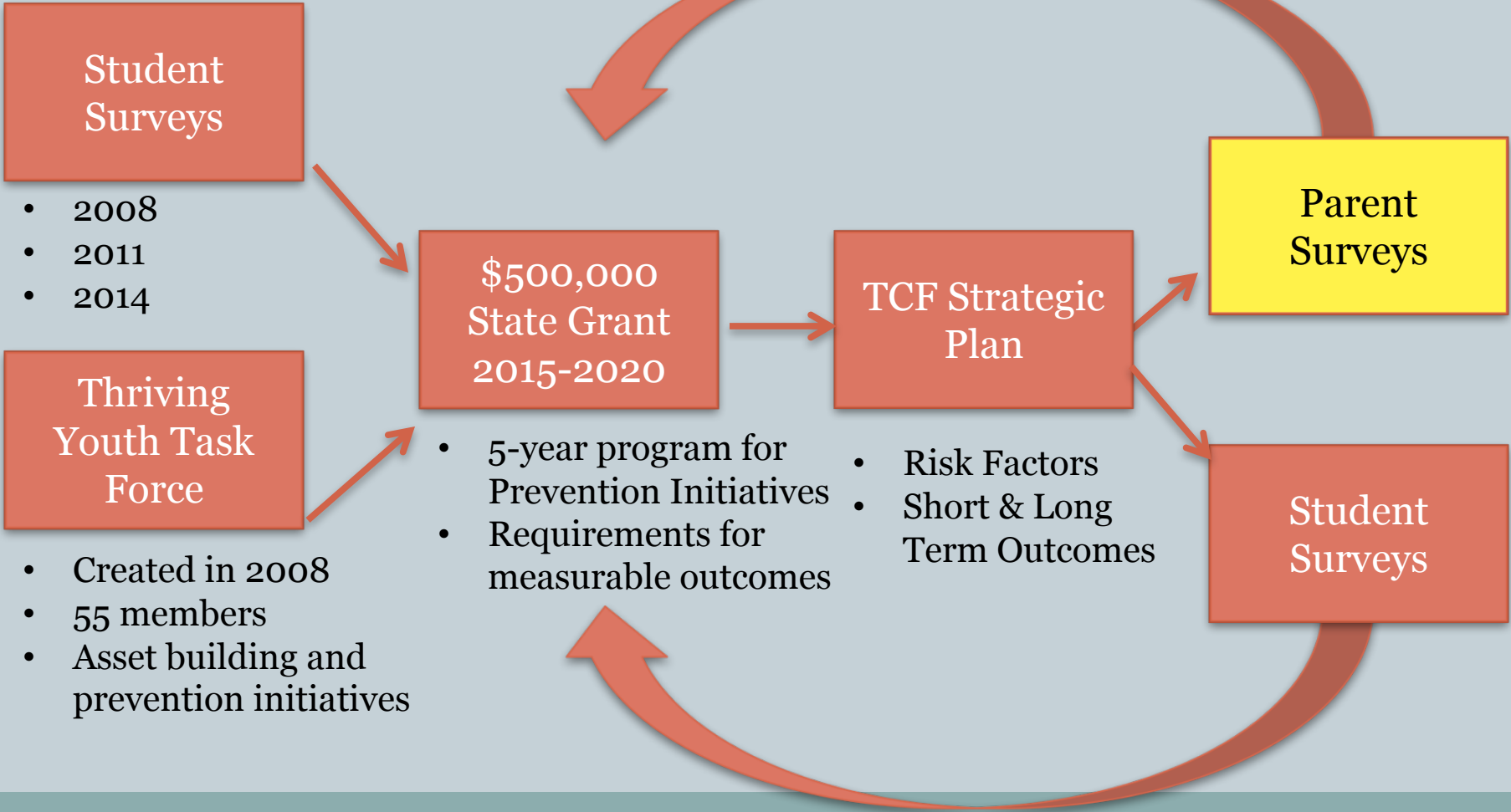


Darien Parent Survey Presentation



May 15, 2017

What Are We Doing?



What We Hope to Accomplish: Short-Term and Long-Term



Short-term Outcomes

- Increase in parents who report understanding the difference between the adult and teen brain
- Increase in parents who know the consequences of breaking the social hosting law
- Increase in parents who have had a dialogue with their teen about underage drinking

Long-term Outcomes

- Reduce past 30 day use for youth ages 12-17
- Increase in youth perception of parental disapproval
- Increase in youth perception of risk
- Reduce in Junior and Senior Past 30 Day Use

How The Survey Was Administered



- Anonymous and open to parents of Darien Public School students in 6th-12th grades from November-December 2016
- Conducted by Quantitative Services, independent research firm
- Questionnaire modeled on surveys given in other CT towns, with some questions tailored specifically to Darien
- 30% response rate

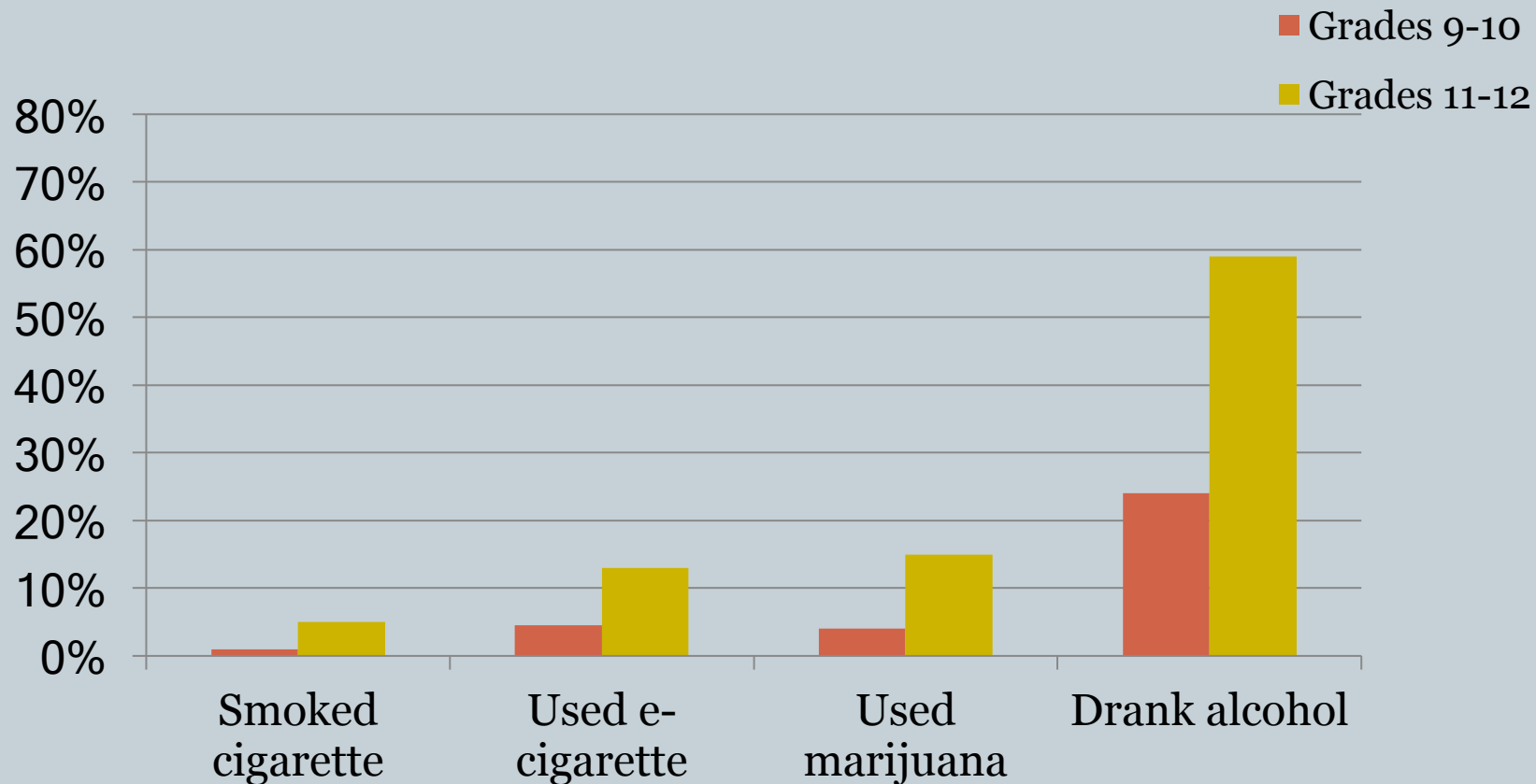
Survey Findings: What We're Going to Talk About Tonight



1. Parent perception of alcohol & marijuana use among teens
2. Parent attitudes toward substance use
3. Role of parents in influencing teen behavior

Parents Perceive Alcohol Use as More Prevalent than Marijuana and Cigarettes

% of Parents Who Think Their Child Used a Substance in Past 30 Days



100% of middle school parent respondents perceived zero usage of any substance for students in grades 6-8 .

Parents Underestimate Teen Use of Alcohol



Alcohol Use in Past 30-Days

	Parent Perception	Youth Self-Reported*
Grades 6-8	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7th grade: 5%• 8th grade: 7%
Grades 9-10	24%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9 grade: 24%• 10th grade: 44%
Grades 11-12	59%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11th grade: 59%• 12th grade: 71%

* Data from 2014 Youth Survey

Parents Underestimate Teen Use of Marijuana



Marijuana Use in Past 30-Days

	Parent Perception	Youth Self-Reported*
Grades 6-8	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7th grade: 2%• 8th grade: 3%
Grades 9-10	4%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9 grade: 9%• 10th grade: 29%
Grades 11-12	15%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11th grade: 41%• 12th grade: 55%

* Data from 2014 Youth Survey

Parents Perceive That Alcohol and Marijuana are Highly Accessible to Teens



- It is “*Definitely or Mostly True*” that “*If my child wanted, it would be EASY to get...*”

	6 th -8 th Gr	9 th -10 th Gr	11 th -12 th Gr
Alcohol	45%	68%	82%
Marijuana	12%	34%	60%

Parents believe: if they want it, kids can get it.

Parents Perceive Alcohol is Most Accessible to Teens at Homes



The most common source of alcohol is unsupervised kids at home.

Parents Report Serving Teens Despite Knowing the Social Hosting Law



11th -12th grade parents:

24%

Reported that teens consumed alcohol in their home this year

7%

Served teens this year

90%

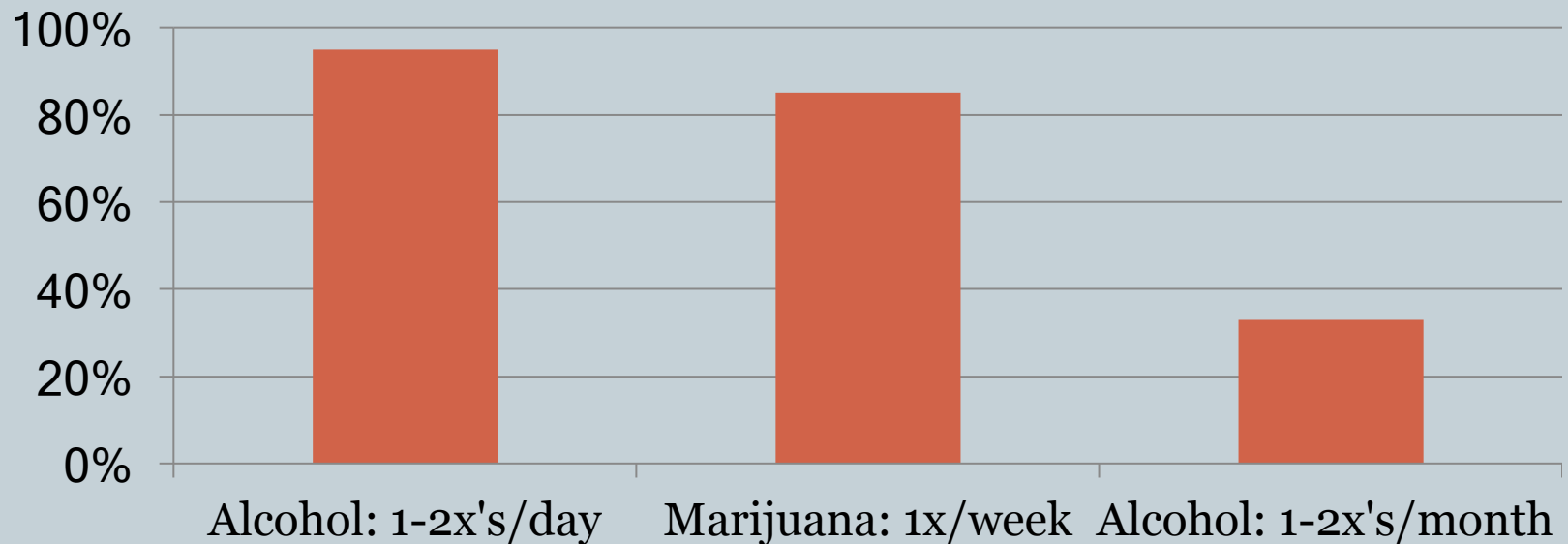
Know the social hosting law

Parents are either willingly serving kids, turning a blind eye or unaware.

Parents Perceive Lower Risk of Harm to Teens Who Drink 1-2 times per Month



% of 11-12th Grade Parents who perceive “great risk of harm”

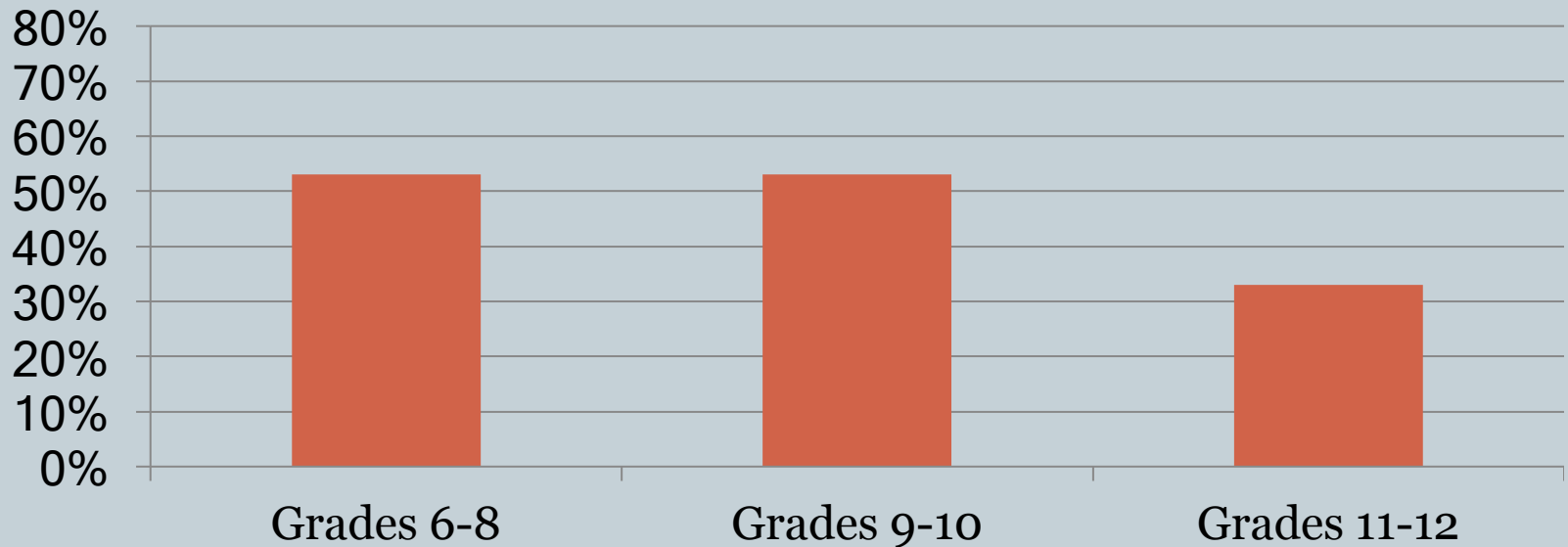


Parents perceive social drinking as acceptable.

Parents Perceive “Great Risk of Harm” from Alcohol Declines as Teens Get Older



% of parents who perceive “great risk of harm” to teenagers if they drink alcohol once or twice a month

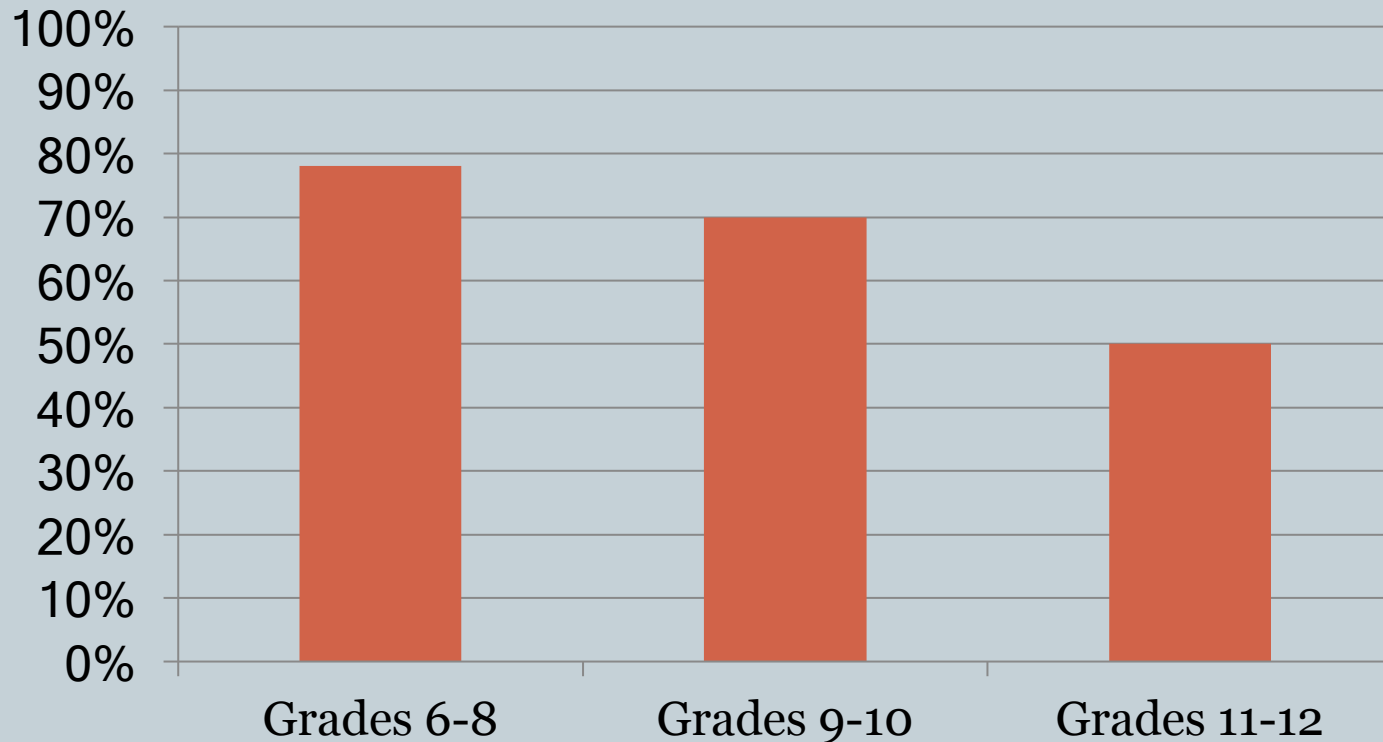


Parents perceive social drinking as increasingly acceptable as teens age.

Family Alcohol Rules Decrease as Teens Get Older



“My family has clear rules for my child discouraging the use of alcohol” :

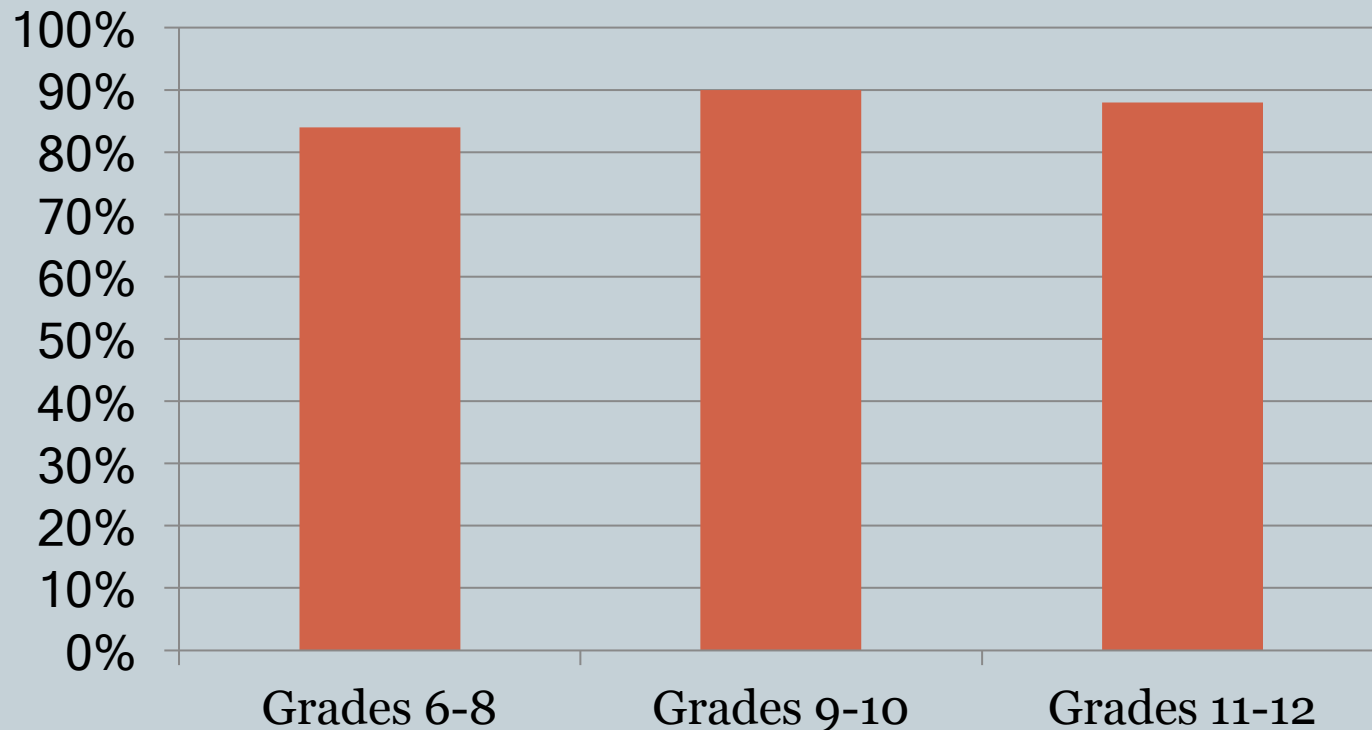


Parents have the opportunity to clarify rules for older teens.

Family Rules Consistent for Marijuana Use



“My family has clear rules for my child discouraging use of marijuana”:



Rules discouraging marijuana use are consistently communicated from grade 6-12.

Parents Overestimate Clarity of Family Rules



Parent Reported

50% of 11th and 12th grade parents report having clear rules discouraging use of alcohol

78% of 6-8th grade parents report having clear rules discouraging use of alcohol



Youth Self-Reported*

28% of 12th graders report their family has clear rules and consequences

53% of 7th graders report their family has clear rules and consequences

*2014 Student Survey

Parent Survey Evaluated Several Internal and External Influencers of Teen Behavior



Internal

- Family Expectations
- Family Rules
- Influence of Friends
- Parent Behavior

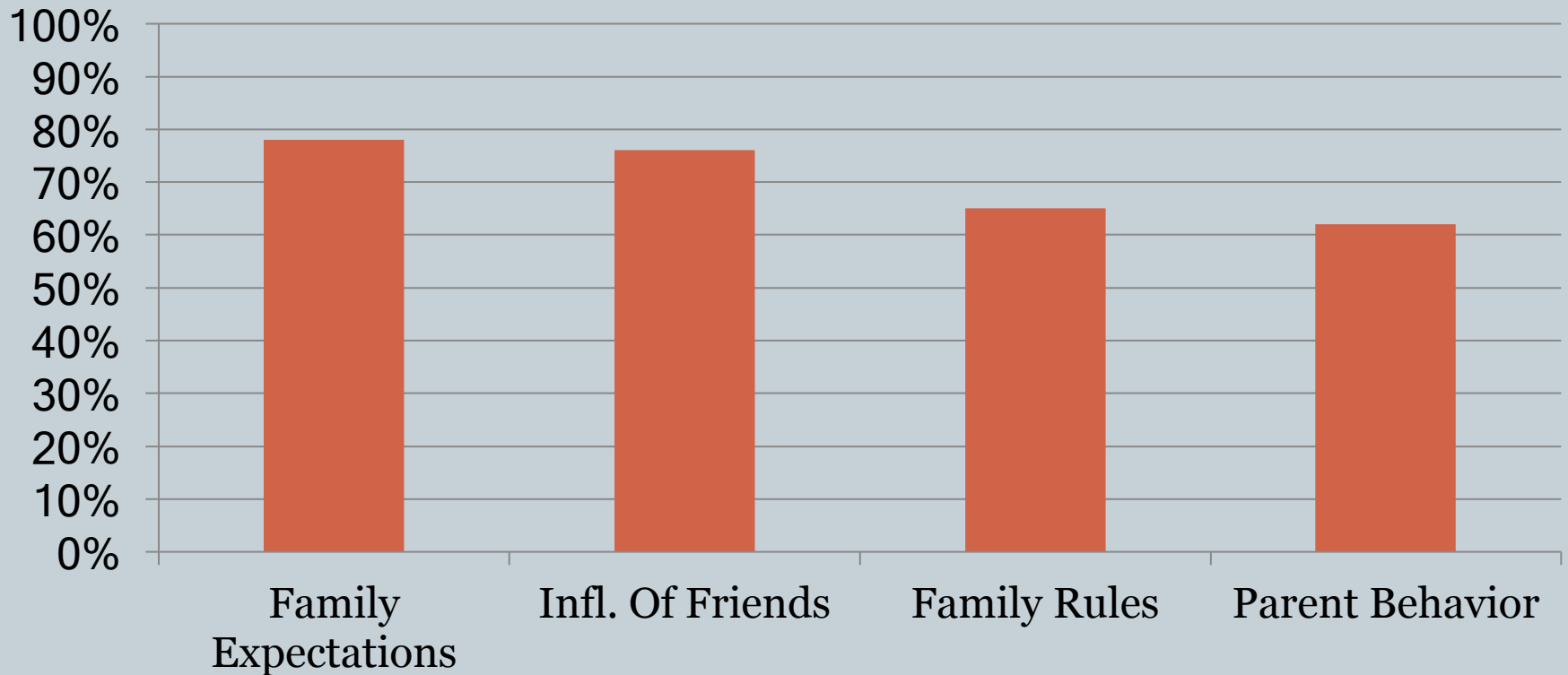
External

- Legal Consequences
- School Programs
- Community-wide Prevention
- Ads Identifying Risks

Parents Identify Themselves as Leading Influencers of Teen Drinking Behavior



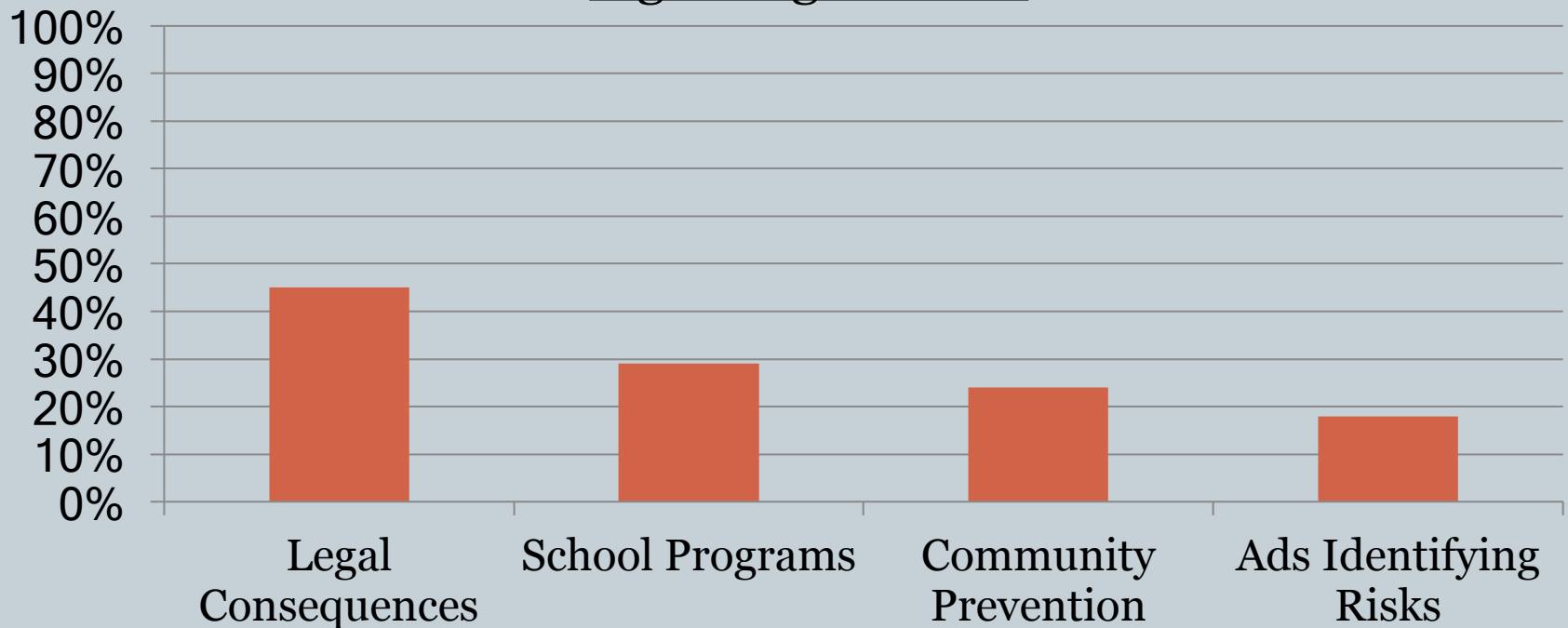
“How important do you think the following are in influencing a teenager’s behavior regarding alcohol?”



Parents Perceive External Influencers As Substantially Less Important in Influencing Teen Behavior



How important do you think the Following are in influencing a teenager's behavior regarding alcohol?



Conversations Are Happening at Home






- Nearly 80% of high school parents report having regular conversations about drugs and alcohol
 - Only 49% of middle school parents report regular conversations
- 60-70% of high school parents think their child would talk to them if they had a serious concern
 - 80% of middle school parents think their child would talk to them about a serious concern

Talk early, talk often – There is an opportunity for more open dialogue particularly with middle schoolers.

Parents Want More Information on Effects of Alcohol and Drugs on Teens



	<u>Practically None / A Little Knowledge</u>		<u>Yes, Definitely Want More Information</u>
Grades 6-8	33%		65%
Grades 9-10	19%		51%
Grades 11-12	20%		47%

Middle school parents are highest in wanting more education.

Key Takeaways



1. Teens in our community are using alcohol and marijuana more than we think and it is highly accessible
2. There is a certain degree of acceptance of teen drinking among parents, including the use of private homes for parties.
3. We have an incredibly involved parent community, creating an opportunity for parents to have significant influence over their kids' attitudes and behaviors towards drugs and alcohol
4. Talk early, talk often

Going Forward



1. Across the board, parents are engaged and want to learn more about teen substance use/abuse
2. Encourage ongoing and open dialogue with your child about alcohol and drug use
3. Understand that drinking patterns have changed
4. It is critical for parents need to establish clear rules and consequences, which may need to change as teens get older,
5. Don't underestimate the importance of active listening

Success involves prevention and fostering healthy coping and adaptive skills



We need to increase teens use of the 40 developmental assets that foster healthy growth and decision making

Maintain our focus on the 5 Key Developmental Assets linked to healthy decision making, including use of drugs and alcohol:

1. Adult Role Models
2. Family Boundaries
3. Positive Peer Influence
4. Self-Esteem
5. Planning & Decision Making

www.search-institute.com

Community Problems Require Community Solutions



1. Conversations are happening between many of our community leaders
2. Increase offering and variety of educational programming
3. Reach down to elementary and middle school parents and get them engaged NOW
4. Remember our children look to ALL of us as role models – parents, community and thought leaders;
 1. 29% of 12th graders say adult in the community role-model positive, responsible behavior
5. Talk early, talk often
6. And listen, too!

Community Problem, Community Solutions

www.communityfunddarien.org



Darien Youth Center

- Straight Talk
- Coffee & Conversation



- Film Screenings
- Active Parenting

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
darien/norwalk

- Parent Awareness Programs & Screenings



- Parent Lecture Series

Fathers' Forum
Dads Make A Difference

- Monthly Workshop for Dads

DHS Parents Association
ACTIVE PARENTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

&

The Community Fund
of Darien

- November 2017:
Chris Herren
www.ourdarien.com

Middlesex PA
Parent Association, Darien, CT

- Truth & Consequence
- Monthly PTO Meetings

Check the calendar for upcoming programs & additional resources.