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Family Prevalence Survey in Alcohol and Drug in the Hispanic/Latino Population of Miami-Dade County

(Report 2007)

Background

During 2007, two extensive surveys were conducted by CLAPA among its membership organizations. These are an adult survey and a youth survey. They are carefully delineated as part of this compendium report, as section I (youth) and section II (adult).

The youth survey was self-administered to 201 youth—95 males and 90 females (16 did not respond to question on gender). The survey was made available in both Spanish and English forms. It was administered in 4 major communities where CLAPA provides services in Miami-Dade County: Kendall, Opa Locka, Hialeah, and North Miami Beach.

A parallel adult survey was also conducted in the same communities. The adult survey was administered to 341 adults, primarily females (74%). Altogether, a total of 542 surveys were completed. Table 1 below provides a brief geographic breakdown for both the youth and adult survey.

Table 1
City of Florida, by Number of Surveys for both Youth and Parents

| City | Youth Survey | Adult Survey | Total Surveys |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| North Miami Beach | 64 | 104 | 168 |
| Opa Locka | 43 | 109 | 152 |
| Hialeah | 54 | 103 | 157 |
| Kendall | 40 | 25 | 65 |
| Total | 201 | 341 | 542 |



SECTION I THE HISPANIC YOUTH SURVEY

Overview of Youth Survey

The student survey consisted of 71 questions with sub-questions. In total, 252 variables were captured via various question and entered into a customized SPSS/PC database for analysis. The survey contained questions along the following major areas:

1. drug usage
2. onset of drug usage
3. drug usage among friends/peers
4. perceptions of risk to friends/peers from drug usage
5. students' approval/disapproval toward use of drugs by friends
6. drug acquisition
7. information sources and treatment programs for drug users
8. influences against drug usage (e.g., media, special programs, family and community)
9. knowledge of drug effects and general attitudes
10. students' perceptions of parental disapproval of drug usage
11. relationships with parents
12. general demographic data (e.g., age, gender, language, place of birth, religion)

A total of 201 student surveys were analyzed: 40 from Kendall; 43 from Opa Locka, 54 from Hialeah and 64 from North Miami Beach. About three-fifths (58%) of the surveys were administered in Spanish and the rest in English. Most surveys were fully answered and almost all responses were legible. Analysis also indicates less than a 5% missing data response rate.

Overview of Youth Population

The majority of respondents were male (53%), with an average (mean) age of 17.5. As compared to the national population of youth across the Nation, the youth population in the survey is a relatively recent newcomer to this country. Nearly one-third (29%) have lived in the U.S. for less than five years, primarily the past two years. Notwithstanding, the population is moderately transient once it arrives. Altogether, nearly 30% have "never" moved over the past 10 years. The more typical Latino youth family (41%) has only moved once or twice during this time. All other youth households have moved 3 times (or more) over the past 10 years (29%).

As compared to the average Latino household, the household size among these respondents is considerably small, with nearly one out of five responds being the only children in their household and with an average number of just over 2 children per household. Relative to census figures (2006), where the median number of children, this figure is low. It likely indicates that households are relatively young and still growing.

The following analysis more specifically focuses on the population of youth that responded to the survey. It aims to provide a more detailed breakdown of youth numbers, overall composition and general characteristics.



Role of Religion

The largest majority of the youth population was Protestant (42%). This figure is considerably higher than the representation of Roman Catholics (29%) and “other religions” (15%). Nearly 9% reported having no religious affiliation. No Jewish representation was indicated among respondents.

The trend among Protestant youth was to attend church at a slightly higher rate than practicing Roman Catholics. However, none-attendance to any religious services was nearly one-third (30%) as compared to nearly two-fifths (43%) for those who attended rarely and diminishing for those who attended once or twice a month (16%) and those who attended once a week or more (12%). The importance of religion, on the other hand, was rated higher than religious attendance would seem to indicate.

Parent Relations

Family relations were covered in a series of questions that are quite detailed in the survey. For the most part, the survey covered family dynamics and general youth relations with both parents. Hispanic youth responded rather favorably as it regards to their relations with persons at home. Youth also felt rather “close” to their parents. On a Likert scale of 1 to 4, with “4” representing a very close relationship, youth responded at the highest levels, with 84% and 71% positive response at either 3 or 4 level of closeness to their mothers and fathers, respectively.

On the same Likert scale, 84% of youth also responded favorably at a 3 or 4 level that “rules in my family are clear.” As it regards the “clarity of rules about alcohol and drug use” the results are also rather favorable, with 80% of youth responding at the highest level of rule clarity (level 3 or 4). Nearly 79% of youth also stated “parents notice when I am doing a good job and let me know about it” at the highest levels (level 3 or 4). A more favorable finding is that nearly all youth (90%) felt that they could approach their parents for help with personal problems, again at the high level of 3 or 4.

Similarly, the analysis indicates that these households represent that high standards of parent communication and supervision are being maintained. For example, in response to “My parents ask if I’ve gotten my homework done,” more than three-fourths (76%) of youth indicated a 3 or 4 level of agreement. At the other end of the spectrum, in response to “People in my family have serious arguments,” over 86% of youth disagreed (at level 1 and 2 out of a 4-point Likert scale).



Findings on Drug Use

There was statistical difference (.05 level of statistical significance) in the rate of use of alcohol, tobacco and marijuana between male and female student responses, with males being more likely to use drugs, especially marijuana. Overall, nearly half of all youth reported use of alcohol (56%), while about one-fourth reported use of tobacco (26%) and marijuana (24%) during *the past year*. See table 2 below.

Table 2
Gender, by Alcohol and Type of Drug Use and Percentage among Group during Past Year

| Gender | Alcohol (col %) | Tobacco (col %)¹ | Marijuana (col %) |
|------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Male | 61 (56%) | 39 (53%) | 35 (56%) |
| Female | 45 (44%) | 35 (47%) | 27 (44%) |
| Total “N” | 106 | 74 | 62 |

Shown elsewhere, nearly half of the youth also reported using alcohol, tobacco or marijuana during the *past 30 days*. Another finding was that while the percentage rates of students using more serious drugs was low overall, two serious hard drugs (MDMA—Ecstasy) and Amphetamine use was relatively high (shown in later tables).

A particular concern is that the onset of drug use (tobacco, alcohol and marijuana) for nearly half of the youth who use drugs occurs during early grades 6 and 7, while the other half begin during the early high school years. While the pattern occurs more slowly for females, the finding suggests that a significant proportion (~50%) of students begin using drugs and alcohol at a very early age (12 and 13 years of age), prior to reaching high school. As table 3 indicates.

Table 3
Grade of Onset, by Gender and Percent of Major Drug Types Used during the Past Year

| Grade | Alcohol (col %) | | Tobacco (col %) | | Marijuana (col %) | |
|--------------|------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| 6 | 7% | 11% | 26% | 3% | 12% | 5% |
| 7 | 31% | 16% | 13% | 12% | 12% | 15% |
| 8 | 20% | 18% | 25% | 12% | 21% | 10% |
| 9 | 18% | 15% | 8% | 21% | 24% | 25% |
| 10 | 4% | 20% | 10% | 9% | 12% | 25% |
| 11 | 0% | 4% | 0% | 23% | 3% | 0% |
| 12 | 20% | 16% | 18% | 20% | 15% | 20% |
| Total | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

¹ This data also includes smokeless tobacco, not captured in later tables on cigarette use.

Information on other drug use can be complicated, but is important to illustrate. These are provided for various types of drugs. In most instances, the total number and percent of users and non-users are provided. The first tabulated data (table 4) is that for cigarette use, followed by table 5 on alcohol use for each of beer, wine and hard liquor. Subsequently, in tables 6 to 18, other drug use data are reported.

Table 4²
Cigarette Use, by Frequency of Use and Gender of Youth

| Youth Cigarette Usage³ | | | |
|--|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| | Male | Female | Total |
| | 66 | 72 | 138 |
| Not at all | 47.8% | 52.2% | 100.0% |
| < 1 cigarette | 9 | 11 | 20 |
| | 45.0% | 55.0% | 100.0% |
| 1-5 cigarettes | 14 | 2 | 16 |
| | 87.5% | 12.5% | 100.0% |
| 1/2 pack | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| | 80.0% | 20.0% | 100.0% |
| 1 pack/day | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| | 40.0% | 60.0% | 100.0% |
| 1.5 packs | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Total | 95 | 90 | 185 |
| Grand % of users | 61.7% | 38.3% | 100.0% |

² Note: while there are 201 youth were surveyed, only 185 responded to question on gender: 95 males and 90 females.

³ Smokeless tobacco is not included in this table. This was the case for 22 cases and is reported in table 13.



Table 5
Period of Alcohol Use, by Gender of Youth and Type of Drink

| Youth | Gender | Drank Beer | Drank Wine | Drank Liquor | Grand Total |
|---------------------------|--------|------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Ever used | Male | 66 | 59 | 61 | 186 |
| | | 55.5% | 52.7% | 52.6% | 53.6% |
| | Female | 53 | 53 | 55 | 161 |
| | | 44.5% | 47.3% | 47.4% | 46.4% |
| Total | 119 | 112 | 116 | 347 | |
| Used during the past year | Male | 61 | 40 | 52 | 61 |
| | | 61.0% | 53.3% | 55.3% | 61.0% |
| | Female | 39 | 35 | 42 | 39 |
| | | 39.0% | 46.7% | 44.7% | 39.0% |
| Total | 100 | 75 | 94 | 100 | |
| Used past 30 days | Male | 20 | 22 | 45 | 20 |
| | | 46.5% | 91.7% | 64.3% | 46.5% |
| | Female | 23 | 2 | 25 | 23 |
| | | 53.5% | 8.3% | 35.7% | 53.5% |
| Total | 43 | 24 | 70 | 43 | |

Tables 6 and 7
Period of Drug Use, by Gender of Youth and Steroid Use (table 6); and Marijuana (table 7)

| Youth | | No use | Steroids | Total |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|----------|--------|
| Ever used | Male | 86 | 9 | 95 |
| | | 90.5% | 9.5% | 100% |
| | Female | 87 | 2 | 89 |
| | | 97.8% | 2.2% | 100.0% |
| Used during the past year | Male | 87 | 6 | 93 |
| | | 93.5% | 6.5% | 100% |
| | Female | 87 | 2 | 89 |
| | | 97.8% | 2.2% | 100.0% |
| Used past 30 days | Male | 89 | 4 | 93 |
| | | 95.7% | 4.3% | 100% |
| | Female | 88 | 1 | 89 |
| | | 98.9% | 1.1% | 100% |

| Youth | | No use | Marijuana | Total |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|
| Ever used | Male | 58 | 35 | 93 |
| | | 62.4% | 37.6% | 100% |
| | Female | 62 | 27 | 89 |
| | | 69.7% | 30.3% | 100.0% |
| Used during the past year | Male | 63 | 28 | 91 |
| | | 69.2% | 30.8% | 100% |
| | Female | 72 | 15 | 87 |
| | | 82.8% | 17.2% | 100% |
| Used past 30 days | Male | 68 | 23 | 91 |
| | | 74.7% | 25.3% | 100% |
| | Female | 76 | 21 | 97 |
| | | 78.4% | 21.6% | 100% |



Tables 8 and 9
Period of Drug Use, by Gender of Youth and Inhalant Use (table 8); and Ecstasy (table 9)

| Youth | | No use | Inhalants | Total |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|-----------|-------|
| Ever used | Male | 78 | 17 | 95 |
| | | 82.1% | 17.9% | 100% |
| | Female | 85 | 4 | 89 |
| | | 95.5% | 4.5% | 100% |
| Used during the past year | Male | 81 | 11 | 92 |
| | | 88.0% | 12.0% | 100% |
| | Female | 86 | 2 | 88 |
| | | 97.7% | 2.3% | 100% |
| Used past 30 days | Male | 82 | 10 | 92 |
| | | 89.1% | 10.9% | 100% |
| | Female | 86 | 2 | 88 |
| | | 97.7% | 2.3% | 100% |

| Youth | | No use | Ecstasy | Total |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|---------|-------|
| Ever used | Male | 74 | 20 | 94 |
| | | 78.7% | 21.3% | 100% |
| | Female | 75 | 15 | 90 |
| | | 83.3% | 16.7% | 100% |
| Used during the past year | Male | 79 | 12 | 91 |
| | | 86.8% | 13.2% | 100% |
| | Female | 83 | 5 | 88 |
| | | 94.3% | 5.7% | 100% |
| Used past 30 days | Male | 86 | 5 | 91 |
| | | 94.5% | 5.5% | 100% |
| | Female | 87 | 1 | 88 |
| | | 98.9% | 1.1% | 100% |

Tables 10 and 11
Period of Drug Use, by Gender of Youth and Special K (table 10); and Amphetamine Use (table 11)

| Youth | | No use | Special K | Total |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|-----------|-------|
| Ever used | Male | 17 | 0 | 17 |
| | | 100% | 0.0% | 100% |
| | Female | 12 | 0 | 12 |
| | | 100% | 0.0% | 100% |
| Used during the past year | Male | 17 | 0 | 17 |
| | | 100% | 0.0% | 100% |
| | Female | 13 | 0 | 13 |
| | | 100% | 0.0% | 100% |
| Used past 30 days | Male | 17 | 0 | 17 |
| | | 100% | 0.0% | 100% |
| | Female | 13 | 0 | 13 |
| | | 100% | 0.0% | 100% |

| Youth | | No use | Amphetamines | Total |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------------|-------|
| Ever used | Male | 79 | 14 | 93 |
| | | 84.9% | 15.1% | 100% |
| | Female | 82 | 8 | 90 |
| | | 91.1% | 8.9% | 100% |
| Used during the past year | Male | 87 | 6 | 93 |
| | | 93.5% | 6.5% | 100% |
| | Female | 86 | 4 | 90 |
| | | 95.6% | 4.4% | 100% |
| Used past 30 days | Male | 89 | 3 | 92 |
| | | 96.7% | 3.3% | 100% |
| | Female | 87 | 3 | 90 |
| | | 96.7% | 3.3% | 100% |

Tables 12 and 13

Period of Drug Use, by Gender of Youth and Dextromethorphan Use (table 12); and Sleeping Pills (table 13)

| Youth | | No use | Dextromethorphan | Total |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|------------------|-------|
| Ever used | Male | 87 | 7 | 94 |
| | | 92.6% | 7.4% | 100% |
| | Female | 88 | 2 | 90 |
| | | 97.8% | 2.2% | 100% |
| Used during the past year | Male | 88 | 5 | 93 |
| | | 94.6% | 5.4% | 100% |
| | Female | 89 | 1 | 90 |
| | | 98.9% | 1.1% | 100% |
| Used past 30 days | Male | 88 | 5 | 93 |
| | | 94.6% | 5.4% | 100% |
| | Female | 89 | 1 | 90 |
| | | 98.9% | 1.1% | 100% |

| Youth | | No use | Sleeping pills | Total |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|----------------|-------|
| Ever used | Male | 78 | 15 | 93 |
| | | 83.9% | 16.1% | 100% |
| | Female | 86 | 4 | 90 |
| | | 95.6% | 4.4% | 100% |
| Used during the past year | Male | 82 | 10 | 92 |
| | | 89.1% | 10.9% | 100% |
| | Female | 84 | 4 | 88 |
| | | 95.5% | 4.5% | 100% |
| Used past 30 days | Male | 87 | 5 | 92 |
| | | 94.6% | 5.4% | 100% |
| | Female | 86 | 2 | 88 |
| | | 97.7% | 2.3% | 100% |

Table 14

Period of Drug Use, by Gender of Youth and Use of Smokeless Tobacco

| Youth | Gender | No use | smokeless tobacco | Total |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|-------------------|-------|
| Ever used | Male | 82 | 10 | 92 |
| | | 89.1% | 10.9% | 100% |
| | Female | 74 | 12 | 86 |
| | | 86.0% | 14.0% | 100% |
| Used during the past year | Male | 84 | 7 | 91 |
| | | 92.3% | 7.7% | 100% |
| | Female | 76 | 11 | 87 |
| | | 87.4% | 12.6% | 100% |
| Used past 30 days | Male | 86 | 6 | 92 |
| | | 93.5% | 6.5% | 100% |
| | Female | 82 | 6 | 88 |
| | | 93.2% | 6.8% | 100% |



Tables 15 and 16
Period of Drug Use, by Gender of Youth and Tranquilizer Use (table 15); and Crack Use (table 16)

| Youth | Gender | No use | Tranquilizers | Total |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|---------------|-------|
| Ever used | Male | 71 | 22 | 93 |
| | | 76.3% | 23.7% | 100% |
| | Female | 75 | 15 | 90 |
| | | 83.3% | 16.7% | 100% |
| Used during the past year | Male | 78 | 14 | 92 |
| | | 84.8% | 15.2% | 100% |
| | Female | 80 | 7 | 87 |
| | | 92.0% | 8.0% | 100% |
| Used past 30 days | Male | 84 | 10 | 94 |
| | | 89.4% | 10.6% | 100% |
| | Female | 84 | 3 | 87 |
| | | 96.6% | 3.4% | 100% |

| Youth | Gender | No use | Crack | Total |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| Ever used | Male | 83 | 10 | 93 |
| | | 89.2% | 10.8% | 100% |
| | Female | 86 | 3 | 89 |
| | | 96.6% | 3.4% | 100% |
| Used during the past year | Male | 85 | 8 | 93 |
| | | 91.4% | 8.6% | 100% |
| | Female | 86 | 1 | 87 |
| | | 98.9% | 1.1% | 100% |
| Used past 30 days | Male | 87 | 5 | 92 |
| | | 94.6% | 5.4% | 100% |
| | Female | 86 | 1 | 87 |
| | | 98.9% | 1.1% | 100% |

Tables 17 and 18
Time of Drug Use, by Gender of Youth and Use of Cocaine (table 17); and Use of Heroin (table 18)

| Youth | Gender | No use | Cocaine | Total |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|---------|-------|
| Ever used | Male | 81 | 13 | 94 |
| | | 86.2% | 13.8% | 100% |
| | Female | 85 | 5 | 90 |
| | | 94.4% | 5.6% | 100% |
| Used during the past year | Male | 87 | 7 | 94 |
| | | 92.6% | 7.4% | 100% |
| | Female | 88 | 1 | 89 |
| | | 98.9% | 1.1% | 100% |
| Used past 30 days | Male | 89 | 5 | 94 |
| | | 94.7% | 5.3% | 100% |
| | Female | 88 | 1 | 89 |
| | | 98.9% | 1.1% | 100% |

| Youth | Gender | No use | Heroin | Total |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Ever used | Male | 88 | 7 | 95 |
| | | 92.6% | 7.4% | 100% |
| | Female | 85 | 4 | 89 |
| | | 95.5% | 4.5% | 100% |
| Used during the past year | Male | 89 | 6 | 95 |
| | | 93.7% | 6.3% | 100% |
| | Female | 87 | 3 | 90 |
| | | 96.7% | 3.3% | 100% |
| Used past 30 days | Male | 92 | 3 | 95 |
| | | 96.8% | 3.2% | 100% |
| | Female | 88 | 2 | 90 |
| | | 97.8% | 2.2% | 100% |



Attitudes toward drug usage

Questions dealing with drug usage by friends indicate that most students (>81%) reported they had a friend that has smoked cigarettes, while 83% have a friend who has consumed alcohol, and 53% of students reported having a friend who has smoked marijuana.

In general, students' perception of the risk drugs pose to friends can be described as somewhat alarming. A clear one-third of the students surveyed seem to think that most drugs, even hard drugs such as heroin and cocaine pose NO risk to friends. Interestingly, responses to these questions were split at both extremes, since a large block of students (46%) also thought that drugs of all types posed a GREAT risk to their friends.

Among questions regarding student approval or disapproval of friends doing certain things such as smoking and drinking, 68% indicated that they "Don't disapprove" of friends smoking cigarettes, 74% reports they "Don't disapprove" of friends drinking and 73% indicate they "Don't disapprove" of friends smoking marijuana.

In light of the above findings, it was not surprising to uncover that more than half (54%) of youth respondents would not undergo a voluntary drug test. Only 47% were willing to undertake such an examination, including many who declared they had never used drugs.

Survey questions regarding the ease of obtaining cigarettes, alcohol or marijuana provide challenging views. Students indicate that it was "very easy" or "fairly easy" to obtain the following items and at the following rates: cigarettes (87%), alcohol (84%) and marijuana (62%). This suggests that the availability of drugs and alcohol are, at minimum, perceived to be readily available to students, even among students who choose not to smoke or drink alcohol.

A major concern is the negative perception that it is rather difficult to "obtain help" in "Dealing with a drug problem." Nearly one-third (31%) of youth believed that it either may be "fairly difficult" or "very difficult" to obtain help for a drug problem for someone in the community who may be in need. This is a rather strong and negative perception of local community resources, whether justified or otherwise.

Survey questions regarding information gathering such as where or to whom students go to get information about the effect of drugs provides avenues for further program strategies that incorporate important information to providers. The top sources of information for students about drugs and drug programs as reported by youth are parents first and radio and TV rated as second. This is contrasted with the receipt of information from their medical doctor, the police, family friends, and the Internet, respectively—all of which ranked at the very bottom and were perceived to have little relevance as an important source of information.

In terms of the risk effects of drugs there was great inaccuracy and/or insufficient information about the effects of drugs. For example, more than one-third (37%) of students incorrectly thought downers made the heart beat faster, and almost one-third either thought alcohol was not a drug or were unsure about this fact. Also, about one-third of student respondents indicated that they did not know that illegal drugs may have other unknown substances mixed into them. Obviously, more accurate information needs to be provided to students on the harmful and dangerous additives to illicit drugs. These and other erroneous beliefs are summarized in table 19 below.



Perception of Risk

| Drug effect | True | False | Don't Know | Total |
|--|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------|
| Downers make my heart beat faster | 69 36.9% | 46 24.6% | 76 38.5% | 187 |
| Cocaine is dangerous and addictive | 178 91.8% | 3 1.5% | 13 6.7% | 194 |
| Alcohol is a drug | 126 64.9% | 36 18.6% | 32 16.5% | 194 |
| Illegal drugs may have other substances mixed into them | 162 83.5% | 9 4.6% | 23 11.9% | 194 |
| Using more than one drug at a time may cause unexpected side effects | 166 85.1% | 8 4.1% | 21 10.8% | 195 |

Regarding the perceptions of parental influence and disapproval, a clear majority indicate that their parents had a high level of influence in their decision NOT to use drugs. This was a consistent finding throughout all surveys. This is a positive finding. Level of parent influence is summarized in table 20 below. Altogether, parent influence from “great” to “very great” accounted for more than two-thirds (66%) of all student responses.

Table 20
Youth Perception of Parent Disapproval

| None at all | Some | Great | Very Great | Can't Say | Total |
|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------|
| 42 22.3% | 18 9.6% | 38 20.2% | 86 45.7% | 4 2.1% | 188 |

After parents, the greatest influencers among youth are, surprisingly, the anti-drug commercials. These seem to have a considerable impact on youth. In addition, there is no question that sibling use of drugs also greatly influences in the behavior of youth, even when “brothers and sisters” were *not* perceived to be a major influencer. The correlation was high among youth who were users. For example, the likelihood of sibling usage was nearly twice as high for youth who had used drugs as compared to other youth who had never used drugs.

Regarding the perceptions of parental disapproval of the use of alcohol, tobacco, and smoking marijuana, students perceive parents as disapproving of these activities as a “a little bit wrong,” or “not wrong,” as follows: beer, wine or hard liquor (29%), cigarettes (13%), and marijuana (7%). As the perceptions of parent disapproval may seem low, considering it relates to harmful cigarette smoking, alcohol consumption or marijuana use, as opposed to less dangerous bad behavior such as cursing or skipping school, the rates on perception of parental disapproval can potentially provide a barrier in any subsequent efforts to reduce drug-usage rates. Table 21 below indicates some of the youth perceptions.

Table 21



Student Perceptions on the Degree of *Wrongness* Parents would Indicate for Youth to:

| Drug Activity | Very Wrong | Wrong | A Little bit Wrong | Not Wrong | Total |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Drink Beer | 87 46.3% | 47 25.0% | 23 12.2% | 31 16.5% | 188 |
| Smoke Cigarettes | 117 62.2% | 47 25.0% | 17 9.0% | 7 3.7% | 188 |
| Smoke Marijuana | 151 81.2% | 23 12.4% | 7 3.8% | 5 2.7% | 186 |
| Steal \$5 or more value | 148 79.1% | 29 15.5% | 5 2.7% | 5 2.7% | 187 |
| Graffiti | 143 76.9% | 28 15.1% | 7 3.8% | 8 4.3% | 186 |
| Fight | 197 58.8% | 49 26.9% | 16 8.8% | 10 5.0% | 182 |

Discussion and Summary

Based on the results of this analysis, it appears that there is a considerable level of usage of drugs such as cigarettes, alcohol, and marijuana among the youth targeted by this survey. However, reported data are more favorable than the data acquired the previous year from the 2006 CLAPA youth survey.

Overall, a positive finding is that the level of use is somewhat lower than the national levels and that hard drug usage such as cocaine and heroin, is substantially low compared to the national use of cigarettes, alcohol, and marijuana. However, as this analysis reveals that nearly half of the youth who eventually engage in drug activity begin in middle school, it is important that greater efforts be made to combat the onset of drug use among middle school students.

Survey results also provide information as to the avenues that can provide the greatest source for combating drug usage among youth. Parents and teachers-counselors, much more than peers and siblings, are sources where youth go to get information about drugs. Also, respondents indicate that parents and teachers and counselors have the greatest influence on youths' decision not to use drugs. Programs designed to reduce drug usage among youth need to incorporate the power of parent and educators as part of the solution. Furthermore, survey responses indicate that the D.A.R.E. project has not been as effective as would normally be expected as a source of information on the effects of drugs, though data were not collected on other drug programs as alternatives, like the family strengthening program that CLAPA has been using the past several years.

In conclusion, there is a problem regarding the relatively high rates of use of cigarettes, alcohol and marijuana by a large portion of youths surveyed. Harder (or mores serious) drug use among youths is much lower, but the lower threshold of use rates merit attention due to the seriousness of the drugs in question. Parents and educators are the best source for both information and deterrence of drug use. Programs aimed to deter youths from drugs need to be in place in elementary school, as by the time students get to 7th and 8th grades, half of eventual users will have already embarked on a drug-use journey.

SECTION II



ADULT SURVEY

Background

In contrast to the youth survey, the adult survey was shorter, with only 51 questions and did not include as many variables. In tandem with the youth survey, adult surveys were administered in 2006 and 2007. Altogether, more parent surveys were completed than for youth. In total, completed surveys numbered 341 and were distributed in the same geographic areas: Kendall (n=25); Opa Locka (n=109); Hialeah (n=103); and North Miami Beach (n=104).

While the survey was available in both English and Spanish, nearly all surveys (98%) were administered in Spanish. Using a parallel process to that of the youth surveys, all parent surveys were entered into an SPSS/PC program for later statistical analysis.

The adult format followed a similar format to that of the youth survey. In a parallel manner to the youth survey, the parent surveys included questions on the following major themes:

1. drug usage
2. drug usage among friends/peers
3. perceptions of risk to friends/others about drug usage
4. approval/disapproval toward usage
5. information sources and TX programs
6. influences against drug usage
7. knowledge of drug effects and general attitudes
8. relationships to children regarding drug usage and overall rule enforcement
9. relationships with children
10. general demographic data

Overview of Parent Population

Females accounted for nearly three-fourths (74%) of all respondents. It is important to note that twenty-three respondents failed to indicate gender. Data analysis treated this omission as missing data.

Nearly all (>98) adults are Latino and the vast majority (94%) were born outside the United States. Among survey respondents, ten countries accounted for nearly 95% of parents born outside the U.S. These are: Cuba, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico and Central America (Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador). Several respondents were born in Brazil and one was born in Haiti, among some of the other countries with low representation.

While nearly all parents were born outside the U.S., a large majority of the population (62%) has been living in the U.S. for the past 5 years. This population appears to be as equally mobile as the youth population—nearly one-third (27%) of the population has moved at least 3 or more times during the past 10 years as compared to 29% for youth.

The adult population often lives with a spouse. Some 39% of respondents indicate living with their husband or wife and, among the total, nearly two-thirds (61%) live with their children. As mentioned, 14% live alone.



Overall, the adult population is somewhat distinct from the households of the youth population. For example, there were many adults who were living without children and totally alone (14%). Our analyses indicate that adults represent a significantly different population of respondents and likely come from different families than those represented in the youth sample, even when controlling for parents who live with children.

It seems that the population of parents with children is rather young, with an average (mean) age of all children in the household of 11.5 years of age. Also, the total number of children in the average household is 2.12 children.

At first indication, the adult population may be struggling with issues around substance abuse. In response to the question, “Do you feel that anyone in your family has problems with alcohol and other drugs,” nearly one out of four (26%) respondents provided an affirmative answer to the question.

Role of Religion

Considerably different from youth responses, the adult group indicated a considerably lower percentage of Roman Catholic Church members. The largest majority of respondents (66%) indicated having a Protestant affiliation, while only 13% identified as Roman Catholic.⁴ This is considerably lower than the national Latino population at large, certainly much lower for a first generation, Latino, immigrant group. Ten percent of respondents indicated “other” religions, though the latter is never defined in the survey protocol. Another similar percent (10%) indicated no church affiliation. Three percent indicated Jewish affiliation.

Church attendance was a bit higher than for the youth population. Non-attendance to religious services was nearly one out of five (19%) and another 20% “rarely” attends. Slightly over one-third (38%) attends once a month and nearly one-fourth (23%) attends weekly.

Other Findings

A clear majority of adults stated disapproval of their children if they engaged in bad behavior. Obviously, this varies with type of behavior analyzed. Except for use of marijuana, smoking and drinking rated a lower disapproval as being “very wrong” as compared to theft, defacing a building or starting a fight (see table 22). Drinking alcoholic beverages “regularly” was considered “very wrong” among only 3 out of 5 (64%) parents. Interestingly, these patterns are viewed more strongly from a parent perspective in contrast to youth perceptions of parents (see table 21). Differences are statistically significant (.05 level).

Table 22

⁴ In contrast, the percentage of persons who identify as Roman Catholic in Latin America ranges from 70% at the low end to over 90% in certain countries like Mexico and the Caribbean.



How wrong do you consider your Child Doing the Following?

| Behavior | Very Wrong | Wrong | A Little bit Wrong | Not Wrong | Total |
|--|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Drinking alcoholic beverages regularly | 192 64% | 70 23% | 30 10% | 9 3% | 301 |
| Smoking Cigarettes | 224 75% | 64 21% | 9 3% | 2 0.7% | 299 |
| Smoking Marijuana | 256 86% | 35 12% | 6 2% | 1 0.3% | 298 |
| Stealing an item of less than \$5 in value | 248 82% | 45 13% | 8 2% | 0 0.0% | 301 |
| Defacing buildings using spray paint | 251 85% | 37 13% | 8 3% | 1 0.3% | 297 |
| Starting a fight | 241 81% | 50 15% | 7 2% | 1 0.3% | 299 |

Regarding other issues parents consider important when relating to their children, table 23 indicates areas where important concerns were voiced by parents. On the question about clarity of rules, more than 1 out of 10 (11%) parents indicate that family rules were NOT clear, with 7% indicating a strong “NO!” response.

Some 8% of parents indicate that they did NOT have family/house rules on the use of drugs and alcohol. Regarding home vigilance, slightly over 12% of parents indicate they did NOT know where their kids “were” or who they are “with” when children are away from home.

**Table 23
Parent Perceptions of Clarity of Rules and Expected Behavior**

| Category | YES! | yes | no | NO! | Total |
|--|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| In my family, rules are clear. | 166 54% | 108 35% | 13 4% | 23 7% | 310 |
| My family has rules on the use of alcohol and other drugs. | 181 58% | 106 34% | 16 5% | 8 3% | 311 |
| When my kids are not at home, I know where they are and who they are with. | 164 56% | 95 33% | 19 7% | 14 5% | 292 |

In the area of positive reinforcement (table 24), nearly one out of 4 (22%) of parents said they “sometimes” or “never/almost never” tell their kids they are proud of something their children have done.

Table 24



How often do you tell your kids you are proud of something they have done?

| Never/Almost Never | Sometimes | A lot | All the time | Total |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|-------|
| 5 2% | 58 20% | 75 26% | 152 52% | 290 |

As different from youth, parents had a favorable disposition to take a drug test. Less than 1 out of 7 parents (14%) indicated they would NOT take such a test. See table 25 breakdown.

Table 25
Parent Disposition to take a Drug Test to Prove they do not Use Drugs

| YES | NO | Total |
|------------|-----------|-------|
| 276 86% | 46 14% | 322 |

On the question dealing with where parents get information on drugs and its effects on users (table 26), parents named the following as the four major sources of information: Radio or TV (47%), Books (39%), Newspapers (33%), and My Doctor (31%). However, over 11% of parents indicated they DID NOT KNOW where to get information on drugs and its effects.

Table 26
Where do Parents Get Information on the Effects Produced by People Who Use Drugs

| Parent Information Source | Total |
|---|------------|
| Priests or Pastors | 58 17% |
| Members of my family | 56 16% |
| My Doctor | 106 31% |
| My parents | 66 19% |
| The police | 39 11% |
| Newspapers | 113 33% |
| Books | 134 39% |
| Radio or TV | 161 47% |
| I don't know | 36 11% |
| Missing values | 20 6% |
| For each question the number of potential respondents | 341 |



Critically, on the question dealing with parent perceptions on the degree of difficulty for a person their age to get help with addiction (table 27), 39% said it was either “very difficult,” or “somewhat difficult,” while 37% indicated “don’t know.” It is interesting to note that the youth survey also registered a very high percentage of youngsters that indicated they did not know where to get this type of information and most perceived it to be either somewhat difficult or very difficult to obtain help. This is one of the few areas where parent and youth congruence is high.

Table 27
Difficulty in Getting Help for Someone with a Drug Problem

| Difficulty in Getting Help | Total |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Very Difficult | 68 22% |
| Somewhat Difficult | 54 17% |
| Somewhat Easy | 43 14% |
| Very Easy | 36 11% |
| Don't Know | 116 37% |
| Total | 317 |

In a rather similar pattern to youth responses, parents also demonstrated major misconceptions about overall drug knowledge and the effects of certain drugs. This is another area of high parent/youth congruence. We have captured some of the misconceptions as per responses to certain survey questions. These are highlighted below. Note that the percent of “don’t know” together with wrong answers is substantial for most questions, ranging from 25% to nearly 75% inaccuracy as depicted in table 28.

Table 28
Parental Perception of Drug Risk

| Drug effect | True | False | Don't Know |
|---|-------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Downers make my heart beat faster | 39% | 18% | 43% |
| Cocaine is dangerous and addictive | 81% | 1% | 43% |
| Alcohol is a drug | 74% | 10% | 16% |
| Illegal drugs may have other substances mixed into them | 72% | 1% | 27% |
| Using more than one drug at a time may cause unexpected side effects | 78% | 3% | 27% |

False wrong answers

Findings on Drug Use

Overall, parent use of drugs is slightly higher than the youth group for smoking and drinking and continues to be of concern. Rather than go through a comparison of all drug use, we will limit the comparisons to a) alcohol, b) cigarettes, and c) marijuana use. These will be presented in parallel tables, where comparisons can be easily made, as presented.

The first set of comparison tables (29a and 29b) presents information on cigarette smoking. As can be seen, the youth smoking profile is slightly more favorable than for the parent. While the overall percentages are slightly lower for the youth, the general pattern of use is nearly identical. Youth *patterns* are nearly the mirror image of parents.

Tables 29a and 29b
Parental and Youth Smoking Rates, by Gender and Incidence of Cigarette Use

Table 29a

| Parents Smoke Cigarettes | Male | Female |
|----------------------------|------------|-------------|
| | Never | 31 37% |
| Once or twice only | 11 13% | 25 11% |
| Occasionally not regularly | 14 17% | 31 14% |
| Regularly in the past | 11 13% | 26 11% |
| Regularly now | 16 19% | 17 7% |
| Total | 83 100% | 228 100% |

Table 29b

| Youth Smoke Cigarettes | Male | Female |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|
| | Never | 38 40% |
| Once or twice only | 22 23% | 20 23% |
| Occasionally not regularly | 17 18% | 10 11% |
| Regularly in the past | 8 8% | 9 10% |
| Regularly now | 11 11% | 5 6% |
| Total | 96 100% | 88 100% |

In a parallel manner, the pattern for drinking behavior between the parent and youth survey results present rather interesting data. These are provided in the comparison tables 30a and 30b. Several findings stand out.

- 1) As expected, the pattern of “ever used” as compared to “past year” and “past 30 days” decreases in both tables for both males and females.
- 2) Secondly, the degree of use is higher among males for all categories than for females. However, the difference in male and female drinking patterns is less different among the youth than for older parents.
- 3) Also, while the amount of difference in use between hard liquor and beer is less for adults, this is not the case for youth where the use pattern is nearly the same or higher for hard liquor, most especially for the past 30-day period.
- 4) Overall, use patterns are more pronounced for the parent group, regardless of gender, than for the youth.



Tables 30a and 30b
Parental and Youth Drinking Rates, by Gender and Incidence of Use

Table 30a for Youth (column %)

| Youth | Gender | No use alcohol | Drank Beer | Drank Wine | Drank Liquor | Grand Total |
|---------------------------|--------|----------------|------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Ever used | Male | 81 | 66 | 59 | 61 | 186 |
| | | 44.3% | 55.5% | 52.7% | 52.6% | 53.6% |
| | Female | 102 | 53 | 53 | 55 | 161 |
| | | 55.7% | 44.5% | 47.3% | 47.4% | 46.4% |
| Total | 183 | 119 | 112 | 116 | 347 | |
| Used during the past year | Male | 96 | 61 | 40 | 52 | 157 |
| | | 41.2% | 61.0% | 53.3% | 55.3% | 102.2% |
| | Female | 137 | 39 | 35 | 42 | 176 |
| | | 58.8% | 39.0% | 46.7% | 44.7% | 97.8% |
| Total | 233 | 100 | 75 | 94 | 333 | |
| Used past 30 days | Male | 130 | 20 | 22 | 45 | 150 |
| | | 39.3% | 46.5% | 91.7% | 64.3% | 40.1% |
| | Female | 201 | 23 | 2 | 25 | 224 |
| | | 60.7% | 53.5% | 8.3% | 35.7% | 59.9% |
| Total | 331 | 43 | 24 | 70 | 374 | |

Table 30b for Parents (column %)

| Parents | Gender | No use Alcohol | Drank Beer | Drank Wine | Drank Liquor | Grand Total |
|---------------------------|--------|----------------|------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Ever used | Male | 69 | 48 | 45 | 45 | 138 |
| | | 19.4% | 36.4% | 32.8% | 38.1% | 35.7% |
| | Female | 287 | 84 | 92 | 73 | 249 |
| | | 80.6% | 63.6% | 67.2% | 61.9% | 64.3% |
| Total | 356 | 132 | 137 | 118 | 387 | |
| Used during the past year | Male | 85 | 39 | 31 | 31 | 124 |
| | | 21.5% | 32.2% | 25.6% | 25.6% | 53.8% |
| | Female | 310 | 82 | 79 | 64 | 392 |
| | | 78.5% | 67.8% | 65.3% | 52.9% | 146.2% |
| Total | 395 | 121 | 110 | 95 | 516 | |
| Used past 30 days | Male | 115 | 34 | 23 | 28 | 149 |
| | | 22.3% | 40.0% | 27.1% | 32.9% | 24.8% |
| | Female | 400 | 51 | 48 | 37 | 451 |
| | | 77.7% | 60.0% | 56.5% | 43.5% | 75.2% |
| Total | 515 | 85 | 71 | 65 | 600 | |



As different for cigarettes and drinking, the marijuana comparisons are more negative for youth than for parents. Parental use of marijuana, especially the past 30 days is quite low, nearly negligible compared to youth.

Tables 31a and 31b
Parental and Youth Marijuana Use Rates, by Gender and Incidence of Use

Table 31a for Youth (row %)

| Youth | Gender | No use | Marijuana | Total |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|-----------|-------|
| Ever used | Male | 58 | 35 | 93 |
| | | 62.4% | 37.6% | 100% |
| | Female | 62 | 27 | 89 |
| | | 62.4% | 37.6% | 100% |
| Total | 120 | 62 | 182 | |
| Used during the past year | Male | 63 | 28 | 91 |
| | | 69.2% | 30.8% | 100% |
| | Female | 72 | 15 | 87 |
| | | 82.8% | 17.2% | 100% |
| Total | 135 | 43 | 178 | |
| Used past 30 days | Male | 68 | 23 | 91 |
| | | 74.7% | 25.3% | 100% |
| | Female | 76 | 21 | 97 |
| | | 78.4% | 21.6% | 100% |
| Total | 144 | 44 | 188 | |

Table 31b for Parents (row %)

| Parent | Gender | No use | Marijuana | Total |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|
| Ever used | Male | 66 | 16 | 82 |
| | | 80.5% | 19.5% | 100% |
| | Female | 205 | 14 | 219 |
| | | 93.6% | 6.4% | 100% |
| Total | 271 | 30 | 301 | |
| Used during the past year | Male | 68 | 10 | 78 |
| | | 87.2% | 12.8% | 100.0% |
| | Female | 204 | 15 | 219 |
| | | 93.2% | 6.8% | 100% |
| Total | 272 | 25 | 297 | |
| Used past 30 days | Male | 76 | 3 | 79 |
| | | 96.2% | 3.8% | 100% |
| | Female | 210 | 3 | 213 |
| | | 98.6% | 1.4% | 100% |
| Total | 286 | 6 | 292 | |

Data for other drugs are presented in tables 32 to 39. These are presented primarily as frequency and percent breakdowns, without explanation.



Table 32
Parents Steroid Use, by Gender and Incidence of Use

| Parents | Gender | No use | Steroids | Total |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|----------|-------|
| Ever used | Male | 78 | 5 | 83 |
| | | 94.0% | 6.0% | 100% |
| | Female | 221 | 2 | 223 |
| | | 99.1% | 0.9% | 100% |
| Total | 299 | 7 | 306 | |
| Used during the past year | Male | 79 | 1 | 80 |
| | | 98.8% | 1.3% | 100% |
| | Female | 213 | 1 | 214 |
| | | 99.5% | 0.5% | 100% |
| Total | 292 | 2 | 294 | |
| Used past 30 days | Male | 81 | 0 | 81 |
| | | 100% | 0.0% | 100% |
| | Female | 215 | 0 | 215 |
| | | 100% | 0.0% | 100% |
| Total | 296 | 0 | 296 | |

Table 33
Parents Inhalant Use, by Gender and Incidence of Use

| Parents | Gender | No use | Inhalants | Total |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|-----------|-------|
| Ever used | Male | 82 | 2 | 84 |
| | | 97.6% | 2.4% | 100% |
| | Female | 221 | 1 | 222 |
| | | 99.5% | 0.5% | 100% |
| Total | 303 | 3 | 306 | |
| Used during the past year | Male | 81 | 1 | 82 |
| | | 98.8% | 1.2% | 100% |
| | Female | 214 | 0 | 214 |
| | | 100% | 0.0% | 100% |
| Total | 295 | 1 | 296 | |
| Used past 30 days | Male | 82 | 0 | 82 |
| | | 100% | 0.0% | 100% |
| | Female | 216 | 0 | 216 |
| | | 100% | 0.0% | 100% |
| Total | 298 | 0 | 298 | |

Table 34
Parents Ecstasy Use, by Gender and Incidence of Use

| Parents | Gender | No use | Ecstasy | Total |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|---------|-------|
| Ever used | Male | 79 | 4 | 83 |
| | | 95.2% | 4.8% | 100% |
| | Female | 212 | 6 | 218 |
| | | 97.2% | 2.8% | 100% |
| Total | 291 | 10 | 301 | |
| Used during the past year | Male | 80 | 1 | 81 |
| | | 98.8% | 1.2% | 100% |
| | Female | 212 | 0 | 212 |
| | | 100% | 0.0% | 100% |
| Total | 292 | 1 | 293 | |
| Used past 30 days | Male | 80 | 1 | 81 |
| | | 98.8% | 1.2% | 100% |
| | Female | 216 | 0 | 216 |
| | | 100% | 0.0% | 100% |
| Total | 296 | 1 | 297 | |

Table 35
Parents Amphetamine Use, by Gender and Incidence of Use

| Parents | Gender | No use | Amphetamines | Total |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------------|-------|
| Ever used | Male | 77 | 5 | 82 |
| | | 93.9% | 6.1% | 100% |
| | Female | 215 | 4 | 219 |
| | | 98.2% | 1.8% | 100% |
| Total | 292 | 9 | 301 | |
| Used during the past year | Male | 77 | 2 | 79 |
| | | 97.5% | 2.5% | 100% |
| | Female | 210 | 1 | 211 |
| | | 99.5% | 0.5% | 100% |
| Total | 287 | 3 | 290 | |
| Used past 30 days | Male | 79 | 0 | 79 |
| | | 100% | 0.0% | 100% |
| | Female | 213 | 0 | 213 |
| | | 100% | 0.0% | 100% |
| Total | 292 | 0 | 292 | |

Table 36
Parents Use of Sleeping Pills, by Gender and Incidence of Use

| Parents | Gender | No use | Sleeping pills | Total |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|----------------|-------|
| Ever used | Male | 69 | 11 | 80 |
| | | 86.3% | 13.8% | 100% |
| | Female | 206 | 10 | 216 |
| | | 95.4% | 4.6% | 100% |
| Total | 275 | 21 | 296 | |
| Used during the past year | Male | 72 | 4 | 76 |
| | | 94.7% | 5.3% | 100% |
| | Female | 202 | 8 | 210 |
| | | 96.2% | 3.8% | 100% |
| Total | 274 | 12 | 286 | |
| Used past 30 days | Male | 75 | 2 | 77 |
| | | 97.4% | 2.6% | 100% |
| | Female | 208 | 6 | 214 |
| | | 97.2% | 2.8% | 100% |
| Total | 283 | 8 | 291 | |

Table 37
Parents Use of Tranquilizers, by Gender and Incidence of Use

| Parents | Gender | No use | Tranquilizers | Total |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|---------------|-------|
| Ever used | Male | 73 | 9 | 82 |
| | | 89.0% | 11.0% | 100% |
| | Female | 205 | 14 | 219 |
| | | 93.6% | 6.4% | 100% |
| Total | 278 | 23 | 301 | |
| Used during the past year | Male | 76 | 2 | 78 |
| | | 97.4% | 2.6% | 100% |
| | Female | 204 | 5 | 209 |
| | | 97.6% | 2.4% | 100% |
| Total | 280 | 7 | 287 | |
| Used past 30 days | Male | 78 | 2 | 80 |
| | | 97.5% | 2.5% | 100% |
| | Female | 208 | 5 | 213 |
| | | 97.7% | 2.3% | 100% |
| Total | 286 | 7 | 293 | |

Table 38
Parents Use of Crack, by Gender and Incidence of Use

| Parents | Gender | No use | Crack | Total |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| Ever used | Male | 81 | 2 | 83 |
| | | 97.6% | 2.4% | 100% |
| | Female | 205 | 14 | 219 |
| | | 93.6% | 6.4% | 100% |
| Total | 286 | 16 | 302 | |
| Used during the past year | Male | 81 | 0 | 81 |
| | | 100% | 0.0% | 100% |
| | Female | 220 | 0 | 220 |
| | | 100% | 0.0% | 100% |
| Total | 301 | 0 | 301 | |
| Used past 30 days | Male | 82 | 0 | 82 |
| | | 100% | 0.0% | 100% |
| | Female | 222 | 0 | 222 |
| | | 100% | 0.0% | 100% |
| Total | 304 | 0 | 304 | |

Table 39
Parents Use of Heroin, by Gender and Incidence of Use

| Parents | Gender | No use | Heroin | Total |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Ever used | Male | 77 | 5 | 82 |
| | | 93.9% | 6.1% | 100% |
| | Female | 216 | 2 | 218 |
| | | 99.1% | 0.9% | 100% |
| Total | 293 | 7 | 300 | |
| Used during the past year | Male | 80 | 3 | 83 |
| | | 96.4% | 3.6% | 100% |
| | Female | 219 | 1 | 220 |
| | | 99.5% | 0.5% | 100% |
| Total | 299 | 4 | 303 | |
| Used past 30 days | Male | 79 | 3 | 82 |
| | | 96.3% | 3.7% | 100% |
| | Female | 220 | 1 | 221 |
| | | 99.5% | 0.5% | 100% |
| Total | 299 | 4 | 303 | |



Summary and Conclusions

As it relates to parent drug use, it was surprising to find that a high percentage of parents use drugs. In many instances, parent drug use was higher than use among youth. The combination of a certain percentage of parents not disapproving of drugs used by their kids, not being aware about where their kids are or who their kids hang-out with, while also having higher drug use rates collectively contributes to putting students at-risk for drug use.

This parent survey provides information on the attitudes parents have toward the use of alcohol and drugs by their children, parent disposition to have home rules regarding drugs and alcohol, parents' sources for information on drugs, and parents' perceptions on the access to drug addiction treatment.

The survey reveals that most parents disapprove of bad behavior of students such as using drugs and alcohol. Most parents have clear rules regarding drug use and have sources to acquire information regarding the bad effects of drugs. However, parents' use of drugs may invalidate through their behavior what they convey to their children via rules and expectations. Also, parents lack solid and consistent information about basic drug knowledge. In addition, parents do not have needed information about drug addiction treatment programs in their local community.