

	Count	Percent
Paper Surveys	197	83.8%
Online Surveys	38	16.2%
Total	235	100%

Overall, the majority (60.4%) of responses came from parents in the Steamboat Springs school district. This is to be expected; the Colorado Department of Education pupil count released in October 2010 indicated that the Steamboat Springs school district represents 74.8% of students in grades 6-12 in Routt County. Hayden School District represents 13.6% of the county and South Routt County School District represents 12% of students in grades 6-12 in Routt County. The overall parent survey response rate was 11.6% of Routt County parents with students in grades 6-12.

School District

	Count	Percent
Hayden RE-1	51	21.7%
South Routt (SOROCO) RE-3	42	17.9%
Steamboat Springs RE-2	142	60.4%
Total	235	100%

Responses came from parents with students who attend all of the public schools in Routt County (please see the table below). Two parents indicated that their students were 6th graders at Strawberry Park Elementary School. Parents with students in middle schools made up 47% of the responses and 53% of responses came from parents with youth in high school.

School Name

	Count	Percent
Hayden MS	8	3.4%
Hayden HS	42	17.9%
South Routt (SOROCO) MS	22	9.4%
South Routt (SOROCO) HS	20	8.5%
Steamboat Springs MS	78	33.3%

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	Count	Percent
Steamboat Springs HS	62	26.5%
Other	2	0.9%
Total	234	100%

The grades of the respondents' children were distributed evenly with no one grade having a majority of responses.

Grade of student

	Count	Percent
6th grade	37	16.4%
7th grade	29	12.9%
8th grade	41	18.2%
9th grade	32	14.2%
10th grade	30	13.3%
11th grade	26	11.6%
12th grade	30	13.3%
Total	225	100%

Communication~

The survey asked parents how often they discuss the family rules around alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. Response options were given in the form of a scale with Never=1, Once=2, Two or Three times=3, Four or Five Times=4, and Five or more Times=5. These responses were averaged to produce a mean score with a higher response indicating that parents communicated with their youth about these family rules more often. As can be seen in the table below, with the exception of prescription drugs, on average parents indicated communicating with their youth about alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs between two and five times in the past year. On average, parents indicated communicating with their youth about prescription drugs close to two or three time in the last year.

Survey question 3. During the past 12 months, how often (if ever) have you participated in a discussion on family rules about _____?

Substance	More than five times		Four or five times		Two or three times		Once		Never		Means
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Alcohol	92	39.3%	47	20.1%	65	27.8%	17	7.3%	13	5.6%	3.80
Tobacco	74	32.3%	40	17.5%	68	29.7%	21	9.2%	26	11.4%	3.50
Marijuana	76	32.8%	48	20.7%	68	29.3%	21	9.1%	19	8.2%	3.61
Prescription Drugs (not prescribed to you)	47	20.3%	26	11.2%	63	27.2%	38	16.4%	58	25.0%	2.85
Other Illegal Drugs	67	29.1%	34	14.8%	69	30.0%	31	13.5%	29	12.6%	3.34

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The survey gathered information about parents' attitudes towards communication with their child around the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. On an agreement scale numbered 1-5 where Strongly disagree=1, Disagree=2, Neither agree nor disagree=3, Agree=4, and Strongly agree=5, all mean scores were above 4.00 indicating that the majority of respondents strongly agreed that parents should communicate with their children about the importance of not using alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

Survey question 4. How do you feel about this statement: *"Parents should clearly communicate with their children about the importance of not using _____?"*

Substance	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree or Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Means
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Alcohol	165	70.2%	20	8.5%	5	2.1%	5	2.1%	40	17.0%	4.13
Tobacco	173	73.9%	18	7.7%	0	0.0%	3	1.3%	40	17.1%	4.20
Marijuana	175	75.1%	14	6.0%	1	0.4%	6	2.6%	37	15.9%	4.22
Prescription Drugs (not prescribed to you)	169	72.2%	21	9.0%	1	0.4%	3	1.3%	40	17.1%	4.18
Other Illegal Drugs	176	75.2%	15	6.4%	0	0.0%	4	1.7%	39	16.7%	4.22

Use and Limits~

The survey gathered information regarding parents' attitudes and behaviors around allowing children to use alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs in their home. On an agreement scale numbered 1-5 where Strongly disagree=1, Disagree=2, Neither agree nor disagree=3, Agree=4, and Strongly agree=5, all mean scores were above 4.00 indicating that the majority of respondents strongly agreed that parents should not allow their children or their children's friends to use alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs in their homes.

Survey question 5. To what extent do you would agree or disagree with this statement: *"Parents should not let their children and their children's friends use _____ at home."*

Substance	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree or Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Means
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Alcohol	170	72.3%	13	5.5%	5	2.1%	10	4.3%	37	15.7%	4.14
Tobacco	176	74.0%	14	6.0%	3	1.3%	2	0.9%	42	17.9%	4.17
Marijuana	181	77.0%	6	2.6%	2	0.9%	4	1.7%	42	17.9%	4.19
Prescription Drugs (not prescribed to you)	181	77.0%	8	3.4%	1	0.4%	2	0.9%	43	18.3%	4.20
Other Illegal Drugs	183	77.9%	7	3.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.9%	43	18.3%	4.21

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When asked what limits they placed on their child when it comes to drinking alcohol in their homes, the majority of parents (94.7%) indicated that no drinking is allowed with the exception of a few sips at a family or religious gathering. Ten parents (4.4%) indicated that they allow some drinking if parents or family members are present and two parents reported that some drinking with friends is allowed if a parent is present (see table below).

Survey question 7. What limits (if any) do you apply to your child about drinking alcohol in your home?

	Count	Percent
No drinking is allowed (other than a few sips in a family or religious gathering)	216	94.7%
Some drinking is allowed with a parent when only family members are present	10	4.4%
Some drinking with friends is allowed if a parent is present	2	0.9%
Drinking is allowed without a parent present as long as my child does not get drunk or drive afterwards	0	0.0%
No limits	0	0.0%
Total	235	100%

In addition to asking about limits applied to drinking behaviors, the survey also asked parents how many times (if any) they had allowed their child to drink alcohol in their home in the past 12-months. Results indicated that in the past year most parents (94.4%) never allowed their child to drink alcohol in their home. Eight parents (3.5%) reported allowing their child to have an alcoholic drink once and 2.1% allowed their child to have an alcoholic drink in their home two or three times in the past twelve months.

Survey question 6. During the past 12 months, how often (if ever) have you allowed your child to drink alcohol (at least one full drink rather than a few sips) at your home?

	Count	Percent
Never	221	94.4%
Once	8	3.5%
Two or Three Times	5	2.1%
Four or Five Times	0	0.0%
More than Five Times	0	0.0%
Total	234	100%

Behaviors~

The survey asked parents a number of questions regarding their perceptions of their child's behavior in the past year. These responses are not necessarily indicative of what children actually are or are not doing. When asked if they believed their child had ridden in a car with someone who was impaired due to using alcohol, over 90% (n=209) indicated that they believed that their child had never done this. When asked if they believed their child had ridden in a car driven by someone under the influence of marijuana, 92.6% parents (n=214) indicated that they believed that their child had never engaged in this behavior. As can be seen in the table below, when asked if they believed their child had ever driven a car while impaired as a consequence of drinking alcohol or smoking

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marijuana, the vast majority of parents (98.7% and 97.8%, respectively) indicated that they believed their child had never engaged in these behaviors. These percentages are slightly higher than the results regarding parents' perceptions of their child's experience with riding in a car driven by someone who was under the influence of alcohol or marijuana.

Survey questions 9a-10b. During the last 12 months, how often (if ever) do you think that your child.....

	Never		Once		Two or three times		Four or five times		More than five times		Means
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
rode in a motor vehicle driven by someone who was impaired as a consequence of drinking alcohol?	209	90.5%	16	6.9%	5	2.2%	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	4.87
rode in a motor vehicle driven by someone who was impaired as a consequence of smoking	214	92.6%	10	4.3%	3	1.3%	2	0.9%	2	0.9%	4.87
drove impaired as a consequence of drinking alcohol?	224	98.7%	3	1.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4.99
drove impaired as a consequence of smoking marijuana?	222	97.8%	1	0.4%	3	1.3%	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	4.95

School Concerns~

The survey asked parents about the number of times in the past year their child had been harassed or bullied at school that they were aware of. These are incidences parents know about rather than indications of what they perceive or think may have happened. Thirty parents (12.9%) indicated that their child had been bullied at least once and 35 (15.1%) indicated that their child had been bullied two or three times on school property that they were aware of. Overall, 41.4% of parents indicated that their child had been bullied or harassed on school property **at least once** in the last year.

Survey question 8. During the past 12 months, how many times has your child been harassed or bullied on school property that you are aware of?

	Count	Percent
Never	136	58.6%
Once	30	12.9%
Two or Three Times	35	15.1%
Four or Five Times	12	5.2%
More than Five Times	19	8.2%
Total	232	100%

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Familiarity and Importance of Community Based Prevention Efforts~

The survey asked parents about their familiarity with any community agencies in Routt County that work to prevent youth drug use. Familiarity with any of these community agencies in Routt County varied greatly, but overall 75% of the respondents reported having some level of familiarity with a community agency in Routt County that addresses prevention of youth alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, prescription drug, and other illegal drug use.

Survey question 11. How familiar are you with any community agencies in Routt County that work to prevent youth alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, prescription and other illegal drug use?

	Count	Percent
Completely Unfamiliar	28	12.1%
Unfamiliar	30	12.9%
Somewhat Familiar	92	39.7%
Familiar	52	22.4%
Very Familiar	30	12.9%
Total	232	100.0%

The survey asked parents about their exposure to different types of media addressing the issues of alcohol and drug use among the youth in Routt County. The results of this question are presented below. These results must be interpreted with caution. The online version of the survey did not include radio advertisements, newspaper advertisements, postcards, or electronic media in this question making those response numbers lower. This effect was greatest in the Steamboat Springs School District as that was primarily where the online survey was implemented.

The most common form of media recognized by respondents were newspaper advertisements with 36.3% of parents reporting seeing these messages a few times and 25.4% reporting seeing them often; this was followed by posters in schools with 42.0% reporting seeing them a few times and 17.3% reporting seeing them often. The least seen form of media was postcards with only 10.5% of parents reporting seeing prevention messages in that format. Radio advertisements were reported as being heard several times or often by 42.9% and 32.8% of parents reported receiving messages through electronic media such as email, websites, or newsletters.

Survey question 13. How often (if ever) have you seen the following types of media that address alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, prescription and other illegal drug use among youth in Routt County?

Medium	Never		Rarely		Not Sure		A Few Times		Often		Means
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Posters in schools	25	10.6%	29	12.6%	40	17.3%	97	42.0%	40	17.3%	3.48
Radio advertisements*	33	17.3%	45	23.6%	31	16.2%	61	31.9%	21	11.0%	2.96
Newspaper advertisements*	18	9.3%	31	16.1%	25	13.0%	70	36.3%	49	25.4%	3.52
Postcards*	97	51.1%	34	17.9%	39	20.5%	17	8.9%	3	1.6%	1.92
Electronic media (email, websites, newsletters)*	60	31.3%	37	19.3%	32	16.7%	39	20.3%	24	12.5%	2.64

*The online version of the survey did not include radio advertisements, newspaper advertisements, postcards, or electronic media in this question making the valid count lower.

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The majority of parents (82.7%) responding to the survey feel that it is very important to have prevention group working locally in their communities. This is followed by 14.3% of parents who feel that it is somewhat important. Only 3% felt that it was not important or did not know if it was important.

Question 12. How important is it to you to have local groups in your community working to prevent problems associated with youth alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, prescription and other illegal drug use?

	Count	Percent
Very Important	191	82.7%
Somewhat Important	33	14.3%
Of Little Importance	4	1.7%
Not at all Important	2	0.9%
Don't Know	1	0.4%
Total	231	100%