

Executive Summary

This report describes the administration and findings for the *Communities That Care*[®] *Youth Survey*. The survey was sponsored by Whistler For Youth. The Channing Bete Company, Inc., prepared this report.

Based on the work of Dr. J. David Hawkins and Dr. Richard F. Catalano, the *Communities That Care*[®] *Youth Survey* is an extremely useful tool in identifying **risk factors** related to problem behaviors such as alcohol, tobacco and other drug use – and in identifying **protective factors** that help guard against those behaviors. (For a more detailed discussion, see the “Risk and Protective Factors” section of this report.) In addition to measuring risk and protective factors, the *Communities That Care*[®] *Youth Survey* also measures the actual prevalence of drug use, violence and other antisocial behaviors among surveyed students. The survey, its uses and its ongoing development have been described in two recent articles (Pollard, Hawkins and Arthur, 1999; Arthur, Hawkins, Pollard, Catalano and Baglioni, 2001).

By administering the *Communities That Care*[®] *Youth Survey*, Whistler, BC, will be able to assess the risk and protective factors its young people face. It can also relate those risk and protective factors to actual alcohol, tobacco and other drug use rates. This will make it easier to identify the risk and protective factors most in need of attention in the effort to prevent adolescent drug use and other problem behaviors. Taken as a whole, this information will be used to help guide prevention efforts and to help address existing problems.

A sample of the students in grades 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 in Whistler, BC, participated in the survey. Of the 432 students in those grades, 355 participated. The survey data were collected in May and June 2003. Throughout this report, “national” is used to reference the United States.

Key Survey Results

Strengths to Build On

- Overall, low rates of lifetime **methamphetamine, heroin** and **other club drugs** use were reported by surveyed students in Whistler, BC.
- None of the surveyed 10th graders in Whistler, BC, reported past 30-day use of the following drugs **smokeless tobacco, Ecstasy, other club drugs, methamphetamine, cocaine, LSD/psychedelics** and **heroin**. None of the surveyed 12th graders in Whistler, BC, reported past 30-day use of the following drugs **inhalants, Ecstasy, other club drugs, methamphetamine, cocaine** and **heroin**.
- Surveyed students in Whistler, BC, reported low levels of participation in the following antisocial behaviors: **attempting to steal a vehicle, carrying a handgun** and **taking a handgun to school**.
- Analyzing the **risk factor profile** as a whole, surveyed students in Whistler, BC, have a high level of neighborhood attachment, and they perceive that drugs and handguns are not very available in their community.
- Regarding the **protective factor profile** as a whole, surveyed students in Whistler, BC, reported good opportunities for prosocial involvement available at home.

Opportunities for Improvement

- More than half (67.6%) of surveyed students in Whistler, BC, have used **alcohol** in their lifetimes, and nearly one half (45.1%) have reported using alcohol in the past 30 days. Reported past-30-day use ranged from 10.2% for 6th graders to 84.2% for 11th graders.
- Nearly all of the surveyed 11th and 12th graders (92.3% and 93.1%, respectively) from Whistler, BC, reported lifetime **alcohol** use.
- More than one half (51.3%) of the surveyed 11th graders in Whistler, BC, reported past-30-day **marijuana** use.
- Overall, 24.8% of surveyed students in Whistler, BC, reported **being drunk or high at school** at least once during the past year. This rate peaks at 59.0% in the 11th grade.
- Overall, 13.1% of surveyed students in Whistler, BC, reported **attacking someone with intent to harm** during the past year. This rate peaks at 25.0% in the 9th grade.
- Several **risk factor scale scores** for surveyed students in Whistler, BC, raise concern when compared with the national (United States) findings. These include *Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use and Handguns, Parental attitudes Favorable toward ATOD Use, Personal Transitions and Mobility* and *Favorable Attitudes toward Antisocial Behavior*.

These key findings show that drug use and other problem behaviors in Whistler, BC, present a complex picture. While some findings compare favorably to national (United States) data, young people in Whistler, BC, are using alcohol and some other drugs at rates that cause concern and may have serious consequences.

Further analysis of the data will help to understand the risk and protective factors that work for- and against- drug use among young people in Whistler, BC. Survey data can be used for prevention, intervention and treatment planning. For example, high rates of alcohol use among surveyed students in Whistler, BC., signal a need to focus treatment and prevention efforts in this area. Likewise, prevention programs will need to address risk factors that are high and protective factors that are low.