

**PACT Prevention Coalition of St. Johns County**

**FINAL REPORT**

Of the

**2006 Community Alcohol Survey:**

**Examining St. Johns County Parents' Attitudes about Alcohol Use**

Prepared by

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**August 2006**

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**2006 Community Alcohol Survey:**  
**Examining St. Johns County Parents' Attitudes about Alcohol Use**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

***Purpose of the Survey***

The 2006 PACT Coalition Community Alcohol Survey was designed to address four coalition goals: 1) to assist members of the coalition in better understanding local alcohol use problems, 2) to provide information that may assist the coalition in developing plans to prevent and/or reduce those problems, 3) to gather information about the community that could be used by the coalition to raise community awareness of community prevention needs and norms regarding alcohol use, and 4) to enable the coalition to improve readiness through the development of a tool that may be used for future program planning and evaluation.

***Selection of the Survey Population***

A mailing list, obtained from the St. Johns County Public Schools, of all parents with students in grades 6 – 12 for the 2005-06 school year was used to identify the survey population. Using a table of random numbers a sample, proportioned by ZIP code, of 2,056 parents was selected to participate in the survey.

***Administration of the Survey***

Along with a cover letter, answer form, pre-stamped return envelope, and directions for completing the survey on-line, the survey was prepared for distribution via U.S. Mail. Surveys were grouped by postal code and mailed beginning the first week of April 2006. Simultaneously, the survey was made available on-line at SurveyConsole.com, a commercial survey hosting site.

***Content of the Survey***

The survey was constructed around six subscales, each having a minimum of three questions. These subscales were developed to address the major goals of the PACT Coalition and included the following topics: 1) How alcohol is viewed, 2) Parents role in teen alcohol use, 3) Adults awareness of teen alcohol use, 4) Impacting teen alcohol use, 5) Penalties for teen alcohol use and 6) Education and prevention.

### ***Reliability of the Survey***

From the 2000 surveys that were delivered, a total of 513 parents completed the survey which provided an overall response rate of 25.6%. Of those responding, 350 (68.2%) returned the mailed survey while 163 (31.8%) elected to complete the survey online. The responses rate provided an estimated margin or error, at the 95% confidence level, of +/- 3.26.

### ***Demographics of the Respondents***

The population of parents that responded to the survey was reflective of the overall St. Johns County population in that a majority of the respondents were female (84.0%), white (88.3%) and between the ages of 36 to 45 (50.7%). According to the St. Johns County's most recent census (i.e. 2000), the overall population for the county is 51.4% female, 90.9% white and 16.8% are in the are range of 34 to 44 (St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce web Site, August 20, 2006).

### ***Summary of Findings***

The 25.6% response rate (i.e. 513 respondents) and the corresponding +/- 3.26 margin of error provide a sample in which a high degree of confidence may be placed in the parents' responses as being representative of the overall secondary school parent population in St. Johns County. This hypothesis is further supported by the consistency of responses to the survey questions. With the exception of slightly higher educational and income levels, the survey respondents are reflective of the overall county population. In this regard, it should be noted that individuals with higher levels of income and education tend to respond at greater rates to unsolicited surveys than those with lower levels of income and education.

*Attitudes about Teens Using Alcohol.* The parents participating in the survey viewed alcohol as a beverage for adults, over the age of 21, and while the majority reported used alcohol socially, they reported not purchasing or serving alcohol to their underage children. Even in their company or in the presence of other adults, the parents did not support the consumption of alcohol by their children in their homes, at parties or other social events.

*Awareness of Parents Concerning Alcohol Use.* An area of discontinuity exists between parents responses on the survey and the responses of secondary school students on similar surveys related to the percent of teens who report drinking alcohol. While only 23% of the parents reported being "aware of their school age children drinking alcohol," in the most recent survey of St. Johns County public school secondary school substance use survey, 60.6% of the

students reported trying alcohol at least once and 36.2% reported drinking often in the past 30 days (2004 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey). Conversely, parents were very aware that the most common ages of first alcohol use by their children are between 13 and 15.

*Impacting Teen Alcohol Use.* Most parents (87.9%) believe that they can impact their child's decision to engage in alcohol use and about 90% have discussed the issue of alcohol with their child within the past year. Some parents (14%) have disciplined their children for alcohol use and when doing so prefer counseling their children and taking away privileges as opposed to involving the police. Parents prefer that the schools use required alcohol education programs that also include the parents as a means of disciplining students who use alcohol at school or school sponsored events. They also prefer that the community treat youth arrested for DUI as an adult. Most parents (80.7%) believe that the legal age for drinking should be 21 years.

*Education and Treatment.* While most parents report that their child has participated in classes or activities where the effects of alcohol were taught at school (75.6%) or after school (28%), they see the responsibility for educating teens about alcohol use as first being that of the home, then the school and finally religious or faith based organizations. If help was needed for their children regarding an alcohol problem, the majority (52%) would turn to a substance use treatment center such as EPIC Community Services. Others would attempt to take care of the problem themselves (16.4%) or seek assistance from a church or faith based organization (12.3%). A significant number (17%), especially for a population with this income and educational level, did not know where they would go to seek help.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Family values, how children perceive their parents or other family members feel about substance use has shown to be a significant influence on a child's decision to refuse or use alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. There exists a critical need for all groups involved in substance use prevention to develop a better understanding of: a) the needs of parents, and b) the relationship between parents' attitudes and behaviors and ATOD use, particularly alcohol, among their children. As one step toward addressing this need, the PACT Prevention Coalition of St. Johns County (PACT) commissioned Health-Tech Consultants, Inc. of Atlantic Beach, FL to develop and conduct a survey of secondary school parents concerning their attitudes, beliefs and behaviors regarding alcohol use in their house and their perceptions regarding alcohol use among their children.

The survey was funded by the Florida Department of Children and Families' Substance Abuse Program Office as a substance abuse prevention and treatment block grant. The grant was managed through the Florida State University's Florida Center for Prevention Research and directed for the PACT Prevention Coalition by Ms. Julia Kelly. Kenneth T. Wilburn, Ph.D. and Sharon T. Wilburn, Ph.D. served as the project directors for Health-Tech Consultants.

## **GOALS**

- The survey addressed four goals related to the mission of the PACT Prevention Coalition:
- Goal 1: To assist members of the coalition in better understanding local alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drug (ATOD) use problems.
  - Goal 2: To provide information that may assist the coalition in developing plans to prevent and/or reduce those problems.
  - Goal 3: To gather information about the community that could be used by the coalition to reduce substance abuse among adults by raising community awareness of community prevention needs and norms regarding alcohol use.
  - Goal 4: To enable the coalition to improve community readiness through the development of a toll that may be used for future program planning and evaluation.

## **DEVELOPMENT OF THE SURVEY**

During the fall of 2005 and early spring of 2006 the survey was developed by Health-Tech Consultants, Inc. working cooperatively with PACT staff. A primary objective of the survey was to align the survey items with the goals and objectives of Florida's substance abuse prevention

programs and to allow comparisons, related to alcohol use, of knowledge, attitudes and behaviors with the Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS), the Florida Youth Tobacco Survey (FYTS) and the national Monitoring the Future Survey (MTF).

In December 2005 a review of research and literature pertaining to the relationship between parent knowledge, attitudes and behaviors and youth ATOD use was conducted. Following the review an initial set of survey items and subscales was developed. This initial version of the survey was shared with the PACT project director and selected members of the coalition in January 2006. Based on this feedback, in February, a revised set of survey items was developed and reviewed for construct validity by specialists in survey development at the University of North Florida and for content validity by a team of licensed mental health counselors who specialize in substance abuse education and counseling. Following this review, the survey was revised again and then pilot tested with a representative sample of parents at the Hastings Community Center. This group consisted of five African Americans (1 male and 4 females) and 4 Caucasian females. Suggestions from this group were incorporated into the final survey and after a final review by the PACT Director, the survey was prepared for distribution and publishing on the Internet. A copy of the final survey is provided in the Appendix.

### **ADMINISTRATION OF THE SURVEY**

Along with a cover letter, answer form, and pre-stamped return envelope, the survey was distributed via U.S. Mail to a representative sample of St. Johns County Public School parents. A copy of each of these items is provided in the Appendix. Surveys were grouped by postal code and mailed beginning the first week of April 2006. Simultaneously, the survey was made available on-line at SurveyConsole.com, a commercial survey hosting site.

The cover letter accompanying the survey identified who was conducting the survey, provided a brief overview as to the purpose of the survey and gave appropriate assurances regarding confidentiality and anonymity. In addition, parents were given the option to complete and mail the answer form or complete the survey online. Information necessary to directly access the survey on-line was provided.

### **SELECTION OF THE SURVEY POPULATION**

The initial proposal called for a population for the Parent Survey was to be a stratified random sample of St. Johns County parents with students in grades 6-12. A minimum stratified

random sample of 1200 parents, selected from each of the county’s six zip codes, was to serve as the survey sample.

The PACT coordinator obtained from the St. Johns County Public Schools a mailing list of all parents with students in grades 6 – 12 for the 2005-06 school year. The mailing list was in the form of an Excel spreadsheet and contained the parent’s name and mailing address. Table 1 provides a breakdown of the mailing list population by postal code. After eliminating those parents not living in St. Johns County, a total of 13,970 parents remained with the largest number of parents living in the 32259 and 32082 ZIP codes. Using a table of random numbers a sample, proportioned by ZIP code, of 2,056 parents was selected to receive the survey.

<b>Table 1. Survey Population by Zip Code</b>				
<b>ZIP Code</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>% of Total Population</b>	<b>Number Selected for Survey</b>
<b>32033</b>	Elkton	219	1.6	4
<b>32080</b>	St. Augustine	937	6.7	63
<b>32082</b>	Ponte Vedra Beach	2356	16.9	400
<b>32084</b>	St. Augustine	1884	13.5	254
<b>32085</b>	St. Augustine	10	0.1	2
<b>32086</b>	St. Augustine	1783	12.8	200
<b>32092</b>	St. Augustine	1566	11.2	175
<b>32095</b>	St. Augustine	744	5.3	39
<b>32145</b>	Hastings	559	4.3	24
<b>32223</b>	North St. Johns County	4	0.1	1
<b>32259</b>	North St. Johns County	3908	28.0	1094
<b>Total</b>		<b>13,970</b>		<b>2056</b>

### **RESPONSE RATE AND DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS**

The survey was mailed during the month of April 2006 and was available online from April 2, 2006 through July 1, 2006. From the 2,056 mailed surveys, 56 were returned because of an invalid mailing address or because the parents had moved. From the 2000 surveys that were delivered, a total of 513 parents completed the survey which provided an overall response rate of 25.6%. Of those responding, 350 (68.2%) returned the mailed survey while 163 (31.8%) elected to complete the survey online. The response rate provided an estimated margin of error, at the 95% confidence level, of +/- 3.26.

***Gender, Race and Age of Respondents***

Table 2 provides the gender, race and age of the respondents. The population of parents that responded to the survey was reflective of the overall St. Johns County population in that a majority of the respondents were female (84.0%), white (88.3%) and between the ages of 36 to 45 (50.7%). According to the St. Johns County’s most recent census (i.e. 2000), the overall population for the county is 51.4% female, 90.9% white and 16.8% are in the are range of 34 to 44 (St. Johns County Chamber of County web Site, August 20, 2006).

***Table 2. Gender, Race and Age of Survey Respondents***

	Female	Male					Total*
Gender	84.0%	15.2%					509
	White (Non Hispanic)	Black (African American)	Latino- Hispanic	Asian- Pacific Islander	Alaskan- Native American	Multi- racial	
Race	88.3%	3.1%	4.5%	1.9%	0.2%	1.0%	508
	25 or Under	26 - 35	36 - 45	46 - 55	56 - 65	Over 65	
Age	0.6%	10.9%	50.7%	32.7%	3.5%	0.4%	507
*Totals may differ because respondents may not answer all questions. (N=513)							

***Family Income and Level of Education***

As reported in Table 3, the largest portion of survey respondents had an annual family income of over \$100,000 per year. The largest proportion of the survey respondents (37.2%) were college graduates and approximately 18% had obtained some type of graduate or professional degree. The survey population was higher than the overall population of St. Johns County in family income and educational level. According to the most recent census (i.e. 2000), 29.9% of the population have an annual family income of \$100k or higher and 21.9% have a college education (St. Johns County Chamber of County web Site, August 20, 2006).

**Table 3. Respondents' Family Income and Level of Education**

	\$1- \$21k	\$22 - \$42k	\$43 - \$63k	\$64 - \$84k	\$85 - \$100k	Over \$100k	Total Responses
Annual Family Income	3.3%	10.5%	15.2%	11.7%	19.7%	36.1%	495
	Some HS	HS Grad	2yr College Grad	4 yr College Grad	Profession or Other Graduate Degree		
Level of Education	4.5%	15.8%	23.2%	37.2%	18.1%		507
*Totals may differ because respondents may not answer all questions. (N=513)							

### ***Living Arrangement Younger Siblings***

The survey respondents reported that 82.8% of them lived as a “married couple”, 14.2% were single or divorced parents and most of the remaining respondents (1.6%) indicated that they were a grandparent or relative with responsibility for children. Approximately 46.2% of the respondents indicated that they had a pre-teen (age 11 or under) age child also living at home and 52.8% of these children were female.

### **SURVEY RESULTS**

The PACT Community Alcohol Survey was constructed around six subscales, each having a minimum of three questions. These subscales were developed to address the major goals of the PACT Coalition and included the following topics.

1. How alcohol is viewed (Survey Items 6,10 and 27)
2. Parents’ role in teen alcohol use (Survey Items 1, 2, 4, 5, 8 and 9)
3. Adults’ awareness of teen alcohol use (Survey Items 14, 15, 20 and 23)
4. Impacting teen alcohol use (Survey Items 3, 7, 24, 25 and 26)
5. Penalties for teen alcohol use (Survey Items 12, 13, 16 and 17)
6. Education and prevention ( 18, 19, 21 and 22)

The responses for each subscale and there corresponding survey items are provided below. At the end of each section is a brief summary of the trends for that subscale. It should be noted that because all 513 respondents did not answer each survey question, the total number of responses and percents will vary for each survey item.

***How the Use of Alcohol is Viewed (Subscale 1)***

This subscale asked questions regarding the parents overall attitudes about and use of alcohol in each home.

<b>10. Overall, how is the use of alcohol treated at your house?</b>					
	We never drink alcohol	Alcohol is sometimes served at family celebrations	Alcohol is treated as just another beverage, but only for adults over age 21	Alcohol is treated as just another beverage for almost everyone to enjoy	Total (N=513)
Frequency	95	218	190	5	508
Percent	18.5	42.5	37.0	1.0	99.0

<b>27. Which answer best describes your use of alcohol?</b>					
	I do not use alcohol	I drink alcohol only at parties and social functions	I have one alcoholic drink almost every day	I have two or more alcoholic drinks almost every day	Total (N=513)
Frequency	145	287	60	16	508
Percent	28.3	55.9	11.7	3.1	99.0

<b>6. Where is alcohol kept in your home?</b>					
	We do not keep alcohol in our home	In a locked refrigerator, cabinet or closet	In an unlocked refrigerator, cabinet or closet	In an open bar or serving table	Total (N=513)
Frequency	143	19	325	26	513
Percent	27.9	3.7	63.4	5.1	100.0

Approximately 81% of the parents reported using alcohol in their home mostly at “special occasions,” “social events” or as an “adult beverage.” About 15% report consuming alcohol on a daily basis. Of those who drink alcohol, the vast majority keep it in a refrigerator, cabinet or closet that is easily accessible to teens.

***Parents Role in Teen Alcohol Use (Subscale 2)***

This subscale addressed such issues as adults purchasing, serving and generally approving alcohol use at home or at the homes of others.

<b>9. Do you purchase alcohol for your children to use away from home?</b>			
	No	Yes, but only for special teen parties	Total (N=513)
Frequency	511	2	513
Percent	99.6	.4	100.0

	<b>8. Do you serve alcohol to your children at home?</b>					Total (N=513)
	No	Yes, sometimes for special occasions	Yes, when I am present	Yes, but only for use at special teen parties		
Frequency	468	41	3	1		513
Percent	91.2	8.0	.6	.2		100.0

	<b>5. It is ok for a responsible adult to purchase alcohol for children who are too young to legally buy alcohol.</b>						Total (N=513)
	SD	D	U	A	SA		
Frequency	483	25	3	1	1		513
Percent	94.2	4.9	.6	.2	.2		100.0

	<b>1. It is safe for my child to drink alcohol at home if an adult is present.</b>						Total (N=513)
	SD	D	U	A	SA		
Frequency	381	83	27	21	1		513
Percent	74.3	16.2	5.3	4.1	.2		100.0

	<b>4. It is ok for my child to use alcohol in someone else's home if an adult is present.</b>						Total (N=513)
	SD	D	U	A	SA		
Frequency	446	56	6	2	2		512
Percent	86.9	10.9	1.2	.4	.4		99.8

	<b>2. It is ok for my child to drink alcohol at a party if an adult is present.</b>					Total (N=513)
	SD	D	U	SA		
Frequency	441	64	7	1		513
Percent	86.0	12.5	1.4	.2		100.0

More than 90% of respondents strongly disagree with the statement that they purchase or approve of other adults purchasing alcohol for teen use. However, the respondents do not seem to be as strongly concerned with teens using alcohol when an adult is present.

### ***Adults Awareness of Teen Alcohol Use (Subscale 3)***

This subscale consisted of items which asked questions regarding parents' general awareness of alcohol use. It addressed such issues as teen drinking, age of first use, the prevalence of commercial brands and symbols related to alcohol, and opportunities to drink.

	<b>15. Are you aware of any of your school age children ever drinking alcohol?</b>				
	No, never	Yes, but not in the last 12 months	Yes, in the last 12 months	I don't know	Total (N=513)
Frequency	374	33	85	18	510
Percent	72.9	6.4	16.6	3.5	99.4

	<b>20. What do you think is the most common age range for children to begin using alcohol?</b>				
	10 – 12 years	13 – 15 years	16 - 18 years	19 or over	Total (N=513)
Frequency	31	218	186	74	509
Percent	6.0	42.5	36.3	14.4	99.2

	<b>14. Do your children wear clothes or possess toys that have logos, emblems or advertisements for alcohol products or companies that sell alcoholic beverages?</b>					
	No	Yes, some items	Yes, many items	I don't know	5	Total (N=513)
Frequency	459	45	3	3	1	511
Percent	89.5	8.8	.6	.6	.2	99.6

	<b>23. Do any of your teens drive their own car or ride with other teens to school?</b>			
	No	Yes, sometimes	Yes, almost every day	Total (N=513)
Frequency	331	76	101	508
Percent	64.5	14.8	19.7	99.0

Approximately 73% of the parents responding to the survey indicated that they were not aware of their children ever drinking alcohol and they believed that the most common age of first use of alcohol was either the 13 -15 year old range or the 16 – 18 year range. Most parents indicated that their children did not wear clothes or posses toys that have emblems for alcohol products. About 35% indicated that their students were either driving or riding with other teens to school.

***Impacting Teen Alcohol Use (Subscale 4)***

Subscale 4 addressed issues related to parents being able to impact teen alcohol use. Specifically, the six survey items for this subscale dealt with parent’s belief that they can impact their children’s decision to use alcohol, discussing the use of alcohol, and dealing with alcohol use once it has occurred.

	<b>3. I believe I can have an impact on my child's decision to use or not use alcohol.</b>					
	SD	D	U	A	SA	Total (N=513)
Frequency	37	12	11	176	275	511
Percent	7.2	2.3	2.1	34.3	53.6	99.6

	<b>24. Have you discussed the use of alcohol with your children?</b>				
	No, I have never discussed alcohol use	Yes, but not in the last 12 months	Yes, within the last 12 months	Yes, within the last 30 days	Total (N=513)
Frequency	27	20	207	254	508
Percent	5.3	3.9	40.4	49.5	99.0

	<b>25. Have you ever had to discipline your children for using alcohol?</b>				
	No, I have never disciplined any of my children for alcohol use	Yes, but not in the last 12 months	Yes, within the last 12 months	Yes, within the last 30 days	Total (N=513)
Frequency	437	24	38	10	509
Percent	85.2	4.7	7.4	1.9	99.2

	<b>26. How old was your child when you disciplined her/him for using alcohol?</b>						
	My child has never used alcohol	11 or under	12 – 13 years	14 – 15 years	16 – 17 years	18 or older	Total (N=513)
Frequency	393	7	10	19	50	22	501
Percent	76.6	1.4	1.9	3.7	9.7	4.3	97.7

	<b>7.1 What would you do if you knew your child was using alcohol without your permission?</b>					
	There is nothing that I can or would do	Talk to them about the use of alcohol	Punish them or take away privileges	Call the police	I don't know what I would do	Total (N=513)
Frequency	4	362	135	4	6	511
Percent	.8	70.6	26.3	.8	1.2	99.6

	<b>7.2 What would you do if you knew your child was using alcohol without your permission?</b>					
	There is nothing that I can or would do	Talk to them about the use of alcohol	Punish them or take away privileges	Call the police	I don't know what I would do	Total (N=513)
Frequency	11	40	257	13	6	327
Percent	2.1	7.8	50.1	2.5	1.2	63.7

Approximately 54% of the parents “strongly agree” that they can influence their child’s decision to use alcohol. Almost 90% report having discussed alcohol use with their child in the past year. Approximately 15% percent of the parents report having to discipline their child, at

least once, about their use of alcohol and the greatest percentage list the child's age at 16-17 at the time the discipline occurred. The survey allowed the responding parents to choose two actions, from five choices (See questions 7.1 & 7.2); regarding what action they would take if they discovered that their children were using alcohol without their permission. Most parents indicated that they would first "talk to them about the use of alcohol" and then "punish them or take away privileges." Overall, about 3% of the parents did not believe that there is anything that they could do about their children's alcohol use and about 2% did not know what they would do.

***Penalties for Teen Alcohol Use (Subscale 5)***

This subscale addressed parents' attitudes regarding discipline of teens for alcohol use at school or school sponsored events, for driving under the influence of alcohol (DUI) and laws regarding the legal age for drinking alcohol.

<b>16. Have your children been disciplined at school for an alcohol related infraction?</b>				
	No, never	Yes, but not in the last 12 months	Yes, in the last 12 months	Total (N=513)
Frequency	502	2	6	510
Percent	97.9	.4	1.2	99.4

<b>13. What should happen if a student uses alcohol at school or a school sponsored event?</b>						
	Punishment should be up to the parents	Suspended from school for a few days	Expelled from regular school and sent to an alternative school	Required to attend an alcohol education program	Both the parents and the child should be required to attend an alcohol education program	Total (N=513)
Frequency	22	87	30	166	204	509
Percent	4.3	17.0	5.8	32.4	39.8	99.2

<b>17. Have any of your children ever been arrested for a DUI or other alcohol related infraction?</b>				
	No, never	Yes, but not in the last 12 months	Yes, in the last 12 months	Total (N=513)
Frequency	503	4	3	510
Percent	98.1	.8	.6	99.4

<b>12. What should happen if an underage youth is caught Driving Under the Influence of alcohol (DUI)?</b>					
	Treated the same as an adult	Treated as a special "youth offender"	Let go with a traffic ticket	Turned over to their parents for discipline	Total (N=513)
Frequency	313	166	2	29	510
Percent	61.0	32.4	.4	5.7	99.4

	<b>11. What do you think the minimum legal drinking age should be?</b>				
	No minimum age	16 years or older	18 years or older	21 years or older	Total (N=513)
Frequency	6	14	74	414	508
Percent	1.2	2.7	14.4	80.7	99.0

While approximately 98% of the responding parents report that their child has never been disciplined for alcohol use at school, if that occurred, 39.7% believe that “both the parents and the child should be required to attend an alcohol education program,” while 32.4% believe that only the child should be “required to attend an alcohol education program.” In regard to a DUI offense, 98% report that none of their children have had a DUI offense, but, if they should the majority of parents (61%) believe that they should be “treated the same as an adult” while 32.4% believe that they should be “treated as a special youth offender.” In regard to the minimum legal age for alcohol consumption, the overwhelming majority (80.7%) believe the minimum age should be 21 years old.

***Education and Prevention (Subscale 6)***

The survey items for the final subscale addressed issues related to substance abuse education and prevention.

	<b>18. Have any of your children participated in classes at school where the effects of alcohol or other drugs were taught?</b>				
	No, never	Yes, but not this school year	Yes, this school year	I don't know	Total (N=513)
Frequency	74	150	238	50	512
Percent	14.4	29.2	46.4	9.7	99.8

	<b>19. Have any of your children participated in any after-school activity where the effects of alcohol or other drugs were discussed?</b>				
	No, never	Yes, but not this year	Yes, this school year	I don't know	Total (N=513)
Frequency	303	71	73	61	508
Percent	59.1	13.8	14.2	11.9	99.0

	<b>21. Where have your children learned the most about alcohol and other drugs?</b>					
	Adults/parents at home	Education classes during or after school	Other children and friends	Older brothers and sisters	Other (TV)	Total (N=513)
Frequency	343	116	35	4	11	509
Percent	66.9	22.6	6.8	.8	2.1	99.2

22. If any of your children had an alcohol problem, where are you most likely to go for help?							
	The school	Church, synagogue, mosque or faith based organization	Public health department	Substance use treatment center such as EPIC Community services	Take care of it myself	I don't know where I would go	Total (N=513)
Frequency	12	63	10	267	84	72	508
Percent	2.3	12.3	1.9	52.0	16.4	14.0	99.0

A considerable majority of parents reported that their children had “participated in classes at school where the effects of alcohol or other drugs were taught” during the current year (46.4%) or during the past year (29.2%). Additionally, about 28% reported that their children had previously been involved in “after school activities where the effects of alcohol and other drugs were discussed.” While parents reported that their children have learned the most about alcohol and other drugs at home, 22.6% believe that they learned the most in education classes during or after school. When asked where they would go for help if their child had an alcohol problem, most (52.0%) would chose a “substance use treatment center such as EPIC Community Services,” 16.4% would attempt to take care of the problem themselves and about 12% would seek assistance from a “church, synagogue, mosque or faith based organization.” It is important to note that 14% of the parents indicated that they did not know where they would go for help. When applied to the total St. Johns County population this would represent about 27,459 people.

### **SUMMARY and CONCLUSIONS**

The 25.6% response rate (i.e. 513 respondents) and the corresponding +/- 3.26 margin of error provide a sample in which a high degree of confidence may be place in the parents responses as being representative of the overall secondary school parent population in St. Johns County. This hypothesis is further supported by the consistency of responses to the survey questions. With the exception of slightly higher educational and income levels, the super respondents are reflective of the overall county population. In this regard, it should be noted that individual with higher levels of income and education tend to respond at greater rates to unsolicited surveys than those with lower levels of income and education.

#### ***Attitudes about Teens’ Using Alcohol***

The parents participating in the survey viewed alcohol as a beverage for adults, over the age of 21, and while the majority reported used alcohol socially, they reported not purchasing or

serving alcohol to their underage children. Even in their company or in the presence of other adults, the parents did not support the consumption of alcohol by their children in their homes or at parties or other social events.

### ***Awareness of Parents Concerning Alcohol Use***

An area of discontinuity exists between parent's responses on the survey and the responses of secondary school students on similar surveys related to the percent of teens who report drinking alcohol. While only 23% of the parents reported being "aware of their school age children drinking alcohol," in the most recent survey of St. Johns County public school secondary school substance use survey, 60.6% of the students reported trying alcohol at least once and 36.2% reported drinking often in the past 30 days (2004 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey). Conversely, parents were very aware that the most common ages of first alcohol use by their children are between 13 and 15.

### ***Impacting Teen Alcohol Use***

Most parents (87.9%) believe that they can impact their child's decision to engage in alcohol use and about 90% have discussed the issue of alcohol with their child within the past year. Some parents (14%) have disciplined their children for alcohol use and when doing so prefer counseling their children and taking away privileges as opposed to involving the police.

Parents prefer that the schools use required alcohol education programs that usually include the parents as a means of disciplining students who use alcohol at school or school sponsored events. They also prefer that the community treat youth arrested for DUI as an adult. Most parents (80.7%) believe that the legal age for drinking should be 21 years.

### ***Education and Treatment***

While most parents report that their child has participated in classes or activities where the effects of alcohol were taught at school (75.6%) or after school (28%), they see the responsibility for educating teens about alcohol use as first being that of the home, then the school and finally religious or faith based organization. If help was needed for their children regarding an alcohol problem, the majority (52%) would turn to a substance use treatment center such as EPIC Community Services. Others would attempt to take care of the problem themselves (16.4%) or seek assistance from a church or faith based organization (12.3%). A significant number (17%), especially for a population with these income and educational levels, did not know where they would go to seek help.

## REFERENCES

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APPENDIX

PACT Prevention Coalition of St. Johns County

1400 Old Dixie Highway  
St. Augustine, FL 32084-4190  
Tel. 904-829-6261

Dear Parent,

The PACT Prevention Coalition of St. Johns County is a group of community organizations, businesses and churches, elected officials, youth and parents working together in St. Johns County for a safe, healthy and drug-free community. The coalition was established in 1989 and in 2004, began a membership campaign in order to develop community initiatives. One of the founding members of the coalition is the St. Johns County School District, and it is with their support that we are asking you to complete this survey today.

The PACT Community Alcohol Survey© will help us learn about alcohol attitudes and use by children and teens in our community. Please do not write your name, address or any other identifying information on the survey. There is no “right” or “wrong” answer. We are only interested in your honest opinion. We are working with an independent evaluation team, Health-Tech Consultants, Inc. Please return the survey to Health-Tech in the stamped, preaddressed envelope provided or, if you prefer, you may complete the survey online.

COMPLETE THE SURVEY ONLINE AT THE FOLLOWING WEB SITE:

<http://www.surveyconsole.com/console/TakeSurvey?id=196464>

Thank you for your cooperation with this request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above number.

Sincerely,

*Julia Kelly*

Julia Kelly, Coordinator  
PACT Prevention Coalition

Enclosures: Survey Questionnaire

**PACT Community Alcohol Survey©**  
(Developed by: Health-Tech Consultants, Inc.)

Directions: The PACT Community Alcohol Survey© will help us learn about alcohol attitudes and use by school age children in our community. Please do not write your name, address or any other identifying information on the survey. There is no “right” or “wrong” answer. We are only interested in your honest opinion. Unless otherwise indicated, please select only one answer.

Please indicate your level of agreement with statements 1 - 5.		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree
<b>Shade circles like this:</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <b>Not like this:</b> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>						
1. It is safe for my child to drink alcohol at home if an adult is present.		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. It is ok for my child to drink alcohol at a party if an adult is present.		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. I believe I can have an impact on my child’s decision to use or not use alcohol.		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. It is ok for my child to use alcohol in someone else’s home if an adult is present.		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. It is ok for a responsible adult to purchase alcohol for children who are too young to legally buy alcohol.		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Where is alcohol kept in your home?  <input type="radio"/> We do not keep alcohol in our home <input type="radio"/> In a locked refrigerator, cabinet or closet <input type="radio"/> In an unlocked refrigerator, cabinet or closet <input type="radio"/> In an open bar or serving table		7. What would you do if you knew your child was using alcohol without your permission? <i>(For this question you may choose more than one answer.)</i>  <input type="radio"/> There is nothing that I can or would do <input type="radio"/> Talk to them about the use of alcohol <input type="radio"/> Punish them or take away privileges <input type="radio"/> Call the police <input type="radio"/> I don’t know what I would do				
8. Do you serve alcohol to your children at home?  <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes, sometimes for special occasions <input type="radio"/> Yes, when I am present <input type="radio"/> Yes, but only for use at special teen parties		9. Do you purchase alcohol for your children to use <u>away from home</u> ?  <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes, sometimes for special occasions <input type="radio"/> Yes, but only for special teen parties <input type="radio"/> Yes, when other adults are present				

<p>10. Overall, how is the use of alcohol treated at your house?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> We never drink alcohol</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Alcohol is sometimes served at family celebrations</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Alcohol is treated as just another beverage, but only for adults over age 21</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Alcohol is treated as just another beverage for almost everyone to enjoy</li> </ul>	
<p>11. What do you think the <u>minimum</u> legal drinking age should be?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> No minimum age</li> <li><input type="radio"/> 16 years or older</li> <li><input type="radio"/> 18 years or older</li> <li><input type="radio"/> 21 years or older</li> </ul>	<p>12. What should happen if an underage youth is caught Driving Under the Influence of alcohol (DUI)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Treated the same as an adult</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Treated as a special “youth offender”</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Let go with a traffic ticket</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Turned over to their parents for discipline</li> </ul>
<p>13. What should happen if a student uses alcohol at school or a school sponsored event?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Punishment should be up to the parents</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Suspended from school for a few days</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Expelled from regular school and sent to an alternative school</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Required to attend an alcohol education program</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Both the parents and the child should be required to attend an alcohol education program</li> </ul>	<p>14. Do your children wear clothes or possess toys that have logos, emblems or advertisements for alcohol products or companies that sell alcoholic beverages?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> No</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Yes, some items</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Yes, many items</li> <li><input type="radio"/> I don’t know</li> </ul>
<p>15. Are you aware of any of your school age children ever drinking alcohol?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> No, never</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Yes, but <u>not</u> in the last 12 months</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Yes, in the last 12 months</li> <li><input type="radio"/> I don’t know</li> </ul>	<p>16. Have your children been disciplined at school for an alcohol related infraction?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> No, never</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Yes, but <u>not</u> in the last 12 months</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Yes, in the last 12 months</li> <li><input type="radio"/> I don’t know</li> </ul>
<p>17. Have any of your children ever been arrested for a DUI or other alcohol related infraction?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> No, never</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Yes, but <u>not</u> in the last 12 months</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Yes, in the last 12 months</li> <li><input type="radio"/> I don’t know</li> </ul>	<p>18. Have any of your children participated in classes at school where the effects of alcohol or other drugs were taught?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> No, never</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Yes, but <u>not</u> this school year</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Yes, this school year</li> <li><input type="radio"/> I don’t know</li> </ul>

<p>19. Have any of your children participated in any <u>after-school activity</u> where the effects of alcohol or other drugs were discussed?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No, never</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes, but not this year</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes, this school year</p> <p><input type="radio"/> I don't know</p>	<p>20. What do you think is the most common age range for children to begin using alcohol?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 10 – 12 years</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 13 – 15 years</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 16 - 18 years</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 19 or over</p>
<p>21. Where have your children learned the <u>most</u> about alcohol and other drugs?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Adults/parents at home</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Education classes during or after school</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Other children and friends</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Older brothers and sisters</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Other</p>	<p>22. If any of your children had an alcohol problem, where are you most likely to go for help?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> The school</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Church, mosque, synagogue or faith based organization</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Public health department</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Substance use treatment center such as EPIC Community services</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Take care of it myself</p> <p><input type="radio"/> I don't know where I would go</p>
<p>23. Do any of your teens drive their own car or ride with other teens to school?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes, sometimes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes, almost every day</p>	<p>24. Have you discussed the use of alcohol with your children?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No, I have never discussed alcohol use</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes, but <u>not</u> in the last 12 months</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes, within the last 12 months</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes, within the last 30 days</p>
<p>25. Have you ever had to discipline your children for using alcohol?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No, I have never disciplined any of my children for alcohol use</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes, but <u>not</u> in the last 12 months</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes, within the last 12 months</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes, within the last 30 days</p>	<p>26. How old was your child when you disciplined her/him for using alcohol?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> My child has never used alcohol</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 11 or under</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 12 – 13 years</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 14 – 15 years</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 16 – 17 years</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 18 or older</p>
<p>27. Which answer best describes your use of alcohol?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> I do not use alcohol</p> <p><input type="radio"/> I drink alcohol only at parties and social functions</p> <p><input type="radio"/> I have one alcoholic drink almost every day</p> <p><input type="radio"/> I have two or more alcoholic drinks almost every day</p>	<p>28. Approximately, what is your total family annual income?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 1,000 – 21,000</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 22,000 – 42,000</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 43,000 – 63,000</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 64,000 – 84,000</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 85,000 – 100,000</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Over 100,000</p>

