



Donor Connections

1st Quarter 2005

Brought to you by The Community Foundation Serving Boulder County
To Enlighten, Educate and Enlist Our Community

WHAT ARE OUR KIDS UP TO?

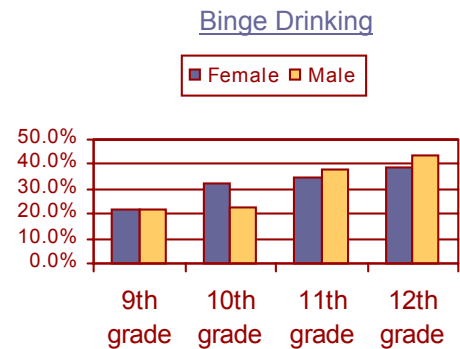
Results from a survey on youth risk and behavior are in, with a varied look at how local kids are faring. This survey is provided by the Centers for Disease Control and reflects responses from 2,000 teens.

1. Do our kids feel safe?

The good news is that, yes, most of our kids feel safe in school. In fact, 98 percent say they do, and over two thirds of kids feel like there is an adult at school they can talk to. Unfortunately, 32 percent of kids say they have been harassed at school. The number of kids who say they have considered suicide – at over 19 percent – is higher than state or national numbers. And the experience of school safety broken down by ethnicity and sexual orientation is a much bleaker picture. Latino/Hispanic students experience harassment at 4 times the rate of Anglo students. And binge drinking among self-identified gay and lesbian students is 55 percent higher than their Anglo counterparts.

2. What’s the story with teen drinking?

Although slightly behind their counterparts both nationally and state-wide, more than a quarter of kids under 13 have tried alcohol. And more than 30 percent of teens – higher than others in Colorado or national averages – are binge drinking (defined as 5 or more drinks within a couple of hours on one or more of the 30 days preceding the survey). Perhaps even more cause for alarm is that teens who were shown these survey results reacted by noting “that is so low, it can’t be right.”



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| Boulder Cty. | 30.9% |
| Colorado | 29.1% |
| U.S. | 28.3% |

3. So, what’s the good news?

The good news is that our kids wear their seatbelts, watch less television, and are not having sex as early as teens elsewhere. Also positive is that many of the risk behaviors covered are, actually, preventable. The other good news is that there are number of creative and enterprising local nonprofits that engage with teens and youth in a variety of ways. A sampling:

- Teaching Peace and other mediation programs address bullying and harassment
- Activate America/Boulder County and Mentors Matter try to establish safe havens for kids
- Compass House and Access Counseling work with depressed and suicidal teens
- Boulder OASOS offers support to gay, lesbian and questioning youth
- A variety of groups providing art, recreation, and other enrichment to teens

If you are interested in learning more about the survey or about groups serving youth, please contact Carly Hare, Programs Director, at 303-442-0436, ext. 111, or carly@commfound.org.