



2008 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey



DeSoto County Report



**Executive Office
of the Governor**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Florida Legislature's 1999 Drug Control Summit recommended the establishment of an annual, multi-agency-directed, statewide school-based survey effort, combining several survey instruments, with specific variations in odd and even years. The *Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS)*, one of these instruments and the focus of this report, is administered to a county-level sample of students in even years, and a smaller statewide sample in odd years.

The *FYSAS* is based on the *Communities That Care Youth Survey*, developed from the nationally recognized work of Dr. J. David Hawkins and Dr. Richard F. Catalano. It not only measures the prevalence of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use and delinquent behavior, but also measures the risk and protective factors related to these behaviors.

The 2008 *FYSAS* was administered to 749 DeSoto County students in grades 6 through 12 in the spring of 2008. The results supply a valuable source of information to help reduce and prevent the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs by school-aged youth.

Key Survey Results

Strengths to Build on

- Marijuana use has declined in DeSoto County. Overall lifetime marijuana use has gone from 29.1% in 2000 to 20.8% in 2008. Overall past-30-day marijuana use has gone from 18.9% in 2000 to 9.6% in 2008.
- Surveyed students reported a substantial reduction in past-30-day cigarette use. The rate dropped from 23.7% in 2000 to 10.5% in 2008.
- No respondents in middle school reported past-30-day usage of club drugs or heroin. No respondents in high school reported lifetime usage of ketamine. No high school past-30-day usage was reported for Rohypnol, ketamine or heroin.
- Among DeSoto County high school students, past-30-day prevalence rates for Ecstasy (1.9%), cocaine (1.9%) and prescription amphetamines (1.3%) are all less than 2.0%.
- Among DeSoto County middle school students, past-30-day prevalence rates for LSD, PCP or mushrooms (0.6%), cocaine or crack cocaine (0.6%), methamphetamine (0.6%), depressants (0.7%), prescription amphetamines (0.7%) and steroids (0.5%) are all less than 1.0%. Among DeSoto County high school students, past-30-day prevalence rates for GHB (0.3%), LSD or PCP (0.9%), hallucinogenic mushrooms (0.9%), crack cocaine (0.9%), methamphetamine (0.5%) and steroids (0.6%) are all less than 1.0%.
- Relatively few students reported that they would be seen as “cool” by their peers if they smoke cigarettes (4.7%) or smoke marijuana (8.8%).
- A substantial proportion of students indicated that it would be “wrong” or “very wrong” for someone their age to smoke cigarettes (79.0%), smoke marijuana (84.4%) or use other illicit drugs (95.5%).
- A majority of respondents reported that each of the following behaviors poses a “great risk” of harm: smoking a pack or more of cigarettes every day (61.8%) and regular use of marijuana (60.9%).
- Middle school students reported particularly low rates of risk for two risk factor scales that are directly associated with alcohol, tobacco and other drug use: *Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use* (50%) and *Perceived Availability of Drugs* (44%). High school students reported particularly low rates of risk for two risk factor scales

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that are directly associated with alcohol, tobacco and other drug use: *Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use* (40%) and *Perceived Availability of Drugs* (44%).

- Prevalence rates for *Attempting to Steal a Vehicle* (3.3%) and *Taking a Handgun to School* (1.3%) are both less than 5.0%.

Opportunities for Improvement

- With overall prevalence rates of 60.6% for lifetime use and 37.9% for past-30-day use, alcohol is the most commonly used drug among DeSoto County students.
- After alcohol, students reported cigarettes (34.3% lifetime and 10.5% past-30-day) and marijuana (20.8% lifetime and 9.6% past-30-day) as the most commonly used drugs. Prevalence rates for other drugs are substantially lower.
- Among DeSoto County middle school students, 40.5% reported being verbally bullied within the past 30 days.
- DeSoto County students reported the highest level of risk for *Transitions and Mobility* (55%).
- DeSoto County students reported one of their highest cutpoint scores for the community risk factor scale *Community Disorganization* (51%). This means that students are less likely to become involved with prosocial organizations and positive role models in their communities.
- DeSoto County students reported some of their lowest rates of protection for two reward-based protective factor scales: *School Rewards for Prosocial Involvement* (45%) and *Family Rewards for Prosocial Involvement* (47%). This means that schools and families need to provide additional positive feedback to students, to help them form prosocial bonds in their schools and families.
- Disapproval of alcohol use seems to have weakened over time. The percentage of students reporting that it would be “wrong” or “very wrong” for someone their age to drink alcohol regularly decreased from 66.1% in 2000 to 57.8% in 2008.
- Of surveyed DeSoto County students, 14.5% reported *Getting Suspended*, 12.5% reported *Attacking Someone with Intent to Harm* and 14.0% reported *Being Drunk or High at School*.

These key findings illustrate the complexity of drug use and antisocial behavior among DeSoto County’s youth and the possible factors that may contribute to these activities. While some of the findings compare favorably to the national findings, DeSoto County youth are still reporting drug use and delinquent behavior that will negatively affect their lives and our society.

The *FYSAS* data will enable DeSoto County’s planners to learn which risk and protective factors to target for their prevention, intervention and treatment programs.

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2008 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

DeSoto County Report

The 2008 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) provides scientifically sound information to communities on the prevalence of alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) use, and risk and protective factors among 6th through 12th grade students. This information is essential to support effective substance abuse needs-assessment and services planning, and to measure performance outcomes at local and state levels.

This report is one in a series of reports that describes the findings from the FYSAS. As part of the 2008 Florida Youth Survey effort, the FYSAS was administered to Florida youth jointly with the Florida Youth Tobacco Survey in May of 2008. The Florida Youth Survey effort was a collaboration among the Florida Departments of Health, Education, Children and Families, Juvenile Justice, and the Florida Office of Drug Control. This report was prepared by Rothenbach Research and Consulting, LLC.

The FYSAS was previously administered at the county level to DeSoto County students in December of 1999 and January of 2000, and in the spring of 2002, 2004 and 2006. While the survey form has been updated over this period, the majority of the instrument has remained unchanged. As a result, the present report includes both an analysis of current survey results and comparisons with the 2000, 2002, 2004 and 2006 survey findings.

This report contains only a brief discussion of methodology. More extensive information on survey administration, methodology and statewide findings can be found in the statewide report, available online at:

www.dcf.state.fl.us/mentalhealth/publications/fysas/.

Methodology

The sampling strategy was designed to produce survey results that are representative at both the state and county levels, with a minimal margin of error. In DeSoto County, this method resulted in a final sample of 378 middle school students and 371 high school students.

Questionnaires

In 2008, for the first time, two versions of the questionnaire were administered to Florida students. High school students received a questionnaire identical to the one used in recent FYSAS efforts. Middle school students received a shortened version of the questionnaire.

While the survey has an excellent track record of yielding high-quality data, concerns have been raised by the FYSAS Workgroup about the ability of some middle school students to complete the questionnaire in a standard classroom period. Analysis of historical data revealed that for some of the items positioned toward the end of the questionnaire, more than 25% of 6th grade students fail to provide valid responses.

To address this issue, a shorter version of the standard FYSAS questionnaire—with 176 items compared to 211 on the standard questionnaire—was developed for middle school students. To reach this reduced length, items were removed for eight risk factor scales and four protective factor scales deemed less critical for middle school prevention planning. Also, several ATOD items with very low prevalence among young respondents were either removed or aggregated. Finally, two items that measure the use of over-the-counter drugs in order to get high and eight items that assess bullying behavior were added.

A field test of the new middle school questionnaire, conducted as part of the 2007 FYSAS, yielded

missing value rates that were about 15 percentage points lower than standard questionnaire among 6th graders, and about 10 percentage points lower among 7th and 8th graders.

Validity of Survey Data

Five strategies were used to assess the validity of survey responses. Data were eliminated from the analysis for students who (1) reported unrealistically high levels of substance use, (2) reported unrealistically high levels of other antisocial behaviors, (3) reported use of a fictitious drug, (4) reported logically inconsistent patterns of substance use, or (5) answered less than 25% of the questions on the survey. These five strategies have been shown to consistently identify most surveys that were completed in a random fashion, those that were not taken seriously, and/or those that were not valid for other reasons.

Weighting

Before analysis, a set of statistical weights was applied to the 2008 FYSAS dataset. The application of the weights served three purposes. First, weighting compensates for certain elements of the sample design so that the sample selection probability for each student was equal. Second, weighting adjusts for nonresponse at both the school and classroom levels.

Third, weighting adjusts the distribution of the sample across grade levels and gender groups to match the distribution across the full population of DeSoto County public school students. Through this process, responses from the grade levels and gender groups that were underrepresented relative to the population are given more weight in the data analysis, while responses from the grade levels and gender groups that were overrepresented are given less weight. The step, called post-stratification, is important because variations in participation across grade levels are common with statewide, school-based survey projects like the FYSAS. Post-stratification makes the sample more representative of the population, and improves the comparability of samples over time.

The 2000, 2002 and 2004 DeSoto County datasets were weighted across grade levels but not gender groups. Additional weights were also applied to the 2000 dataset to help adjust for the earlier administration dates (December and January) that were employed in that survey effort. (See the 2002 FYSAS statewide report for a complete description of the methods used to prepare the 2000 data for analysis.)

Confidence Intervals

For the full sample of DeSoto County respondents, the maximum 95% confidence interval estimate (“the margin of error”) is ± 5.2 percentage points for prevalence rates approximating 50% (such as alcohol or tobacco). The maximum 95% confidence interval estimate is ± 3.1 percentage points for prevalence rates of 10% or lower (such as Ecstasy or cocaine). The level of certainty, in this case 95%, means that 95 out of 100 times the “true” population value will fall within the range of the confidence interval. For example, if 40% of the sample indicate using alcohol and the confidence interval is $\pm 2.0\%$, then the population value should fall within a range of 38% to 42%.

For subgroup analyses, confidence intervals are larger. Estimates for DeSoto County middle school students have confidence intervals ranging from ± 7.1 percentage points (50% prevalence rates) to ± 4.2 percentage points (10% prevalence rates). Estimates for high school students have confidence intervals ranging from ± 7.7 percentage points (50% prevalence rates) to ± 4.6 percentage points (10% prevalence rates).

Also note that the variance estimates used for these confidence interval calculations include a design effect of 3.0 to adjust for the complex design of the 2008 FYSAS sample.

Demographics

The survey measures a variety of demographic characteristics. The first two data columns of Table 1 (see Appendix A for data tables) describe the demographic profile of the DeSoto County sample before weights were applied. Please note that some categories do not sum to 100% due to missing values.

Despite covering only three out of seven surveyed grades, middle school students constituted slightly more than one half of the sample (50.5% middle school versus 49.5% high school). A higher percentage of the respondents were female (54.5% female versus 42.7% male). White, non-Hispanic students represent 37.0% of the sample. The next largest population is Hispanic/Latino students (31.0%), followed by African American students (16.2%). The rest of the ethnic breakdown ranges from 0.1% for Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students to 12.8% for students who indicated Other/Multiple ethnic backgrounds.

The second set of data columns in Table 1 presents the demographic profile information for the statewide sample.

Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Use

Alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) use is measured by a set of 39 items on the 2008 FYSAS. While most of the survey items are identical to those used in previous waves of the survey, several key changes have been made.

Starting in 2001, the survey included items measuring: (a) the use of so-called “club drugs” such as Ecstasy, GHB, ketamine and Rohypnol, (b) the use of hallucinogenic mushrooms, and (c) the use of amphetamines, including Ritalin® and Adderall®, without a doctor’s orders. In addition, the use of marijuana and the use of hashish were combined into a single item, and the use of “LSD and other psychedelics” was reworded to read “LSD or PCP.” Also starting in 2001, a parenthetical mentioning the street names “ice” and “crystal meth” was added to the methamphetamine item.

Three changes were made to the ATOD section in 2002: (a) a new item measuring the use of OxyContin® without a doctor’s orders, (b) the prescription drug Xanax® was added to the list of

examples given in the “depressants and downers” question, and (c) the “other narcotics” item was replaced by a new question measuring the use of “prescription pain relievers” without a doctor’s orders.

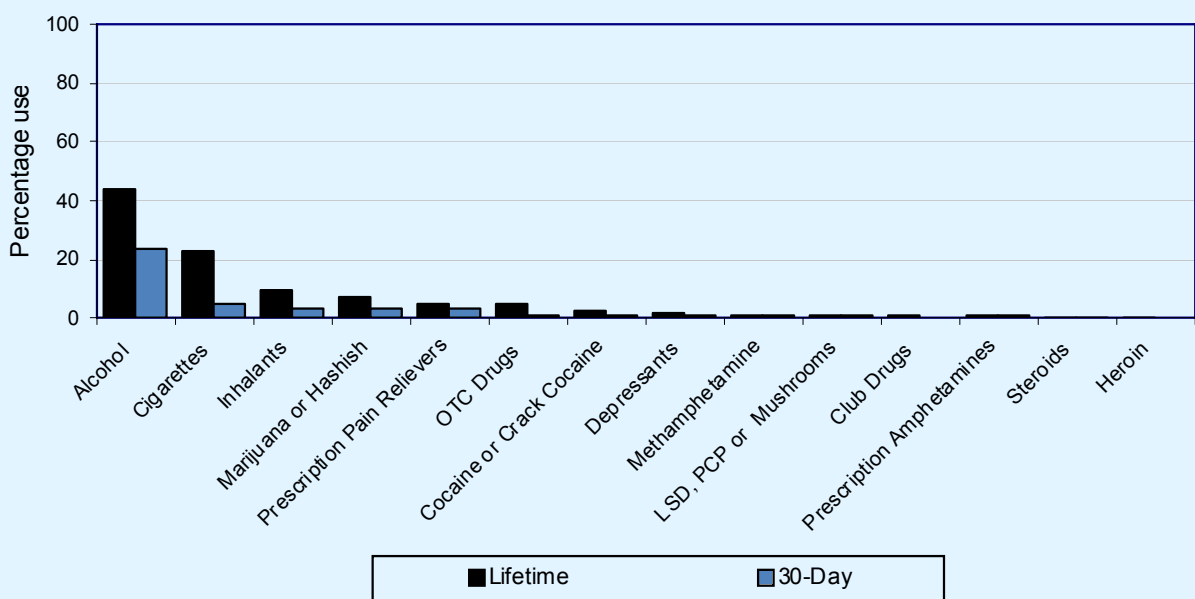
On the 2006 questionnaire, OxyContin® was removed as an individual item and added to the list of examples included in the prescription pain reliever item. Also, the question for GHB was changed to include a more up-to-date set of slang or street names for the drug.

In 2008, the questionnaire administered to high school students remained unchanged, but the ATOD section of the new middle school questionnaire reduced the number of items by asking broader categories of ATOD use rather than only asking about individual drugs. The new middle school questionnaire also introduces an important new category of ATOD use to the FYSAS. A description of these changes is below:

- Items for smokeless tobacco have been removed.
- Items for the club drugs Ecstasy, GHB, ketamine and Rohypnol have been replaced by single items that ask about the use of “club drugs such as Ecstasy, Rohypnol, GHB or ketamine.”
- Items for LSD/PCP and hallucinogenic

Graph 1

Lifetime and past-30-day use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs among DeSoto County MIDDLE SCHOOL students, 2008



mushroom use have been combined into a pair of single items that ask about all three drugs.

- Items for cocaine and crack cocaine use have been combined into a pair of single items that ask about both drugs.
- Items that measure the use of over-the-counter drugs in order to get high have been added.

Tables 2 through 5 and Graphs 1 and 2 show the percentage of surveyed DeSoto County students who reported using ATODs. These results are presented for both lifetime and past-30-day prevalence of use periods. Lifetime prevalence of use (whether the student has ever used the drug) is a good measure of student experimentation. Past-30-day prevalence of use (whether the student has used the drug within the last month) is a good measure of current use. In addition to the standard lifetime and past-30-day prevalence rates for alcohol use, binge drinking behavior (defined as a report of five or more drinks in a row within the past two weeks) is also measured.

Comparisons to the statewide results of the 2008 survey are presented in Tables 2 through 5 and Graphs 3 through 6. Trend comparisons to DeSoto County results from the 2000, 2002, 2004 and 2006 surveys are presented in Tables 6 through 9 and Graphs 3 through 6.

Alcohol

In most communities, alcohol is the drug used by the largest number of adolescents. As Graphs 1 and 2 show, this is indeed the case in DeSoto County.

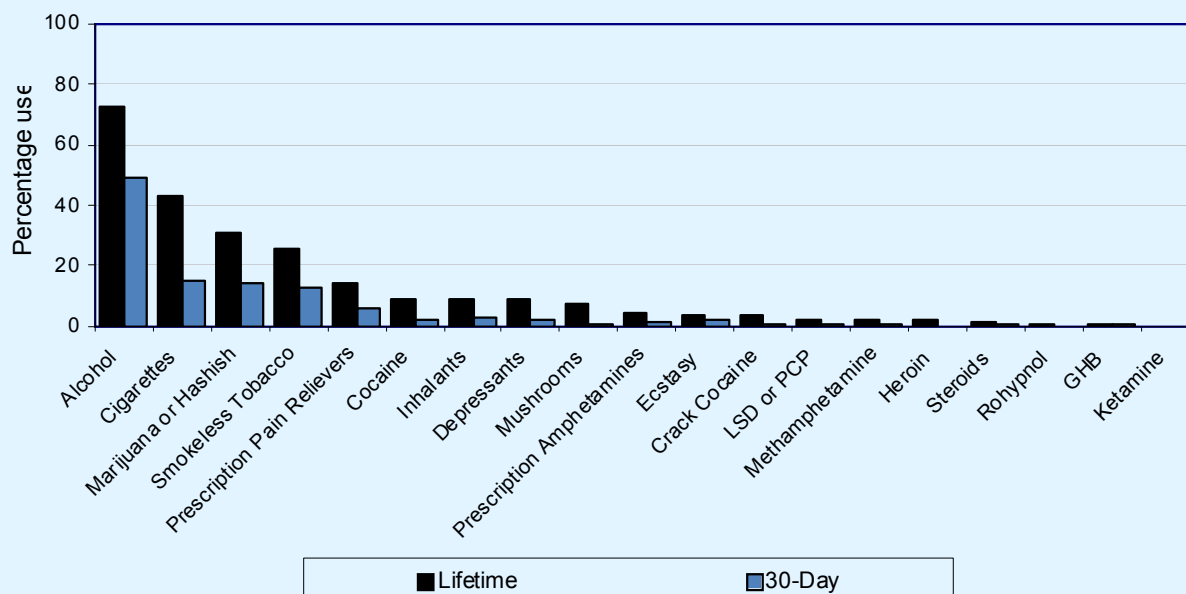
Prevalence of Use. Of the students surveyed in DeSoto County in 2008, 60.6% have used alcohol on at least one occasion in their lifetimes. This corresponds to a rate of 44.3% among middle school students and 72.6% among high school students. Current use is substantially lower. Overall, 37.9% of surveyed DeSoto County students reported the use of alcohol in the past 30 days, with grade-cohort averages of 23.3% for middle school students and 48.8% for high school students.

Statewide Comparison. As Graph 3 shows, the prevalence of past-30-day alcohol use for 2008 is higher in DeSoto County compared to the state of Florida as a whole. Overall, 37.9% of surveyed DeSoto County students reported the use of alcohol in the past 30 days compared to 29.8% of surveyed students statewide. This increased rate of use applies both to middle school (23.3% for DeSoto County versus 17.3% statewide) and high school (48.8% for DeSoto County versus 39.5% statewide) grade-cohorts.

2000-2008 Trend. In DeSoto County, between 2000 and 2008, overall past-30-day alcohol use decreased 1.1 percentage points. Among middle school

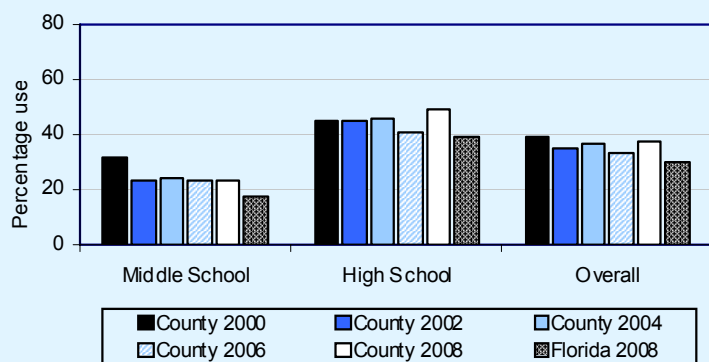
**Graph
2**

Lifetime and past-30-day use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs among DeSoto County HIGH SCHOOL students, 2008



Graph 3

Past-30-day alcohol use, DeSoto County 2000-2008 and Florida 2008



students, use decreased 8.6 percentage points, and among high school students, use increased 3.6 percentage points. Between 2006 and 2008, the two most recent waves of the DeSoto County survey, overall past-30-day alcohol use increased 4.1 percentage points. Among middle school students, use increased 0.1 percentage points, and among high school students, use increased 8.0 percentage points.

Binge Drinking. Findings on binge drinking (defined as consuming five or more drinks in a row within the past two weeks) are likely to be among the most important findings related to alcohol use (Johnston, O'Malley, Bachman & Schulenberg, 2008). In DeSoto County, 21.2% of surveyed students reported binge drinking, with corresponding rates of 7.1% among middle school students and 31.6% among high school students. While this represents a similar rate of middle school binge drinking compared to the state as a whole (6.2%), DeSoto County high school students reported a higher rate compared to results from across Florida (21.5%).

Tobacco

This section of the report discusses the prevalence of tobacco use as measured by the 2008 FYSAS. Another survey, the 2008 Florida Youth Tobacco Survey (Florida Department of Health), was administered simultaneously with the 2008 FYSAS, and was specifically tobacco related. That survey is Florida's official source for youth tobacco use information. The information presented in this report is consistent with findings reported in the 2008 Florida Youth Tobacco Survey.

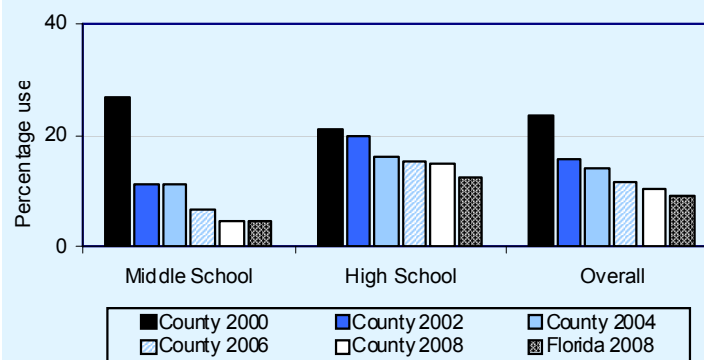
Prevalence of Use. Of the students surveyed in DeSoto County in 2008, 34.3% have used cigarettes on at least one occasion in their lifetimes. This corresponds to a rate of 22.8% among middle school students and 42.6% among high school students. Current use is substantially lower. Overall, 10.5% of surveyed DeSoto County students reported the use of cigarettes in the past 30 days, with grade-cohort averages of 4.7% for middle school students and 14.8% for high school students.

Statewide Comparison. As Graph 4 shows, the prevalence of past-30-day cigarette use for 2008 is higher in DeSoto County compared to the state of Florida as a whole. Overall, 10.5% of surveyed DeSoto County students reported the use of cigarettes in the past 30 days compared to 9.1% of surveyed students statewide. Grade-cohort analysis shows that this overall increased rate of use is concentrated in high school (14.8% for DeSoto County versus 12.6% statewide) rather than middle school (4.7% for DeSoto County versus 4.7% statewide).

2000-2008 Trend. In DeSoto County, between 2000 and 2008, overall past-30-day cigarette use decreased 13.2 percentage points. Among middle school students, use decreased 22.0 percentage points, and among high school students, use decreased 6.4 percentage points. Between 2006 and 2008, the two most recent waves of the DeSoto County survey, overall past-30-day cigarette use decreased 1.1 percentage points. Among middle school students, use decreased 2.1 percentage points, and among high school students, use decreased 0.4 percentage points.

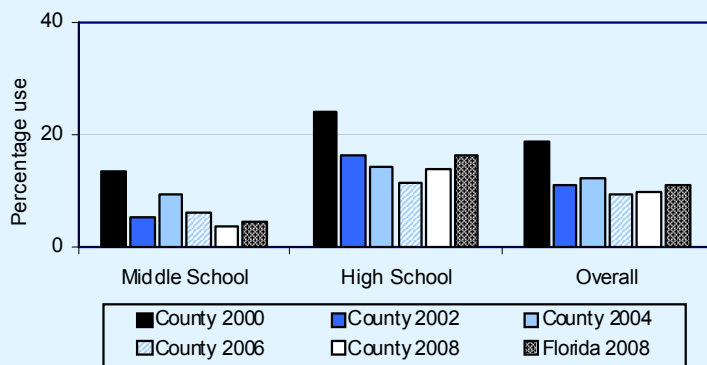
Graph 4

Past-30-day cigarette use, DeSoto County 2000-2008 and Florida 2008



Graph 5

Past-30-day marijuana or hashish use, DeSoto County 2000-2008 and Florida 2008



Smokeless Tobacco. The prevalence of current use of smokeless tobacco among high school students is similar to the rate of cigarette use in DeSoto County. Overall, 25.3% of surveyed DeSoto County high school students reported using smokeless tobacco in their lifetimes and 12.6% reported using it within the past 30 days.

Marijuana or Hashish

During the 1990s, there were major changes in trends of marijuana use throughout the United States. Results from the *Monitoring the Future* study show dramatic increases in both lifetime and past-30-day prevalence rates through the early and mid 1990s (Johnston et al., 2008). For 8th and 10th graders the past-30-day rates more than doubled during this period. Since 1996 and 1997, when marijuana use peaked, rates have declined.

Prevalence of Use. Of the students surveyed in DeSoto County in 2008, 20.8% have used marijuana or hashish on at least one occasion in their lifetimes. This corresponds to a rate of 7.7% among middle school students and 30.5% among high school students. Current use is substantially lower. Overall, 9.6% of surveyed DeSoto County students reported the use of marijuana or hashish in the past 30 days, with grade-cohort averages of 3.7% for middle school students and 14.0% for high school students.

Statewide Comparison. As Graph 5 shows, the prevalence of past-30-day marijuana or hashish use for 2008 is lower in DeSoto County compared to the state of Florida as a whole. Overall, 9.6% of surveyed DeSoto County

students reported the use of marijuana or hashish in the past 30 days compared to 11.1% of surveyed students statewide. Grade-cohort analysis shows that this overall lower rate of use is concentrated in high school (14.0% for DeSoto County versus 16.2% statewide) rather than middle school (3.7% for DeSoto County versus 4.4% statewide).

2000-2008 Trend. In DeSoto County, between 2000 and 2008, overall past-30-day marijuana use decreased 9.3 percentage points. Among middle school students, use decreased 9.8 percentage points, and among high school students, use decreased 10.1 percentage points.

Between 2006 and 2008, the two most recent waves of the DeSoto County survey, overall past-30-day marijuana use increased 0.4 percentage points. Among middle school students, use decreased 2.2 percentage points, and among high school students, use increased 2.5 percentage points.

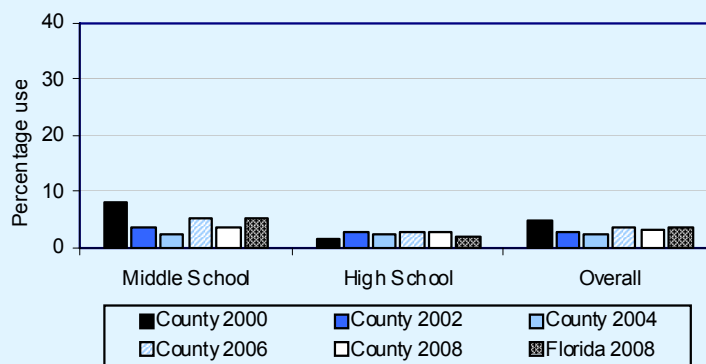
Inhalants

After alcohol, tobacco and marijuana, the most commonly used drug among Florida students is inhalants. Inhalant use is measured by the survey question, "On how many occasions (if any) have you used inhalants (whippets, butane, paint thinner, or glue to sniff, etc.)?" Inhalant use is more prevalent with younger students, perhaps because it is often the easiest drug for them to obtain. The negative consequences of inhalant use can be substantial; one of them being that it is associated with the use of other illicit drugs later in life.

Prevalence of Use. Of the students surveyed in DeSoto County in 2008, 9.3% have used inhalants on

Graph 6

Past-30-day inhalant use, DeSoto County 2000-2008 and Florida 2008



at least one occasion in their lifetimes. This corresponds to a rate of 9.5% among middle school students and 9.2% among high school students. Current use is substantially lower. Overall, 3.1% of surveyed DeSoto County students reported the use of inhalants in the past 30 days, with grade-cohort averages of 3.4% for middle school students and 2.9% for high school students.

Statewide Comparison. As Graph 6 shows, the prevalence of past-30-day inhalant use for 2008 in DeSoto County is similar to the rate for the state of Florida as a whole. Across all surveyed grades, 3.1% of surveyed DeSoto County students reported the use of inhalants in the past 30 days compared to 3.5% of surveyed students statewide. Despite this overall similarity, there was a larger usage rate difference in middle school (3.4% for DeSoto County versus 5.2% statewide). The usage rate in high school was similar to the statewide rate (2.9% for DeSoto County versus 2.2% statewide).

2000-2008 Trend. In DeSoto County, between 2000 and 2008, overall past-30-day inhalant use decreased 1.7 percentage points. Among middle school students, use decreased 4.6 percentage points, and among high school students, use increased 1.2 percentage points. Between 2006 and 2008, the two most recent waves of the DeSoto County survey, overall past-30-day inhalant use decreased 0.5 percentage points. Among middle school students, use decreased 1.7 percentage points, and among high school students, use increased 0.2 percentage points.

Club Drugs

Club drugs are a broad category of illicit substances that are classified together because their use started at dance clubs and “raves,” not because they are of a similar chemical class (like amphetamines). Their use, however, has expanded beyond these settings. For the purpose of the 2008 FYSAS, club drugs include Ecstasy, GHB, ketamine and Rohypnol. Note that this list is not meant to be exclusive, as other drugs are used at clubs and raves.

Club Drugs in Middle School

Prevalence of Use. Of the middle school students surveyed in DeSoto County in 2008, 0.7% have used club drugs on at least one occasion in their lifetimes and 0.0% have used club drugs in the past 30 days.

Statewide Comparison. The prevalence of past-30-day club drug use for 2008 in DeSoto County is similar to the rate for the state of Florida as a whole. In middle school, 0.0% of surveyed DeSoto County

students reported the use of club drugs in the past 30 days compared to 0.6% of surveyed students statewide.

Club Drugs in High School

Prevalence of Use. DeSoto County high school students reported lifetime prevalence-of-use rates of 3.8% for Ecstasy, 0.6% for Rohypnol, 0.6% for GHB, and 0.0% for ketamine. The prevalence of use within the past 30 days is lower, with all rates of use below 2.0%.

Statewide Comparison. In high school, lifetime prevalence rates for club drug use in DeSoto County are similar to those found for the state of Florida as a whole. The two largest differences were for Ecstasy use (3.8% in DeSoto County versus 4.9% in Florida) and ketamine use (0.0% in DeSoto County versus 0.8% in Florida). Past-30-day prevalence rates are too low to allow a meaningful comparison between the samples.

Over-The-Counter Drugs in Middle School

The use of over-the-counter (OTC) drugs was measured by asking: “On how many occasions (if any) have you used drugs that can be purchased from a store without a prescription—such as cold and cough medication—in order to get high in your lifetime?” and “... in the past 30 days?”

Prevalence of Use. Of the middle school students surveyed in DeSoto County in 2008, 4.7% have used OTC drugs on at least one occasion in their lifetimes and 1.3% have used OTC drugs in the past 30 days.

Statewide Comparison. The prevalence of past-30-day OTC drug use for 2008 in DeSoto County is similar to the rate for the state of Florida as a whole. In middle school, 1.3% of surveyed DeSoto County students reported the use of OTC drugs in the past 30 days compared to 2.2% of surveyed students statewide.

Prescription Drugs

While students across the country have reported declining rates of use for many illicit drugs over the past 10 years, prescription drugs have largely bucked this trend. As a result, prevalence rates for using prescription drugs without a doctor’s orders are higher than for many illicit drugs (Johnston et al., 2008). The 2008 FYSAS includes questions that assess the use of prescription pain relievers, depressants and amphetamines. Results for these prescription drugs are presented in Tables 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Prevalence of Use. DeSoto County middle school and high school students reported lifetime prevalence-of-use rates for this group of drugs that range from a high of 10.3% for prescription pain relievers and 5.8% for depressants to a low of just 2.9% for amphetamines. The prevalence of use within the past 30 days is lower. Only prescription pain relievers (4.6%) has a reported rate of use above 2.0%.

Statewide Comparison. Lifetime prevalence rates for prescription drug use in DeSoto County are similar to those found for the state of Florida as a whole. The two largest differences were for prescription pain reliever use (10.3% in DeSoto County versus 8.0% in Florida) and amphetamine use (2.9% in DeSoto County versus 3.7% in Florida). Past-30-day prevalence rates are too low to allow a meaningful comparison between the samples.

Other Illicit Drugs

The 2008 FYSAS also measured the prevalence of use of a variety of other illicit drugs among DeSoto County students. This includes the use of the following: LSD or PCP, hallucinogenic mushrooms, cocaine, crack cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin and steroids. Results for these illicit drugs are presented in Tables 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Other Illicit Drugs in Middle School

Prevalence of Use. As is typical of adolescent populations, the prevalence-of-use rates in DeSoto County for these other illicit drugs are much lower than the rates for alcohol, tobacco and marijuana. Among middle school students, lifetime prevalence-of-use rates for this group of drugs range from a high of 2.5% for cocaine or crack cocaine to a low of 0.3% for heroin. The prevalence of use within the past 30 days is lower, going from a high of 0.6% for methamphetamine, cocaine or crack cocaine and LSD, PCP or mushrooms to a low of 0.0% for heroin.

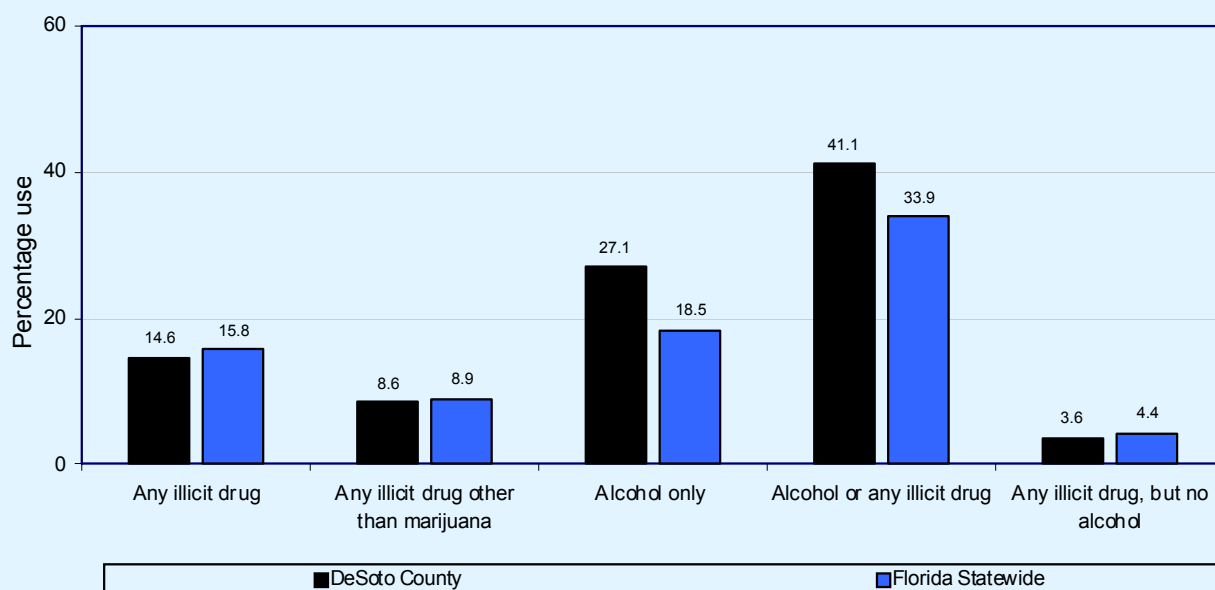
Statewide Comparison. In middle school, lifetime prevalence rates for other illicit drug use in DeSoto County are similar to those found for the state of Florida as a whole. The two largest differences were for cocaine or crack use (2.5% in DeSoto County versus 1.8% in Florida) and heroin use (0.3% in DeSoto County versus 0.8% in Florida). Past-30-day prevalence rates are too low to allow a meaningful comparison between the samples.

Other Illicit Drugs in High School

Prevalence of Use. As is typical of adolescent populations, the prevalence-of-use rates in DeSoto County for these other illicit drugs are much lower than the rates for alcohol, tobacco and marijuana. Among high school students, lifetime prevalence-of-

Graph 7

Past-30-day drug combination rates for DeSoto County and Florida Statewide, 2008



use rates for this group of drugs range from a high of 9.2% for cocaine to a low of 1.3% for steroids. The prevalence of use within the past 30 days is lower, going from a high of 1.9% for cocaine to a low of 0.0% for heroin.

Statewide Comparison. In high school, lifetime prevalence rates for other illicit drug use are higher in DeSoto County than in the state of Florida as a whole. In particular, DeSoto County students reported higher rates of cocaine use (9.2% in DeSoto County versus 5.5% in Florida) and use of Hallucinogenic Mushrooms (7.1% in DeSoto County versus 5.3% in Florida) than their counterparts from across the state. Past-30-day prevalence rates are too low to allow a meaningful comparison between the samples.

Drug Combination Rates

Prevalence-of-use rates for combinations of drugs provide a helpful summary of drug use behavior. Tables 2, 4, 6 and 8 and Graph 7 provide lifetime and past-30-day prevalence rates for the use of one or more drugs from a set of illicit drugs. Illicit drugs are substances that are illegal for adults to use, so they include all drugs on the survey except alcohol, cigarettes and smokeless tobacco. Five types of drug combination rates are presented here:

Any illicit drug – Use of at least one illicit drug

Any illicit drug other than marijuana – Use of at least one illicit drug other than marijuana

Alcohol only – The use of alcohol and no illicit drugs

Alcohol or any illicit drug – Use of alcohol or at least one illicit drug

Any illicit drug but no alcohol – Use of at least one illicit drug, without any use of alcohol

These combination categories are created using all the illicit drug items on the current high school questionnaire: marijuana or hashish, inhalants, Ecstasy, Rohypnol, GHB, ketamine, LSD or PCP, hallucinogenic mushrooms, methamphetamine, cocaine, crack cocaine, depressants, heroin, prescription pain relievers, amphetamines and steroids. Please note that the combination categories for middle school respondents include the same illicit drugs, but as described at the beginning of this section, a reduced set of items is used to ask about these drugs.

Trend comparisons for these drug combination rates begin in 2002. This is because a number of the illicit drugs were not included on the 2000 questionnaire. Also, OxyContin® was combined with prescription pain relievers in 2006, but this change is minor and has almost no impact on the drug combination trend lines.

Any Illicit Drug

Overall, 29.3% of surveyed DeSoto County students reported at least one use of *any illicit drug* in their lifetimes, and 14.6% reported use in the past 30 days. The past-30-day prevalence rate corresponds to 9.1% among middle school students and 18.6% among high school students. As Graph 7 shows, use of *any illicit drug* in the past 30 days is lower in DeSoto County than across the state of Florida as a whole (14.6% for DeSoto County versus 15.8% statewide).

Any Illicit Drug Other than Marijuana

The purpose of this drug combination rate is to provide prevention planners with an overall indicator of so-called “hard” drug use (Johnston et al., 2008). Overall, 20.7% of surveyed DeSoto County students reported at least one use of *any illicit drug other than marijuana* in their lifetimes, and 8.6% reported use in the past 30 days. The past-30-day prevalence rate corresponds to 7.0% among middle school students and 9.9% among high school students. As Graph 7 shows, use of *any illicit drug other than marijuana* in the past 30 days is similar in DeSoto County and the state (8.6% for DeSoto County versus 8.9% statewide).

It is important to note that this measure—the current use of all illicit drugs other than marijuana *combined*—is less than the past-30-day prevalence of use of alcohol (37.9%), marijuana (9.6%) and cigarettes (10.5%), as well as the prevalence of binge drinking (21.2%).

Alcohol Only

Overall, 33.7% of surveyed DeSoto County students reported at least one use of *alcohol only*—the use of alcohol and no illicit drugs—in their lifetimes, and 27.1% reported use in the past 30 days. The past-30-day prevalence rate corresponds to 18.1% among middle school students and 33.6% among high school students. As Graph 7 shows, use of *alcohol only* in the past 30 days is notably higher in DeSoto County than across the state of Florida as a whole (27.1% for DeSoto County versus 18.5% statewide).

Alcohol or Any Illicit Drug

Alcohol or any illicit drug use is a summary measure that included all drugs from the 2008 survey, with the exception of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco. Overall, 62.7% of surveyed DeSoto County students reported at least one use of *alcohol or any illicit drug* in their lifetimes, and 41.1% reported use in the past 30 days. The past-30-day prevalence rate corresponds to 27.3% among middle school students and 51.2% among high school students. As Graph 7 shows, use of *alcohol or any illicit drug* in the past 30 days is notably higher in DeSoto County than across the state of Florida as a whole (41.1% for DeSoto County versus 33.9% statewide).

Any Illicit Drug, but No Alcohol

The final drug combination category measures the use of illicit drugs by students who are not using alcohol. As Tables 2 and 4 show, this combination is quite rare. Overall, 2.2% of surveyed DeSoto County students reported having used illicit drugs in their lifetimes but never using alcohol. Current use of illicit drugs (within the past 30 days) without the accompanying use of alcohol is also rare (3.6%). The past-30-day prevalence rate corresponds to 4.4% among middle school students and 3.1% among high school students. As Graph 7 shows, use of *any illicit drug, but no alcohol* in the past 30 days is similar in DeSoto County and the state (3.6% for DeSoto

County versus 4.4% statewide).

Other Antisocial Behaviors

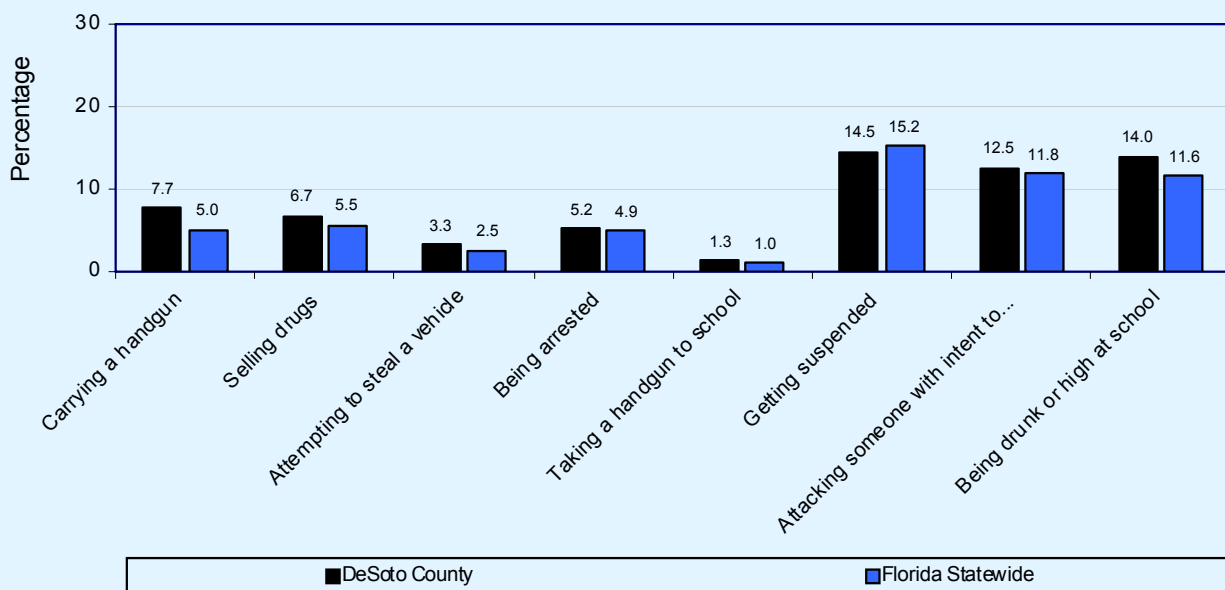
The 2008 *FYSAS* also measures a series of eight other problem or antisocial behaviors—that is, behaviors that run counter to established norms of good behavior. Note that information on antisocial behaviors is collected only for a prevalence period of the past 12 months. The survey measured the following antisocial behaviors: *Carrying a Handgun*, *Selling Drugs*, *Attempting to Steal a Vehicle*, *Being Arrested*, *Taking a Handgun to School*, *Getting Suspended*, *Attacking Someone with Intent to Harm* and *Being Drunk or High at School*.

Prevalence rates for these behaviors among DeSoto County students, as well as comparison rates from the statewide survey, are presented in Table 10 and Graph 8. Trend comparisons to DeSoto County results from the 2000, 2002, 2004 and 2006 surveys are presented in Table 16.

As Table 10 shows, the prevalence rates reported by DeSoto County students differ substantially across the eight antisocial behaviors measured in the survey. Reports of *Taking a Handgun to School* (1.3%), *Attempting to Steal a Vehicle* (3.3%), and *Being Arrested* (5.2%) are rare, while *Getting Suspended* (14.5%), *Being Drunk or High at School* (14.0%), and *Attacking Someone with Intent to Harm* (12.5%)

**Graph
8**

Comparisons of past-12-month delinquent behavior for DeSoto County and Florida Statewide, 2008



are more common.

Carrying a Handgun. In DeSoto County, 7.7% of students reported carrying a handgun in the past year, with rates of 7.6% and 7.7% for middle school and high school students, respectively. Male students (14.3%) were more likely than female students (1.6%) to have reported this behavior. Across the state as a whole, 5.0% of students reported carrying a handgun.

Selling Drugs. In DeSoto County, 6.7% of students reported selling drugs in the past year, with rates of 4.1% and 8.6% for middle school and high school students, respectively. Male students (10.9%) were more likely than female students (3.0%) to have reported this behavior. Across the state as a whole, 5.5% of students reported selling drugs.

Attempting to Steal a Vehicle. In DeSoto County, 3.3% of students reported attempting to steal a vehicle in the past year, with rates of 2.3% and 4.0% for middle school and high school students, respectively. Male students (5.5%) were more likely than female students (1.0%) to have reported this behavior. Across the state as a whole, 2.5% of students reported attempting to steal a vehicle.

Being Arrested. In DeSoto County, 5.2% of students reported being arrested in the past year, with rates of 4.2% and 6.0% for middle school and high school students, respectively. Male students (6.4%) were more likely than female students (4.4%) to have reported this behavior. Across the state as a whole, 4.9% of students reported being arrested.

Taking a Handgun to School. In DeSoto County, 1.3% of students reported taking a handgun to school in the past year, with rates of 0.8% and 1.7% for middle school and high school students, respectively. Male students (2.3%) were more likely than female students (0.6%) to have reported this behavior. Across the state as a whole, 1.0% of students reported taking a handgun to school.

Getting Suspended. In DeSoto County, 14.5% of students reported getting suspended in the past year, with rates of 16.2% and 13.3% for middle school and high school students, respectively. Male students (18.5%) were more likely than female students (11.1%) to have reported this behavior. Across the state as a whole, 15.2% of students reported getting suspended.

Note, however, that the questionnaire item used to measure *Getting Suspended* does not define

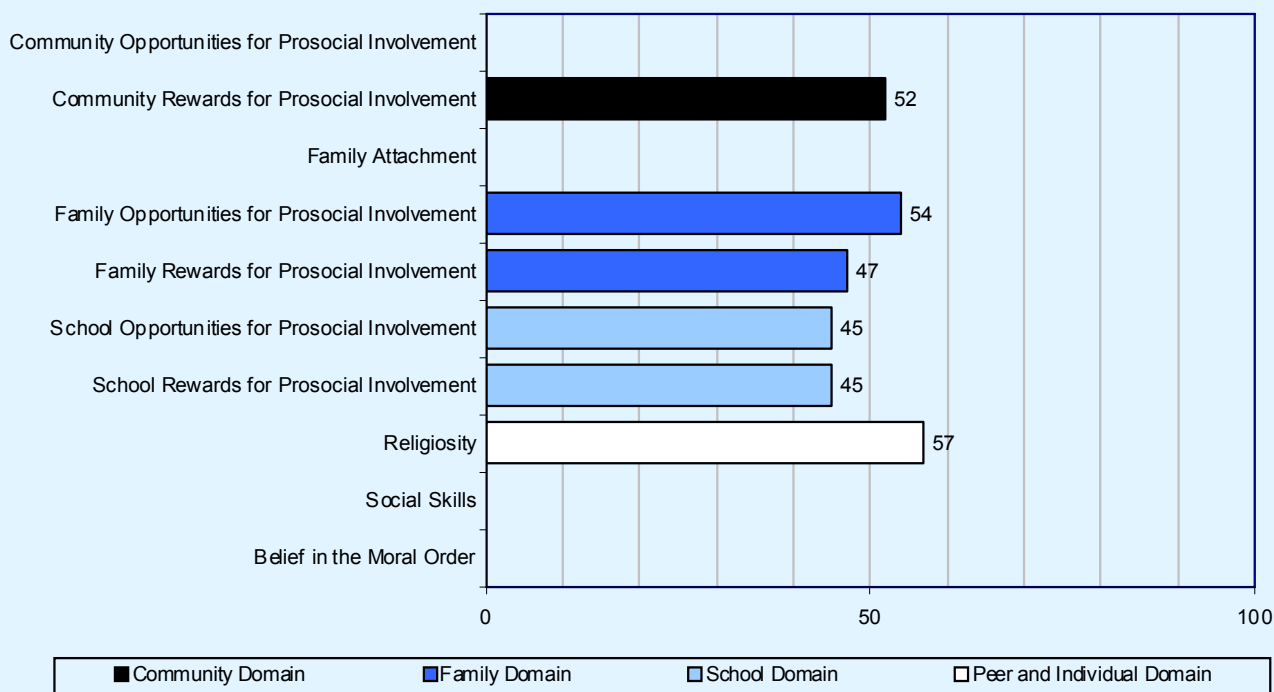
“suspension.” Rather, it is left to the individual respondent to define. Because suspension policies vary substantially from county to county, comparisons to statewide results should be interpreted with caution for this item.

Attacking Someone with Intent to Harm. In DeSoto County, 12.5% of students reported attacking someone with intent to harm in the past year, with rates of 10.1% and 14.3% for middle school and high school students, respectively. Male students (16.1%) were more likely than female students (9.4%) to have reported this behavior. Across the state as a whole, 11.8% of students reported attacking someone with intent to harm.

Being Drunk or High at School. In DeSoto County, 14.0% of students reported being drunk or high at school in the past year, with rates of 7.5% and 18.7% for middle school and high school students, respectively. Male students (16.0%) were more likely than female students (12.4%) to have reported this behavior. Across the state as a whole, 11.6% of students reported being drunk or high at school.

**Graph
9**

MIDDLE SCHOOL protective factor prevalence rates for DeSoto County, 2008



Risk and Protective Factors

Just as smoking is a risk factor for heart disease and getting regular exercise is a protective factor against heart disease and other health problems, there are factors that can help protect youth from, or put them at risk for, drug use and other problem behaviors.

Protective factors, also known as “assets,” are conditions that buffer children and youth from exposure to risk by either reducing the impact of the risks or changing the way that young people respond to risks.

Risk factors are conditions that increase the likelihood of a young person becoming involved in drug use, delinquency, school dropout and/or violence. For example, children living in families with poor family supervision are more likely to become involved in these problems.

Research during the past 30 years supports the view that delinquency; alcohol, tobacco and other drug use; school achievement; and other important outcomes in adolescence are associated with specific risk and protective factors in the student’s community, school and family environments, as well as with characteristics of the individual (Hawkins,

Catalano & Miller, 1992). In fact, these risk and protective factors have been shown to be more important in understanding these behaviors than ethnicity, income or family structure (Blum et al., 2000).

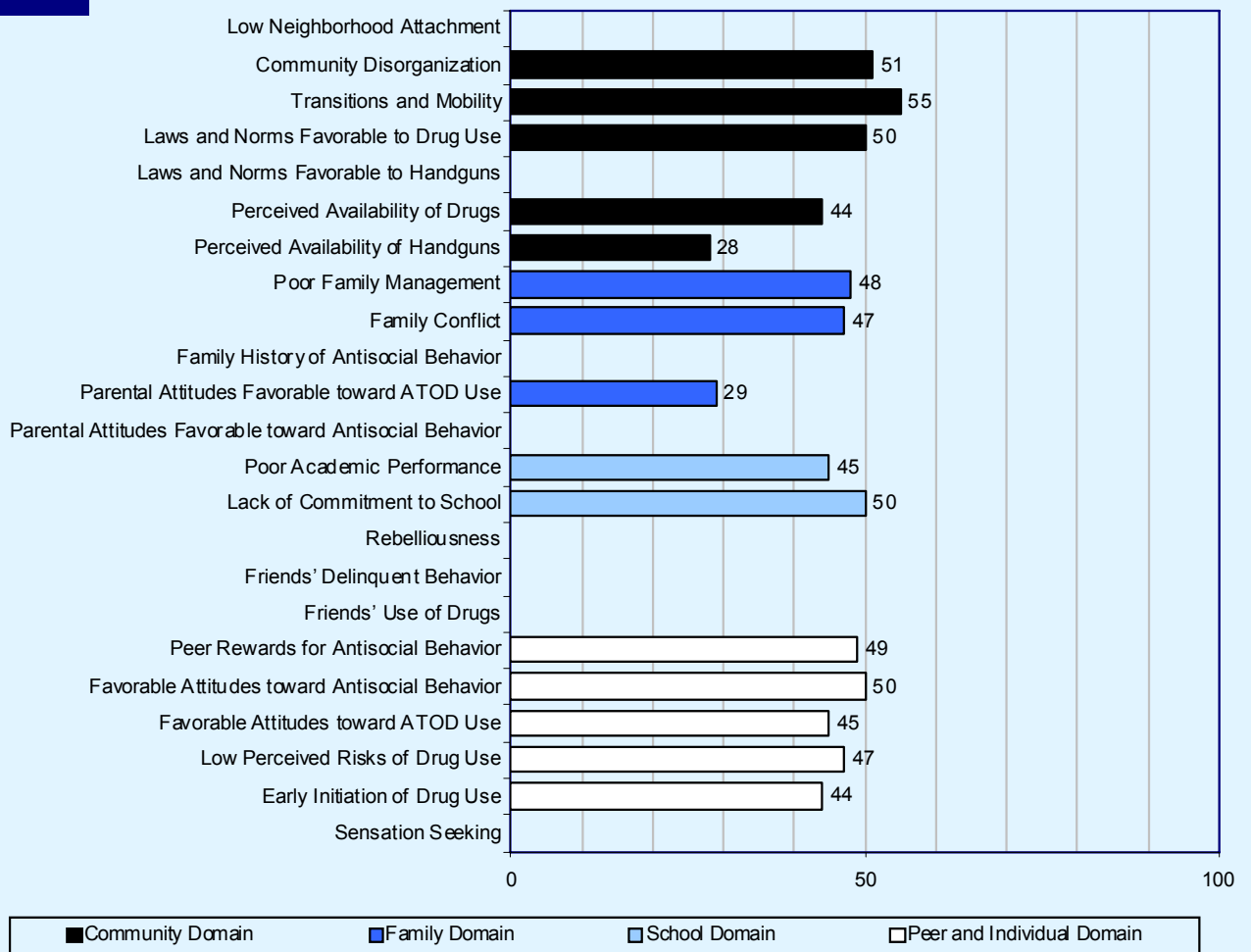
There is a substantial amount of research showing that adolescents’ exposure to a greater number of risk factors is associated with more drug use and delinquency. There is also evidence that exposure to a number of protective factors is associated with lower prevalence of these problem behaviors (Bry, McKeon & Pandina, 1982; Newcomb, Maddahian & Skager, 1987; Newcomb & Felix-Ortiz, 1992; Newcomb, 1995; Pollard et al., 1999).

The Social Development Strategy

The Social Development Strategy (Hawkins, Catalano & Associates, 1992) organizes these risk and protective factors into a framework that families, schools and communities can use to help children develop healthy behaviors. This strategy, which is graphically depicted in Appendix C, shows how three broad categories of protective factors—healthy beliefs and clear standards, bonding, and individual characteristics—work together to promote positive youth development and healthy behaviors (Hawkins, Arthur & Catalano, 1995). The Social Development

**Graph
10**

MIDDLE SCHOOL risk factor prevalence rates for DeSoto County, 2008



Strategy begins with a goal of healthy behaviors for all children and youth. In order for young people to develop healthy behaviors, adults must communicate healthy beliefs and clear standards for behavior to young people (Catalano & Hawkins, 1996). Bonding (an attached, committed relationship) between a child and an adult who communicates healthy beliefs and clear standards motivates the child to follow healthy beliefs and clear standards. A child who forges a bond with an adult is less likely to threaten the relationship by violating the beliefs and standards held by the adult. Research has identified three conditions for bonding (Catalano & Hawkins, 1996):

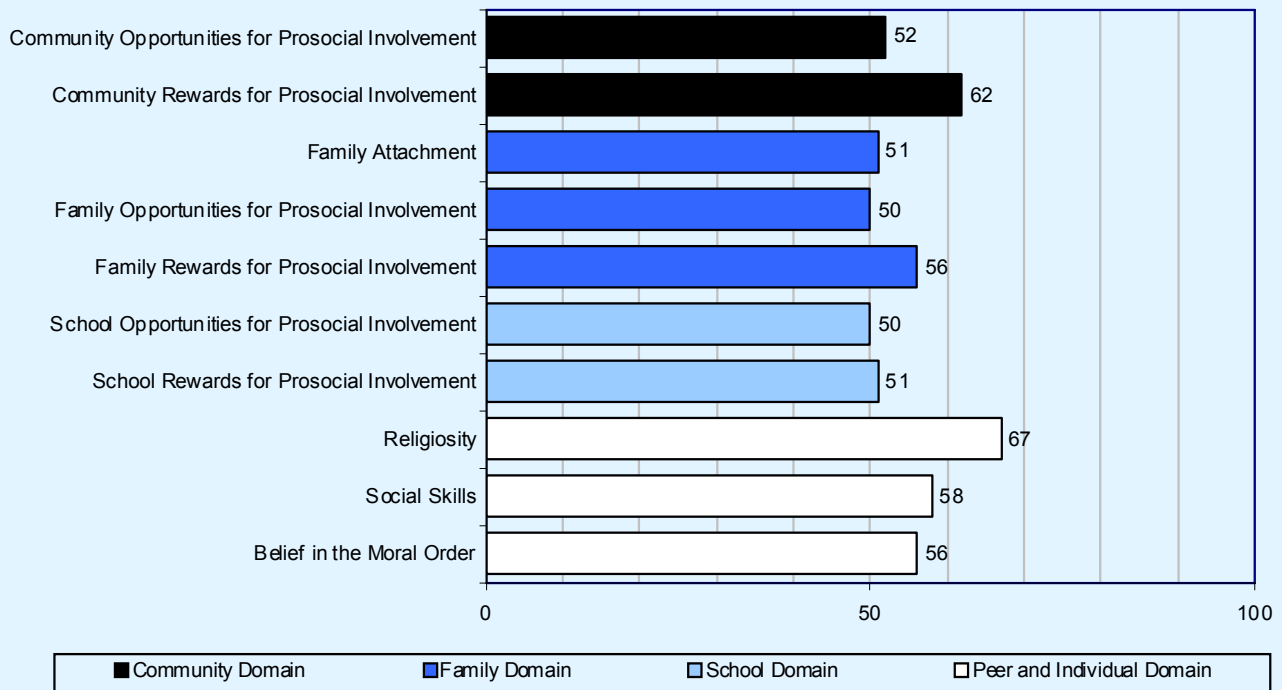
- First, children need developmentally appropriate opportunities for meaningful involvement with a positive social group (community, family, school, etc.) or individual.

- Second, children need the emotional, cognitive, social and behavioral skills to successfully take advantage of opportunities.
- Third, children must be recognized for their involvement. Recognition sets up a reinforcing cycle in which children continue to look for opportunities and learn skills and, therefore, receive recognition.

Certain characteristics with which some children come into the world (positive social orientation, resilient temperament and high intelligence) can also help protect children from risk. For children who do not have the protective advantages of these characteristics, in order to build strong bonds to family, school and community, it is even more important for community members to:

**Graph
11**

HIGH SCHOOL protective factor prevalence rates for DeSoto County, 2008



- make extra efforts to provide opportunities for involvement
- teach the social, emotional, and cognitive skills needed to be successful
- recognize children's efforts as well as their successes.

The developmental process outlined in this model has important implications for prevention planning. Programs that seek to change the attitudes young people hold about the pros and cons of ATOD use, for example, may produce an immediate reduction in the prevalence of problem behaviors. The effectiveness of these efforts will be limited, however, by the risk and protective factors that underlie the acquisition of healthy beliefs and clear standards. If young people have weak bonds to prosocial groups and strong bonds to antisocial groups, they will be less receptive to drug abuse prevention messages.

An alternative prevention strategy might involve targeting the risk and protective factors that operate at an earlier point in the developmental process. While programs and policies that increase the opportunities for prosocial involvement in the family,

at school and in the community may not yield an immediate reduction in the rates of ATOD use, they will encourage young people to form attachments to sources of positive social influence, thereby building the foundation for healthy behavioral choices in the future.

Measurement

The *FYSAS* assesses 23 risk factors and 10 protective factors across four domains: Community Domain, Family Domain, School Domain, and Peer and Individual Domain. Each factor is measured by a set of survey items called a scale.

The 2008 *FYSAS* uses the same risk and protective factors scales employed in previous survey efforts. In other words, the same survey items are still used to construct each scale. (Please note that the middle school survey employs a reduced set of risk and protective factor scales. The difference between the middle school and high school questionnaires is described below.)

This year, a new method is being used to convert these scales into scores. This change is a response to requests for a risk and protective factor scoring system that is more intuitive, and therefore easier to incorporate into the prevention planning process.

For each risk and protective factor scale, the new scoring method sets a threshold above which respondents are considered to have a high level of risk or protection and below which they are considered to have a low level of risk or protection. It then becomes possible to count the number of students with high levels of risk or protection on each scale. This approach, in turn, allows risk and protective factor data to be reported in the same way as ATOD data: as prevalence rates.

Under this new system, a score of 60 for the protective factor *School Rewards for Prosocial Involvement* would indicate that 60% of surveyed students reported a high level of protection for this protective factor, while 40% reported a low level of protection. Risk factor scales are scored in the same way. For example, a score of 55 for the risk factor *Friends' Use of Drugs* would indicate that 55% of surveyed students reported a high level of risk for this

risk factor, while 45% reported a low level of risk.

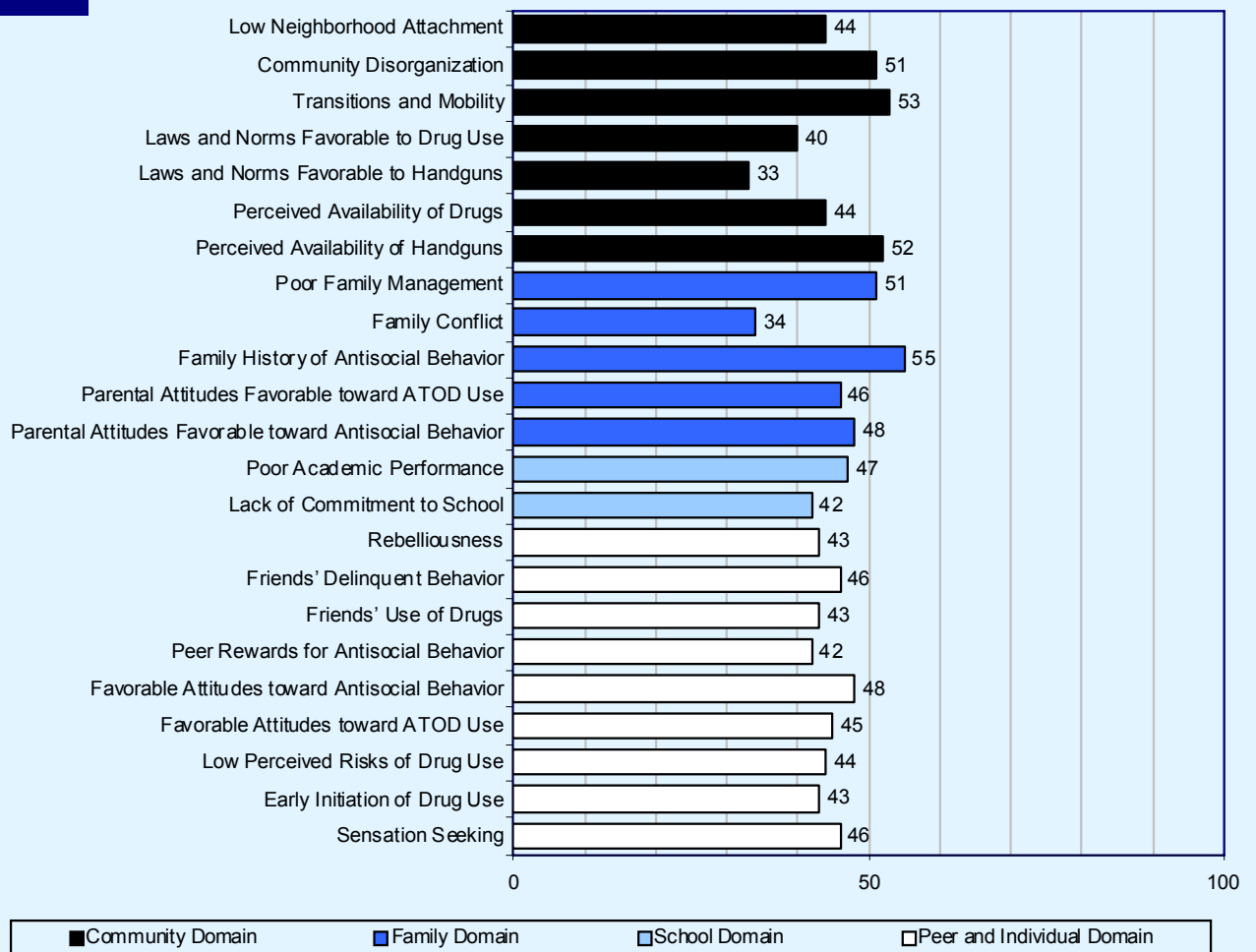
Risk and protective factor scale prevalence rates for the overall sample of DeSoto County middle school and high school students are presented in Tables 18 and 19 and Graphs 9 to 12.

Calculation of Risk and Protective Factor Thresholds

The high-risk and high-protection thresholds used to calculate the risk and protective factor prevalence rates were calculated using a method recommended by Arthur et al. (2007). For risk factor scales, the high-risk threshold is the normative median—that is the scale's median value in the *Communities That Care* normative database—plus .15 times the mean absolute deviation (a measure of central tendency similar to the standard deviation). In other words, risk factor thresholds are set slightly above the normative median. For protective factor scales, the high-

**Graph
12**

HIGH SCHOOL risk factor prevalence rates for DeSoto County, 2008



protection threshold is the normative median minus .15 times the mean absolute deviation. In other words, protective factor thresholds are set slightly below the normative median.

It is also important to note that risk and protection thresholds are calculated separately for each grade level. For most risk factors, this means that older students must report a higher level of risk before crossing the scoring threshold and being designated as at risk. For most protective factors, this means that older students must report a lower level of protection before crossing the scoring threshold and being designated as protected.

Comparing Risk and Protective Factor Prevalence Rates

The simplicity of the new prevalence rate scoring method will make it easier for prevention planners to analyze and compare risk and protective factor scores. However, comparisons to national risk and protective factor norms from the *Communities That Care* normative database must now be done differently.

Under the old percentile scoring system, the national median score was 50 for all risk and protective factor scales. Scores above 50 were, by definition, higher than the national median and scores below 50 were lower than the national median. Under the new method, median scores from the *Communities That Care* normative database differ for each risk and protective factor scale. These new national risk and protective factor norms are presented in Tables 18 and 19.

The risk factor scale *Early Initiation of Drug Use* provides an example. As shown in Table 52, 36% of surveyed Florida middle school and high school students reported scale scores above the high-risk threshold. In other words, 36% of surveyed Florida students are at risk due to early experimentation with drugs. Table 54 shows that across the national *Communities That Care* normative sample, 43% of survey students are at risk due to early experimentation with drugs. Florida's score of 36% is seven percentage points below the normative score.

Normative Data

The *Communities That Care* normative database contains survey responses from over 280,000 students in grades 6 through 12. It was compiled by combining the results of selected *Communities That Care Youth Survey* efforts that were completed in 2000, 2001 and 2002. To enhance representativeness,

statistical weights were applied to adjust the sample to exactly match the population of U.S. public school students on four key demographic variables: ethnicity, sex, socioeconomic status and urbanicity. Information on the U.S. public school student population was obtained from the Common Core of Data program at the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics.

Trend Analysis

Risk and protective factor scale scores generated with the new prevalence rate scoring system are not directly comparable to scores generated with the previous percentile scoring system. As a result, scores from the 2000 to 2008 FYSAS have been recalculated using the new methodology in order to support trend analysis. These results are presented in Tables 20 through 23.

The Middle School Questionnaire

As previously noted, middle school students were given a shorter version of the FYSAS questionnaire. The following 12 risk and protective factor scales, which were deemed less critical for middle school prevention planning, are not included in the middle school survey:

- *Community Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement*
- *Family Attachment*
- *Social Skills*
- *Belief in the Moral Order*
- *Low Neighborhood Attachment*
- *Laws and Norms Favorable to Handguns*
- *Family History of Antisocial Behavior*
- *Parental Attitudes Favorable toward Antisocial Behavior*
- *Rebelliousness*
- *Friends' Delinquent Behavior*
- *Friends' Use of Drugs*
- *Sensation Seeking*

For these risk and protective factor scales, results are only presented for high school students.

Using Your Risk and Protective Factor Data

The analysis of risk and protective factors is the most powerful tool available for understanding what promotes both positive and negative adolescent

behavior and for helping design successful prevention programs for young people. To promote positive development and prevent problem behavior, it is necessary to address the factors that predict these outcomes. By measuring these risk and protective factors, specific factors that are elevated can be prioritized in the community. This process also helps in selecting tested-effective prevention programming shown to address those elevated factors and consequently provide the greatest likelihood for success.

Risk and Protective Factor Prioritization

In general, a prevention strategy that focuses on a relatively narrow set of developmental factors can be more effective than a strategy that spreads resources across a broad set of factors. Risk and protective factor data from the *FYSAS* can provide critical guidance in this prioritization process. That is, prevention planners can use the information gathered by the survey to identify youth development areas where programs, policies and practices are likely to have the greatest positive impact.

Start the prioritization process by identifying the protective factor scales with the lowest percentage of protected students and the risk factor scales with the highest percentage of at risk students. It may also be helpful to identify scales with particularly high percentages of protected students or low percentages of at risk students. These areas represent strengths that prevention planners in DeSoto County may wish to build on. In addition, it is also important to compare the rates of risk and protection reported by DeSoto County students to the rates reported by students in the national normative sample.

Lowest Protective Factor Scales

- Across all 10 protective factor scales, both middle school and high school students in DeSoto County reported the lowest level of protection for the *School Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement* scale. Among middle school students, 45% reported an elevated level of protection, two points lower than the statewide average of 47%. In the national normative sample, 57% reported an elevated level of protection, 12 points higher than DeSoto County. Among high school students, 50% reported an elevated level of protection, nine points lower than the statewide average of 59%. In the national normative sample, 60% reported an elevated level of protection, 10 points higher than DeSoto County. Students with low scores on this scale have fewer opportunities to interact

closely with teachers, get involved with special projects and activities in the classroom, and participate in sports, clubs and other school activities outside of the classroom. This lack of involvement deprives students of the opportunity to form healthy relationships with teachers and prosocial peers.

- Middle school students also reported the lowest level of protection for one other scale, *School Rewards for Prosocial Involvement*. Their score of 45% was the same as the statewide average. In the national normative sample, 53% reported an elevated level of protection, eight points higher than DeSoto County. Low scores on this scale indicate that students receive less praise and encouragement when they work hard and do well in school. This lack of positive feedback, in turn, may weaken the bonds students form with teachers, coaches and prosocial peers.
- High school students also reported the lowest level of protection for one scale, *Family Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement*. Their score of 50% was three points lower than the statewide average of 53%. In the national normative sample, 54% reported an elevated level of protection, four points higher than DeSoto County. Low scores on this scale indicate that activities that promote family attachment—such as family recreation and involvement in family decisions—are less available to students. These prosocial activities reinforce family bonds and cause students to more easily adopt the norms projected by their families. For instance, children whose parents have high expectations for their school achievement are less likely to drop out of school.

Highest Risk Factor Scales

Community Domain:

- Within the Community Domain, both middle school and high school students in DeSoto County reported the highest level of risk for the *Transitions and Mobility* scale. Among middle school students, 55% reported an elevated level of risk, six points lower than the statewide average of 61%. In the national normative sample, 47% reported an elevated level of risk, eight points lower than DeSoto County. Among high school students, 53% reported an elevated level of risk, 11 points lower than the statewide average of 64%. In the national normative sample, 46% reported an elevated level of risk,

seven points lower than DeSoto County. High scores on this scale indicate that students are changing homes and schools more frequently. Dislocations of this type can inhibit the ability of young people to become involved with prosocial organizations and individuals within their school and community.

Family Domain:

- Within the Family Domain, middle school students in DeSoto County reported the highest level of risk for the *Poor Family Management* scale. Their score of 48% was one point lower than the statewide average of 49%. In the national normative sample, 44% reported an elevated level of protection, four points lower than DeSoto County. Students with high scores on this scale live in families in which child supervision is a lower priority. Parents in these families place less emphasis on making sure homework is completed on time, monitoring children's activities outside of the home, and setting clear rules about alcohol and drug use. Delinquent behaviors such as drug use, skipping school and carrying a weapon are also less likely to be noticed and punished.
- High school students in DeSoto County reported the highest level of risk for the *Family History of Antisocial Behavior* scale. Their score of 55% was 12 points higher than the statewide average of 43%. In the national normative sample, 45% reported an elevated level of protection, 10 points lower than DeSoto County. Students with high scores on this scale indicated that their families have a history of antisocial behavior, such as substance use or criminal behavior. When family members model the use of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs, their children are more likely to initiate ATOD use, and if they start using, they are likely to use more frequently. For example, research has shown that having a household member who smokes cigarettes nearly doubles the chances that a child either has smoked or expects to start smoking.

School Domain:

- Within the School Domain, middle school students in DeSoto County reported the highest level of risk for the *Lack of Commitment to School* scale. Their score of 50% was five points lower than the statewide average of 55%. In the national normative sample, 47% reported an elevated level of protection, three points lower

than DeSoto County. Students with high scores on this scale have negative feelings about school, and are less likely to report that school work is meaningful or important for their future. Young people who have lost this commitment to school are at higher risk for a variety of problem behaviors.

- High school students in DeSoto County reported the highest level of risk for the *Poor Academic Performance* scale. Their score of 47% was three points higher than the statewide average of 44%. In the national normative sample, 48% reported an elevated level of protection, one point higher than DeSoto County. Beginning in the late elementary grades, poor academic performance increases the risk of drug use, delinquency, violence and school dropout. Children fail for many reasons, but it appears that the experience of failure increases the risk of these problem behaviors.

Peer and Individual Domain:

- Within the Peer and Individual Domain, both middle school and high school students in DeSoto County reported the highest level of risk for the *Favorable Attitudes toward Antisocial Behavior* scale. Among middle school students, 50% reported an elevated level of risk, two points higher than the statewide average of 48%. In the national normative sample, 40% reported an elevated level of risk, 10 points lower than DeSoto County. Among high school students, 48% reported an elevated level of risk, one point higher than the statewide average of 47%. In the national normative sample, 46% reported an elevated level of risk, two points lower than DeSoto County. A high score on this scale indicates that fewer students express disapproval for fighting, skipping school and other forms of antisocial behavior. During the elementary school years, children usually express anticrime and prosocial attitudes and have difficulty imagining why people commit crimes or drop out of school. However, in middle school, as others they know begin to participate in such activities, their attitudes often shift toward greater acceptance of these behaviors. This acceptance places them at higher risk for antisocial behaviors.

Strengths to Build on

In addition to specifying problem areas, the prioritization process also benefits from identifying

the scales for which students reported the highest levels of protection and the lowest levels of risk. These areas represent strengths that DeSoto County may wish to build on.

Highest Protective Factor Scales:

- Across all 10 protective factor scales, both middle school and high school students in DeSoto County reported the highest level of protection for the *Religiosity* scale. Among middle school students, 57% reported an elevated level of protection, six points higher than the statewide average of 51%. In the national normative sample, 56% reported an elevated level of protection, one point lower than DeSoto County. Among high school students, 67% reported an elevated level of protection, six points higher than the statewide average of 61%. In the national normative sample, 62% reported an elevated level of protection, five points lower than DeSoto County. Students who reported high scores on this scale attend religious services and activities more frequently. As a result, they are more likely to benefit from relationships with prosocial adults and peers, opportunities for prosocial activities, and the teaching of prosocial values that are often part of religious involvement.
- Additionally, middle school students in DeSoto County also reported a high level of protection for the *Family Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement* scale. Their score of 54% was two points lower than the statewide average of 56%. In the national normative sample, 59% reported an elevated level of protection, five points higher than DeSoto County. High scores on this scale indicate that activities that promote family attachment—such as family recreation and involvement in family decisions—are available to students. These prosocial activities reinforce family bonds and cause students to more easily adopt the norms projected by their families. For instance, children whose parents have high expectations for their school achievement are less likely to drop out of school.
- High school students in DeSoto County also reported a high level of protection for the *Community Rewards for Prosocial Involvement* scale. Their score of 62% was one point higher than the statewide average of 61%. In the national normative sample, 63% reported an elevated level of protection, one point higher

than DeSoto County. Students who reported high scores on this scale receive encouragement and praise from neighbors and other members of their communities. With this type of support, young people may be more likely to accept the guidance available from the positive role models in their communities.

Lowest Risk Factor Scales:

- Across all 23 risk factor scales, middle school students in DeSoto County reported the lowest level of risk for the *Perceived Availability of Handguns* scale. Their score of 28% was one point higher than the statewide average of 27%. In the national normative sample, 25% reported an elevated level of protection, three points lower than DeSoto County. A low score on this scale indicates that it is difficult for students to get a handgun.
- High school students in DeSoto County reported the lowest level of risk for the *Laws and Norms Favorable to Handguns* scale. Their score of 33% was 10 points higher than the statewide average of 23%. In the national normative sample, 23% reported an elevated level of protection, 10 points lower than DeSoto County. Students with low scores on this scale believe that police are likely to catch young people who carry handguns. When young people believe that the laws and norms concerning firearms are strictly enforced, they are less likely to engage in dangerous behavior.
- Additionally, middle school students in DeSoto County also reported a low level of risk for the *Parental Attitudes Favorable toward ATOD Use* scale. Their score of 29% was seven points higher than the statewide average of 22%. In the national normative sample, 23% reported an elevated level of protection, six points lower than DeSoto County. Students with low scores on this scale have parents who strenuously disapprove of youth ATOD use. Parental attitudes is one of the strongest predictors of youth ATOD use.
- High school students in DeSoto County also reported a low level of risk for the *Family Conflict* scale. Their score of 34% was three points lower than the statewide average of 37%. In the national normative sample, 37% reported an elevated level of protection, three points higher than DeSoto County. Students with low scores on this scale live in families where serious arguments are less common. Bonding between

family members, especially between children and their parents or guardians, is a key component in the development of positive social norms. Low levels of family conflict promote the development of these bonds, and decrease the likelihood that young people will engage in illegal drug use and other forms of delinquent behavior.

Further Considerations

In addition to identifying the highest risk factor scales and lowest protective factor scales, the prevention prioritization process may include several supplemental steps, such as:

- Compare county-level results to state-level results. Risk and protective factor scale scores from the statewide *FYSAS* are presented in Tables 18 and 19. A comparison to statewide results may reveal additional strengths and weaknesses in DeSoto County's risk and protective factor profile. For example, a risk factor scale that is not the most elevated within its domain may be designated as a target for prevention programming because it is notably higher in DeSoto County than across the state as a whole.
- Review the prevalence of ATOD use and other antisocial behaviors in your community. A high rate of alcohol use, for example, may dictate a different prevention strategy than a high rate of youth violence. The table on the second page in Appendix C provides a resource for this analysis by showing the behavioral outcomes that have been linked, in multiple longitudinal studies, to each risk factor.
- Use archival data to fill the gaps in the *FYSAS* data, and to support findings in the survey. For example, Teen Pregnancy and School Drop-Out are problem behaviors not measured by the survey that may influence prevention planning. Archival data are information sources that have already been collected and/or documented at the local, state or national level. They can include records that are kept by governmental and other agencies, and records that are normally kept as part of the operation of an institution or organization.
- Consider which risk and protective factors the community can realistically tackle at this time. Some factors may be too big, or there may be other efforts already underway in the community

to address them. If your community does not have extensive financial or human resources, then it may be appropriate to narrow the list down to one or two priority factors.

- Consider political, social and economic factors in the community. What is best for the community? Which risk and protective factors would policy makers find acceptable to address at this time?

Choosing Effective Prevention Strategies

After completing the prioritization process and identifying key risk and protective factors for focused prevention efforts, the next step for communities is to select research-based, proven-effective programs that target these problem areas.

A major breakthrough in the field of positive youth development in the past two decades has been the development and testing of programs, policies and practices that are shown to work to reduce adolescent drug use, violence, risky sexual behavior and school failure. State and national agencies have become increasingly interested in and committed to programs, policies and practices that have been rigorously tested for effectiveness.

Prevention strategies identified as "tested, effective" are those that have been tested in well-controlled trials comparing schools, families, young people or communities that received the strategy with those that did not. Results of those trials showed that those who received the strategies were better off than those that did not, in terms of lower risk, greater protection and better behavioral outcomes.

A good first step in the strategy selection process is to review published lists of tested, effective prevention resources. A number of organizations have constructed lists that link research-based programs with the risk and protective factors they have been shown to effectively address. Additional information on the four lists presented below is available in Appendix D of this report.

- The *Communities That Care* Prevention Strategies Guide
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Model Programs list
- The University of Colorado at Boulder's Blueprints for Violence Prevention initiative,

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sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)

- The Western Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies (CAPT) list of Best Practices and Promising Practices

In addition to selecting research-based, proven-effective programs to target areas of low protection and high risk, communities should also consider the impact of environmental factors and public policies. For example, a strategy to combat a high level of *Perceived Availability of Drugs* might incorporate changes to local laws or provide resources to strengthen the enforcement of existing laws.

Special Topics

Several analyses were conducted to investigate alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) use results. These include early initiation of ATOD use and attitudes toward ATOD use (perceived risk of harm, personal disapproval and peer approval).

Early Initiation of ATOD Use

Students were asked to report on when they began using alcohol, cigarettes and marijuana. Early initiation for these drugs is of special importance, since they are often precursors to the use of harder drugs, such as methamphetamine and cocaine. The question related to cigarettes is “How old were you when you first smoked a cigarette, even just a puff?” The question about marijuana is “How old were you when you first smoked marijuana?” Two questions about alcohol were asked, one asking when the student first “had more than a sip or two of beer, wine or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey or gin)” and one asking the student when he or she “began drinking alcoholic beverages regularly, that is, at least once or twice a month.”

Tables 13 and 17 present the percentage of high school students, age 14 years or older, who started using alcohol, cigarettes or marijuana at age 13 or younger. This percentage is the early initiation rate.

DeSoto County high school students reported the highest rate of early ATOD initiation for “more than a sip or two” of alcohol (37.0%), followed by cigarette use (28.5%), marijuana use (11.8%) and drinking at least once a month (10.7%).

Perceived Risk of Harm

Perception of risk is an important determinant in the decision-making process young people go through

when deciding whether or not to use alcohol, tobacco or other drugs. Evidence also suggests that the perceptions of the risks and benefits associated with drug use sometimes serve as a leading indicator of future drug use patterns in a community (Bachman, Johnston, O’Malley & Humphrey, 1986). Tables 14 and 17 present prevalence rates for surveyed DeSoto County students assigning “great risk” of harm to four drug use behaviors: near daily use of alcohol, daily use of cigarettes, regular use of marijuana, and trying marijuana once or twice.

Surveyed DeSoto County students assigned the highest risk of harm to daily use of cigarettes (61.8%), followed by regular use of marijuana (60.9%), near daily use of alcohol (34.9%) and trying marijuana once or twice (34.4%).

Daily Use of Alcohol. In DeSoto County, 34.9% of students reported that having one or more drinks nearly every day would pose a “great risk” of harm. This is up 0.1 percentage points from 2000. Middle school students reported a rate of 32.9% and high school students reported a rate of 36.4%. Across the state as a whole, 41.9% of students reported that near daily use of alcohol would pose a “great risk” of harm.

Daily Use of Cigarettes. In DeSoto County, 61.8% of students reported that smoking a pack or more of cigarettes every day would pose a “great risk” of harm. This is down 0.5 percentage points from 2000. Middle school students reported a rate of 61.3% and high school students reported a rate of 62.1%. Across the state as a whole, 67.6% of students reported that near daily use of cigarettes would pose a “great risk” of harm.

Regular Use of Marijuana. In DeSoto County, 60.9% of students reported that smoking marijuana regularly would pose a “great risk” of harm. This is down 2.8 percentage points from 2000. Middle school students reported a rate of 71.2% and high school students reported a rate of 53.5%. Across the state as a whole, 59.8% of students reported that smoking marijuana regularly would pose a “great risk” of harm.

Trying Marijuana Once or Twice. In DeSoto County, 34.4% of students reported that trying marijuana once or twice would pose a “great risk” of harm. This is down 3.0 percentage points from 2000. Middle school students reported a rate of 41.4% and high school students reported a rate of 29.3%. Across the state as a whole, 32.5% of students reported trying marijuana once or twice would pose a “great risk” of harm.

Personal Disapproval

In addition to perceptions of risk, personal approval or disapproval of drugs has been linked to the prevalence of ATOD use (Bachman, Johnston & O'Malley, 1996). Personal disapproval was measured by asking students how wrong it would be for someone their age to drink alcohol regularly, smoke cigarettes, smoke marijuana, or use other illicit drugs ("LSD, cocaine, amphetamines or another illegal drug"). The rates presented in Tables 14 and 17 represent the percentages of students who thought it would be "wrong" or "very wrong" to use each drug.

Surveyed DeSoto County students were most likely to disapprove of other illicit drug use (95.5%), followed by smoking marijuana (84.4%), smoking cigarettes (79.0%) and drinking alcohol regularly (57.8%).

Smoking Cigarettes. In DeSoto County, 79.0% of students reported that they think it would be "wrong" or "very wrong" for someone their age to smoke cigarettes. This is up 7.0 percentage points from 2000. Middle school students reported a rate of 90.9% and high school students reported a rate of 70.4%. Across the state as a whole, 80.5% of students reported disapproval of smoking cigarettes.

Drinking Alcohol Regularly. In DeSoto County, 57.8% of students reported that they think it would be "wrong" or "very wrong" for someone their age to drink alcohol regularly. This is down 8.3 percentage points from 2000. Middle school students reported a rate of 76.8% and high school students reported a rate of 44.1%. Across the state as a whole, 65.4% of students reported disapproval of drinking alcohol regularly.

Smoking Marijuana. In DeSoto County, 84.4% of students reported that they think it would be "wrong" or "very wrong" for someone their age to smoke marijuana. This is up 6.5 percentage points from 2000. Middle school students reported a rate of 93.5% and high school students reported a rate of 77.8%. Across the state as a whole, 80.2% of students reported disapproval of smoking marijuana.

Using Other Illicit Drugs. In DeSoto County, 95.5% of students reported that they think it would be "wrong" or "very wrong" for someone their age to use other illicit drugs. This is up 2.5 percentage points from 2000. Middle school students reported a rate of 97.9% and high school students reported a rate of 93.9%. Across the state as a whole, 94.9% of students reported disapproval of using other illicit drugs.

Peer Approval

In addition to perceived risk of harm and disapproval, expectations of how one's peer group might react have an impact on whether or not young people choose to use drugs. The data presented in Tables 14 and 17 show the percentage of students who said that there is a "pretty good" or "very good" chance that they would be seen as cool if they smoked cigarettes, drank alcohol regularly or smoked marijuana.

Drinking Alcohol Regularly. In DeSoto County, 15.6% of students reported that there is a "pretty good" or a "very good" chance that they would be seen as cool if they drank alcohol regularly. This is up 3.0 percentage points from 2000. Middle school students reported a rate of 8.9% and high school students reported a rate of 20.5%. Across the state as a whole, 12.0% of students reported peer approval of drinking alcohol regularly.

Smoking Cigarettes. In DeSoto County, 4.7% of students reported that there is a "pretty good" or a "very good" chance that they would be seen as cool if they smoked cigarettes. This is down 4.4 percentage points from 2000. Middle school students reported a rate of 6.5% and high school students reported a rate of 3.4%. Across the state as a whole, 5.8% of students reported peer approval of smoking cigarettes.

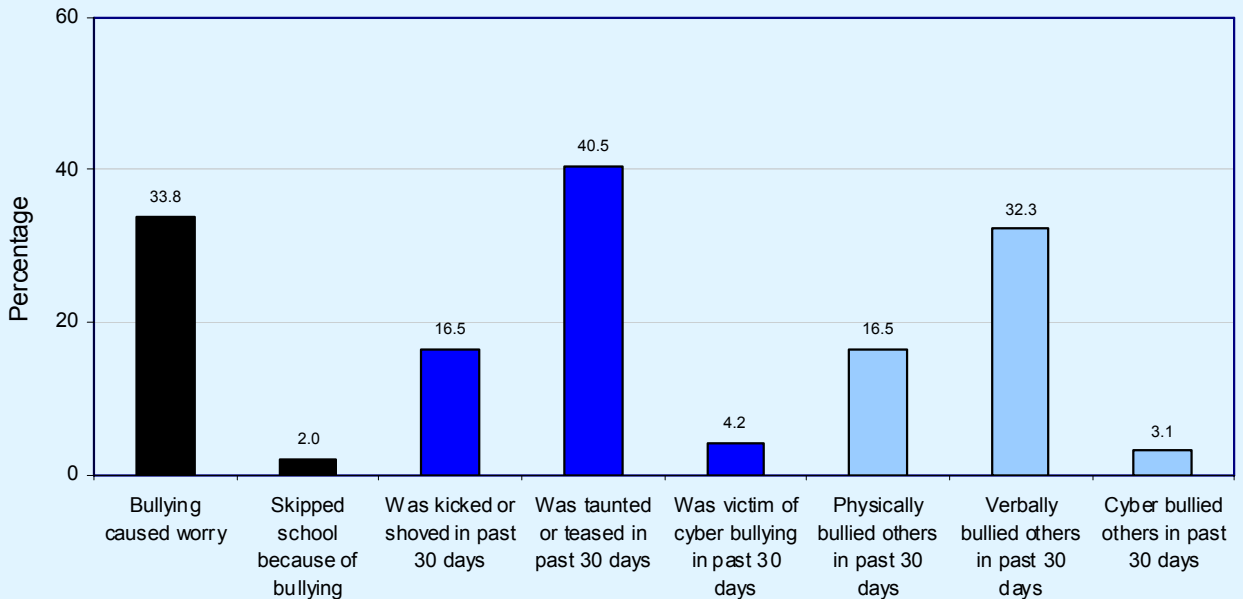
Smoking Marijuana. In DeSoto County, 8.8% of students reported that there is a "pretty good" or a "very good" chance that they would be seen as cool if they smoked marijuana. This is down 7.0 percentage points from 2000. Middle school students reported a rate of 5.5% and high school students reported a rate of 11.2%. Across the state as a whole, 11.3% of students reported peer approval of smoking marijuana.

Extracurricular Activities

In 2006 a new item was added to the FYSAS questionnaire that measures participation in five extracurricular activities: school sports, organized sports outside of school, school band, school clubs, and community clubs. Results for these items are presented in Table 15. Participation in these activities help students build stronger ties to their school and community. Through these connections students are also more likely to develop attachments to prosocial peers and to positive adult role models. Since these bonds encourage students to engage in developmentally positive activity, they serve as a buffer against ATOD use and other antisocial behaviors. Please note that this measure is similar to

**Graph
13**

Bullying-related behaviors among DeSoto County MIDDLE SCHOOL students, 2008



two of the protective factor scales discussed earlier in this report: *Community Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement* and *School Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement*.

School Sports. In DeSoto County, 38.6% of students reported participation in school sports. Middle school students participated at a rate of 33.8% and high school students participated at a rate of 42.0%. Across the state as a whole, the rate of participation was 37.0%.

Organized Sports Outside of School. In DeSoto County, 32.4% of students reported participation in organized sports outside of school. Middle school students participated at a rate of 42.5% and high school students participated at a rate of 25.0%. Across the state as a whole, the rate of participation was 33.7%.

School Band. In DeSoto County, 5.6% of students reported participation in school band. Middle school students participated at a rate of 5.9% and high school students participated at a rate of 5.4%. Across the state as a whole, the rate of participation was 10.0%.

School Clubs. In DeSoto County, 28.2% of students reported participation in school clubs. Middle school students participated at a rate of 22.1% and high school students participated at a rate of 32.6%. Across the state as a whole, the rate of participation was 26.4%.

Community Clubs. In DeSoto County, 13.3% of students reported participation in community clubs. Middle school students participated at a rate of 11.9% and high school students participated at a rate of 14.3%. Across the state as a whole, the rate of participation was 12.4%.

Bullying Behavior

In 2008 a new item set was added to the *FYSAS* middle school questionnaire that assesses student involvement with bullying. The new items include (1) worry or fear due to bullying, (2) skipping school because of being bullied, (3) being physically bullied (kicking, shoving, stealing, etc.), (4) being verbally bullied (taunting, teasing, name-calling, etc.), (5) being cyber bullied (mean emails, mean text messages, etc.), (6) physically bullying others, (7) verbally bullying others, and (8) cyber bullying others. Table 12 and Graph 13 present prevalence rates for these behaviors.

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Worry or Fear. In DeSoto County, 33.8% of middle school students reported that bullying causes them to be “somewhat” or “a whole lot” worried or fearful. Across the state as a whole, 30.1% reported being worried or fearful.

Skipping School. In DeSoto County, 2.0% of middle school students reported skipping school because someone was bullying them. Across the state as a whole, 2.9% reported skipping school because of bullying.

Was Physically Bullied. In DeSoto County, 16.5% of middle school students reported experiencing “somewhat” or “a whole lot” of physical bullying in the past 30 days. Across the state as a whole, 20.7% reported experiencing physical bullying.

Was Verbally Bullied. In DeSoto County, 40.5% of middle school students reported experiencing “somewhat” or “a whole lot” of verbal bullying in the past 30 days. Across the state as a whole, 41.3% reported experiencing verbal bullying.

Was Cyber Bullied. In DeSoto County, 4.2% of middle school students reported experiencing “somewhat” or “a whole lot” of cyber bullying in the past 30 days. Across the state as a whole, 8.2% reported experiencing cyber bullying.

Physically Bullied Others. In DeSoto County, 16.5% of middle school students reported physically bullying others “somewhat” or “a whole lot” in the past 30 days. Across the state as a whole, 15.8% reported physically bullying others.

Verbally Bullied Others. In DeSoto County, 32.3% of middle school students reported verbally bullying others “somewhat” or “a whole lot” in the past 30 days. Across the state as a whole, 28.0% reported verbally bullying others.

Cyber Bullied Others. In DeSoto County, 3.1% of middle school students reported cyber bullying others “somewhat” or “a whole lot” in the past 30 days. Across the state as a whole, 6.4% reported cyber bullying others.

Appendix A

Detailed Tables

Table 1. Major demographic characteristics of surveyed DeSoto County youth and Florida Statewide youth

	DeSoto County			Florida Statewide	
	N	%		N	%
Sex					
Female	408	54.5		43,913	48.0
Male	320	42.7		45,413	49.6
Race/Ethnic group					
African American	121	16.2		16,647	18.2
American Indian	11	1.5		1,011	1.1
Asian	4	0.5		1,994	2.2
Hispanic/Latino	232	31.0		20,767	22.7
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	0.1		490	0.5
Other/Multiple	96	12.8		12,821	14.0
White, non-Hispanic	277	37.0		37,000	40.4
Age					
10	1	0.1		98	0.1
11	32	4.3		3,294	3.6
12	90	12.0		10,971	12.0
13	112	15.0		13,299	14.5
14	123	16.4		14,098	15.4
15	131	17.5		14,339	15.7
16	117	15.6		13,913	15.2
17	93	12.4		12,824	14.0
18	42	5.6		7,552	8.3
19 or older	5	0.7		718	0.8
Grade					
6th	130	17.4		13,265	14.5
7th	123	16.4		13,552	14.8
8th	125	16.7		12,869	14.1
9th	121	16.2		14,738	16.1
10th	97	13.0		13,593	14.9
11th	91	12.1		12,297	13.4
12th	62	8.3		11,157	12.2
Overall Middle School	378	50.5		39,686	43.4
Overall High School	371	49.5		51,785	56.6
Total	749	100.0		91,471	100.0

Note: Some categories do not sum to 100% of the total due to missing values (e.g., not all survey questions were answered). In addition, rounding can produce totals that do not equal 100%. "N" represents the number of valid cases. In this table, county data are unweighted while statewide data are weighted.

Table 2. Percentages of DeSoto County youth and Florida Statewide youth who reported having used various drugs in their lifetimes

	DeSoto County							Florida Statewide						
	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Ages 10-14</i>	<i>Ages 15-17</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Ages 10-14</i>	<i>Ages 15-17</i>	<i>Total</i>
Alcohol	44.3	72.6	63.1	58.2	44.8	70.8	60.6	36.3	66.2	54.9	51.5	37.4	65.6	53.2
Cigarettes	22.8	42.6	32.1	36.0	24.0	41.6	34.3	17.4	34.4	27.4	26.4	17.1	34.3	27.0
Smokeless Tobacco	--	25.3	16.6	34.9	--	24.5	--	--	12.5	6.9	18.1	--	12.0	--
Marijuana or Hashish	7.7	30.5	17.1	25.3	7.9	29.6	20.8	8.5	30.8	20.0	22.1	8.4	30.5	21.1
Inhalants	9.5	9.2	10.7	8.1	8.8	9.7	9.3	13.2	10.1	12.9	10.0	13.0	10.5	11.4
Over-The-Counter Drugs	4.7	--	3.2	6.4	3.7	--	--	4.9	--	5.9	3.9	4.6	--	--
Any illicit drug	18.7	37.1	26.4	32.1	16.9	37.9	29.3	21.2	37.5	30.7	30.1	21.1	37.4	30.4
Any illicit drug other than marijuana	15.0	24.8	19.7	21.3	13.1	25.7	20.7	17.5	23.1	21.7	19.6	17.4	23.0	20.7
Alcohol only	29.4	36.9	39.5	28.4	31.2	35.0	33.7	20.8	31.7	28.0	25.9	21.8	31.3	26.9
Alcohol or any illicit drug	47.5	73.9	65.5	60.1	47.8	72.6	62.7	41.9	68.9	58.5	55.7	42.7	68.4	57.1
Any illicit drug, but no alcohol	3.2	1.5	2.5	2.1	3.1	1.6	2.2	5.8	3.0	3.9	4.6	5.6	3.1	4.2

Note: The first set of data rows show results for alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, inhalants and over-the-counter drugs. The second set of data rows show results for various combinations of drugs. The symbol "--" indicates that data are not available.

Table 3. Percentages of DeSoto County youth and Florida Statewide youth who reported having used various drugs in their lifetimes

	DeSoto County							Florida Statewide						
	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Ages 10-14</i>	<i>Ages 15-17</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Ages 10-14</i>	<i>Ages 15-17</i>	<i>Total</i>
Club Drugs ¹	0.7	--	0.0	1.6	0.6	--	--	1.6	--	1.4	1.8	1.4	--	--
LSD, PCP or Mushrooms	1.0	--	0.5	1.6	0.5	--	--	1.5	--	1.1	1.9	1.4	--	--
Cocaine or Crack Cocaine	2.5	--	0.3	4.2	1.8	--	--	1.8	--	1.7	1.9	1.7	--	--
Ecstasy	--	3.8	4.2	3.5	--	4.6	--	--	4.9	4.9	5.1	--	4.7	--
Rohypnol	--	0.6	1.1	0.0	--	0.7	--	--	1.2	1.0	1.4	--	1.2	--
GHB	--	0.6	1.1	0.0	--	0.7	--	--	0.7	0.4	0.9	--	0.6	--
Ketamine	--	0.0	0.0	0.0	--	0.0	--	--	0.8	0.6	0.9	--	0.7	--
LSD or PCP	--	2.0	2.0	2.3	--	2.5	--	--	3.0	2.3	3.7	--	2.9	--
Hallucinogenic Mushrooms	--	7.1	5.0	8.0	--	6.9	--	--	5.3	3.9	6.8	--	5.1	--
Cocaine	--	9.2	9.4	9.1	--	8.8	--	--	5.5	5.5	5.6	--	5.4	--
Crack Cocaine	--	3.1	3.3	3.1	--	3.5	--	--	1.8	1.8	1.7	--	1.7	--
Methamphetamine	1.4	1.9	1.4	1.8	0.9	2.6	1.7	1.2	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.5	1.4
Heroin	0.3	1.8	0.8	1.6	0.3	2.0	1.1	0.8	1.0	0.8	1.1	0.8	1.0	0.9
Depressants	1.9	8.6	6.6	4.8	1.4	8.7	5.8	2.4	8.7	6.5	5.4	2.5	8.5	6.0
Prescription Pain Relievers	5.2	14.0	11.7	8.5	4.5	13.3	10.3	4.9	10.4	8.3	7.6	4.8	10.3	8.0
Prescription Amphetamines	0.7	4.5	3.4	2.1	0.6	4.1	2.9	1.6	5.3	3.8	3.5	1.6	5.0	3.7
Steroids	0.5	1.3	0.5	1.1	0.3	1.6	0.9	0.8	1.2	0.6	1.4	0.8	1.2	1.0

Note: The first set of data rows show results for items that are on the middle school questionnaire. The second set of data rows show results for items that are on the high school questionnaire. The third set of data rows show results for items that are on both questionnaires. The symbol "--" indicates that data are not available.

¹ Ecstasy, Rohypnol, GHB and ketamine are provided as examples in the question about club drugs.

Table 4. Percentages of DeSoto County youth and Florida Statewide youth who reported having used various drugs in the past 30 days

	DeSoto County							Florida Statewide						
	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Ages 10-14</i>	<i>Ages 15-17</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Ages 10-14</i>	<i>Ages 15-17</i>	<i>Total</i>
Alcohol	23.3	48.8	37.3	38.7	24.2	47.1	37.9	17.3	39.5	30.6	29.0	17.8	38.6	29.8
Binge Drinking	7.1	31.6	18.9	23.6	8.3	30.3	21.2	6.2	21.5	14.0	15.6	6.4	20.5	14.8
Cigarettes	4.7	14.8	10.0	10.7	4.3	15.8	10.5	4.7	12.6	8.8	9.4	4.5	12.2	9.1
Smokeless Tobacco	--	12.6	5.2	20.5	--	11.8	--	--	5.3	2.4	8.3	--	5.0	--
Marijuana or Hashish	3.7	14.0	8.2	11.8	2.5	15.0	9.6	4.4	16.2	9.8	12.3	4.3	16.1	11.1
Inhalants	3.4	2.9	3.0	3.4	2.6	3.7	3.1	5.2	2.2	4.1	2.8	4.9	2.4	3.5
Over-The-Counter Drugs	1.3	--	1.4	1.2	1.1	--	--	2.2	--	2.6	1.8	2.1	--	--
Any illicit drug	9.1	18.6	13.3	16.4	6.7	20.8	14.6	10.6	19.9	15.2	16.3	10.3	19.8	15.8
Any illicit drug other than marijuana	7.0	9.9	8.8	8.4	5.4	11.7	8.6	8.0	9.7	9.1	8.7	7.8	9.5	8.9
Alcohol only	18.1	33.6	27.7	26.3	20.1	30.7	27.1	11.4	24.0	19.7	17.4	12.0	23.5	18.5
Alcohol or any illicit drug	27.3	51.2	40.7	41.6	27.0	50.3	41.1	21.7	43.3	34.6	33.2	22.0	42.7	33.9
Any illicit drug, but no alcohol	4.4	3.1	3.8	3.7	3.0	4.0	3.6	4.7	4.2	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4

Note: The first set of data rows show results for alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, inhalants and over-the-counter drugs. The second set of data rows show results for various combinations of drugs. The symbol "--" indicates that data are not available.

Table 5. Percentages of DeSoto County youth and Florida Statewide youth who reported having used various drugs in the past 30 days

	DeSoto County							Florida Statewide						
	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Ages 10-14</i>	<i>Ages 15-17</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Ages 10-14</i>	<i>Ages 15-17</i>	<i>Total</i>
Club Drugs ¹	0.0	--	0.0	0.0	0.0	--	--	0.6	--	0.5	0.7	0.5	--	--
LSD, PCP or Mushrooms	0.6	--	0.0	1.2	0.0	--	--	0.6	--	0.3	0.8	0.5	--	--
Cocaine or Crack Cocaine	0.6	--	0.0	1.2	0.7	--	--	0.6	--	0.5	0.7	0.5	--	--
Ecstasy	--	1.9	2.2	1.7	--	2.3	--	--	1.5	1.2	1.9	--	1.4	--
Rohypnol	--	0.0	0.0	0.0	--	0.0	--	--	0.4	0.3	0.6	--	0.4	--
GHB	--	0.3	0.6	0.0	--	0.4	--	--	0.3	0.1	0.4	--	0.2	--
Ketamine	--	0.0	0.0	0.0	--	0.0	--	--	0.2	0.1	0.3	--	0.2	--
LSD or PCP	--	0.9	1.2	0.7	--	1.1	--	--	1.1	0.7	1.5	--	1.1	--
Hallucinogenic Mushrooms	--	0.9	0.5	1.4	--	1.0	--	--	1.5	0.9	2.0	--	1.3	--
Cocaine	--	1.9	1.9	2.1	--	2.1	--	--	1.6	1.4	1.7	--	1.5	--
Crack Cocaine	--	0.9	0.5	1.4	--	1.1	--	--	0.5	0.4	0.6	--	0.5	--
Methamphetamine	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5
Heroin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3
Depressants	0.7	2.1	2.2	0.8	0.2	2.7	1.5	1.0	3.0	2.4	2.0	1.0	3.0	2.1
Prescription Pain Relievers	3.1	5.7	5.6	3.4	2.4	6.4	4.6	2.3	3.9	3.2	3.2	2.3	3.8	3.2
Prescription Amphetamines	0.7	1.3	1.4	0.8	0.3	1.3	1.1	0.6	1.6	1.0	1.3	0.7	1.5	1.2
Steroids	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.7	0.3	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.4

Note: The first set of data rows show results for items that are on the middle school questionnaire. The second set of data rows show results for items that are on the high school questionnaire. The third set of data rows show results for items that are on both questionnaires. The symbol "--" indicates that data are not available.

¹ Ecstasy, Rohypnol, GHB and ketamine are provided as examples in the question about club drugs.

Table 6. Lifetime trend in alcohol, tobacco and other drug use for DeSoto County youth, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2008

	2000			2002			2004			2006			2008		
	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Total</i>
Alcohol	49.3	66.7	58.3	51.1	74.7	63.2	46.3	71.5	60.8	41.1	67.6	56.8	44.3	72.6	60.6
Cigarettes	48.2	53.9	51.1	42.1	53.9	48.1	29.1	50.7	41.6	27.0	47.8	39.1	22.8	42.6	34.3
Smokeless Tobacco	31.7	29.0	30.2	19.6	26.7	23.3	19.3	19.7	19.5	16.5	22.2	19.7	--	25.3	--
Marijuana or Hashish	19.7	38.0	29.1	12.5	32.0	22.7	12.0	32.2	23.9	12.5	31.9	23.7	7.7	30.5	20.8
Inhalants	17.1	7.5	12.2	8.9	9.9	9.4	10.6	8.3	9.1	10.1	8.3	9.2	9.5	9.2	9.3
Over-The-Counter Drugs	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4.7	--	--
Any illicit drug	--	--	--	19.9	38.6	29.5	22.1	37.5	31.1	20.4	38.5	31.2	18.7	37.1	29.3
Any illicit drug other than marijuana	--	--	--	14.4	23.8	19.2	18.5	20.8	19.9	15.3	24.2	20.8	15.0	24.8	20.7
Alcohol only	--	--	--	34.9	39.4	37.1	26.5	36.7	32.4	26.1	32.0	29.7	29.4	36.9	33.7
Alcohol or any illicit drug	--	--	--	54.4	77.1	65.9	48.4	74.1	63.2	45.4	70.0	60.0	47.5	73.9	62.7
Any illicit drug, but no alcohol	--	--	--	3.5	3.0	3.2	2.7	2.6	2.7	4.5	2.6	3.4	3.2	1.5	2.2

Note: The first set of data rows show results for alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, inhalants and over-the-counter drugs. The second set of data rows show results for various combinations of drugs. Results for combinations of drugs are not presented for 2000 because new ATOD items were added between 2000 and 2002. The symbol "--" indicates that data are not available.

Table 7. Lifetime trend in alcohol, tobacco and other drug use for DeSoto County youth, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2008

	2000			2002			2004			2006			2008		
	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Total</i>
Club Drugs ¹	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.7	--	--
LSD, PCP or Mushrooms	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.0	--	--
Cocaine or Crack Cocaine	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2.5	--	--
Ecstasy	--	--	--	4.3	6.3	5.3	3.4	4.9	4.2	0.7	4.2	2.8	--	3.8	--
Rohypnol	--	--	--	0.8	1.7	1.2	1.7	1.1	1.3	0.6	1.0	0.8	--	0.6	--
GHB ²	--	--	--	0.8	1.4	1.1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.2	1.2	0.8	--	0.6	--
Ketamine	--	--	--	1.0	1.7	1.4	1.5	0.8	1.1	0.2	0.7	0.5	--	0.0	--
LSD or PCP ³	5.9	7.9	6.9	2.1	1.9	2.0	2.3	2.1	2.2	1.0	2.5	1.9	--	2.0	--
Hallucinogenic Mushrooms	--	--	--	3.3	9.6	6.6	8.3	5.7	6.7	3.7	6.7	5.4	--	7.1	--
Cocaine	4.0	9.3	6.7	3.0	5.5	4.3	5.2	7.5	6.6	2.3	12.1	8.2	--	9.2	--
Crack Cocaine	2.5	6.3	4.5	3.4	2.2	2.7	4.5	2.5	3.3	0.7	3.5	2.3	--	3.1	--
Methamphetamine	2.3	6.8	4.6	2.3	3.7	3.0	2.4	3.5	3.0	1.8	4.2	3.2	1.4	1.9	1.7
Heroin	1.0	2.5	1.8	1.5	1.1	1.3	2.7	1.3	1.9	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.3	1.8	1.1
Depressants ⁴	1.4	6.6	4.3	3.2	4.4	3.8	2.5	4.9	3.9	2.0	6.0	4.3	1.9	8.6	5.8
Prescription Pain Relievers ⁵	--	--	--	4.4	12.4	8.5	4.0	9.2	7.1	5.2	9.8	7.9	5.2	14.0	10.3
Prescription Amphetamines	--	--	--	1.3	2.5	1.9	0.8	2.5	1.8	1.2	2.6	2.0	0.7	4.5	2.9
Steroids	2.4	0.5	1.4	2.9	1.1	1.9	1.8	1.5	1.7	1.0	0.0	0.4	0.5	1.3	0.9

Note: The first set of data rows show results for items that are on the middle school questionnaire. The second set of data rows show results for items that are on the high school questionnaire. The third set of data rows show results for items that are on both questionnaires. The symbol "--" indicates that data are not available.

¹ Ecstasy, Rohypnol, GHB and ketamine are provided as examples in the question about club drugs.

² In 2006, the question for GHB was changed to include a more up-to-date set of slang or street names for the drug.

³ Measured as "LSD or other psychedelics" in the 2000 survey, and as "LSD or PCP" in the 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2008 surveys.

⁴ In 2002, the prescription drug Xanax[®] was added to the list of examples given in the depressants question.

⁵ In 2006, OxyContin[®] was removed as an individual item and added to the list of examples included in the prescription pain relievers item.

Table 8. Past-30-day trend in alcohol, tobacco and other drug use for DeSoto County youth, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2008

	2000			2002			2004			2006			2008		
	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Total</i>
Alcohol	31.9	45.2	39.0	23.5	44.9	34.6	24.4	45.9	36.7	23.2	40.8	33.8	23.3	48.8	37.9
Binge Drinking	21.1	23.8	22.6	13.8	29.2	21.9	14.3	22.3	18.9	12.9	24.0	19.5	7.1	31.6	21.2
Cigarettes	26.7	21.2	23.7	11.5	19.8	15.9	11.4	16.1	14.1	6.8	15.2	11.6	4.7	14.8	10.5
Smokeless Tobacco	18.3	9.2	13.5	9.2	13.2	11.3	11.0	7.4	8.8	6.8	8.0	7.4	--	12.6	--
Marijuana or Hashish	13.5	24.1	18.9	5.4	16.1	11.0	9.4	14.2	12.3	5.9	11.5	9.2	3.7	14.0	9.6
Inhalants	8.0	1.7	4.8	3.4	2.6	3.0	2.4	2.3	2.3	5.1	2.7	3.6	3.4	2.9	3.1
Over-The-Counter Drugs	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.3	--	--
Any illicit drug	--	--	--	9.7	19.5	14.8	11.9	16.9	14.8	11.8	16.1	14.3	9.1	18.6	14.6
Any illicit drug other than marijuana	--	--	--	6.9	8.6	7.7	7.0	6.8	6.8	8.8	10.7	9.9	7.0	9.9	8.6
Alcohol only	--	--	--	17.4	30.3	24.1	15.4	31.0	24.5	16.2	28.7	24.0	18.1	33.6	27.1
Alcohol or any illicit drug	--	--	--	26.1	48.8	37.8	26.6	47.6	38.7	26.9	44.0	37.1	27.3	51.2	41.1
Any illicit drug, but no alcohol	--	--	--	2.9	4.4	3.7	2.8	1.9	2.4	4.1	3.4	3.7	4.4	3.1	3.6

Note: The first set of data rows show results for alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, inhalants and over-the-counter drugs. The second set of data rows show results for various combinations of drugs. Results for combinations of drugs are not presented for 2000 because new ATOD items were added between 2000 and 2002. The symbol "--" indicates that data are not available.

Table 9. Past-30-day trend in alcohol, tobacco and other drug use for DeSoto County youth, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2008

	2000			2002			2004			2006			2008		
	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Total</i>
Club Drugs ¹	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.0	--	--
LSD, PCP or Mushrooms	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.6	--	--
Cocaine or Crack Cocaine	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.6	--	--
Ecstasy	--	--	--	0.3	1.7	1.0	2.3	1.8	2.0	0.0	0.4	0.3	--	1.9	--
Rohypnol	--	--	--	0.0	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.5	--	0.0	--
GHB ²	--	--	--	0.0	1.2	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.2	1.2	0.8	--	0.3	--
Ketamine	--	--	--	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.4	--	0.0	--
LSD or PCP ³	2.0	5.4	3.8	0.4	1.2	0.8	1.3	1.6	1.4	1.3	0.7	1.0	--	0.9	--
Hallucinogenic Mushrooms	--	--	--	1.0	2.2	1.7	2.6	1.0	1.6	1.4	0.9	1.1	--	0.9	--
Cocaine	1.6	4.5	3.1	0.6	2.6	1.6	1.6	3.3	2.6	0.6	4.9	3.2	--	1.9	--
Crack Cocaine	0.6	2.1	1.4	0.9	0.3	0.6	2.1	0.8	1.3	0.3	1.0	0.7	--	0.9	--
Methamphetamine	0.2	4.8	2.6	0.3	1.5	0.9	1.3	1.6	1.5	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.6
Heroin	0.7	1.6	1.2	0.9	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Depressants ⁴	0.9	4.5	2.8	0.9	1.7	1.3	0.0	1.4	0.8	1.1	2.4	1.8	0.7	2.1	1.5
Prescription Pain Relievers ⁵	--	--	--	1.8	4.9	3.4	1.3	2.0	1.7	2.2	3.4	2.9	3.1	5.7	4.6
Prescription Amphetamines	--	--	--	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.6	1.3	1.0	0.7	1.3	1.1
Steroids	1.2	0.5	0.8	1.9	0.3	1.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.6	0.6

Note: The first set of data rows show results for items that are on the middle school questionnaire. The second set of data rows show results for items that are on the high school questionnaire. The third set of data rows show results for items that are on both questionnaires. The symbol "--" indicates that data are not available.

¹ Ecstasy, Rohypnol, GHB and ketamine are provided as examples in the question about club drugs.

² In 2006, the question for GHB was changed to include a more up-to-date set of slang or street names for the drug.

³ Measured as "LSD or other psychedelics" in the 2000 survey, and as "LSD or PCP" in the 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2008 surveys.

⁴ In 2002, the prescription drug Xanax[®] was added to the list of examples given in the depressants question.

⁵ In 2006, OxyContin[®] was removed as an individual item and added to the list of examples included in the prescription pain relievers item.

Table 10. Percentages of DeSoto County youth and Florida Statewide youth who reported engaging in delinquent behavior within the past 12 months

	DeSoto County							Florida Statewide						
	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Ages 10-14</i>	<i>Ages 15-17</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Ages 10-14</i>	<i>Ages 15-17</i>	<i>Total</i>
Carrying a handgun	7.6	7.7	1.6	14.3	6.4	7.5	7.7	4.3	5.6	2.1	8.0	3.9	5.8	5.0
Selling drugs	4.1	8.6	3.0	10.9	2.6	9.9	6.7	2.7	7.6	3.2	7.8	2.5	7.9	5.5
Attempting to steal a vehicle	2.3	4.0	1.0	5.5	2.1	4.3	3.3	2.4	2.6	1.7	3.3	2.2	2.9	2.5
Being arrested	4.2	6.0	4.4	6.4	2.4	8.0	5.2	4.0	5.6	3.3	6.4	3.6	6.2	4.9
Taking a handgun to school	0.8	1.7	0.6	2.3	0.3	2.4	1.3	0.8	1.1	0.4	1.5	0.8	1.2	1.0
Getting suspended	16.2	13.3	11.1	18.5	13.7	16.1	14.5	16.2	14.4	11.5	18.9	14.9	16.1	15.2
Attacking someone with intent to harm	10.1	14.3	9.4	16.1	8.7	15.2	12.5	11.4	12.1	9.9	13.7	10.9	12.9	11.8
Being drunk or high at school	7.5	18.7	12.4	16.0	5.2	20.6	14.0	6.6	15.5	10.9	12.3	6.4	15.8	11.6

Table 11. Percentages of DeSoto County youth and Florida Statewide youth who reported gambling and arguing about gambling in the past 12 months

	DeSoto County							Florida Statewide						
	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Ages 10-14</i>	<i>Ages 15-17</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Ages 10-14</i>	<i>Ages 15-17</i>	<i>Total</i>
Gambling	61.2	55.2	48.6	67.7	60.4	55.9	57.7	57.0	54.0	44.7	65.6	56.8	54.3	55.3
Arguing about gambling	21.7	12.5	11.8	21.5	20.6	13.7	16.4	17.4	14.4	11.5	19.7	17.1	14.8	15.7

Table 12. Percentages of DeSoto County youth and Florida Statewide middle school youth who reported involvement in bullying behavior

	DeSoto County							Florida Statewide						
	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Ages 10-14</i>	<i>Ages 15-17</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Ages 10-14</i>	<i>Ages 15-17</i>	<i>Total</i>
Bullying caused worry	33.8	--	43.1	24.4	35.0	--	--	30.1	--	36.0	24.6	30.7	--	--
Skipped school because of bullying	2.0	--	3.1	1.1	2.3	--	--	2.9	--	3.5	2.3	2.8	--	--
Was kicked or shoved in past 30 days	16.5	--	14.9	18.3	16.6	--	--	20.7	--	17.3	23.9	21.1	--	--
Was taunted or teased in past 30 days	40.5	--	43.8	36.0	41.2	--	--	41.3	--	42.3	40.4	41.8	--	--
Was victim of cyber bullying in past 30 days	4.2	--	6.7	1.9	4.1	--	--	8.2	--	11.2	5.2	8.2	--	--
Physically bullied others in past 30 days	16.5	--	13.9	19.8	15.7	--	--	15.8	--	13.3	18.1	15.5	--	--
Verbally bullied others in past 30 days	32.3	--	35.2	29.5	30.7	--	--	28.0	--	27.8	28.2	27.8	--	--
Cyber bullied others in past 30 days	3.1	--	3.1	3.2	2.6	--	--	6.4	--	7.9	4.8	6.2	--	--

The symbol "--" indicates that data are not available.

Table 13. Percentages of DeSoto County youth and Florida Statewide high school youth who started using alcohol at age 13 or younger

	DeSoto County							Florida Statewide						
	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Ages 10-14</i>	<i>Ages 15-17</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Ages 10-14</i>	<i>Ages 15-17</i>	<i>Total</i>
More than a sip of alcohol	--	37.0	33.5	40.1	--	38.2	--	--	32.3	31.0	33.9	--	32.4	--
Drinking at least once a month	--	10.7	7.8	13.7	--	10.8	--	--	5.9	5.5	6.4	--	5.9	--
Cigarettes	--	28.5	26.5	30.3	--	28.5	--	--	19.9	19.6	20.3	--	20.2	--
Marijuana	--	11.8	7.0	18.3	--	12.2	--	--	10.6	8.8	12.4	--	10.7	--

Note: The symbol "--" indicates that data are not available.

Table 14. Percentages of DeSoto County youth and Florida Statewide youth who reported a perceived risk of harm, personal disapproval and peer approval

	DeSoto County							Florida Statewide						
	Middle School	High School	Female	Male	Ages 10-14	Ages 15-17	Total	Middle School	High School	Female	Male	Ages 10-14	Ages 15-17	Total
<i>Perceive great risk of harm if...</i>														
One or more drinks every day	32.9	36.4	40.5	28.9	34.9	34.7	34.9	43.2	40.8	46.2	37.6	43.4	40.7	41.9
Smoke a pack or more every day	61.3	62.1	65.9	57.5	60.2	62.8	61.8	67.0	68.0	70.6	64.7	68.3	67.3	67.6
Smoke marijuana regularly	71.2	53.5	67.7	54.2	72.5	53.2	60.9	71.2	51.0	63.8	56.0	71.7	50.7	59.8
Try marijuana once or twice	41.4	29.3	40.0	28.0	40.3	30.3	34.4	42.6	24.7	34.3	30.8	42.0	24.6	32.5
<i>Think it would be wrong for someone their age to...</i>														
Smoke cigarettes	90.9	70.4	83.0	75.5	89.8	72.3	79.0	90.5	72.9	80.7	80.3	90.4	74.9	80.5
Drink alcohol regularly	76.8	44.1	57.2	58.6	76.5	45.3	57.8	81.2	53.5	65.7	65.4	80.2	54.6	65.4
Smoke marijuana	93.5	77.8	87.2	81.7	94.3	78.3	84.4	91.1	71.9	82.2	78.4	91.0	72.3	80.2
Use other illicit drugs	97.9	93.9	96.1	94.8	97.9	94.1	95.5	96.8	93.5	95.6	94.2	96.8	93.4	94.9
<i>Good chance of being seen as cool if...</i>														
Drink alcohol regularly	8.9	20.5	16.4	15.0	8.9	20.3	15.6	8.1	14.9	12.5	11.5	8.4	14.6	12.0
Smoke cigarettes	6.5	3.4	3.7	5.4	5.7	4.3	4.7	6.2	5.6	5.7	6.0	6.1	5.6	5.8
Smoke marijuana	5.5	11.2	9.0	8.7	4.2	12.0	8.8	9.2	12.9	11.1	11.5	9.1	13.4	11.3

Table 15. Percentages of DeSoto County youth and Florida Statewide youth who reported participation in extracurricular activities

	DeSoto County							Florida Statewide						
	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Ages 10-14</i>	<i>Ages 15-17</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Ages 10-14</i>	<i>Ages 15-17</i>	<i>Total</i>
School Sports	33.8	42.0	37.0	39.7	34.4	42.2	38.6	35.7	37.9	33.2	40.4	35.5	39.2	37.0
Organized Sports Outside of School	42.5	25.0	30.3	34.8	41.0	26.1	32.4	43.9	26.0	29.5	38.0	43.1	26.5	33.7
School Band	5.9	5.4	4.8	6.5	6.9	5.5	5.6	13.5	7.3	9.6	10.4	13.3	7.4	10.0
School Club(s)	22.1	32.6	37.2	18.8	23.0	31.4	28.2	18.5	32.5	35.0	18.1	19.6	31.1	26.4
Community Club(s)	11.9	14.3	17.5	9.0	12.6	14.1	13.3	11.0	13.5	16.4	8.7	11.2	13.1	12.4

Table 16. Trends in delinquent behaviors for DeSoto County youth, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2008

	2000			2002			2004			2006			2008		
	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Total</i>
Carrying a handgun	5.1	8.6	7.0	6.2	7.8	7.1	3.3	6.8	5.4	4.5	7.4	6.2	7.6	7.7	7.7
Selling drugs	7.5	11.2	9.3	2.7	7.5	5.2	3.2	6.8	5.3	1.0	8.9	5.9	4.1	8.6	6.7
Attempting to steal a vehicle	2.6	6.1	4.3	4.0	3.6	3.8	1.6	3.7	2.8	1.1	2.7	2.1	2.3	4.0	3.3
Being arrested	6.1	7.5	6.7	5.9	4.8	5.3	2.3	6.2	4.6	2.5	5.0	4.0	4.2	6.0	5.2
Taking a handgun to school	0.2	3.1	1.7	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.3	1.4	0.9	0.3	1.6	1.1	0.8	1.7	1.3
Getting suspended	19.5	19.0	19.2	20.9	14.7	17.5	16.4	19.2	18.0	15.4	16.9	16.4	16.2	13.3	14.5
Attacking someone with intent to harm	17.3	16.5	16.8	8.6	14.1	11.5	10.6	14.5	12.8	9.8	14.6	12.8	10.1	14.3	12.5
Being drunk or high at school	14.7	21.3	17.9	8.8	17.2	13.2	5.5	16.4	12.1	7.5	14.9	11.9	7.5	18.7	14.0

Table 17. Trends in early ATOD use and attitudes toward substance use for DeSoto County youth, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2008

	2000			2002			2004			2006			2008		
	Middle School	High School	Total	Middle School	High School	Total	Middle School	High School	Total	Middle School	High School	Total	Middle School	High School	Total
<i>Early ATOD use (age 13 or younger)</i>															
More than a sip or two of alcohol	--	43.9	--	--	38.1	--	--	36.0	--	--	32.0	--	--	37.0	--
Drinking at least once a month	--	17.1	--	--	8.9	--	--	6.9	--	--	6.7	--	--	10.7	--
Cigarettes	--	40.3	--	--	38.6	--	--	35.5	--	--	33.8	--	--	28.5	--
Marijuana	--	19.2	--	--	14.2	--	--	12.7	--	--	14.6	--	--	11.8	--
<i>Perceive great risk of harm if...</i>															
One or more drinks every day	35.4	34.5	34.8	31.9	35.0	33.3	28.8	35.1	32.7	33.3	34.5	34.0	32.9	36.4	34.9
Smoke a pack or more every day	59.0	65.8	62.3	54.8	61.1	58.2	52.8	67.9	61.6	58.5	64.6	62.2	61.3	62.1	61.8
Smoke marijuana regularly	67.5	59.9	63.7	65.8	55.5	60.5	62.9	62.4	62.6	71.6	59.0	64.1	71.2	53.5	60.9
Try marijuana once or twice	40.4	34.5	37.4	39.2	31.6	35.3	35.5	30.1	32.4	43.9	30.3	35.9	41.4	29.3	34.4
<i>Think it wrong if...</i>															
Smoke cigarettes	76.9	67.2	72.0	83.4	64.5	73.8	84.5	67.2	74.6	86.0	70.2	76.9	90.9	70.4	79.0
Drink alcohol regularly	75.7	56.4	66.1	75.2	47.6	61.0	73.6	50.9	60.8	70.3	51.0	59.0	76.8	44.1	57.8
Smoke marijuana	83.0	72.7	77.9	90.5	72.1	81.0	90.3	79.0	83.7	89.4	77.8	82.7	93.5	77.8	84.4
Use other illicit drugs	97.1	89.3	93.0	96.2	92.6	94.4	97.3	92.0	94.3	95.9	93.0	94.2	97.9	93.9	95.5
<i>Seen as cool if...</i>															
Drink alcohol regularly	8.2	16.5	12.6	10.2	15.5	12.9	10.9	13.9	12.6	9.4	18.5	14.8	8.9	20.5	15.6
Smoke cigarettes	9.4	8.7	9.1	6.3	8.0	7.2	7.9	2.9	5.0	3.9	5.0	4.5	6.5	3.4	4.7
Smoke marijuana	11.8	19.8	15.8	9.1	14.8	12.0	8.9	10.7	9.9	6.6	10.5	8.9	5.5	11.2	8.8

Note: The symbol "--" indicates that data are not available.

Table 18. Protective factor prevalence rates for DeSoto County, Florida Statewide and the national normative database, 2008

Domain	Scale	DeSoto County		Florida Statewide		National Norms	
		<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>
Community	Community Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	--	52	--	39	--	52
	Community Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	52	62	51	61	56	63
Family	Family Attachment	--	51	--	55	--	56
	Family Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	54	50	56	53	59	54
	Family Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	47	56	50	54	54	55
School	School Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	45	50	47	59	57	60
	School Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	45	51	45	56	53	58
Peer and Individual	Religiosity	57	67	51	61	56	62
	Social Skills	--	58	--	62	--	57
	Belief in the Moral Order	--	56	--	59	--	62
Average Prevalence Rate		50	55	50	56	56	57

Note: Because risk is associated with negative behavioral outcomes, it is better to have lower risk factor scale scores, not higher. Conversely, because protective factors are associated with better student behavioral outcomes, it is better to have protective factor scale scores with high values. The symbol "--" indicates that data are not available.

Table 19. Risk factor prevalence rates for DeSoto County, Florida Statewide and the national normative database, 2008

Domain	Scale	DeSoto County		Florida Statewide		National Norms	
		<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>
Community	Low Neighborhood Attachment	--	44	--	49	--	44
	Community Disorganization	51	51	48	49	47	47
	Transitions and Mobility	55	53	61	64	47	46
	Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use	50	40	44	35	42	42
	Laws and Norms Favorable to Handguns	--	33	--	23	--	23
	Perceived Availability of Drugs	44	44	49	40	45	45
	Perceived Availability of Handguns	28	52	27	41	25	42
Family	Poor Family Management	48	51	49	49	44	45
	Family Conflict	47	34	43	37	42	37
	Family History of Antisocial Behavior	--	55	--	43	--	45
	Parental Attitudes Favorable toward ATOD Use	29	46	22	38	23	41
	Parental Attitudes Favorable toward Antisocial Behavior	--	48	--	45	--	48
School	Poor Academic Performance	45	47	45	44	45	48
	Lack of Commitment to School	50	42	55	47	47	46
Peer and Individual	Rebelliousness	--	43	--	41	--	40
	Friends' Delinquent Behavior	--	46	--	44	--	41
	Friends' Use of Drugs	--	43	--	39	--	47
	Peer Rewards for Antisocial Behavior	49	42	42	42	40	46
	Favorable Attitudes toward Antisocial Behavior	50	48	48	47	40	46
	Favorable Attitudes toward ATOD Use	45	45	40	40	39	45
	Low Perceived Risks of Drug Use	47	44	41	44	40	46
	Early Initiation of Drug Use	44	43	37	35	41	46
	Sensation Seeking	--	46	--	44	--	45
Average Prevalence Rate		45	46	43	43	40	44

Note: Because risk is associated with negative behavioral outcomes, it is better to have lower risk factor scale scores, not higher. Conversely, because protective factors are associated with better student behavioral outcomes, it is better to have protective factor scale scores with high values. The symbol "--" indicates that data are not available.

Table 20. Protective factor prevalence rate trends among middle school students for DeSoto County, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2008

Domain	Scale	DeSoto County				
		2000	2002	2004	2006	2008
Community	Community Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	37	51	--	48	--
	Community Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	58	60	49	55	52
Family	Family Attachment	61	48	47	48	--
	Family Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	59	47	49	50	54
	Family Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	59	43	48	51	47
School	School Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	49	41	38	43	45
	School Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	46	51	41	44	45
Peer and Individual	Religiosity	54	54	52	51	57
	Social Skills	46	45	41	43	--
	Belief in the Moral Order	45	43	39	38	--
Average Prevalence Rate		52	49	47	48	50

Note: Because risk is associated with negative behavioral outcomes, it is better to have lower risk factor scale scores, not higher. Conversely, because protective factors are associated with better student behavioral outcomes, it is better to have protective factor scale scores with high values. The symbol "--" indicates that data are not available.

Table 21. Risk factor prevalence rate trends among middle school students for DeSoto County, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2008

Domain	Scale	DeSoto County				
		2000	2002	2004	2006	2008
Community	Low Neighborhood Attachment	52	49	57	52	--
	Community Disorganization	53	49	49	48	51
	Transitions and Mobility	49	61	61	57	55
	Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use	51	47	52	53	50
	Laws and Norms Favorable to Handguns	54	50	48	44	--
	Perceived Availability of Drugs	46	50	49	47	44
	Perceived Availability of Handguns	32	30	33	30	28
Family	Poor Family Management	55	58	58	55	48
	Family Conflict	29	44	37	37	47
	Family History of Antisocial Behavior	51	58	52	55	--
	Parental Attitudes Favorable toward ATOD Use	22	26	29	28	29
	Parental Attitudes Favorable toward Antisocial Behavior	32	34	41	41	--
School	Poor Academic Performance	54	41	45	45	45
	Lack of Commitment to School	48	47	57	48	50
Peer and Individual	Rebelliousness	51	50	55	52	--
	Friends' Delinquent Behavior	60	63	68	60	--
	Friends' Use of Drugs	58	55	55	54	--
	Peer Rewards for Antisocial Behavior	44	46	41	39	49
	Favorable Attitudes toward Antisocial Behavior	49	46	55	51	50
	Favorable Attitudes toward ATOD Use	53	52	54	53	45
	Low Perceived Risks of Drug Use	48	47	54	47	47
	Early Initiation of Drug Use	62	60	51	57	44
	Sensation Seeking	54	49	47	44	--
Average Prevalence Rate		48	48	49	47	45

Note: Because risk is associated with negative behavioral outcomes, it is better to have lower risk factor scale scores, not higher. Conversely, because protective factors are associated with better student behavioral outcomes, it is better to have protective factor scale scores with high values. The symbol "--" indicates that data are not available.

Table 22. Protective factor prevalence rate trends among high school students for DeSoto County, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2008

Domain	Scale	DeSoto County				
		2000	2002	2004	2006	2008
Community	Community Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	25	52	--	57	52
	Community Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	63	68	66	61	62
Family	Family Attachment	60	55	56	49	51
	Family Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	58	55	55	49	50
	Family Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	61	56	53	51	56
School	School Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	51	55	55	53	50
	School Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	50	55	55	50	51
Peer and Individual	Religiosity	68	65	66	63	67
	Social Skills	62	58	61	57	58
	Belief in the Moral Order	65	62	64	60	56
Average Prevalence Rate		55	58	59	54	55

Note: Because risk is associated with negative behavioral outcomes, it is better to have lower risk factor scale scores, not higher. Conversely, because protective factors are associated with better student behavioral outcomes, it is better to have protective factor scale scores with high values. The symbol "--" indicates that data are not available.

Table 23. Risk factor prevalence rate trends among high school students for DeSoto County, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2008

Domain	Scale	DeSoto County				
		2000	2002	2004	2006	2008
Community	Low Neighborhood Attachment	44	49	43	50	44
	Community Disorganization	42	52	46	53	51
	Transitions and Mobility	43	51	55	52	53
	Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use	38	40	39	44	40
	Laws and Norms Favorable to Handguns	38	33	30	33	33
	Perceived Availability of Drugs	46	48	44	46	44
	Perceived Availability of Handguns	53	52	49	52	52
Family	Poor Family Management	46	49	46	52	51
	Family Conflict	36	31	30	35	34
	Family History of Antisocial Behavior	52	55	56	55	55
	Parental Attitudes Favorable toward ATOD Use	42	42	41	42	46
	Parental Attitudes Favorable toward Antisocial Behavior	39	38	45	42	48
School	Poor Academic Performance	47	39	38	47	47
	Lack of Commitment to School	30	40	39	46	42
Peer and Individual	Rebelliousness	42	44	36	44	43
	Friends' Delinquent Behavior	50	41	48	55	46
	Friends' Use of Drugs	48	44	44	44	43
	Peer Rewards for Antisocial Behavior	41	46	39	44	42
	Favorable Attitudes toward Antisocial Behavior	32	35	42	47	48
	Favorable Attitudes toward ATOD Use	39	49	42	42	45
	Low Perceived Risks of Drug Use	44	46	40	44	44
	Early Initiation of Drug Use	50	49	45	42	43
	Sensation Seeking	42	41	39	45	46
Average Prevalence Rate		44	45	43	47	46

Note: Because risk is associated with negative behavioral outcomes, it is better to have lower risk factor scale scores, not higher. Conversely, because protective factors are associated with better student behavioral outcomes, it is better to have protective factor scale scores with high values.

Appendix B

References

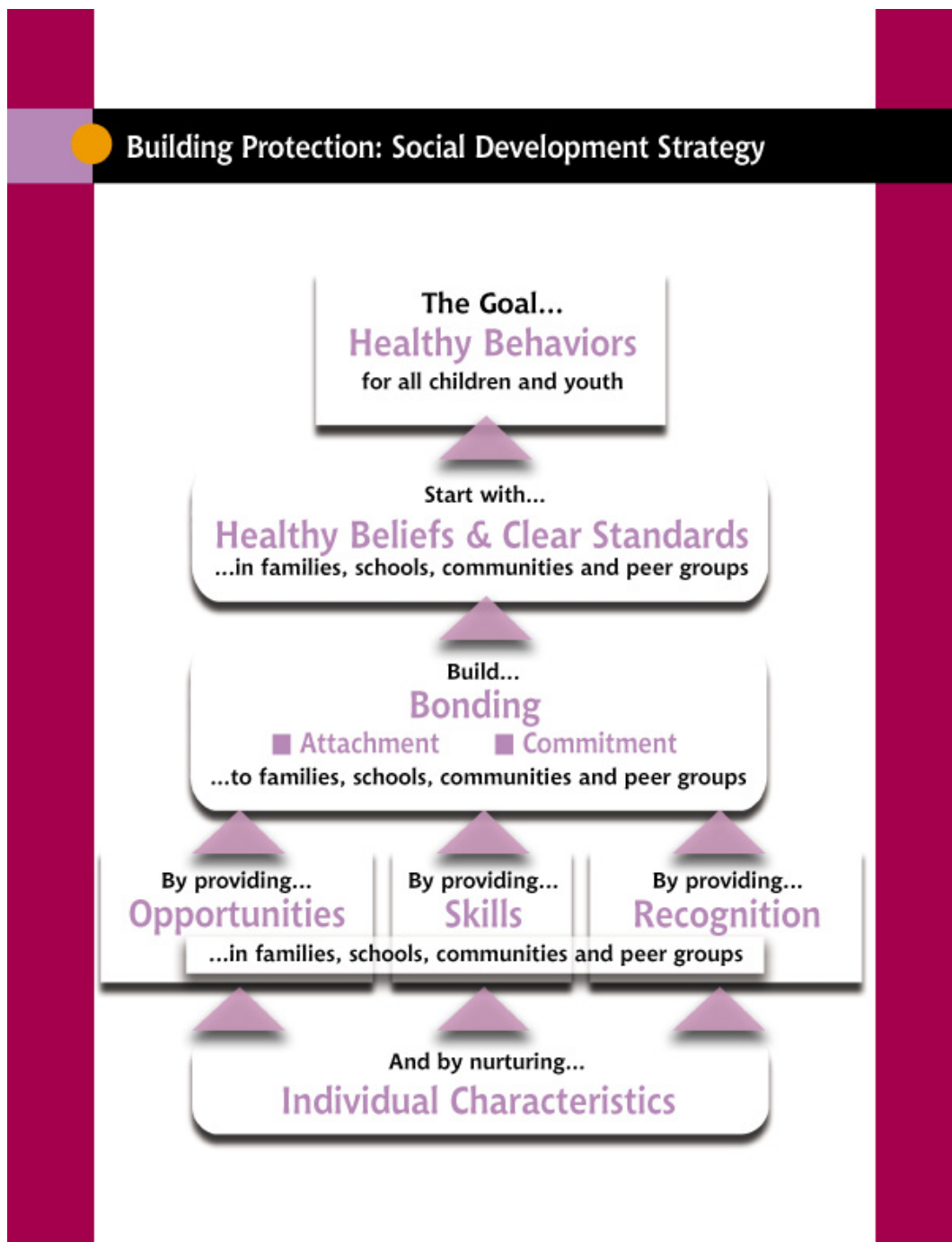
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Appendix C

The Social Development Strategy

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Communities That Care®

Risk Factors

Adolescent Problem Behaviors

Community	Substance Abuse	Delinquency	Teen Pregnancy	School Drop-Out	Violence
Availability of drugs	●				●
Availability of firearms		●			●
Community laws and norms favorable toward drug use, firearms and crime	●	●			●
Media portrayals of violence					●
Transitions and mobility	●	●		●	
Low neighborhood attachment and community disorganization	●	●			●
Extreme economic deprivation	●	●	●	●	●
Family					
Family history of the problem behavior	●	●	●	●	●
Family management problems	●	●	●	●	●
Family conflict	●	●	●	●	●
Favorable parental attitudes and involvement in the problem behavior	●	●			●
School					
Academic failure beginning in late elementary school	●	●	●	●	●
Lack of commitment to school	●	●	●	●	●
Peer and Individual					
Early and persistent antisocial behavior	●	●	●	●	●
Rebelliousness	●	●		●	
Friends who engage in the problem behavior	●	●	●	●	●
Gang involvement	●	●			●
Favorable attitudes toward the problem behavior	●	●	●	●	
Early initiation of the problem behavior	●	●	●	●	●
Constitutional factors	●	●			●

Appendix D

Other Resources

Web Sites

Office of National Drug Control Policy www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov

National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information www.health.org/index.htm

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) www.samhsa.gov

Monitoring the Future www.monitoringthefuture.org

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) www.nida.nih.gov and www.drugabuse.gov

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) www.niaaa.nih.gov

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