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**Preliminary Report of Findings:
Cohasset Community Survey of Youth Substance Use
Town of Cohasset, MA**

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Preliminary Report of Findings: Cohasset Community Survey of Youth Substance Use

This is a preliminary report of findings from a community survey regarding substance use by youth in Cohasset, Massachusetts. The survey was developed and carried out as part of the Drug Free Communities (DFC) Initiative in Cohasset. The five-year DFC Initiative in Cohasset is supported by grants from the federal Drug Free Communities (DFC) Program of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Like other DFC projects, the goals of the Drug Free Communities Initiative in Cohasset are: (1) to increase and strengthen community collaboration regarding substance misuse; and (2) to reduce youth substance use.

Purposes of the survey were: (1) to determine perceptions of Cohasset residents regarding the nature and extent of teen substance use; (2) to gauge attitudes of residents regarding teen substance use; (3) to determine parents' knowledge and involvement regarding their teenage children's substance use; and (4) to solicit other input and suggestions from the community regarding how best to respond to underage drinking in Stoneham.

1.0 Survey development, administration, and reporting

The survey was developed by a Data Committee of the Safe Harbor Cohasset Coalition. Membership of the Data Committee included the Project Director and Project Coordinator of the DFC Initiative and two volunteer community members of the Coalition, with some technical support provided by an external evaluation consultant. Survey development occurred during the Spring and early Summer of 2019. A copy of the survey is included as Appendix A to this report.

The survey was administered in paper and pencil form to adult residents of Cohasset in the Fall of 2019. Through arrangements with the Cohasset Public Schools and other community agencies, the Data Committee members invited participants in various school and other community events to complete and return the surveys during each community event.

After completion of the surveys by the sample of respondents, a manager of the DFC Initiative manually entered the survey data into computer data files and provided the data files of responses to J. Richard Woy, Ph.D. of JRW Associates, an independent consulting contractor, for data analysis and preparation of this report of findings.

The survey was completed by 284 respondents. Assuming random sampling and based on a population of approximately 8,500 for Cohasset, this sample size can be expected to provide confidence intervals of plus or minus 6% with a 95% level of confidence.

Most of the remainder of this report provides preliminary findings organized by individual survey question as follows.

2.0 Findings: Characteristics of respondents

2.1 Residence: (Q01) What community do you currently live in?

As indicated in the table below, virtually all of the respondents (97%) were residents of Cohasset.

Current residence		
	Number	Percent
Cohasset	275	97
Other	8	3
Total	283	100%

2.2 Parent of high school student: (Q02) Are you the parent/guardian of a high school student?

As indicated in the table below, about six out of ten respondents (59%) were parents of high school students.

Parent of high school student		
	Number	Percent
Yes	167	59
No	116	41
Total	283	100%

2.3 Parent of middle school student: (Q03) Are you the parent/guardian of a middle school student?

As indicated in the table below, a little over half of the respondents (53%) were parents of middle school students.

Parent of middle school student		
	Number	Percent
Yes	148	53
No	131	47
Total	279	100%

2.4 Gender: (Q04) How do you identify yourself?

As indicated in the table below, about two-thirds of the respondents (68%) were women; and the other third (32%) were men.

Gender		
	Number	Percent
Female	194	68
Male	90	32
Total	284	100%

2.5 Private school: (Q05) Do any of your school age children attend private school(s)?

As indicated in the table below, 10% of the respondents were parents of a child who attends private school.

Private school		
	Number	Percent
Yes	28	10
No	256	90
Total	284	100%

2.6 Note: Exclusive vs overlapping groups

Each of the questions above divides the sample into two distinct or “exclusive” groups in which membership in one group precludes membership in the other. A respondent is either a man or a woman, the parent of a student in a private school or not the parent of a student in private school, is the parent of a high school student or not the parent of a high school student, and so on. In the findings to follow, these exclusive groupings are used to make comparisons on other variables, such as to compare the responses of men with those of women or to compare the responses of parents of high school students with responses of respondents not the parent of a high school student.

In addition to the comparisons between exclusive groups, the survey findings also allow comparisons across the various groups specified above. For example, one might compare rates of the responses of parents of high school students with those of middle school students. While these comparisons also are useful, it is important to keep in mind that the two groups are not exclusive, but rather are likely to be overlapping in the sense that some respondents are likely to be parents of both middle school students and high school students. In this example, any differences between the two groups will be the result of differences between respondents who are members of only one or the other of the two groups. In any case full understanding of these comparisons across overlapping groups is aided by taking into account the nature and extent of the overlap of respondents.

3.0 Findings: Teen substance use in Cohasset

3.1 Seriousness of problem: (Q06) How serious a problem is use of each of the substances below by underage youth in Cohasset?

Seriousness of problem: Use of substances by underage youth in Cohasset					
Types of substance use	Percent				
	No problem	Minor problem	Moderate problem	Serious problem	Total
6a. Drinking alcoholic beverages (N = 243)	4	12	60	24	100
6b. Using marijuana (N = 246)	4	18	57	22	100
6c. Vaping (use of electronic nicotine products) (N = 253)	3	6	31	61	100
6d. Use of prescription drugs not prescribed to you (N = 224)	13	38	34	15	100

All respondents: As indicated in the table above, vaping by teens was the number one area of concern for survey respondents, with over nine out of 10 respondents (92%) identifying teen vaping as a moderate or serious problem in Cohasset and 61% identifying it as a serious problem.

Also identified by most respondents as significant problems were alcohol drinking and marijuana use by youth, with 84% and 77% respectively reporting teen use of these substance as moderate or serious problems in Cohasset. Of those who reported these two forms of substance use as moderate or serious problems, most reported it to be a moderate rather than serious problem.

Just under half the survey respondents (49%) reported use of prescription drugs without a prescription by youth as a moderate or serious problem with 34% reporting it as a moderate problem and only 15% reporting it to be a serious problem.

It should be noted that significant numbers of respondents did not respond to these questions.

Seriousness of problem: Use of substances by underage youth in Cohasset									
Types of substance use	Percent reporting moderate or serious problem								
	All	High school parents		Middle school parents		Private school parents		By gender	
		Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	M	F
6a. Drinking alcoholic beverages	84	84	84	82	86	93	83	77	88
6b. Using marijuana	78	79	78	81	76	86	78	71	82
6c. Vaping (use of electronic nicotine products)	92	91	93	93	90	93	91	85	95
6d. Use of prescription drugs not prescribed to you	49	43	58	53	43	65	47	42	52

Regarding comparisons in the table above, preliminary observations are as follows:

- **Parents of high school students:** Regarding seriousness of the drug use problem by teens in Cohasset, there were few differences between respondents who were the parent of high school students vs. those not the parent of a high school student, with the exception of prescription drug use without a prescription where those not the parent of high school student were more likely to report that it is a moderate or severe problem.
- **Parents of middle school students:** Responses of those who were the parent of a middle school student were very similar to the responses of those who were parents of high school students, with the exception of prescription drug use without a prescription where those not the parent of a middle school student were less likely to report that it is a moderate or severe problem.
- **Parents of private school students:** Parents of a private school student were more likely than other respondents to report that teen alcohol drinking, marijuana use, and use of prescription drugs without a prescription are moderate or serious problems in Cohasset. Like other respondents, more than nine out of 10 parents of a private school student reported that vaping is a moderate or serious problem.
- **By gender:** For all four types of substance use, women were more likely than men to report that teen use in Cohasset is a moderate or serious problem.

3.2 Change over time (Q07) How and to what extent has use of the substances below by underage youth in Cohasset changed in the last five years?

Change over time: Use of substances by underage youth in Cohasset				
Types of substance use	Percent			
	Much less or less	About the same	More or much more	Total
7a. Drinking alcoholic beverages (N = 209)	6	70	24	100%
7b. Using marijuana (N = 207)	3	50	47	100%
7c. Vaping (use of electronic nicotine products) (N = 217)	1	8	91	100%
7d. Use of prescription drugs not prescribed to you (N = 183)	7	52	40	99%

As indicated in the table, more than nine out of ten respondents (91%) reported that vaping by youth had increased in the last five years. About half the respondents (47%) reported that marijuana use had increased while most of the remainder (50%) reported marijuana use by youth staying about the same. More than two-thirds of respondents (70%) reported alcohol drinking by youth as staying about the same, with only 24% reporting an increase in youth drinking. Finally, 40% of respondents reported increased teen use of prescription drugs without a prescription while most of the remainder (52%) reported that teen use of prescription drugs without a prescription remained about the same in the last five years.

As with the previous set of questions, it should be noted that significant numbers of respondents did not answer this question. As many as one in three respondents did not respond to one or more of these questions, suggesting that some respondents perhaps felt they did not have enough information to provide an opinion about change in use of these substances by youth in Cohasset.

Change over time: Use of substances by underage youth in Cohasset									
Types of substance use	Percent reporting more or much more use								
	All	High school parents		Middle school parents		Private school parents		By gender	
		Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	M	F
7a. Drinking alcoholic beverages	24	27	17	20	26	34	23	17	28
7b. Using marijuana	47	52	36	43	49	57	46	50	46
7c. Vaping (use of electronic nicotine products)	91	91	90	91	90	99	87	91	91
7d. Use of prescription drugs not prescribed to you	40	37	48	37	44	52	39	32	46

Regarding comparisons in the table above, preliminary observations are as follows:

- **Parents of high school students:** Parents of high school students were more likely than others to report that alcohol drinking and marijuana use by teens had increased in Cohasset in the past five years. Interestingly, they were less likely than other groups to report that use of prescription drugs without a prescription by teens had increased in Cohasset.
- **Parents of middle school students:** Parents of middle school students were less likely to report increases in teen alcohol drinking and marijuana use over the past five years than were parents of high school students. They reported increases in vaping and use of prescription drugs without a prescription by teens at about the same rates as did parents of high school students.
- **Parents of private school students:** Parents of a private school student reported increases in all four types of teen substance at substantially higher rates than did all other respondent groups.
- **By gender:** Men and women reported increased marijuana use and vaping by teens at about the same rates. Women reported increases in teen alcohol drinking and teen use of prescription drugs without a prescription at higher rates than did men.

3.3 Community approval/disapproval: (Q08) How wrong do you feel it would be for underage youth in Cohasset to.....

Community approval/disapproval: Use of substances by underage youth in Cohasset					
Types of substance use	Percent				
	Not at all wrong	A little wrong	Wrong	Very wrong	Total
8a. Have one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage once or twice a week? (N = 274)	0	6	29	64	100
8b. Using marijuana? (N = 273)	0	4	23	73	100
8c. Vaping (use of electronic nicotine products)? (N = 273)	0	0	15	85	100
8d. Use of prescription drugs not prescribed to them? (N = 273)	0	0	8	92	100

As indicated in the table above, more than nine out of ten respondents reported that all four types of substance use by teens were wrong or very wrong. Virtually all respondents reported that teen vaping and use of prescription drugs without a prescription were wrong or very wrong. It should be noted that two-thirds or more of respondents identified all four forms of substance use as very wrong.

Since such high percentages of respondents reported disapproval of all four forms of youth substance use, further breakouts by sub-groups of the sample are not provided for this set of questions.

3.4 Risk of harm: (Q09) How much do you think underage youth in Cohasset risk harming themselves physically or in other ways if they.....

Risk of harm: Use of substances by underage youth in Cohasset					
Types of substance use	Percent				
	No risk	Slight risk	Moderate risk	Great risk	Total
9a. Used an e-cigarette, vape pen, e-liquid rig (JUUL, N2, Joytech, etc.) excluding marijuana products? (N = 271)	0	2	15	83	100
9b. Have one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage once or twice a week? (N = 269)	0	11	33	56	100
9c. Have five or more drinks of an alcoholic beverage once or twice a week? (N = 271)	0	3	8	89	100
9d. Use marijuana once or twice a week? (N = 269)	0	5	29	67	100
9e. Use of prescription drugs not prescribed to them (N = 270)	0	2	8	90	100

As indicated in the table above, nine out of ten respondents or more reported that all five types of substance use by teens involved moderate or great risk of harm. Vaping, binge drinking, and use of prescription drugs were identified as having particularly great risks for underage youth.

As with the previous set of questions, no breakouts by sub-groups in the sample are provided for this set of questions because of the very high rates of reported moderate or great risk for the sample as a whole.

3.5 Parental involvement: (Q10) In the past 30 days, have you talked with your middle school and/or high school age child(ren) about.....

Parental involvement: Use of substances by underage youth in Cohasset				
In past month, spoke with middle/high school child(ren) about.....	Percent			
	Yes	No	NA-Not a parent	Total
10a. Drinking alcoholic beverages (N = 275)	68	31	1	100%
10b. Using marijuana (N = 275)	52	47	1	100%
10c. Vaping (use of electronic nicotine products) (N = 274)	79	20	2	101%
10d. Use of prescription drugs not prescribed to them (N = 274)	35	64	1	100%

As indicated in the table, virtually all of the respondents who answered this series of questions were parents/guardians of middle school or high school students. Parents were most likely to report talking with their teenage children about vaping and drinking alcohol, with 79% and 68% percent respectively of respondents reporting doing so in the previous month. A little over half the respondents (52%) reported talking with their teenage children about marijuana, and about a third (35%) reported talking with their teenage children about use of prescription drugs not prescribed to them.

Parental involvement: Use of substances by underage youth in Cohasset									
In past month, spoke with middle/high school child(ren) about.....	Percent								
	All	High school parents		Middle school parents		Private school parents		By gender	
		Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	M	F
10a. Drinking alcoholic beverages	68	83	51	76	59	89	66	71	68
10b. Using marijuana	52	66	32	63	41	75	50	49	54
10c. Vaping (use of electronic nicotine products)	79	89	64	91	66	96	77	78	79
10d. Use of prescription drugs not prescribed to them	35	47	17	33	36	46	33	33	36

Regarding comparisons in the table above, preliminary observations are as follows:

- **Parents of high school students:** Parents of high school students reported talking with their teenage children about all four forms of substance use at higher rates than did parents of middle school students and respondents who were not parents of high school students.
- **Parents of middle school students:** Parents of middle school students were less likely to report talking with their teenage children about substance use than were parents of high school students, but generally more likely to do so than were respondents who were not parents of middle school students.
- **Parents of private school students:** Parents of private school students reported talking with their teenage children about all four forms of substance at higher rates than did any other group of respondents.
- **By gender:** Men and women reported talking with their teenage children about all four forms of substance use at very similar rates.

4.0 Findings: Parental control and knowledge

4.1 Monitoring: (Q11) Do you monitor or keep track of the amounts of the substances listed below in your home?

Monitoring/keeping track of amounts of substances in the home				
Types of substances	Percent			
	Yes	No	NA-None in home	Total
11a. Alcoholic beverages? (N = 271)	59	34	7	100%
11b. Prescription drugs? (N = 270)	42	27	32	101%
11c. Vaping nicotine products? (N = 268)	9	6	85	100%
11d. Marijuana (medical and/or recreational) (N = 267)	12	7	82	101%

As indicated in the table above, respondents were much more likely to report keeping alcoholic beverages and prescription drugs in their homes (93% and 68% respectively) than to have vaping products and marijuana in their homes (15% and 18% respectively). Of those who did report having the various substances in their homes, about six out of ten reported monitoring amounts of each of the four substances in the home, with actual percentages ranging from a low of 60% for vaping to a high of 63% for alcoholic beverages.

Monitoring/keeping track of amounts of substances in the home									
Types of substances	Percent								
	All	High school parents		Middle school parents		Private school parents		By gender	
		Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	M	F
11a. Alcoholic beverages?	59	68	46	59	58	61	58	65	56
11b. Prescription drugs?	42	50	30	38	47	43	42	42	42
11c. Vaping nicotine products?	9	9	7	8	10	7	9	14	6
11d. Marijuana (medical and/or recreational)	12	14	9	11	33	7	12	20	8

Regarding comparisons in the table above, preliminary observations are as follows:

- **Parents of high school students:** Parents of high school students reported monitoring alcohol and prescription drugs at rates substantially higher than all other groups.
- **Parents of middle school students:** On these variables the rates for middle school parents were very similar to the rates for respondents who were not parents of middle school students.
- **Parents of private school students:** For these variables the rates for parents of private school students were very similar to rates for respondents not parents of private school students.
- **By gender:** Men were more likely than women to report monitoring alcohol, vaping products, and marijuana in their homes. Men and women had identical rates for monitoring prescription drugs in the home.

4.2 Secure storage: (Q12) Do you secure or lock up the substances listed below in your home so that you can control access to them?

Securing/locking up substances in the home				
Types of substances	Percent			
	Yes	No	NA- None in home	Total
12a. Alcoholic beverages? (N = 271)	13	80	7	100%
12b. Prescription drugs? (N = 269)	18	50	32	100%
12c. Vaping nicotine products? (N = 271)	2	7	92	100%
13d. Marijuana (medical and/or recreational) (N = 270)	3	8	89	100%

As with the previous questions, respondents were much more likely to report keeping alcoholic beverages and prescription drugs in their homes (93% and 68% respectively) than to have vaping products and marijuana in their homes (8% and 11% respectively). Of those who did report having the various substances in their homes, 25% and 26% respectively reported securing their marijuana and prescription drugs. About one in five (22%) reported locking up their vaping products while only 14% reported securing their alcoholic beverages.

Because of the very small numbers of respondents who reported having vaping materials or marijuana in their homes as well as the small numbers of respondents who reported securing/locking up alcoholic beverages and prescription drugs in their homes, no additional breakouts by sub-group are provided for this set of questions.

4.3 (Q13) How often do you knowingly allow your child to drink at home with his/her friends?

Knowingly allow your child to drink at home with his/her friends		
Frequency	Number	Percent
Never	233	86
Rarely	4	2
Sometimes	1	0
Most of the time	0	0
All the time	0	0
NA – Not a parent/guardian	34	13
Total	272	101%

As indicated in the table above, virtually all the parents/guardians who responded to this item reported that they never knowingly allow their child(ren) to drink at home with their friends.

Since such high a percentage of respondents reported not allowing their children to drink at home with friends, additional breakouts by sub-groups of the sample are not provided for this question.

4.4 (Q14) What is your current level of knowledge about the “Social Host Law” in Massachusetts?

Knowledge about the “Social Host Law” in Massachusetts		
Levels of knowledge	Number	Percent
No knowledge	60	22
I’ve heard of it, but don’t know what it is.	22	8
I’ve heard of it and know what it means.	191	70
Total	273	100%

As indicated in the table above, about eight out of ten respondents to this item (78%) had heard of the Social Host Law, and about seven out ten respondents (70%) reported that they both had heard of it and know what it means.

Knowledge about the “Social Host Law” in Massachusetts									
Levels of knowledge (N = 289)	All	Percent							
		High school parents		Middle school parents		Private school parents		By gender	
		Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	M	F
No knowledge	22	13	35	18	27	11	23	28	19
Heard of it, but don’t know what it is.	8	9	7	11	6	11	8	5	10
Heard of it and know what it means.	70	78	58	71	68	78	69	67	71

Regarding comparisons in the table above, preliminary observations are as follows:

- **Parents of high school students:** Parents of high school students were tied with parents of private school students for being most likely to report having heard of the Social Host Law and knowing what it means.
- **Parents of middle school students:** Parents of middle school students were a bit less likely than other sub-groups in the sample to have heard of the Social Host Law and know what it means.
- **Parents of private school students:** Parents of private school students were tied with parents of high school students for being most likely to have heard of the Social Host Law and knowing what it means.
- **By gender:** Women were slightly more likely than men to have heard of the Social Host Law and to know what it means.

5.0 Additional findings: Comparison of findings from adults with those of teens

As indicated in the table below, virtually all the adult respondents to the community survey reported that teen use of various substances was wrong or very wrong for teens. When asked about their parents' approval or disapproval of substance use by teens, middle school students reported rates of parental disapproval similar to those reported by their parents, although slightly lower in a couple of instances. However, when asked the same set of questions about their parents' attitudes, the high school students consistently reported parental attitudes of disapproval at rates substantially lower than the rates actually reported by parents themselves.

Comparison of adult scores with teen scores on comparable items from three surveys			
Survey items:	Item numbers and percentages		
	Community survey	Middle school YRBS	High school YRBS
	Parents' responses	Student perceptions of parents' responses	
Parents believe it is wrong or very wrong for teens....			
To have 1 or 2 drinks of alcohol daily	(q8a) 94	(q67) 92	(q69) 66
To use marijuana	(q8b) 96	(q84) 96	(q86) 86
To use prescription drugs not prescribed to them	(q8d) 100	(q91) 95	(q96) 96
Believe teens take moderate or great risk if they...	Parents' responses	Students' responses	
Have 1 or two alcoholic drinks once or twice a week	(q9b) 89	(q66) 79	(q68) 79 ¹
Have 5 or more alcoholic drinks once or twice a week	(q9c) 97	(q65) 85	(q67) 73 ²
Use marijuana once or twice a week	(q9d) 95	(q83) 79	(q86) 86
Use prescription drugs not prescribed to them	(q9e) 98	(q90) 89	(q95) 91
Additional comparison items:			
	Parents' responses	Students' responses	
Within past month parent spoke with middle/high school child(ren) about drinking alcoholic beverages	(q10a) 68	(q74) 28	(q76) 40
Parents secure/lock up alcoholic beverages in the home to control access to them	(q12a) 13	(q76) 15	(q78) 9

Similarly, as indicated in the table above, virtually all adult respondents to the community survey reported that teen use of various substances involved moderate or great risk of harm. However,

¹ It should be noted that this figure is for taking 1 or 2 drinks daily rather than once or twice per week. Also, the ones exposed to risk are "people" rather than "teens."

² For this figure, it should be noted that the ones exposed to risk are "people" rather than teens.

when asked about the extent of risk involved in their use of various substances, both middle school and high school students reported that their own use of the same substance involves moderate or great risk of harm at rates much lower than did their parents.

Finally, while two-thirds of parents (68%) reported talking with their teenage child(ren) about drinking alcohol during the past month, only 28% and 40% respectively of middle school and high school students reported doing so with their parents. Few parents or students reported parents' locking up alcohol in the home to control access to it.

6.0 Summary and next steps

6.1 Summary

Notable survey findings are as follows:

- **Seriousness of problem:** Vaping by teens was the number one area of concern for survey respondents, with over nine out of 10 respondents (92%) identifying teen vaping as a moderate or serious problem in Cohasset. Also identified by most respondents as significant problems were alcohol drinking and marijuana use by youth, with 84% and 77% respectively reporting teen use of these substance as moderate or serious problems in Cohasset. Just under half the survey respondents (49%) reported use of prescription drugs without a prescription by youth as a moderate or serious problem.
- **Change over time:** More than nine out of ten respondents (91%) reported that vaping by youth had increased in the last five years. Findings were mixed for teen use of marijuana, alcohol, and prescription drugs without a prescription, with some respondents reporting use had increased while others reported it staying about the same.
- **Community approval/disapproval:** Virtually all respondents reported that frequent alcohol use, marijuana use, vaping, and use of prescription drugs without a prescription by teens was wrong or very wrong. For purposes of comparison, when asked in the YRBS about their parents' approval/disapproval of substance use by teens, middle school students reported rates of parental disapproval similar to those reported by their parents; but high school students consistently reported parental attitudes of disapproval at rates substantially lower than the rates actually reported by parents themselves.
- **Risk of harm:** Virtually all respondents reported that vaping, frequent drinking, binge drinking, frequent marijuana use, and use of prescription drugs without a prescription by teens presented moderate or great risk of physical or other harm to youth. However, when asked on the YRBS about the extent of risk involved in their use of various substances, both middle school and high school students reported that their own use of the same substances involves moderate or great risk of harm at rates much lower than did their parents.
- **Parental involvement:** Parents were most likely to report talking with their teenage children about vaping and drinking alcohol, with 79% and 68% percent respectively of respondents reporting doing so in the previous month. Fewer parents reported talking with their teenage children about marijuana use (52%) and use of prescription drugs not prescribed to them (35%). By way of comparison, while two-thirds of parents (68%) reported talking with their teenage child(ren) about drinking alcohol during the past month, on the YRBS only 28% and 40% respectively of middle school and high school students reported doing so with their parents.
- **Monitoring and securing substances in the home:** Respondents were much more likely to report keeping alcoholic beverages and prescription drugs in their homes (93% and 68% respectively) than to have vaping products and marijuana in their homes (15% and 18% respectively). Of those who reported having alcohol and prescription drugs in their home, about six out of ten reported monitoring amounts of both substances in the home while only 26% and 14% respectively reported securing/locking up prescription drugs and alcohol in their homes.

- **Underage drinking at home:** Virtually all respondents reported never knowingly allowing their teenage child(ren) to drink at home with their friends.
- **Social Host Law:** Seven out of ten (70%) respondents reported having heard of the Social Host Law and knowing its provisions.

6.2 Next steps

Based on these preliminary findings, the following are steps the Coalition and other planners and decision-makers might consider to increase understanding of the problem of underage substance use in Cohasset:

- Carry out additional analyses of the survey data as necessary;
- Conduct focus groups and/or key informant interviews with community residents to follow up on questions/issues identified in the survey, enrich understanding of youth substance use in Cohasset, and identify potential additional ways to address issues identified in this assessment process.

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Appendix A: Cohasset Community Survey – Youth Substance Use

Cohasset community survey: Youth substance use

The purpose of this survey is to collect information about community attitudes toward substance use by youth in Cohasset. Results will be used to plan community efforts to prevent teenage misuse of drugs. Your answers to all questions are voluntary, and all your answers are confidential and anonymous.

1. What community do you currently live in?
 - A. Cohasset
 - B. Other/Specify _____

2. Are you the parent/guardian of a high school student (grades 9-12)?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No

3. Are you the parent/guardian of a middle school student (grades 6-8)?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No

4. How do you identify yourself?
 - A. Male
 - B. Female
 - C. Non-binary/Transgender/Other

5. Do any of your school age children attend private school(s)?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No
 - C. Not applicable – Not a parent or guardian of school age child(ren).

Teen substance use in Cohasset:

6. Seriousness of problem: How serious a problem is use of each of the substances below by underage youth in Cohasset? Using the following scale: No Problem = 1 Minor problem = 2 Moderate problem = 3 Serious problem = 4				
6a. Drinking/consuming alcoholic beverages	1	2	3	4
6b. Using marijuana	1	2	3	4
6c. Vaping (use of electronic nicotine products)	1	2	3	4
6d. Use of prescription drugs not prescribed to them	1	2	3	4

7. Change over time: How and to what extent has use of the substances below by underage youth in Cohasset changed in the last five years?
Using the following scale: Much less = 1 Less = 2 About the same = 3 More = 4 Much more = 5

7a. Drinking/consuming alcoholic beverages	1	2	3	4	5
7b. Using marijuana	1	2	3	4	5
7c. Vaping (use of electronic nicotine products)	1	2	3	4	5
7d. Use of prescription drugs not prescribed to them	1	2	3	4	5

8. Community approval/disapproval: How wrong do you feel it would be for underage youth in Cohasset to....
Using the following scale: Not at all wrong = 1 A little bit wrong = 2 Wrong = 3 Very wrong = 4

8a. Have one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage once or twice a week?	1	2	3	4
8b. Using marijuana?	1	2	3	4
8c. Vaping (use of electronic nicotine products)?	1	2	3	4
8d. Use prescription drugs not prescribed to them?	1	2	3	4

9. Risk of harm: How much do you think underage youth in Cohasset risk harming themselves physically or in other ways if they.....
Using the following scale: No risk = 1 Slight risk = 2 Moderate risk = 3 Great risk = 4

9a. Used an e-cigarette, vape pen, e-liquid rig (JUUL, N2, Joytech, etc.) excluding marijuana products?	1	2	3	4
9b. Have one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage once or twice a week?	1	2	3	4
9c. Have five or more drinks of an alcoholic beverage once or twice a week?	1	2	3	4
9d. Using marijuana once or twice a week?	1	2	3	4
9e. Use prescription drugs not prescribed to them?	1	2	3	4

10. Parental involvement: In the past 30 days, have you talked with your middle school and/or high school age child(ren) about.....
Using the following answer guide: Yes = 1 No = 2 Not applicable/Not a parent/guardian = 3

	Yes	No	NA/Not a parent
10a. Drinking/consuming alcoholic beverages?	1	2	3
10b. Using marijuana?	1	2	3
10c. Vaping (use of electronic nicotine products)?	1	2	3
10d. Use of prescription drugs not prescribed to them?	1	2	3

Parental control and knowledge:

11. Monitoring: Do you monitor or keep track of the amounts of the substances listed below in your home? Using the following answer guide: Yes = 1 No = 2 Not applicable/usually none in our home = 3			
	Yes	No	NA/None in home
11a. Alcoholic beverages?	1	2	3
11b. Prescription drugs?	1	2	3
11c. Vaping products (electronic nicotine products)?	1	2	3
11d. Marijuana (medical and/or recreational)?	1	2	3

12. Secure storage: Do you secure or lock up the substances listed below in your home so that you can control who has access to them? Using the following answer guide: Yes = 1 No = 2 Not applicable/usually none in our home = 3			
	Yes	No	NA/None in home
12a. Alcoholic beverages?	1	2	3
12b. Prescription drugs?	1	2	3
12c. Vaping products (electronic nicotine products)?	1	2	3
12d. Marijuana (medical and/or recreational)?	1	2	3

13. How often do you knowingly allow your child to drink at home with his/her friends?

- A. Never
- B. Rarely
- C. Sometimes
- D. Most of the time
- E. All of the time
- F. Not applicable – not a parent/guardian of a teenager

14. What is your current level of knowledge about the Social Host Law in Massachusetts?

- A. No knowledge
- B. I've heard of it, but don't know what it is
- C. I've heard of it, and know what it means

Your suggestions:

15. Suggestions: Please provide any suggestions you may have to help prevent misuse of drugs by teens in Cohasset.

16. Additional thoughts: Please provide any additional thoughts you may have regarding teenage substance use in Cohasset.

Thank you for completing this survey!

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