PIRE

PACIFIC INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

Greater Falls Connections
Windham Northeast Supervisory Union Youth Survey, Grades 9-12

Summary of Results
July 2023

Submitted to:

Greater Falls Connections
July 5, 2023

Background and Acknowledgements

In July of 2021, Greater Falls Connections (GFC) was awarded a five (5) year federally funded grant through the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) Community Based Coalition Enhancement of Grants to Address Local Drug Crises Grants (CARA Local Drug Crises Grants). The purpose of the CARA Local Drug Crises program is to enhance the efforts of current or former Drug-Free Communities (DFC) recipients to prevent opioid, methamphetamine, and/or prescription drug use among youth ages 12-18 in communities throughout the United States. GFC's funded strategies and activities focus on mitigating the impacts of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) through evidence-based strategies for increasing community collaboration, education on ACEs, and increasing access to youth and family social, economic, and mental health/Substance Use Disorder treatment supports.

In May of 2022, Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation assisted GFC in the development, administration, and analysis of the Windham Northeast Supervisory Union Youth Survey, which was conducted in order to provide data that can help inform and improve substance misuse prevention programs for Bellows Falls and surrounding area youth and families and to support the evaluation of GFC's CARA Local Drug Crises Grants grant. The same survey was administered again in April 2023, which are the data shown in this report.

The time and willingness of Bellows Falls High School staff and students to participate in the survey is gratefully acknowledged.

For more information about the survey or youth substance use prevention activities, please contact Neil Allen, Director of Greater Falls Connections, at 802-463-9927 or neil@greaterfallsconnections.org, or see www.greaterfallsconnections.org.

Methods

The survey, which was accessed and completed online, was conducted at Bellows Falls Union High School serving students in grades 9-12 in April 2023. Information about the survey and the opportunity to opt their students out of taking the survey was shared by the school with parents ahead of time. On the day of the survey, students were emailed a link to the survey to complete on their device during class time. Participation was voluntary and student responses were anonymous. Though the survey was administered during one school day, students did have access to the survey link after that day and could have completed it if they were absent on the day of survey administration.

Each table in this report contains data for one or more survey questions that all pertain to a specific topic, with participants Demographics shown in Table A. Tables B - G show the response distributions for all items included in the survey, disaggregated by gender, LGBTQ status, race/ethnicity (only a dichotomy of White, Non-Hispanic/Students of Color are available due to small sample size), and perceived social status. To protect the anonymity of respondents, data is suppressed when fewer than 25 people answered a particular question. or when fewer than 5 people answered a question in a particular way. These instances are noted with dashes in the cell (---). Most of the values in the tables are the percent of youth reporting each response listed. For some items, however, response options have been combined and the values shown are the combined percent responding to those response options. For example, Table B shows combined "somewhat agree" and "strongly agree" responses to statements related to protective factors risk. Table C shows combined "Never or Rarely" and "Most of the time of Always" responses to statements related to mental health. Further, some cells have been combined only in instances where the percentages equated to fewer than 5 respondents. Tables D, E, F and G are organized by substance (e.g., alcohol, cigarette and tobacco, marijuana, and prescription drugs).

PIRE ran consistency checks on the data to identify, and in some cases exclude, responses that were logically inconsistent or questionable. These internal reliability checks help identify the small percentage of students who may not have answered truthfully and can reduce some sources of error, but not all. The data was also weighted by grade level, a mathematical procedure that makes data representative of the population from which it was drawn. Note that some values may not add to 100% due to rounding.

A. Demographics of Survey Participants

How old are you?	n=173
14 years or younger	9.8
15	31.2
16	23.1
17	16.8
18 years or older	19.1
In what grade are you?	**n=171**
9th	33.9
10th	24.0
11th	19.3
12th	22.8
Ungraded or other	0.0
What is your gender?	**(n=173)**
Female	48.0
Male	49.1
Non-binary or prefer to self-describe	2.9
Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation	**(n=)**
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning Sexual Identity, or Questioning Gender Identity (LGBTQ)	16.9
Cisgender or Heterosexual	83.1
What is your race?[1]	**(n=173)**
American Indian or Alaska Native	4.6
Asian	4.6
Black or African American	2.9
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	2.9
White	91.9
Prefer to self-describe	2.9
Are you Hispanic or Latino/a?	**(n=174)**
Yes	6.9
No	93.1
What number best describes where you think your family would be on the ladder?[2]	**(n=174)**
1 (best off) through 4	70.1
5 through 8 (worst off)	29.9

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[1] This question was "select all that apply" and therefore the percentages sum to more than 100.

[2] This is a subjective social status question, used as a proxy for socioeconomic status. This survey question, which was adapted from a question added to the 2019 Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey, provided students with an image of a ladder and asked students to "imagine that this ladder pictures how American society is set up. At the top of the ladder are the people who are the best off — those who have the most money, the highest amount of schooling, and the jobs that bring the most respect. At the bottom are people who are the worst off — those who have the least money, little or no education, no job, or jobs that aren't respected." Students indicated where they thought their family would be on the ladder from 1 (best off) to 8 (worst off). In the tables below, students who responded that their family would fall on the highest four rungs were grouped into the "better off" category, and those who responded that they thought their family would be on the lowest four rungs were grouped into a 'worse off' or low SSS category.

Note: Yellow shading means that the difference between groups is statistically significant at the p<.05 level

B. Protective Factors

Protective factor:	All Respondents	Female	Male	Cisgender/ hetero youth	LGBTQ Youth	White Non-Hispanic	Youth of Color	SSS Better Off (1-4)	SSS Worse Off (5-8)
1. Strongly agree or Somewhat agree with the statement...	(n=174)	(n=83)	(n=85)	(n=143)	(n=29)	(n=140)	(n=33)	(n=122)	(n=52)
I have an adult family member or caregiver I can talk to about my feelings. For example, a parent, aunt, uncle, or grandparent.	83.6	85.7	83.1	85.5	77.9	83.4	83.8	89.2	70.9
I have 3 or more adults outside of my family I can talk to about my feelings. For example, a teacher, coach, or family friend.	70.5	75.4	66.4	71.3	68.9	73.4	60.9	74.4	61.7
I have opportunities that will help me to have a successful future. For example, volunteering, internships, jobs, college, training program	77.9	75.3	79.9	79.0	70.0	78.9	76.8	79.5	74.1
At my school, I feel like I belong.	52.4	40.6	64.1	59.7	20.3	56.8	35.9	53.5	49.8
Students in my school respect each other's differences (for example, gender, class, race, culture, disability, sexual orientation, learning differences, etc.).	47.7	41.0	54.7	53.9	20.5	48.1	48.4	50.7	41.0
I feel respected and supported by adults in my community	67.9	62.7	73.7	71.4	52.0	67.4	73.1	69.7	63.6
I would feel confident to say no if peers offer me alcohol, marijuana (weed), pills, or other drugs	76.2	75.6	78.8	78.0	70.0	76.8	76.8	78.3	71.3
2. How often do your parents or other adults in your family know where you are going or who you will be with?	(n=174)	(n=83)	(n=85)	(n=143)	(n=29)	(n=140)	(n=33)	(n=122)	(n=52)
Never or Rarely / Sometimes	11.1	9.0	12.1	8.9	18.5	8.4	23.5	8.8	16.5
Most of the time or Always	88.9	91.0	87.9	91.2	81.5	91.6	76.5	91.3	83.5

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C. Mental Health

	All Respondents	Female	Male	Cisgender/ hetero youth	LGBTQ Youth	White Non-Hispanic	Youth of Color	SSS Better Off (1-4)	SSS Worse Off (5-8)
3. During the past 12 months, how often have you been bothered by feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge?	(n174)	(n=83)	(n=85)	(n=143)	(n=29)	(n=140)	(n=33)	(n=122)	(n=52)
Never or Rarely	65.2	47.9	82.2	73.8	18.2	65.7	66.6	68.9	57.2
Sometimes									
Most of the time or Always	34.7	52.2	17.8	26.2	81.8	34.3	33.4	31.2	42.8
4. During the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities?	(n=171)	(n=82)	(n=83)	(n=141)	(n=28)	(n=139)	(n=31)	(n=120)	(n=51)
Yes	27.9	34.9	20.9	22.1	61.1	26.0	38.0	21.6	42.4
5. During the past 30 days, how often was your mental health not good? (Poor mental health includes stress, anxiety, or feeling depressed.)	(n=173)	(n=82)	(n=85)	(n=142)	(n=29)	(n=139)	(n=33)	(n=121)	(n=52)
Never or Rarely	42.1	27.3	54.9	47.6	35.7	42.3	43.3	46.0	33.5
Sometimes	35.2	44.1	27.8	37.5		35.4	31.2	34.3	37.2
Most of the time or Always	22.6	28.6	17.3	14.8	64.4	22.2	25.5	19.7	29.3
6. If you feel sad, depressed, or anxious, how often do you get support from a trusted adult (such as a guidance counselor, teacher, nurse, doctor or therapist)?	(n=174)	(n=83)	(n=85)	(n=143)	(n=29)	(n=140)	(n=33)	(n=122)	(n=52)
I do not feel sad, hopeless, or anxious	29.6	19.4	38.8	32.9	47.2	29.1	33.1	32.7	22.6
Never or Rarely	26.2	20.7	29.7	23.8		26.5	25.9	22.3	34.9
Sometimes	22.3	30.4	15.5	19.8	52.9	24.2	14.6	20.4	26.4
Most of the time or Always	22.0	29.4	15.9	23.5		20.1	26.4	24.5	16.1

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D. Alcohol Prevalence and Risk Factor Data

	All Respondents	Female	Male	Cisgender/ hetero youth	LGBTQ Youth	White Non-Hispanic	Youth of Color	SSS Better Off (1-4)	SSS Worse Off (5-8)
7. During the past 30 days, did you drink one or more drinks of an alcoholic beverage?	(n=173)	(n=82)	(n=85)	(n=142)	(n=29)	(n=139)	(n=33)	(n=122)	(n=51)
Yes	20.6	17.5	24.0	19.8	26.6	20.7	21.2	17.2	28.6
8. Think people have moderate or great risk of harming themselves if they…	(n=172)	(n=81)	(n=85)	(n=142)	(n=29)	(n=139)	(n=32)	(n=122)	(n=50)
Have five or more drinks of an alcoholic beverage once or twice each weekend	59.2	68.5	52.0	58.3	66.9	58.8	59.0	55.5	68.0
9. Believe parents think it is wrong or very wrong for them to…	(n=173)	(n=82)	(n=85)	(n=143)	(n=29)	(n=140)	(n=32)	(n=122)	(n=51)
Have one or two alcoholic beverages nearly every day	87.8	88.2	87.5	89.0	80.9	87.7	87.4	89.4	84.0
10. Believe friends think it is wrong or very wrong for them to…	(n=174)	(n=83)	(n=85)	(n=143)	(n=29)	(n=140)	(n=33)	(n=122)	(n=52)
Have one or two alcoholic beverages nearly every day	65.3	67.9	62.3	66.7	55.0	67.1	55.5	62.2	72.4

E. Cigarette and Tobacco Prevalence and Risk Factor Data

	All Respondents	Female	Male	Cisgender/ hetero youth	LGBTQ Youth	White Non-Hispanic	Youth of Color	SSS Better Off (1-4)	SSS Worse Off (5-8)
11. During the past 30 days, did you smoke all or part of a cigarette?	(n=174)	(n=83)	(n=85)	(n=143)	(n=29)	(n=140)	(n=33)	(n=122)	(n=52)
Yes	7.3	7.5	6.6	7.0	---	6.5	---	3.9	15.0
12. Think people have moderate or great risk of harming themselves if they…	(n=171)	(n=81)	(n=85)	(n=141)	(n=29)	(n=138)	(n=32)	(n=121)	(n=50)
Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes a day	77.9	89.5	69.0	76.2	90.8	80.1	67.3	75.2	84.4
13. Believe parents think it is wrong or very wrong for them to…	(n=173)	(n=80)	(n=85)	(n=143)	(n=29)	(n=140)	(n=32)	(n=122)	(n=51)
Smoke tobacco	88.4	89.2	87.8	88.5	87.0	88.3	88.2	88.4	88.5
14. Believe friends think it is wrong or very wrong for them to…	(n=174)	(n=82)	(n=85)	(n=143)	(n=29)	(n=140)	(n=33)	(n=122)	(n=52)
Smoke tobacco	75.3	77.5	73.3	77.2	63.4	75.9	71.4	72.4	81.9

F. Marijuana Prevalence and Risk Factor Data

	All Respondents	Female	Male	Cisgender/ hetero youth	LGBTQ Youth	White Non-Hispanic	Youth of Color	SSS Better Off (1-4)	SSS Worse Off (5-8)
15. During the past 30 days, have you used marijuana/cannabis?	(n=174)	(n=83)	(n=85)	(n=143)	(n=29)	(n=140)	(n=33)	(n=122)	(n=52)
Yes	22.3	18.5	26.6	21.8	26.6	23.0	20.3	18.0	32.1
16. Think people have moderate or great risk of harming themselves if they…	(n=172)	(n=81)	(n=85)	(n=142)	(n=29)	(n=139)	(n=32)	(n=122)	(n=50)
Smoke marijuana once or twice a week	39.7	55.5	25.1	39.2	44.5	40.4	33.5	41.5	35.4
17. Believe parents think it is wrong or very wrong for them to…	(n=173)	(n=82)	(n=85)	(n=143)	(n=29)	(n=140)	(n=32)	(n=122)	(n=51)
Use marijuana	67.9	71.7	64.8	69.8	56.0	66.7	71.5	69.2	64.8
18. Believe friends think it is wrong or very wrong for them to…	(n=174)	(n=83)	(n=85)	(n=143)	(n=29)	(n=140)	(n=33)	(n=122)	(n=52)
Use marijuana	47.6	49.3	45.2	49.1	38.8	46.4	50.2	50.2	41.5

G. Prescription Drugs Prevalence and Risk Factor Data

	All Respondents	Female	Male	Cisgender/ hetero youth	LGBTQ Youth	White Non-Hispanic	Youth of Color	SSS Better Off (1-4)	SSS Worse Off (5-8)
19. During the past 30 days, have you used prescription drugs not prescribed to you?	(n=174)	(n=83)	(n=85)	(n=143)	(n=29)	(n=140)	(n=33)	(n=122)	(n=52)
Yes	4.6	6.5	---	3.1	12.7	3.9	7.9	---[3]	9.9
20. Think people have moderate or great risk of harming themselves if they…	(n=172)	(n=81)	(n=85)	(n=142)	(n=29)	(n=139)	(n=32)	(n=122)	(n=50)
Use prescription drugs that are not prescribed to them	77.2	84.0	72.8	75.9	88.1	77.3	80.5	75.0	82.7
21. Believe parents think it is wrong or very wrong for them to…	(n=173)	(n=82)	(n=85)	(n=143)	(n=29)	(n=140)	(n=32)	(n=122)	(n=51)
Use prescription drugs that are not prescribed to them	94.0	93.9	94.7	93.3	97.3	93.2	97.5	95.7	90.2
22. Believe friends think it is wrong or very wrong for them to…	(n=174)	(n=83)	(n=85)	(n=143)	(n=29)	(n=140)	(n=33)	(n=122)	(n=52)
Use prescription drugs that are not prescribed to them	88.7	91.4	87.1	89.4	84.3	89.1	86.2	87.3	91.8

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[3] Data are suppressed due to low sample size, however, those who identified as better off were significantly less likely to report using prescription drugs not prescribed to them than those who identified as better off. This is consistent with the 2019 statewide Subjective Social Status YRBS report findings.