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**Preliminary Report:
Findings from the Alcohol Behavior Survey
High School age students (SY 2019-2020)
Cohasset Public Schools**

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Safe Harbor Cohasset Coalition
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Report of Findings: Alcohol Behavior Survey, Cohasset High School (2019)

1.0 Background

This is a preliminary report of findings from recent administration of the Alcohol Behavior Survey to a sample of high school students in the Cohasset Public Schools (CPS). The brief ten-item survey was intended to gather information about behavior, perceptions, and attitudes associated with alcohol use by high school students in Cohasset as required by provisions of a current Drug Free Communities grant to the Town of Cohasset.

The survey was administered online to 265 students in Cohasset High School on December 16, 2019; and the resulting data file was forwarded to J. Richard Woy, an outside consultant, for data analysis and preparation of this report.

Survey findings are as follows:

2.0 Student demographics

Students by gender

(Q01) Gender	Number	Percent
Female	142	54
Male	121	46
Non-binary ¹	2	1
Total	265	101%

As indicated in the table, there were somewhat more girls (54%) than boys (46%) in the sample.

¹ In this report, respondents who reported their gender identification as non-binary are included in all statistics involving the total sample and breakouts by grade level. However, given their small number, this group is not included in the breakouts by gender in order to assure their confidentiality.

Students by grade

(Q02) Grade	Number	Percent
9 th	53	20
10 th	63	24
11 th	80	30
12 th	68	26
Total	264	100%

All grades were well represented in the sample, with percentages of respondents by grade ranging from 20% for 9th graders to 30% for 11th graders.

3.0 Involvement in sports

2019-2020 Cohasset Alcohol Behavior Survey – High School									
Involvement in sports									
Variables	% Total			% by Gender		% by Grade			
	Cohasset		MA 2017	M	F	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
	2019	2017							
Q03. Play a school sport	85%	-	-	89	82	85	89	84	84

Observations:

- As indicated in the table, more than eight out of ten students (85%) reported participation in a school sport.
- By gender: Rates for boys and girls were quite similar, with boys slightly more likely than girls to report involvement in school sports.
- By grade: Rates of involvement in school sports were very similar for all four grade levels.

4.0 Alcohol related questions

2019-2020 Alcohol Behavior Survey – High School									
Alcohol use related questions									
Variables	% Total		% by Gender		% by Grade				
	Cohasset		MA 2017	M	F	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
	2019	2017							
Q04. Currently drink alcohol (at least 1 day in past 30 days)	34	33	31	32	35	11	24	40	51
Q05 Believe people take moderate or great risk of harm by taking 1 or 2 drinks daily	80	76	--	74	85	85	93	72	75
Q06. Believe their parents think it would be wrong or very wrong for them to have 1 or 2 alcoholic drinks nearly every day	95	92	--	93	97	100	93	96	93
Q07. Believe their friends think it would be wrong or very wrong for them to have 1 or 2 alcoholic drinks nearly every day	76	65	--	68	84	83	76	75	72
Q08. Somewhat or strongly disapprove of teens their age having 1 or 2 alcoholic drinks nearly every day	84	81	--	78	90	86	91	79	70
Q09. Ever had an alcoholic beverage with peers when you did not want to	12	--	--	11	13	2	9	11	23
Q10. Already knew provisions of the Social Host Law	68	--	--	68	67	57	87	76	48

Observations:

- **Current alcohol use (Q04):** Reported past 30-day rate of alcohol drinking was 34%, very similar to rates for Cohasset and Massachusetts in 2017. Rates by gender were very similar, and rates of current alcohol use went up steadily by grade level.
- **Student attitudes toward teen drinking (Q05, Q08):** As indicated in the table, 80% of respondents believe that daily drinking involves moderate or great risk of harm. Similarly, 84% report disapproval of teens their age drinking daily. There were small improvements on both of these variables from 2017 to 2019. Girls were more likely than boys to report both risk of harm and disapproval associated with daily drinking. Rates of reported risk of harm tended to decline from 9th to 12th grade as did rates of disapproval.
- **Student perceptions of other students and parents (Q06, Q07):** Almost all respondents (95%) reported that their parents think it would be wrong or very wrong for them to drink alcohol daily, and 76% of respondents reported that their friends think it would be wrong or very wrong for them to do so. There were improvements from 2017 to 2019 on both of these variables, with a notable increase from 65% to 76% in the percentage of friends who are reported to disapprove of daily teen drinking. Boys and girls reported disapproval by parents at similar rates, but girls were more likely than boys to report disapproval by friends. Rates of reported disapproval by parents remained high through all four grade levels but declined by increasing grade level for disapproval by friends.

- **Peer pressure to drink (Q09):** A little over one out of ten respondents (12%) reported ever drinking alcohol with peers when they did not want to do so. Rates did not differ much by gender, but rates did increase rapidly by progressive grade levels from 2% for 9th graders to 23% for 12th graders.
- **Knowledge of Social Host Law (Q10):** About two-thirds of respondents reported knowing the provisions of the Social Host Law. Reported rates for this question did not differ by gender; and while there was some variation by grade level, the variation did not appear to fall into a discernible pattern.

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