**Focus Group Responses**

**October 2016**

Participating School Districts: Bath, Corning, Hammondsport, Campbell-Savona, Wayland-Cohocton, Prattsburgh, Addison

**Note: Anyone 18 and younger is referred to as a kid.**

1. **What is your perception of** **alcohol** **being used by kids and adults in your community?**

Kids use alcohol every weekend. Kids protect each other. Nobody wants anybody to get hurt. Some are scared to use, they don’t want to get hurt.

People go to parties and drink and play games. Some do it on a regular basis and want to hang around with friends. Kids do a good job keeping it internal using social media and word of mouth.

There are a lot of parties. Most of the time alcohol is present and people drink. People from here go to parties to drink. Around here, there are small parties that people go to.

Around here, not drinking doesn’t make you cool anymore. People like to drink or they don’t. A lot of Halloween parties. There aren’t giant parties.

Certain groups of kids use alcohol and another group of kids think it’s not worth it and they don’t do it.

There are a lot of parties. There are pictures of kids drinking on social media. A lot of underage drinking occurs. Liquor is the most common type of alcohol used along with beer.

Some kids drink almost every day. I know a kid that drank a whole bottle of “Jack” before the Fall Foliage to get drunk. Some kids drink before school. There is a house that has a lot of parties and sometimes kids have to go to the hospital because they’re so drunk. There’s an adult that owns the house and provides alcohol for all the kids. People in the community don’t know about it because it’s usually a small group of kids, 5 – 8, that go there. Nobody goes to the park anymore because it’s patrolled well. Kids get with their small circle of friends and find a place to drink.

1. **How easy is it to get alcohol?**

It’s easy to get alcohol. Kids go to Fox’s. It’s usually run by kids. A lot of parents give their kids alcohol when they are with their parents. Kids take alcohol from their parents. Other kids will have older kids or brother buy it for them.

Older friends buy it along with older siblings. Some parents know their kids will be drinking but don’t stop it. It happens at graduation parties a lot.

It’s very easy. Everyone knows someone older. Being such a small school your friends with someone that is now legal. It’s easy to find a buyer. Fake ID’s are common. Kids steal alcohol from their parents.

Kids get alcohol from home without their parent’s permission. Kids take alcohol from their homes and their parents don’t notice it’s gone. It’s relatively easy to get. Mainly older siblings and friends buy it.

It’s easy to get from parents, older friends. Some stores may not ID some kids. Some kids take it from parents and some parents may provide their alcohol if they are going to a party. It depends on the family and some parents allow their kids to drink in their own homes.

People buy it for them that are of age. For some, it’s easy to get it from their parents, and some kids their parents are OK with them drinking alcohol. Some parties have a mixed aged group of people and the older people will buy the alcohol. Kids don’t have fake ID’s because everyone knows everyone in their town.

It’s a phone call away. Sometimes parents get it for their kid. Older friends or a drug dealer will buy it for you. Some people steal it from their home. Some parents are Okay with their kids drinking. Many parents are not Okay with their kids drinking at home. Sometimes kids drink at the playground in Cohocton. Some parents let their kids drink at someone else’s home then they have no liability (risk). Usually there is one place that allows alcohol and everyone goes to that place. Kids lie to their parents about where they are going and then go to that place to drink.

1. **Where do kids use alcohol?**

Kids drink in other kids homes. Usually parents don’t know about it. Sometimes parents take the keys from kids and provide a safe place for kids to drink. Not every kid drinks on weekends. Sometimes kids drink on people’s property in the woods or on property and have a camp fire. The athletic policy is a deterrent for some athletes not to consume alcohol.

Kids use everywhere, at a lake house, homes, woods, Skate Park, etc. If you have money you can get it. Kids go to a certain store and just buy it with and without fake ID’s.

Kids use at homes, at field parties and random parties in the hills. There are people on snap chat and Facebook with them using alcohol and they don’t care if they are seen by others. Nobody cares. Some parents don’t care if their kids drink. Most of the time parents aren’t home when their kids are drinking. They might know their kid is going to drink and they leave their house so they aren’t there when they are drinking. Some parents help their kids throw a party and provide all the alcohol. That’s not common but it does happen.

Kids drink and use drugs under the bridge by school. Some kids vap at Center Way. If you show up you are expected to use. Sometimes if a kid has some friends over, parents will turn a blinds eye to the kids using alcohol in their home. Parents might think that they are prepping them for college by using alcohol. They leave them alone until it gets crazy they pretend it’s not happening.

Kids drink in parks. The majority of kids use alcohol in their homes, with and without parent’s knowledge. Parents may or may not know where kids use, depend on the parent. Parents may let their kids use with them at home such as a glass of wine with dinner.

Kids drink at parties. Some parties are in homes. You can also see kids drinking on social media. No one knows of kids using alcohol in school. Kids drink on camping trips with their families. If their parents aren’t at the camp site the kids will drink alcohol. Sometimes parents are too drunk to notice their kids drinking. Seems like all families in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ go camping together because many of the parents are friends. At night the parents have a big camp fire and the kids go do their thing. Some of the parents are aware that their kids are drinking and some aren’t aware. It is believed by some that all the parents know about it. Some kids feel some parents are oblivious to what their kids are doing. Some know their kids are drinking and don’t do anything about it. Some parents do get kids in trouble. It’s a mix of parents.

1. **How do your parents feel about you drinking alcohol?**

Some students responded that their parents would be very upset with them. Other kids said their parents may let them drink at their home in front of their parents.

Parents feel kids shouldn’t use alcohol.

Father would be very upset with them. My parents would kick my butt. One girl said her parents would kick her out of their house. Some said alcohol is allowed at holidays. Kids with divorced parents said their parents have different views. Some stated they would be grounded forever.

Depends on parents, some kids stated their parents would be very upset.

Two students responded that their parent’s attitude is that if they were to drink alcohol they want it if front of them in their house. Kids responded that their parents would kill them and that they would be very upset with them.

One student said “As long as I don’t come in at 4:00AM sloppy drunk my mom is good with it”. One girl lives with her grandmother and she doesn’t allow any alcohol and prefers she doesn’t drink. If she lived with her parents they would allow it on special occasions. Some stated that some parents provide alcohol to their kid(s). One student said his parents are okay with him drinking as long as he is responsible is his and others wellbeing.

**4a. What would be the consequences? And what type if any?**

Mixed rules – some are very strict such as no alcohol and some let them drink in their home. Mostly grounded.

Grounded, no access to school.

Grounded, no access to school.

There would be consequences for a long period of time. I couldn’t hang out with friends. Parents would talk and reason with them and talk about their future. If they are a student athlete the consequences plus suspension. Non-athletes would get suspended, banned from school activities. First day of school they talk about the school policies. Grounded and would have some things taken away like their phone. If they got arrested they would have to deal with the consequences on their own. Others stated that parents would have to know where they were every second.

“My parents will kill me”, most students felt their parents would be very upset with them. Grounded for a long period of time Phone would be gone. Not sure what their parents would do, mom would be very upset. If school finds out, athletes would be grounded for a year.

Some consequences were grounded, restricted contact with friends and natural consequences (pay the price for getting in trouble).

**Marijuana**

1. **What is your perception of marijuana use in your community for kids and adults?**

Marijuana is much more common than alcohol. It’s everywhere. One student said 20% of students in his grade use it.

Marijuana is a party drug. If your cool, you use. MJ is more popular than alcohol. Only one student said she has never seen marijuana. As an athlete she would never do that.

MJ is very prevalent; most kids have tried it at least once. It’s becoming more socially acceptable. You see kids on social media using, you hear more about mj than anything else. It’s getting used by younger kids now; kids in 6th and 7th grades are using it now and that’s bad.

I haven’t heard of instances in school. There’s a resurgence of marijuana use. Kids think marijuana isn’t as bad as cigarettes.

At least 50% of kids are using marijuana. If you put all students in grades 9 – 12 in the auditorium at least 45 – 50% has tried it at least once. People use alcohol more regularly than marijuana. 65-70% of kids use alcohol regularly while only 15% of students use marijuana regularly.

Kids use it a lot. MJ is as common as alcohol with alcohol being a little more common. Other kids say marijuana is more common than alcohol. Opinions are mixed.

One kid admitted he smoked mj every day. Marijuana is everywhere. It’s very common in their school district. Again, it’s everywhere. Students hear about students in their school smoking mj in bathrooms and locker rooms. Mj is much more popular than alcohol for students according to everyone present at focus group.

1. **How easy is marijuana to get?**

It’s very easy to get. You could get it within a short period of time. More people smoke mj than use alcohol. Some kids use it to self-medicate themselves for anxiety.

They get it from older siblings and some buy it from a dealer. Kids won’t say who they buy it from because they don’t want the dealer to get in trouble. Some kids use every day. They say on social medial that they are hanging out smoking a joint. Some kids don’t care if people know they use.

Pretty easy, if you have money and you know who to get it from you can get it in 10 minutes. Kids carry it on them. We have seen kids light up mj the moment they leave school. Administration probably doesn’t know.

It’s so easy to get. You just have to text someone to get it. Some girls will hook up with a guy and he’ll “smoke um up”. They are usually a seller. Kids come to school high. Not as bad as last year. Last year 5 – 10 kids came to school high every day. Symptoms of kids high are red eyes, laughing in appropriate times, some get depressed or withdrawn. Some kids are self-medicating themselves because it calms them down when they are under a lot of stress. Some teachers know about it. Some parents in this community smoke pot. Kids are pretty quiet about smoking pot because they could get in trouble. There are kids that don’t use it but sell it to make money. There is a lot of mj grown around here in basements and in the woods.

You buy it from a friend of a friend of a friend. I know of a person that sells it. Kids present weren’t real knowledgeable of where to get it.

It’s easier to get than alcohol. There is a lot of pot growing in the state forest. Kids get it from other kids that have it, not necessarily dealers.

Mj is easy to get. In a small town everybody knows where who to get it from. Kids don’t know of anybody selling pot in school. It could take only 10 – 30 minutes to buy mj if you want some.

It’s very easy to get mj. One call and you can purchase an ounce of mj from a dealer.

1. **Where do kids use marijuana?**

Kids have routines. Kids use it in the morning before school and then after school. Some kids use it in their homes or when walking to school. Some kids smoke with their parents. Do teachers know if a kid is high in school? Focus group students have seen kids smoking and selling mj in school. They have seen kids in the locker room and bathroom with mj. Smoking mj in bathroom is pretty common with window open. The teacher next to the bathroom often catches kids. If a kid is high and being bad in class the teacher will get them in trouble. For other kids, the teachers will tell them not to do it again. It’s common for kids not to care if a kid comes to school high. If a kid came to school under the influence of alcohol the kid would be reported. Kids coming to school high does bother some students.

Smokers corner before school.

Kids use mj in their homes, basements and at parties.

Kids use it at their home and in the woods. They also use at parties where kids are also drinking alcohol. There are kids that come to school high and get away with it. Administrators and teachers don’t know about it or else they would get in trouble. There was a dance and a large group of people were all high. Teachers and administrators knew they were high but they didn’t do anything about it. They couldn’t prove it. If you hang out with a kid with a bad rep then you’ll also get one.

Kids use everywhere that there isn’t a cop or an adult to get them in trouble. People walking down the street smoke mj. Kids every day come to school high. Some kids won’t come to school if they can’t get high before school. Some kids get high walking to school or park their cars and smoke mj to get high before school. Kids smoke a ton of weed before school and save the roach for their walk home from school. One girl said she lived next to a bus stop for summer school and kids smoked pot every day before the bus picked them up. Do teachers and administrators know about kids being high in school? In some classes a kid might say “I have to get out of this class so I can smoke a bowl”. A teacher told a student “you have to remember to bring your stuff to school” and the student says “Sorry, I just smoked too much pot in the morning”. Teachers just don’t care. It’s tolerated because it’s perceived as being less harmful than heroin and some other drugs. Ass’t principal knows a lot of kids that smoke pot and he tells them that he can’t do anything if it isn’t on school property and not bringing it to school. He supposedly tells students that what they do before school and after school is no bodies business. Some teachers might be concerned if a kids drug use if affecting their performance. All students said they don’t think any teachers are going to counselors about their concerns.

1. **How would your parents feel about you using marijuana?**

Most kids said their parents wouldn’t like it. None of the kids said their parents allow it.

Parents would be disappointed and probably grounded. There would be a greater consequence then if caught with alcohol.

Parents would kick my butt. My step dad smokes pot, he would be tolerant. My parent would be OK with it as long as I was honest.

I would be grounded and have my phone taken away. Other kids felt their parent’s consequences would be worse than if caught with alcohol because it’s considered more of a serious act.

My father had an addiction problem so my mom would be very disappointed. Parents would be much more upset than if caught with alcohol because it’s considered a lot worse.

I would be grounded for life, no car, no phone and I would have to sleep on a cot in my room.

There we some kids that said their parents use mj and some smoke pot with their kids.

Some parents are OK with it. Other students said their parents would prefer they not use it. Another student said their parents would want to talk about it and be honest. Another said it wouldn’t go over very well. A student’s dad was very disappointed and told him to wait until his brain was more developed. My mom doesn’t want any mj in the house.

1. **What would the consequences be for getting caught with marijuana?**

Kids said they would be disciplined by their parents. They would be grounded, and have things taken away from them. Police never catch anyone. One student said he knows a cop that smokes marijuana.

Consequences would be worse if caught with mj. Some feel alcohol is worse than mj. Some said they would be in a world of trouble if caught in another kid’s home. Parents are concerned about their future and safety. Parents are also concerned about their reputations and don’t want to lose their jobs.

If caught by law enforcement you get a ticket. If caught in school you get suspended.

Some kids might go to CASA classes in Dansville but it’s not mandatory.

1. **How safe or harmful is marijuana?**

Kids really don’t know much about it. One kid says you get addicted to the feeling only. It’s OK to drive under the influence of mj but not alcohol. MJ cures cancer, helps with chemo. **Note: Kids really didn’t know how harmful mj is.**

Some kids said that some like the feeling of mj then they go on to using cocaine. It’s like a cigarette putting tar in your lungs. It impairs you when you’re operating equipment. Kids come to school high, sometimes a student will tell them that that they are high. Some kids say it’s natural just like grass. Some said it’s too risky like addiction.

It’s not very harmful; there are a lot of good benefits from using it. It depends on who you are with, how you get it and how you’re doing it. You need to pay attention to who you get it from, there is some bad stuff. It’s safer than cigarettes, and there are medical uses.

People say it’s less harmful than alcohol. I’m not worried about legalized pot, I’m worried about heroin. Marijuana is not harmful of itself but it can lead to harder drugs. It’s not that harmful. MJ is not as bad for you as other things. It’s less of a risk than alcohol. If I’m going to do one irresponsible thing, I’m going to do what is less risky to get me killed.

It’s not as harmful as other drugs. If people use mj for medical reasons it must be good in some ways.

Smoking pot for kids is more harmful than for adults because their brains aren’t fully developed. Alcohol is more harmful and causes cirrhosis. Alcohol affects you a lot more than mj including driving. People don’t take the harmfulness of mj as serious as they should.

It’s a lot safer than most other drugs. It has more benefits than most other drugs. There haven’t been any deaths from mj use. It’s not harmful. There is violence related to the illegal drug business. Since it is not regulated you can buy bad pot.

**Prescription Pain Pills/Heroin**

1. **What is your perception of prescription drugs being used in your community?**

Hardly any kids use them. There was one kid that used them but he moved away.

One girl heard of a student using her mother’s pills. Athletes only using Tylenol and ibuprophen.

It’s not very popular. Kids sell Xanex and Adderall.

Don’t hear about it. A bunch of athletes use pain pills before games.

There are none really. There was one kid but he left.

I have heard of pills being used, not as common as mj. Not used much. Pills are becoming more popular. Kids take them from their parents.

There are no pain pills in the high school. There is a market for Adderall and Concerta. People often trade them for mj.

1. **What is your perception of heroin in your community?**

It’s not in Campbell-Savona, it’s in Corning and Bath.

Don’t hear about it in or out of school.

Not in Hammondsport, it’s in other areas but not here. I heard about adults using in surrounding areas.

Students haven’t heard of anyone using. Some have heard of people using in Penn Yan and Dundee.

Nobody has heard of heroin being used but have heard of meth and crack being used.