

Manhasset CASA News And Survey Results

BY MANHASSET PRESS STAFF

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At the Manhasset Board of Education's Sept. 10 meeting, Cathy Samuels of Manhasset Coalition Against Substance Abuse presented an overview of the 2015 Bach Harrison Prevention Needs Assessment Survey results for 8th, 10th and 12th grade students in Manhasset Secondary School. As part of CASA's Drug Free Communities (DFC) Support Program Grant, the survey is implemented biannually by the school and Manhasset CASA to investigate local youth drug trends, understand root causes of substance use and develop targeted strategies to reduce youth substance abuse in the community.

Samuels began the presentation noting that Manhasset CASA was recently awarded its Year 8 Continuation Grant from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, in partnership with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Samuels stated, "We are in good company on Long Island as coalitions in Lindenhurst, Rockville Centre and Westhampton Beach were also awarded DFC Support Program Grants to reduce youth substance abuse in their communities."

Here are highlights from the presentation:

- Manhasset schools has a high survey participation rate by its students.
- Since 2009, Manhasset students reported increases across all grades levels in protective factors (promoting healthy youth development) and are above the national norm.
- Manhasset teens continue to report decreases in risk factors that inhibit healthy youth development.
- A large percentage of 8th grade students report never using substances such as alcohol (85.6 percent), marijuana (98.8 percent), cigarettes (98 percent), hookah tobacco (98.6 percent) and e-cigarettes (99 percent).
- A decrease in 30-day alcohol use for 10th and 12th grades has been reported since 2009, local use is still significantly higher than the national norm; 8th grade 30-day alcohol use increased slightly since 2013, but is below the national norm; 5.6 percent of 8th graders report drinking—national norm is 10.2 percent; 38.3 percent of 10th graders report drinking—national norm is 25.7 percent; 65.6 percent of 12th graders report drinking—national norm is 39.2 percent.



Cathy Samuels of Manhasset CASA hands out information at Kids Safety Day.

- Binge drinking continues to be a concern. 10th and 12th graders report a decrease in binge drinking (five or more alcoholic drinks in a row in the past two weeks) since 2009, it is still significantly above the national norm; 20.5 percent of 10th graders who drink report binge drinking—national norm of 13.7 percent; 47.4 percent of 12th graders who drink report binge drinking—national norm is 22.1 percent; 8th grade student binge drinking increased slightly to 2 percent, and is below the national norm of 5.1 percent.

• Students tend to see less harm in binge drinking as they grow older, as students advance from 8th to 12th grade they report a decrease in perceived risk of harm of having five or more drinks one to two times a week.

• Teens report they are "cool" (cultural norm) to drink alcohol and smoke marijuana as they progress toward the 12th grade; 49.5 percent of 12th grade students, 35.2 percent of 10th grade students and 5.6 percent of 8th grade students believe they are "cool" to drink alcohol

regularly; 24.3 percent of 12th grade students, 15.2 percent of 10th grade students and 2.4 percent of 8th grade students believe they are "cool" if they smoke marijuana.

• While abuse of opioids is low as compared to the trend on Long Island, amphetamine use in 12th grade is at 5.2 percent and above the national norm of 4.1 percent.

• 12th grade students report 30-day past use of marijuana at 25 percent which is above the national norm of 22.7 percent. Overall, from 8th grade to 12th grade, as perception of risk decreased, marijuana usage increased.

• While traditional cigarettes are almost nonexistent in 8th and 10th grade and down for 12th graders to 6.2 percent in 2015 from 15.5 percent in 2011, new trends have emerged in the use of e-cigarettes and hookah tobacco as well as steroid use in the 10/12th grades. Teens report past 30-day use of e-cigarettes at 27.8 percent of 12th grade students (national norm 17.1 percent); 10.5 percent of 10th

grade students (national norm 16.2 percent); 0.5 percent of 8th grade students (national norm 8.7 percent).

• Teens report parties (at their home or someone else's home without any parent permission) as the number one source and place they get alcohol.

• Teens also report an increase in retail access to alcohol since 2013.

• As teens get older, they report seeing more adults using alcohol and marijuana.

• Since 2011, more parents are setting clear rules about substance use and more parents are talking with their children about its danger. However, as teens progress in age from 8th to 12th grade, less parents are setting clear rules and talking with their kids about substance use.

• Overall, teens' perception of getting caught drinking alcohol has increased along with their perception of parental disapproval of underage drinking. However, as teens progress in age from 8th to 12th grade, their perception of getting caught drinking decreases.

The Bach Harrison Survey and community data plays a significant role in guiding Manhasset CASA's strategies to prevent youth substance use through policy, education, social marketing and enforcement. "Our goal is for Manhasset youth to grow up in a safe environment equipped with the tools to become healthy young adults," said Dr. Caryn Sawyer, executive director of Manhasset CASA. "Our coalition works with the Drug Free Communities Support Program and community partners in order to promote Manhasset youth's overall wellness in the prevention of substance abuse." Charles Cardillo, superintendent of schools added, "Our community should be very proud of all of CASA's sustained efforts towards heightening awareness for students and parents regarding substance use and abuse as well as in developing strategies to reduce substance use for our teens."

Recognizing that local problems need local solutions, DFC-funded coalitions engage multiple sectors of the community and employ a variety of environmental strategies to address local alcohol and drug problems. Coalitions are comprised of community leaders, parents, youth, teachers, religious and fraternal organizations, health care and business professionals, law enforcement and media.

For more information about the student survey results, contact Cathy Samuels at 516-267-7548 or go to www.manhassetcasa.org.

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