

WISCONSIN YOUTH FUTURES

Technical Report #19

Community Self-Assessment Tools

Youth Support Inventory For Preventing Youth Alcohol & Other Substance Use



University of Wisconsin-Madison/Extension
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Technical Report #19 Community Self Assessment Tools:

Youth Support Inventory For Preventing Youth Alcohol & Other Substance Use

Instructions

The purpose of the inventory is to identify areas where support for youth in this community is strong as well as areas where it could improve. Each item has been selected because scientific studies have found it to be related to alcohol and other drug use/abuse among young people. While no community has all of the supports listed, it is often possible to develop supports when citizens like you think they are important.

In order to begin thinking about the resources available in your community, please rate each item to the best of your knowledge; leave blank any questions you do not have enough information to complete on your own. Several items of the inventory labeled *community data* are completed with the data from the TAP survey or other local information sources. For those items labeled *citizen rating*, fill in the blanks by marking "Extensive", "Limited", "Does Not Exist", or "?". Also note by each statement the specific supports or resources available in the community.

The inventory is usually completed by a committee or coalition, first in small groups and then in the large group. After you have rated the items in the assigned section, discuss each item with your small group. Agree on a small group rating of "Extensive", "Limited", "Does Not Exist", or "?". The "?" means you are not sure whether this support is present or available and your group will need to gather further information to find out. Ratings of "Limited" or "Does Not Exist" are gaps that exist in your community and are areas that may need attention. Select a spokesperson from the small group to report back your ratings to the large group. The members of the large group can accept the ratings of the small group or make changes. The consensus reached by the group assesses the community's strengths and shortcomings in preventing alcohol and drug use/abuse.

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Individual Factors

- _____ % 1. Percent of youth who report drinking beer, wine or hard liquor once a week or more
- _____ % 2. Percent of youth who report having 5 or more drinks in a row in the past month

Family Support

Parenting Practices

- _____ % 3. Percent of youth who never or rarely have worthwhile discussions with their parents about the risks of drinking or taking drugs
- _____ % 4. Percent of youth who would like to talk more frequently with their parents about things that are important to them
- _____ % 5. Percent of youth who report they never, rarely, or sometimes tell their parents who they will be out with before they go
- _____ % 6. Percent of youth who report they never, rarely or sometimes know where they are when they go out at night

- | Exten-
-sive | Lim-
-ited | Does
Not
Exist | ? | | |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|-------|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | 7. | Parents talk to their children about drinking and other drugs in an educational, helpful way |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | 8. | Parents spend time trying to communicate with youth and be supportive |

Parent Education Opportunities

- | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | 9. | Parent education classes are available and accessible |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | 10. | Parent education newsletters are provided to parents of adolescents in the community |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | 11. | Home visitor programs exist for high-risk families |

Community Support of Parents

Parents support each other and the community supports parents:

_____ % 12. Percent of youth who report neighbors would tell their parents if they saw them doing something wrong

_____ % 13. Percent of youth who report their parents never, rarely, or sometimes know where they are after school

Exten- -sive	Lim- -ited	Does Not Exist	?	
_____	_____	_____	_____	14. Neighbors and other adults in the community assist parents in monitoring youth in positive ways
_____	_____	_____	_____	15. Parents have opportunities to meet, share and talk with other parents
_____	_____	_____	_____	16. Community has widely known, generally agreed upon norms and standards regarding issues such as alcohol use and curfews, etc.
_____	_____	_____	_____	17. Before and after school child-care is available for students who need it

School Support

Support During School Transitions

_____ % 18. Percent of eight graders who report using beer, wine or hard liquor 1 to 3 times a month

_____ % 19. Percent of ninth graders who report using beer, wine or hard liquor 1 to 3 times a month

Exten- -sive	Lim- -ited	Does Not Exist	?	
_____	_____	_____	_____	20. The school and community have formal means of supporting students during changes from one school building to another
_____	_____	_____	_____	21. Drinking increases when students enter high school

Student Academic Performance

- _____ % 22. Percent of students who believe they are getting a good and high quality education
- _____ % 23. Percent of students who report getting grades of C or below
- _____ % 24. Percent of unexcused absences from school

Exten- -sive	Lim- -ited	Does Not Exist	?	
_____	_____	_____	_____	25. Most students find their education relevant and high quality
_____	_____	_____	_____	26. Schools and teachers work with students who find school irrelevant or experience academic difficulties
_____	_____	_____	_____	27. Efforts are made to challenge gifted students

Student Commitment to School

- _____ % 28. Percent of students who report they enjoy going to school
 - _____ % 29. Percent of students who play sports
- | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | 30. Students are involved in making decisions about school life (i.e., rules for behavior, extracurricular activities, school beautification) |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | 31. Students are given the opportunity to learn leadership skills and other skills necessary for successful involvement in school activities |

Teaching and School Practices

Exten- -sive	Lim- -ited	Does Not Exist	?	
_____	_____	_____	_____	32. Students have frequent opportunities to meet with advisors or teachers
_____	_____	_____	_____	33. The school takes steps to welcome new students

Peer Climate

_____	_____	_____	_____	34. Percent of youth who drink because their friends want them to
_____	_____	_____	_____	35. Grade(s) at which students report worrying most about being pressured to drink
_____	_____	_____	_____	36. School and community campaigns attempt to change peer norms that encourage involvement in alcohol use
_____	_____	_____	_____	37. Youth who do not use alcohol are visible, supported, and rewarded
_____	_____	_____	_____	38. Older youth interact with and serve as positive role models for youth (e.g., peer counseling, tutoring, or teaching how to say no to alcohol)
_____	_____	_____	_____	39. Parents know where their children are and who they are with

Community Support

Economic Conditions

_____	_____	_____	_____	40. Percent of families with children living in poverty
_____	_____	_____	_____	41. Percent of children eligible for Head Start who are not being served

Exten -sive	Lim- ited	Does Not Exist	?	
_____	_____	_____	_____	42. Opportunities exist for poor children in the community

Neighborliness

_____	_____	_____	_____	43. People know each other and help each other out
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Community Norms/Policies

_____ % 44. Percent of students who think youth drink because people admire or look up to make it seem like a “cool” thing to do

_____	_____	_____	_____	45. Alcohol is difficult for youth to acquire
_____	_____	_____	_____	46. Adults in the community consistently discourage use of alcohol
_____	_____	_____	_____	47. Adults in the community provide positive role models regarding alcohol use
_____	_____	_____	_____	48. Laws regarding underage drinking are consistently and fairly enforced
_____	_____	_____	_____	49. Laws regarding selling alcohol to minors are consistently and fairly enforced
_____	_____	_____	_____	50. Efforts exist to counteract the media portrayal of alcohol as attractive and widespread

Community Prevention Efforts

_____ % 51. Percent of seventh graders who report consuming alcohol at least once a month

Exten- -sive	Lim- -ited	Does Not Exist	?	
_____	_____	_____	_____	52. Clubs or efforts exist to encourage academic, athletic, artistic, or other interests
_____	_____	_____	_____	53. Prevention programs for students begin early before students begin using alcohol

Meaningful Youth Roles

_____ % 54. Percent of young people in the community who report involvement in community activities (i.e., dances, sporting events, and clubs)

Recreational/Educational Opportunities

_____	_____	_____	_____	55. Opportunities exist for high-risk youth to have fun without alcohol
_____	_____	_____	_____	56. Recreational activities exist that involve risk and are incompatible with alcohol use (i.e., wilderness treks, rope climbing, water skiing, etc.)
_____	_____	_____	_____	57. Positive ways exist for youth to show their independence and demonstrate their maturity
_____	_____	_____	_____	58. Students have the opportunity to learn such skills as decision-making, assertiveness, stress management, and refusal skills

Preparation for Adult Roles

_____	_____	_____	_____	59. Youth develop meaningful personal relationships with adults in the community
_____	_____	_____	_____	60. Youth have the opportunity to engage in community service that they perceive as useful and important

Exten- -sive	Lim- -ited	Does Not Exist	?
_____	_____	_____	_____

61. Adolescents have the opportunity to learn the skills required for responsible roles such as parenting, employment, participating in government and being a good citizen

Religious Opportunities

_____ % 62. Percent of young people who attend church services or participate in other church activities (i.e. choir, religious classes, and church youth groups)

_____ _____ _____ _____ 63. Organized religious activities are available for youth

Equal Opportunities Exist for Youth

_____ % 64. Percent of youth who report, "When I am an adult, I will have a good chance of getting an occupation that is good, steady, and dependable"

_____ _____ _____ _____ 65. All youth receive equal encouragement to pursue a good job or higher education

The Adolescent Work Place

_____ % 66. Percent of freshman and sophomores working 10 to 19 hours per week

_____ % 67. Percent of juniors and seniors working more than 20 hours weekly

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Citation Information:

Bogenschneider, K., & Mills, J. (1999). *Youth Support Inventory for Preventing Youth Alcohol and Other Substance Use*. (Wisconsin Youth Futures Technical Report No. 19, 8 pgs.). Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin-Madison/Extension.

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