

Gino's Supports Prevention Campaign

Students' survey identifies new trends in substance use

BY MANHASSET PRESS STAFF

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At Manhasset CASA's Sector meeting, members reviewed and discussed the 2015 Bach Harrison Prevention Needs Assessment Survey results for 8th, 10th and 12th grade students in Manhasset Secondary School. The survey is implemented biannually by Manhasset Public Schools and

Manhasset CASA to investigate local youth drug trends, understand root causes of drug use and develop targeted strategies to reduce youth substance abuse in the community. In Manhasset, the average age of first use of alcohol is 13 for boys and 14 for girls.

Highlights show:

- A decrease in binge drinking (five or more alcoholic drinks in a row in

the past two weeks) since 2009 for 10th and 12th grades which is still significantly above the national norm.

- A decrease in 30-day alcohol use for 10th and 12th grades, but it is still significantly above national norm; 8th grade 30-day alcohol use increased slightly since 2013, but is still below national norm.

- Marijuana use has remained about the same across all grades.



Manhasset CASA's "Talk. They Hear You" campaign is backed by Gino's Pizzeria & Restaurant located at 480 Plandome Road. Louie LaRocca, manager, and staff support the campaign by including campaign stickers on their pizza boxes.

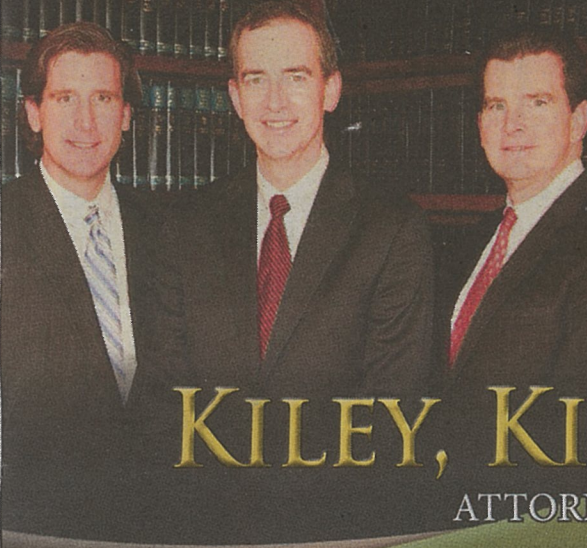
- Amphetamine use in 12th grade is above the national norm.

- A new trend in the 10th and 12th grade for 30-day use of e-cigarettes. The trend is also above the national norm.

As part of its ongoing efforts to reduce youth underage drinking, Manhasset CASA's "Talk. They Hear You." underage drinking prevention campaign now offers parents and caregivers online tools such as a personalized Action Plan (go to www.manhassetcasa.org) to help make having that conversation easier today—and in the future. Parents answer just three simple questions to receive a plan that meets their needs—a step-by-step guide filled with tips and advice on when to talk, how to talk and other things you can do to start and continue healthy dialogue to prevent underage drinking.

"Research indicates that more teens experiment with alcohol for the first time during the months of June and July than any other months. There is also a new app to help parents navigate this crucial conversation before summer starts" stated Dr. Sawyer. The "Talk. They Hear You." app is now available for download on iTunes, Google Play and the Windows Phone Store. It is an interactive game that uses avatars to help parents practice bringing up the topic of alcohol, learn the questions to ask, and get ideas for keeping the conversation going.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, children are experimenting with alcohol earlier than many parents realize: About 10 percent of 9- to 10-year-olds have started drinking. Ten percent of kids say they've tried alcohol by the age of 12 and that number jumps to 50 percent by age 15. To access CASA's resources, go to www.manhassetcasa.org.



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