

Connecting Youth  
Telephone Survey  
Summary of Results: Spring 2006

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Presented to

Connecting Youth  
Chittenden South School District

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## Introduction

Over the past five years, telephone surveys have been used to assess community awareness of Connecting Youth (CY), involvement with CY activities, and community norms around teen drug and alcohol use. The first survey was developed and conducted in May 2002. Follow-up surveys have been conducted in May 2003, May-June 2004, June 2005, and June 2006. Members of the CY board and youth involved with CY programs have conducted the telephone interviews from about 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm over the course of two week-day evenings. Respondents to the survey have been randomly selected from lists of families with children enrolled in public schools in the Chittenden South District. The 2006 survey was primarily conducted by six youth, all compensated at \$25 an evening for their time.

This report summarizes results from the 2006 survey and compares findings with results from the past years.

## Survey Respondents

In each year, the goal has been to conduct 200 surveys. In 2005, this goal was met for the first time with a total of 207 completed surveys. Unfortunately, in 2006, a smaller sample was achieved. Table 1 provides information on total sample sizes across all five years. In addition, Table 1 shows that the majority of respondents in each year were women.

**Table 1: Gender Distribution of Survey Sample across Survey Years**

Year	Female		Male		Missing		Total	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
2002	123	65%	63	33%	4	2%	190	100%
2003	108	63%	57	33%	6	4%	171	100%
2004	90	62%	53	37%	2	1%	145	100%
2005	150	72%	53	26%	4	2%	207	100%
2006	72	61%	35	30%	11	9%	118	100%

In the 2006 sample, as in past years, about two-thirds of the respondents had children in elementary school grades, and about one-third had children in middle school (see Table 2). A much larger proportion of respondents in 2006, than in past years, had children in high school.

**Table 2: Respondents' Children's Public School Grade by Survey Year**

Year	Elementary		Middle School		High School	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
2002	118	63%	61	33%	87	47%
2003	107	64%	61	37%	88	53%
2004	98	68%	51	35%	73	51%
2005	154	74%	67	32%	101	49%
2006	69	62%	43	38%	87	78%

The proportion of respondents, or their children, who had participated in CY sponsored programs remained the relatively similar across past survey years. However, in 2006, the proportion had increased, such that half of the respondents said they or their children had participated in a CY sponsored program (see Table 3). Indeed, there were significantly more respondents in 2006, than in past years, who had participated in CY programs ( $\chi^2_{(df=8)} = 27.1, p<.001$ ).

**Table 3: Respondents or their Children Participated in CY Sponsored Programs by Survey Year**

Year	Participate in CY Programs				Total	
	Yes		No		Frequency	Percent
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent		
2002	76	42%	107	58%	183	100%
2003	68	40%	102	60%	170	100%
2004	52	36%	93	64%	145	100%
2005	82	40%	125	60%	207	100%
2006	60	51%	58	49%	118	100%

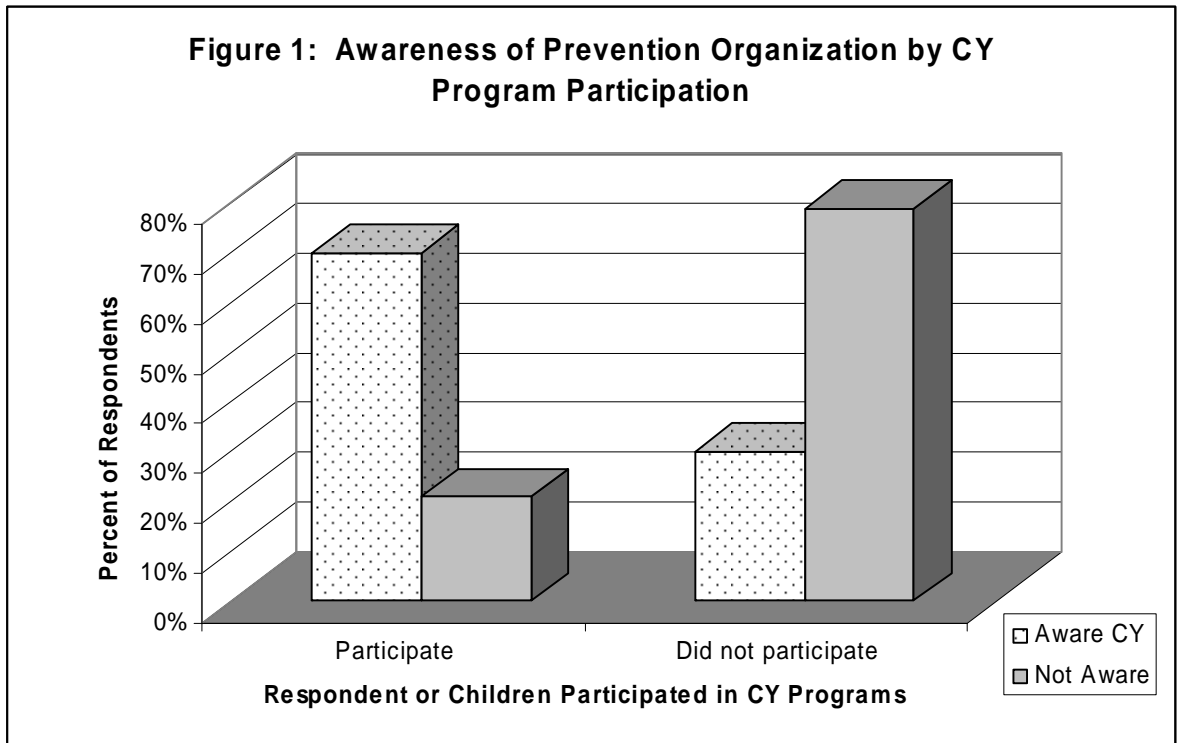
### Awareness of CY

In 2006, as in past survey years, a bit more than one-half of survey respondents reported that they were aware of “an organization in the Chittenden South School District that focuses on substance abuse and violence prevention” (see Table 4). There were no statistically significant differences across survey years.

**Table 4: Respondents’ Awareness of Prevention Organization by Survey Year**

Year	Aware		Not Aware		Total	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
2002	106	56%	84	44%	90	100%
2003	104	61%	67	39%	171	100%
2004	90	62%	55	38%	145	100%
2005	119	57%	88	43%	207	100%
2006	71	60%	47	40%	118	100%

As in past years, 2006 respondents who had participated in CY programs, as compared to those who had not, were significantly more likely to be aware that there was a prevention organization ( $\chi^2_{(df=1)} = 27.3, p<.001$ ), see Figure 1.



Knowledge of the CY named increased significantly each year, from 2002 to 2005 (see Table 6). By 2006, nearly 80% of respondents who knew there was a prevention organization named that organization “CY.” While this is a significant increase from 2004 and earlier, it is not significantly greater than the level of knowledge among 2005 respondents.

**Table 6: Name of Prevention Organization Given by Survey Respondents Aware a Prevention Organization Exists**

Year	CY		CSPY		Don't know		Other	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
2002	16	15%	34	33%	43	41%	11	11%
2003	38	37%	20	19%	31	30%	14	14%
2004	37	41%	15	17%	26	29%	12	13%
2005	85	74%	2	2%	22	19%	6	5%
2006	55	79%	2	3%	12	17%	1	1%
Total	231	48%	73	15%	134	28%	44	9%

Of those respondents who were not aware that a prevention organization exists in Chittenden South, the majority across the first three years of the survey had not heard of CY. By 2005, the majority of these respondents had heard of CY (see Table 7). However, in 2006, the proportion of respondents who had heard of CY decreased significantly from the high in 2005 of 52%, to only 32% ( $\chi^2_{(df=1)} = 5.3, p < .05$ ).

**Table 7: Respondents Unaware of Prevention Organization who “Heard of CY”**

Year	Heard of CY		Hadn't Heard of CY		Total	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
2002	17	22%	60	78%	77	100%
2003	17	28%	43	72%	60	100%
2004	20	42%	28	58%	48	100%
2005	44	52%	40	48%	84	100%
2006	13	32%	28	68%	41	100%
Total	111	36%	199	64%	310	100%

When asked where they had heard of CY, 2006 respondents most often cited the CY newsletter and their children.

### CY Sponsored Programs

The survey asks respondents if they are familiar with several of CY sponsored programs. In 2005, the list of programs was reduced to focus on those of most concern. As shown in Table 8, overall, the proportion of respondents familiar with CY programs has increased over the past years. While some of these increases have been significant in past years, there were no significant increases from 2005 to 2006.

**Table 8: Percent of Respondents Reporting Familiarity with CY Programs by Year**

CY Sponsored Program	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	
					Frequency	Percent
Prevention & Leadership	46%	49%	39%	46%	61	52%
SAP Counselors	44%	46%	41%	45%	54	46%
ACCESS to CVU	47%	51%	40%	59%	66	56%
CY Mentoring Programs	31%	25%	31%	59%	75	64%
Parenting Education	44%	57%	58%	52%	70	59%
CY Newsletter	47%	51%	55%	57%	63	53%

Survey respondents in 2006, were asked about their familiarity with Summer Link and See Why Improv. About half of the respondents were familiar with SummerLink (55%) and a bit less than half were familiar with See Why Improv (47%)

When respondents reported that they were familiar with a program, they were asked if they were aware that the program was sponsored by CY. Awareness of CY sponsorship increased for several programs from 2002 to 2005, including mentoring, leadership and SAP counselors (see Table 9). In 2006, awareness that parent education programs are sponsored by CY increased significantly; 75% of respondents knew CY sponsored parent education programs, up from 58% in 2005 ( $\chi^2_{(df=1)} = 5.1, p < .05$ )

**Table 9: Percent of Respondents Familiar with Programs Reporting they Know Program is CY Sponsored**

CY Sponsored Program	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	
					Frequency	Percent
Prevention & leadership	61%	66%	73%	78%	31	65%
SAP Counselors	42%	66%	44%	58%	30	64%
ACCESS to CVU	23%	27%	18%	29%	22	37%
CY Mentoring program	18%	43%	67%	77%	44	69%
Parent education	52%	40%	39%	58%	46	75%
CY newsletter	90%	93%	95%	96%	52	98%

Early surveys asked if respondents were aware of the CY website; by 2004 21% of respondents were aware of the website. In 2005, the question was changed to ask if respondents had visited the CY website. In 2005, 17 (8%) of respondents said they had visited the CY website; this proportion doubled in 2006: 18 (15%) of respondents said they had visited the website. Of the 18 respondents in 2006 who visited the website, 7 (39%) found it “very useful” and 10 (56%) said it was “somewhat useful.”

The 2005 survey added a question asking respondents to identify three CY sponsored programs they thought were “most useful and effective.” As shown in Table 10, in both 2005 and 2006, mentoring programs were most often identified as the useful and effective. Parenting education, LEAD and SAP counselors were also cited as useful but with less frequency than mentoring programs.

**Table 10: Respondents Report Most Useful and Effective Programs**

CY Sponsored Programs	2005		2006	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Mentoring	94	45%	40	34%
Parent Education	57	28%	30	25%
LEAD	55	27%	29	25%
SAP counselors	42	20%	24	20%
ACCESS to CVU	39	19%	19	16%
See Why Improv	35	17%	19	16%
Summer Link	28	14%	19	16%
CY Newsletter	18	9%	13	11%

From 2002 through 2005, peer leadership retreats were the most frequently cited CY sponsored program respondents, or their children, had attended. However, in 2006, respondents, or their children, were much more likely to have attended ACCESS to CVU courses or participated in the CY mentoring program (see Table 11).

**Table 11: Percent of Respondents Attending CY Sponsored Programs**  
(of those respondents reporting participation in CY sponsored programs)

CY Sponsored Programs	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	
					Frequency	Percent
Peer leadership	26%	44%	40%	45%	9	15%
ACCESS to CVU	7%	6%	2%	20%	15	25%
Parenting Education	25%	13%	12%	13%	10	17%
Mentoring	5%	1%	6%	13%	15	25%
See Why Improv	3%	12%	6%	9%	5	8%
Summer Link	9%	7%	10%	7%	6	10%
Dance Troupe	0	0	0	5%	1	2%

The 2005 survey added a question asking respondents “how effective, overall, do you believe CY has been in making things happen in our community to fight alcohol and other drug problems?” In 2005, nearly two-thirds of the respondents (n=122, 60%) said that they didn’t “know enough to judge” CY’s effectiveness; by 2006, this proportion was down to 23% (n = 27). In both years, the majority of respondents who did feel capable of assessing effectiveness, felt CY was “somewhat effective” (see Table 12).

**Table 12: Respondents’ Ratings of CY Program Effectiveness**

Overall effectiveness of CY	2005		2006	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Very effective	34	42%	23	33%
Somewhat effective	43	53%	45	65%
Not that effective	3	4%	0	0%
Not at all effective	1	1%	1	1%
Total	81	100%	69	100%

### Community Norms on Teen Drug and Alcohol Use

Survey respondents were read two statements of parental expectations about teen alcohol and drug (marijuana) use. They were asked to rate the degree to which they agreed or disagreed with each statement:

*Most teenagers drink alcohol, so my son or daughter’s drinking wouldn’t really worry me.*

*I would be very upset if I found out that my child uses marijuana.*

The alcohol use statement was modified into the current wording for the 2005 survey; allowing for comparisons between 2005 and 2006 only. In both 2005 and 2006, nearly all respondents strongly disagreed with the statement (n=172, 83%, n=94, 82%, respectively), indicating that they would, in fact, worry if their son or daughter drank alcohol. Very few respondents (n=10, 5% in 2005, n=7, 6% in 2006) agreed that they wouldn’t worry about teens drinking alcohol. In contrast, responses to the 2002 through 2004 survey question on alcohol use, the majority of respondents (60% across three years) expected that their children would use alcohol before leaving high school.

While respondents in all five years generally agreed that they would be upset if they learned their child uses marijuana, respondents in 2005 and 2006 were significantly more likely than in past years to “strongly agree” with this statement ( $\chi^2_{(df=16)} = 53.9, p<.001$ ), as shown in Table 13.

**Table 13: Respondents Agree they would be Upset if Learned Child Uses Marijuana**

Upset by Marijuana use	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	
					Frequency	Percent
Strongly disagree	5%	7%	4%	0%	4	4%
Somewhat disagree	7%	4%	5%	5%	5	4%
Neither agree nor disagree	7%	8%	5%	2%	0	0%
Somewhat agree	19%	26%	15%	13%	10	9%
Strongly agree	63%	55%	70%	80%	95	83%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	114	100%

The 2005 survey replaced an older survey question regarding the normality of drug use among teens with a question about family policies regarding alcohol and drug use. From 2005 to 2006, there was a significant increase in the number of respondents that reported having a family policy in place ( $\chi^2_{(df=3)} = 9.3, p<.05$ ). As shown in Table 14, 67% of 2006 respondents, compared to 54% of 2005 respondents, said that they had a family policy in place.

**Table 14: Respondents Report of Family Policy on Alcohol and Drug Use**

Family Policy on Drug & Alcohol Use	2005		2006	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Don't have policy and not likely to develop one	11	5%	7	6%
Don't have policy now, most likely will develop one	84	41%	31	27%
Have policy, talked about it once or twice	41	20%	19	17%
Have policy which review often	69	34%	57	50%
Total	205	100%	114	100%

Respondents who had participated in CY programs (either themselves or their children) were significantly more likely to have a family policy which was often reviewed with their children, than respondents who had not participated in CY programs ( $\chi^2_{(df=3)} = 29.0, p<.001$ ); see Table 15 for combined 2005 and 2006 data, Table 16 for 2006 data only.

**Table 15: Family Policy by Participation in CY Programs (2005 and 2006 combined)**

Family Policy on Drug & Alcohol Use	Attended CY Programs		Did Not Attend CY Programs	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Don't have policy and not likely to develop one	8	6%	10	6%
Don't have policy now, most likely will develop one	28	20%	87	49%
Have policy, talked about it once or twice	32	23%	28	16%
Have policy which review often	72	51%	54	30%
Total	140	100%	179	100%

**Table 16: Family Policy by Participation in CY Programs (2006)**

Family policy on alcohol or drug use	Attended CY Programs		Did Not Attend	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Don't have policy and not likely to develop one	2	3%	5	9%
Don't have policy now, likely will develop one	10	17%	21	38%
Have policy, talked about it once or twice	12	20%	7	13%
Have policy which review often	35	59%	22	40%
Total	59	100%	55	100%

### **Additional Needs CY Should Address**

The survey concludes by asking respondents if they have “any ideas about specific needs CY should be addressing.” Of the 51 responses in 2006, the most frequent need identified was explicit attention to drug and alcohol abuse (n=11). Respondents felt it was important to address the availability of drugs and alcohol in schools, and increase awareness of consequences of abuse. Several comments (n=8) addressed needs for increased programming, particularly for teens (e.g., mentoring for high school students, teen vacation activities, community activities for children and youth). Respondents were also concerned with the issue of prevention for athletes (n=6) and bullying/harassment (n=5). Additional needs mentioned: computer use (e.g., MySpace), increased follow-up for children that have been involved in CY programs, support for children in abusive families, and expanded outreach efforts.

### **Summary and Conclusion**

Over the past five years, slightly more than half of the parents of Chittenden South School District students have known that there is a prevention organization serving their children. However, increasingly, parents are able to name the organization as CY. By 2006, nearly 80% of survey respondents who knew there was a prevention organization named that organization CY. Not surprisingly, parents who participated in CY programs were much more likely to know about the organization.

Indeed, the number of parents who had participated in CY sponsored programs increased significantly in 2006, as compared to past years. Half of the survey respondents in 2006 reported that either they or their children had participated in CY sponsored programs. In 2006, the most frequently attended programs were Access to CVU and mentoring programs.

From 2002 to 2005, there was increasing awareness of CY programs; between half and two-thirds of survey respondents were familiar with six of CY’s programs. This level of awareness remained stable into 2006. In addition, from 2002 to 2005 significantly more parents knew that mentoring, peer leadership and SAP counselors were sponsored by CY. In 2006, there was a significant increase in the number of respondents who knew that parent education programs were sponsored by CY.

When asked about CY's effectiveness, parents generally felt that CY has been "somewhat effective" in community efforts to fight alcohol and other drug abuse. Mentoring programs were seen as the most useful and effective.

Community norms on alcohol use among teens remained steady from 2005 and 2006; nearly all parents would worry if their children drank alcohol. Norms about marijuana use have changed significantly over the past five years. In 2002, 63% of parents strongly opposed marijuana use; by 2006, 83% were strongly opposed to marijuana use among their teens.

Perhaps most notable among 2006 survey findings was the increase in family policies. In 2006, more than two-thirds of the respondents, as compared to about half in 2005, said they had a family policy on alcohol and drug use. Respondents who had attended CY programs were significantly more likely to review the policy with their children on a frequent basis, as compared to respondents who had not attended CY programs.

Taken together, these results indicate that CY has been increasingly successful in getting the word out about the organization and programs it sponsors. In addition, program attendance is increasing. At the same time, community norms on alcohol and drug use are improving.