

# **Summary of Parent Survey**

## **LF/LB Underage Drinking Prevention Coalition**

October 29, 2008

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## **Background**

- " Online Anonymous Survey Via Zoomerang**
- " Questions Developed by Coalition**
- " Distributed Primarily Via Email**
- " Conducted March – June, 2008**

## **Results**

- " 704 Responses**
- " Over 200 Open Ended Comments**
- " Sample Not Random, Some Inherent Bias**

**Parents Responding Had Children  
Across a Broad Range of Ages  
... Primarily in Grades K-12**

<b><u>Have Children or Grandchildren</u></b>	<b><u># Participants</u></b>	<b><u>% Of Participants</u></b>
No Children	20	3%
Children in Pre-School	77	11%
Children in K-5	381	54%
Children in Middle School (6-8)	372	53%
Children in High School	486	69%
Children in College	173	25%
Children Out of College	80	11%

## Parents Say ... Peers and Parents Have Greatest Influence on Youth

	<u>High Influence</u>	<u>High / Moderate Influence</u>
Peers	86%	99%
Parents	81	98
Media	59	96
Internet	52	91
Coaches	34	93
Adult Mentors	34	88
Video Games	28	74
Teachers	26	81
Grandparents	16	64
Religious Organizations	13	63
Youth Groups	12	60

# Parents Share Common Concern About Broad Range of Issues Facing Our Youth

## Very Concerned or Somewhat Concerned (%)

### Over 90% of Parents

Drinking & Driving  
Binge Drinking, Getting Drunk  
Alcohol Use by Teens  
Stress/Anxiety  
Peer Pressure to Do Risky Things  
Having Sex  
Marijuana Use

### Over 75% of Parents

Depression, Other Psych. Problems  
Prescription Drug Abuse  
Alcohol Use by Preteens  
Cocaine, Heroin, Meth  
Tobacco Use  
Eating Disorders

# Parents Have Primary Teaching Responsibility and Don't Want Their Kids to Drink

## Parents Strongly Agree or Agree With (%)

- 98% Parents have primary teaching responsibility for drugs, alcohol, sex
- 96% Alcohol is damaging to the developing brain
- 93% Would be disappointed if child used alcohol
- 91% Spouse and I have same thoughts about teens and alcohol use
  
- 86% Child would say we have very firm rules about drinking
- 84% Would be able to tell if child had been drinking
- 84% Feel my children listen to me when I talk about tough subjects
  
- 77% We don't allow drinking but other households are more liberal
- 77% I worry about the safety of my children when they are out
- 76% Would be able to tell if child using drugs
- 63% My middle school child would not use alcohol

## **... But Some Believe Schools Have Primary Responsibility & Taking Keys is Effective**

### **Parents Strongly Disagree or Disagree With (%)**

- 92%** Wouldn't want younger kids to drink but it is okay for teens 16+ to drink
- 91%** I feel it is okay for our child to drink at home
  
- 88%** I feel it is wrong to check my child's room
- 86%** Parents have little influence over risky behaviors
- 83%** Don't think we can do much to stop kids from using drugs or alcohol
- 82%** Find it difficult to talk to my kids about alcohol or drugs
- 82%** OK for my children to be at a drinking party if they are not drinking
  
- 65%** I am uncomfortable calling other parents and talking about boundaries
  
- 58%** Taking away the keys is an effective way to address teen drinking risks
- 57%** Schools have primary responsibility to teach kids about drugs, alcohol, sex

# Parents Think Majority of Youth Experience ...

	<u>In Middle School</u>	<u>In High School</u>	<u>Beyond</u>
Talks with Parents	71%	25%	4%
Take 1 <sup>st</sup> Drink	45	54	1
Weekend Drinking	13	83	4
Regularly Use Alcohol	3	62	35
Get Drunk At Social Events	3	71	27
Start Interest in Sex	41	55	3
Have Intercourse	4	75	21

# Parents Have Good Understanding of Key Facts ... But Still Some Confusion

## Clarity:

Unplanned sexual activity happens under the influence of alcohol

Epidemic of underage drinking

Heavy alcohol use impairs memory and thought processing

Alcoholism is a risk for more than just those with a family history

Not everyone in high school is drinking

## Confusion:

Glass of beer has less alcohol than a shot of whiskey

Alcohol is a stimulant

Europeans have fewer problems with binge drinking and alcoholism

# Parents Prioritized Things to Do to Address Underage Drinking in LF/LB

## Majority Recommended:

Crack down on stores or restaurants who provide alcohol to kids

Prosecute adults who provide alcohol to kids

Educate parents on the risks of underage drinking

Increase education on risky behavior in schools

Enforce laws that penalize parents for serving or failing to supervise teens

Develop additional alcohol free things for kids to do

## Majority Did Not Recommend:

Relax laws regarding teen use of alcohol (76%)

Lower the drinking age to 18 (54%)

But Close—26% said it should be a medium to high priority and  
20% said it should be a low priority

# **Frequently Cited Open Ended Comments**

**Parents are the problem, poor modeling, abuse of alcohol  
Parents should be teachers, talk with kids more**

**Boring town, kids need more fun things to do**

**Parents feel helpless, turn heads, too permissive  
Lower the drinking age**

**We need to hold kids accountable  
We need more education on the risks of teen alcohol use**

**Thanks for the work you all are doing**

# **Frequently Cited Open Ended Comments**

**Parents should ban together**

**Tough issues require the whole community to be involved**

**Have a different penalty for first offense  
(education, parent involvement)**

**Increase penalties for drunk driving**

**Get tougher on parents who allow drinking**

**Get rid of sleepovers**

**Watch for vodka in the water bottles!**