

RESULTS FROM THE 2024 LYNNFIELD PARENT/CAREGIVER SURVEY

An Assessment of Perceived Norms, Attitudes, and
Preventive Behaviors Among Parents of Youth in
Grades 5-12

A Project of the *A Healthy Lynnfield Coalition* (AHL)

PREPARED BY:

Social Science Research and Evaluation, Inc.

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BACKGROUND

The Lynnfield Substance Misuse Prevention Coalition, known as **A Healthy Lynnfield (AHL)**, is a local prevention coalition of town representatives (Health Department, Schools, Police), health and social service providers, businesses, the faith community, and residents. The coalition focuses on the common goals of reducing youth substance misuse and improving the quality of life among all residents in Lynnfield.

In winter 2023-2024, AHL invited all parents/caregivers of 5th-12th graders in Lynnfield Public Schools (LPS) to take part in a brief survey designed to help AHL and its partners learn more about parent/caregiver beliefs and perceptions regarding health and wellness among youth in the community – including use of alcohol and other substances.

The survey asked questions in six domains: (1) home and community life, (2) health and wellness, (3) communication with youth and other caregivers, (4) attitudes and beliefs, (5) parenting behaviors, and (6) prevention and support.

METHODS

Survey Administration

The anonymous online survey, which consisted of 88 discrete questions, was launched on November 27, 2023. The survey remained open for six weeks and was closed on January 9, 2024. To be eligible to take part in the survey, parents/caregivers had to have at least one child in grades 5-12 in public school in Lynnfield (regardless of the family's town of residence).

Validity and Reliability

One of the challenges associated with survey research is the potential for error in the dataset. This can stem from multiple sources such as the same respondent submitting multiple surveys, poor question wording, lack of appropriate response options that accurately reflect the experiences of all potential respondents, frivolity, and misinterpretation of the underlying meaning of a question. Despite these challenges, there are several steps that can be taken to increase confidence in the results. For example:

1. Using clear and unambiguous language in the instructions – prominently indicating who the intended audience is (i.e., parents of 5th-12th graders with at least one child in Lynnfield Public Schools) and indicating what the questions are about (i.e., beliefs, perceptions, and parenting behaviors related to youth health and wellness).
2. Data screening – using visual and statistical screening to identify and remove cases in which the respondent provided obviously frivolous responses (i.e., always choosing the same or extreme response options for every item).
3. Identical case analysis – statistically identifying all duplicate records to minimize the chance that the same person submitted multiple surveys and/or the chance that the survey was accidentally submitted multiple times.

While these methods are not failsafe, they do help to ensure a clean dataset that minimizes the chances that there are gross errors present in the results. Each of these steps was taken during the administration and analysis of the Lynnfield Parent/Caregiver Survey.

Ideally, the development of survey items, such as those used in the Lynnfield Parent/Caregiver Survey, should be an iterative process. Items should be field-tested with a subset of representatives from the intended population and psychometric analyses should be conducted to help build the case that the survey items are both valid and reliable. Under real world conditions, this is often difficult to accomplish. To help guard against this potential for error, survey items should be based either in whole, or in part, on items that have been used successfully in other projects and in other settings, and this was the case for the Lynnfield survey which was primarily composed of existing field-tested items.

By striking a balance of design, logical, and statistical controls, we can minimize the odds of large-scale error in the survey and maximize confidence in the results.

Analysis Plan and Analytical Sample

Descriptive statistics are presented for each item in the survey (i.e., the percentage of all respondents that answered each response option for each item in the questionnaire). All items were also analyzed to examine the presence or absence of differences based on the age and gender identity of the respondents' oldest 5-12th grade child. The results of these analyses may help Lynnfield better plan prevention activities and prevention messaging by understanding whether an issue or asset exists among the parents/caregivers of some youth and not others.

A total of 191 individuals visited the survey webpage during the six-week period that it was open. Twenty-one (21) of these individuals (10.9% of those who visited) were removed from the final analytical sample because they did not have a child in grades 5-12 in Lynnfield Public Schools. No surveys were removed due to suspected frivolity and there was no evidence of duplicate surveys among those submitted. The final analytical sample consisted of 170 parents/guardians who currently have at least one child in grades 5-12 in Lynnfield Public Schools.

Generalizability of Findings

There were 1,280 public school students enrolled in Lynnfield Public Schools in grades 5-12 during the 2023-2024 academic year. Parents/caregivers who took part in the survey reported having 276 children in this grade range. Based on the number of children that respondents reported having and assuming only one parent/caregiver responded per household, this survey likely represents *22% of all households in Lynnfield with at least one 5-12th grader* – that is, approximately 1 of every 5 parents in the age range of interest. Although this enhances confidence in the results, it is important to note that results are generalizable only to those parents/caregivers who took part in the survey and may not reflect the perceptions, attitudes, or parenting behaviors of other members of the Lynnfield community.

Trend Analysis

This was the second time AHL administered a parent/caregiver survey with parents/caregivers who had to have at least one child in grades 5-12 in public school in Lynnfield. A nearly identical survey was administered between April 28 and May 25, 2021. Trend analyses are provided in this report whenever possible.

RESULTS

DEMOGRAPHICS

Survey respondents were asked to report basic demographics (e.g., grade level, gender identity) for both themselves and their oldest child in grades 5-12 in Lynnfield Public Schools.

Reference Child

When answering the questions in the survey, parents/caregivers were instructed to think about their oldest child in grades 5-12 in Lynnfield Public Schools. The survey came close to the ideal of having roughly 13% of parent/guardian respondents indicate that their oldest child was in each of the eight grade levels from 5-12. Respondents were also asked to indicate how their oldest child identifies their gender. Overall, 57% reported their oldest child in grades 5-12 identifies as female, 41% as male, 1% as non-binary, and 1% of parent/caregiver respondents preferred not to disclose their child's gender identity.

Table 1: Reference Child Demographics

Category	N	%
Oldest Child Grade Level		
5th grade	25	15%
6th grade	21	12%
7th grade	16	9%
8th grade	24	14%
9th grade	22	13%
10th grade	21	12%
11th grade	18	11%
12th grade	23	14%

Category	N	%
Oldest Child Gender Identity		
Female	97	57%
Male	69	41%
Non-Binary	2	1%
Some Other Way	0	0%
Prefer Not to Answer	2	1%

Parent/Caregiver Demographics

Most parent/caregiver respondents identified as female (86%) and 13% identified as male – with 1% preferring not to divulge their gender identity. Almost all respondents (94%) indicated that English is the primary language spoken in their home. Most parents/caregivers identified as White (84%), followed by Asian (6%), and Hispanic (2%). The race/ethnicity of parent/caregiver respondents was close to the demographics of students enrolled in Lynnfield Public Schools during the 2023-2024 academic year. According to school enrollment data, 2% of Lynnfield Public School students identified as African American, 8% Asian, 7% Hispanic, 79% White, and 5% Multi-Race, Non-Hispanic.

Table 2: Parent/Caregiver Demographics

Category	N	%
Gender Identity		
Female	108	86%
Male	17	13%
Prefer Not to Answer	1	1%
Primary Language Spoken at Home		
English	119	94%
Language Other Than English	5	4%
Prefer Not to Answer	2	2%

Category	N	%
Race/Ethnicity		
White	105	84%
Asian	7	6%
Hispanic	2	2%
African American	0	0%
Multi-Race	0	0%
Some Other Race/Ethnicity	2	2%
Prefer Not to Answer	9	7%

HOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

Community Protective Factors

Parents/caregivers were asked to rate their level of agreement with eight items about community protective factors that provide support for Lynnfield youth. Ratings for the individual items in this section of the survey are displayed in [Table 3](#). To facilitate comparisons, summary (mean) ratings for each item are displayed. Summaries are also provided for overall patterns in these data and the results of statistical analyses (independent samples t-tests, chi-square tests of independence) testing for the presence of differences based on the grade level and gender identity of the respondents' oldest child.

Table 3: Community Protective Factors (2023-2024 Academic Year)

Community Protective Factors	Strongly Disagree ⁽¹⁾		Disagree ⁽²⁾		Neutral ⁽³⁾		Agree ⁽⁴⁾		Strongly Agree ⁽⁵⁾		TOTAL Mean ¹⁻⁵
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
The following questions are about home and community life in Lynnfield. Please think about your oldest child in grades 5-12 when answering these questions. How much do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements?											
The people in my neighborhood care about my child	0	0%	10	6%	33	21%	73	47%	38	25%	3.90
There are people outside of family and school that my child can talk to about things that are important to them	1	1%	12	8%	23	15%	85	55%	33	21%	3.89
There are people at my child's school that my child can talk to about things that are important to them	1	1%	12	8%	30	19%	94	61%	17	11%	3.74
My neighbors would tell me if they saw my child doing something wrong	1	1%	15	10%	36	23%	76	49%	26	17%	3.72
Adults in Lynnfield make youth feel important	6	4%	7	5%	47	30%	71	46%	24	15%	3.65
Lynnfield youth are given chances to help make the town a better place in which to live	2	1%	13	8%	47	30%	79	51%	14	9%	3.58
Adults in Lynnfield listen to what youth have to say	3	2%	13	8%	61	39%	73	47%	5	3%	3.41
Lynnfield residents respect the values and beliefs of people from different races and cultures	12	8%	29	19%	46	30%	54	35%	13	8%	3.18

Interpretation (Scale Direction)

Mean scores are presented in descending order from the highest to the lowest level of agreement.

2024 Survey Summary

Ratings across the eight **COMMUNITY PROTECTIVE FACTORS** items were consistently in the "Neutral" to "Agree" range of the scale (mean scores ranged between 3.18 and 3.90). Respondents were most likely to agree that *the people in my neighborhood care about my child* (mean = 3.90) and were least likely to agree that *Lynnfield residents respect the values and beliefs of people from different races and cultures* (3.18).

2024 Grade Level Statistical Comparisons

Parents/caregivers whose oldest child is in grades 9-12 versus grades 5-8 were significantly more likely to agree that *Lynnfield youth are given chances to help make the town a better place in which to live* (mean = 3.39 middle school vs. 3.75 high school) and to agree *there are people outside of family and school that my child can talk to about things that are important to them* (MS: 3.66; HS: 4.10).

2024 Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons

There were no statistically significant differences in the eight items between parent/caregiver respondents whose oldest child identifies as female versus male.

Trends over time between the 2021 survey and 2024 survey are displayed in **Table 4**. To facilitate comparisons over time, summary (mean) differences for each item are displayed, with **green** font indicating increased levels of agreement, **orange** indicating little movement between the two data points, and **red** indicating decreased levels of agreement.

Table 4: Community Protective Factors – Trend

KEY (Mean Scores): **Green** = Increased Level of Agreement (≥ .10), **Orange** = Little Movement, **Red** = Decreased Level of Agreement (≥ -.10)
* = statistically significant

Community Protective Factors	Strongly Disagree ⁽¹⁾		Disagree ⁽²⁾		Neutral ⁽³⁾		Agree ⁽⁴⁾		Strongly Agree ⁽⁵⁾		TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	Mean ¹⁻⁵	Change
The following questions are about home and community life in Lynnfield. Please think about your oldest child in grades 5-12 when answering these questions. How much do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements?												
My neighbors would tell me if they saw my child doing something wrong												
2021 Survey	7	2%	34	11%	78	26%	142	47%	40	13%	3.58	.14 (↑)
2024 Survey	1	1%	15	10%	36	23%	76	49%	26	17%	3.72	
Lynnfield youth are given chances to help make the town a better place in which to live												
2021 Survey	5	2%	31	10%	105	35%	133	45%	24	8%	3.47	.11 (↑)
2024 Survey	2	1%	13	8%	47	30%	79	51%	14	9%	3.58	
The people in my neighborhood care about my child												
2021 Survey	2	1%	25	8%	72	24%	134	45%	67	22%	3.80	.10 (↑)
2024 Survey	0	0%	10	6%	33	21%	73	47%	38	25%	3.90	
There are people outside my family and school that my child can talk to about things that are important to them												
2021 Survey	7	2%	27	9%	37	12%	159	54%	67	23%	3.85	.04 (=)
2024 Survey	1	1%	12	8%	23	15%	85	55%	33	21%	3.89	
There are people at my child’s school that my child can talk to about things that are important to them												
2021 Survey	3	1%	23	8%	68	23%	165	55%	40	13%	3.72	.02 (=)
2024 Survey	1	1%	12	8%	30	19%	94	61%	17	11%	3.74	
Adults in Lynnfield make youth feel important												
2021 Survey	4	1%	18	6%	106	35%	127	42%	46	15%	3.64	.01 (=)
2024 Survey	6	4%	7	5%	47	30%	71	46%	24	15%	3.65	
Adults in Lynnfield listen to what youth have to say												
2021 Survey	3	1%	23	8%	136	46%	114	38%	21	7%	3.43	-.02 (=)
2024 Survey	3	2%	13	8%	61	39%	73	47%	5	3%	3.41	
Lynnfield residents respect the values and beliefs of people from different races and cultures												
2021 Survey	13	4%	58	20%	81	27%	117	39%	28	9%	3.30	-.12 (↓)
2024 Survey	12	8%	29	19%	46	30%	54	35%	13	8%	3.18	

Interpretation (Scale Direction)

Mean scores are presented in order from the largest increase in agreement to the largest decline in agreement.

Trend Summary

Ratings across the eight items related to **COMMUNITY PROTECTIVE FACTORS** were mostly stable between the 2021 and 2024 survey. The items with the largest **increase** in levels of agreement were: *my neighbors would tell me if they saw my child doing something wrong* (mean = 3.58 in 2021 vs. 3.72 in 2024), *Lynnfield youth are given chances to help make the town a better place in which to live* (2021: 3.47; 2024: 3.58), and *the people in my neighborhood care about my child* (2021: 3.80; 2024: 3.90).

There was a marginal **decrease** in levels of agreement for the following item: *Lynnfield residents respect the values and beliefs of people from different races and cultures* (2021: 3.30; 2024: 3.18).

Trend Statistical Comparison

There were no statistically significant differences in the eight items between the 2021 survey and the 2024 survey.

Home Protective Factors

A parallel set of five questions asked parents/caregivers to indicate how frequently they engage in different behaviors with their child and family at home (e.g., frequency of talking to their child about what they are doing in school). Ratings for the individual items in this section of the survey are displayed in [Table 5](#). To facilitate comparisons, summary (mean) ratings for each item are displayed, with values indicating higher or lower frequency of the behavior.

Table 5: Home Protective Factors (2023-2024 Academic Year)

Home Protective Factors	Never ⁽¹⁾		Seldom ⁽²⁾		Sometimes ⁽³⁾		Often ⁽⁴⁾		Very Often ⁽⁵⁾		TOTAL Mean ¹⁻⁵
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
The following questions are about home and community life in Lynnfield. Please think about your oldest child in grades 5-12 when answering these questions. How often do you do the following things?											
Encourage my child to be the best that they can be	0	0%	0	0%	2	1%	25	17%	123	82%	4.81
Ask my child about their homework	0	0%	0	0%	9	6%	26	17%	116	77%	4.71
Talk to my child about what they are doing in school	0	0%	0	0%	6	4%	34	23%	111	74%	4.70
Spend free time together as a family doing things like talking, exercising, watching TV, playing sports/games	0	0%	5	3%	25	17%	61	40%	60	40%	4.17
Eat dinner together as a family	1	1%	7	5%	37	25%	44	29%	62	41%	4.05

Interpretation (Scale Direction)

Mean scores are presented in descending order from the most to least frequent behavior.

2024 Survey Summary

Ratings across the five items related to **HOME PROTECTIVE FACTORS** were consistently in the “Often” to “Very Often” range of the scale (mean scores ranged between 4.05 and 4.81). Respondents were most likely to report that they frequently *encourage my child to be the best that they can be* (mean = 4.81) and were least likely to report they frequently *eat dinner together as a family* (4.05).

2024 Grade Level Statistical Comparisons

The frequency of *spending free time together as a family doing things like talking, exercising, watching TV, playing sports/games* was significantly higher among parents/caregivers whose oldest child is in grades 5-8 (mean = 4.37 middle school vs. 3.99 high school).

2024 Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons

There were no statistically significant differences in the five items between parent/caregiver respondents whose oldest child identifies as female versus male.

Trends over time between the 2021 survey and 2024 survey are displayed in **Table 6**. To facilitate comparisons over time, summary (mean) differences for each item are displayed, with **green** font indicating increased occurrence of the behavior, **orange** indicating little movement between the two data points, and **red** indicating decreased occurrence of the behavior.

Table 6: Home Protective Factors – Trend

KEY (Mean Scores): Green = Increased Occurrence ($\geq .10$), Orange = Little Movement, Red = Decreased Occurrence ($\geq -.10$)
* = statistically significant

Home Protective Factors	Never ⁽¹⁾		Seldom ⁽²⁾		Sometimes ⁽³⁾		Often ⁽⁴⁾		Very Often ⁽⁵⁾		TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	Mean ¹⁻⁵	Change
The following questions are about home and community life in Lynnfield. Please think about your oldest child in grades 5-12 when answering these questions. How often do you do the following things?												
Ask my child about their homework												
2021 Survey	0	0%	3	1%	19	6%	74	25%	202	68%	4.59	
2024 Survey	0	0%	0	0%	9	6%	26	17%	116	77%	4.71	.12 (↑)
Encourage my child to be the best that they can be												
2021 Survey	0	0%	0	0%	8	3%	67	22%	226	75%	4.72	
2024 Survey	0	0%	0	0%	2	1%	25	17%	123	82%	4.81	.09 (=)
Talk to my child about what they are doing in school												
2021 Survey	0	0%	1	0.3%	10	3%	84	28%	206	68%	4.64	
2024 Survey	0	0%	0	0%	6	4%	34	23%	111	74%	4.70	.06 (=)
Spend free time together as a family doing things like talking, exercising, watching TV, playing sports/games												
2021 Survey	0	0%	7	2%	53	18%	108	36%	133	44%	4.22	
2024 Survey	0	0%	5	3%	25	17%	61	40%	60	40%	4.17	-.05 (=)
Eat dinner together as a family												
2021 Survey	0	0%	7	2%	36	12%	105	35%	153	51%	4.34	
2024 Survey	1	1%	7	5%	37	25%	44	29%	62	41%	4.05	-.29* (↓)

Interpretation (Scale Direction)

Mean scores are presented in order from the largest increase in occurrence to the largest decline in occurrence.

Trend Summary

Ratings across the five items related to **HOME PROTECTIVE FACTORS** were mostly stable between the 2021 and 2024 survey. The item with the largest **increase** in occurrence was how frequently parents/caregivers reported that they *ask my child about their homework* (mean = 4.59 in 2021 vs. 4.71 in 2024). There was a **decrease** in occurrence in the frequency with which parents/caregivers reported that they *eat dinner together as a family* (2021: 4.34; 2024: 4.05).

Trend Statistical Comparison

There was a statistically significant **decrease** between the 2021 and 2024 survey in the frequency with which parents/caregivers reported that they *eat dinner together as a family*.

Two items that were added to the Parent/Caregiver Survey for the first time in 2024 asked respondents to indicate how many days all (or most) of their family living in their home eat a meal together during a *typical week in the academic year* and *during the 7 days prior to the survey*. To facilitate comparisons, summary (mean) ratings for each item are displayed in **Table 7**, with values indicating higher or lower frequency of the behavior.

Table 7: Frequency of Eating Family Meals (2023-2024 Academic Year)

Frequency of Eating Family Meals										TOTAL						
0 days ⁽⁰⁾		1 day ⁽¹⁾		2 days ⁽²⁾		3 days ⁽³⁾		4 days ⁽⁴⁾		5 days ⁽⁵⁾		6 days ⁽⁶⁾		7 days ⁽⁷⁾		TOTAL Mean ⁰⁻⁷
N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
The following questions are about home and community life in Lynnfield. Please think about your oldest child in grades 5-12 when answering these questions. How often do you do the following things?																
During the past 7 days, how many days of the week did all, or most, of your family living in your home eat a meal together?																
2	1%	3	2%	12	8%	26	17%	26	17%	31	21%	16	11%	34	23%	4.65
During a typical week in the academic year, how many days of the week do all, or most, of your family living in your home eat a meal together?																
1	1%	4	3%	16	11%	32	21%	23	15%	31	21%	18	12%	26	17%	4.43
Interpretation (Scale Direction)																
Mean scores are presented in descending order from the most to least frequent behavior. In this table, the mean scores can be interpreted as the average number of days (out of 7 days) respondents report engaging in this behavior.																
2024 Survey Summary																
Respondents reported that all, or most, of their family living in their home ate a meal together an average of 4.65 days <i>during the past 7 days</i> and an average of 4.43 days <i>during a typical week in the academic year</i> .																
2024 Grade Level Statistical Comparisons																
There were no statistically significant differences in these two items based on the grade level of the respondents' oldest child in grades 5-12.																
2024 Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons																
There were no statistically significant differences in these two items between parent/caregiver respondents whose oldest child identifies as female versus male.																

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Areas of Concern

Parents/caregivers were presented with a list of 10 health and wellness factors and were asked to indicate how much of an issue they think each factor is in affecting the health and wellness of Lynnfield youth in their oldest child's age group. Ratings for the individual items in this section of the survey are displayed in [Table 8](#). Higher mean scores represent the feeling that the area is more of an issue and lower mean scores represent the feeling that this area is less of an issue.

Table 8: Areas of Concern (2023-2024 Academic Year)

Areas of Concern	Not An Issue ⁽¹⁾		Minor Issue ⁽²⁾		Moderate Issue ⁽³⁾		Major Issue ⁽⁴⁾		Severe Issue ⁽⁵⁾		TOTAL Mean ¹⁻⁵
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
The following questions are about health and wellness in Lynnfield. Please think about your oldest child in grades 5-12 when answering these questions. How much of an issue do you feel each of the following factors are in affecting the health and wellness of Lynnfield youth in your oldest child's age group?											
Technology (cell phones, social media, screen time)	3	2%	9	6%	34	24%	57	40%	39	27%	3.85
Emotional and Mental Health (worrying, stress, anxiety, depression)	7	5%	20	14%	38	27%	58	41%	19	13%	3.44
Youth Social Culture (friendships, cliques, exclusion, teasing)	8	6%	22	15%	45	32%	46	32%	21	15%	3.35
Community Culture (adults modeling unhealthy behaviors, toxic culture)	14	10%	37	26%	52	37%	24	17%	14	10%	2.91
Academics (grades, homework, tests, academic pressure)	19	13%	30	21%	46	32%	40	28%	7	5%	2.90
Substance Use (alcohol, marijuana, vaping, other substances)	34	24%	25	18%	36	25%	34	24%	13	9%	2.77
Physical Safety (bullying, violence, distracted or impaired driving)	30	21%	38	27%	36	26%	31	22%	6	4%	2.61
Social Justice (whether people are treated fairly and equitably no matter their background, human rights, racism, etc.)	27	19%	44	31%	47	33%	17	12%	7	5%	2.53
Physical Health (nutrition, weight, sleep, physical activity)	33	23%	36	26%	42	30%	28	20%	2	1%	2.50
Limited Opportunities/Activities for Youth (extra-curricular activities, community sports, organized social activities)	58	41%	42	30%	23	16%	16	11%	3	2%	2.04

Interpretation (Scale Direction)

Mean scores are presented in descending order from the greatest perceived issue to the least perceived issue.

2024 Survey Summary

Ratings across the 10 items related to **AREAS OF CONCERN** mostly clustered in the "Moderate Issue" range of the scale (mean scores ranged from 2.04 to 3.85). Respondents were most concerned about *Technology* (mean = 3.85), *Emotional and Mental Health* (3.44), and *Youth Social Culture* (3.35) as issues facing Lynnfield youth in their child's age cohort. Respondents were least concerned about *Limited Opportunities/Activities for Youth* (2.04).

2024 Grade Level Statistical Comparisons

Parents/caregivers whose oldest child is in grades 5-8 were significantly more likely to believe that *Youth Social Culture* (mean = 3.60 middle school vs. 3.13 high school) and *Physical Safety* (MS: 2.85; HS: 2.39) are issues. Parents/caregivers whose oldest child is in grades 9-12 were significantly more likely to believe that *Substance Use* is an issue (MS: 2.40; HS: 3.09).

2024 Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons

There were no statistically significant differences in these ten items between parent/caregiver respondents whose oldest child identifies as female versus male.

Trends over time between the 2021 survey and 2024 survey are displayed in [Table 9](#). To facilitate comparisons, summary (mean) ratings for each item are displayed, with **green** font indicating areas with lower levels of concern over time, **orange** indicating little movement between the two data points, and **red** indicating increased levels of concern over time.

Table 9: Areas of Concern – Trend

KEY (Mean Scores): **Green** = Less Concern Over Time ($\geq -.10$), **Orange** = Little Movement, **Red** = More Concern Over Time ($\geq .10$)
* = statistically significant

Areas of Concern	Not An Issue ⁽¹⁾		Minor Issue ⁽²⁾		Moderate Issue ⁽³⁾		Major Issue ⁽⁴⁾		Severe Issue ⁽⁵⁾		TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	Mean ¹⁻⁵	Change
The following questions are about health and wellness in Lynnfield. How much of an issue do you feel each of the following factors are in affecting the health and wellness of Lynnfield youth in your oldest child's age group?												
Community Culture (adults modeling unhealthy behaviors, toxic culture)												
2021 Survey	55	20%	70	25%	88	31%	61	22%	8	3%	2.63	.28* (↑)
2024 Survey	14	10%	37	26%	52	37%	24	17%	14	10%	2.91	
Substance Use (alcohol, marijuana, vaping, other substances)												
2021 Survey	80	29%	65	23%	66	24%	45	16%	24	9%	2.53	.24 (↑)
2024 Survey	34	24%	25	18%	36	25%	34	24%	13	9%	2.77	
Emotional and Mental Health (worrying, stress, anxiety, depression)												
2021 Survey	29	10%	49	17%	74	26%	88	31%	42	15%	3.23	.21 (↑)
2024 Survey	7	5%	20	14%	38	27%	58	41%	19	13%	3.44	
Youth Social Culture (friendships, cliques, exclusion, teasing)												
2021 Survey	30	11%	48	17%	83	29%	97	34%	25	9%	3.14	.21 (↑)
2024 Survey	8	6%	22	15%	45	32%	46	32%	21	15%	3.35	
Technology (cell phones, social media, screen time)												
2021 Survey	13	5%	27	10%	67	24%	105	37%	69	25%	3.68	.17 (↑)
2024 Survey	3	2%	9	6%	34	24%	57	40%	39	27%	3.85	
Academics (grades, homework, tests, academic pressure)												
2021 Survey	50	18%	59	21%	98	35%	66	23%	9	3%	2.73	.17 (↑)
2024 Survey	19	13%	30	21%	46	32%	40	28%	7	5%	2.90	
Physical Safety (bullying, violence, distracted or impaired driving)												
2021 Survey	67	24%	77	27%	85	30%	34	12%	18	6%	2.50	.11 (↑)
2024 Survey	30	21%	38	27%	36	26%	31	22%	6	4%	2.61	
Physical Health (nutrition, weight, sleep, physical activity)												
2021 Survey	65	23%	77	27%	91	32%	38	14%	10	4%	2.47	.03 (=)
2024 Survey	33	23%	36	26%	42	30%	28	20%	2	1%	2.50	
Social Justice (whether people are treated fairly and equitably no matter their background, human rights, racism, etc.)												
2021 Survey	66	23%	52	19%	99	35%	53	19%	11	4%	2.61	-.08 (=)
2024 Survey	27	19%	44	31%	47	33%	17	12%	7	5%	2.53	
Limited Opportunities/Activities for Youth (extra-curricular activities, community sports, organized social activities)												
2021 Survey	113	40%	60	21%	62	22%	32	11%	13	5%	2.19	-.15 (↓)
2024 Survey	58	41%	42	30%	23	16%	16	11%	3	2%	2.04	

Interpretation (Scale Direction)

Mean scores are presented in order from the largest increase in concern to the largest decline in concern.

Trend Summary

Respondents in 2024 tended to express higher levels of concern than respondents in 2021 in seven of the ten areas measured. The items with the largest increase in level of concern were *Community Culture* (mean = 2.63 in 2021 vs. 2.91 in 2024) and *Substance Use* (2021: 2.53; 2024: 2.77). In contrast, respondents in 2024 expressed lower levels of concern than respondents in 2021 for *Limited Opportunities/Activities for Youth* (2021: 2.19; 2024: 2.04).

Trend Statistical Comparison

There was a statistically significant increase between the 2021 and 2024 survey in levels of concern related to *Community Culture*.

COMMUNICATION

Family Mealtime Discussions

Two items that were added to the Parent/Caregiver Survey for the first time in 2024 asked respondents about discussions with their child during family mealtimes. Ratings for the individual items in this section of the survey are displayed in **Table 10**. To facilitate comparisons, summary (mean) ratings for each item are displayed, with higher values indicating higher levels of agreement and lower values indicating lower levels of agreement.

Table 10: Family Mealtime Discussions (2023-2024 Academic Year)

Family Mealtime Discussions	Strongly Disagree ⁽¹⁾		Disagree ⁽²⁾		Neutral ⁽³⁾		Agree ⁽⁴⁾		Strongly Agree ⁽⁵⁾		TOTAL Mean ¹⁻⁵
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
The following questions are about communication with your child and other adults in the community. Please think about your oldest child in grades 5-12 when answering these questions.											
Family mealtime is an important opportunity for communication with my child	1	1%	0	0%	19	14%	46	33%	74	53%	4.37
I use family mealtime to connect with my child about their day and about important things in their life	2	1%	6	4%	13	9%	56	40%	63	45%	4.23
Interpretation (Scale Direction)											
Mean scores are presented in descending order from the highest to the lowest level of agreement.											
2024 Survey Summary											
Most respondents (86%) either “Agree” or “Strongly Agree” that <i>family mealtime is an important opportunity for communication with my child</i> (mean = 4.37). Similarly, most respondents (85%) either “Agree” or “Strongly Agree” that they <i>use family mealtime to connect with my child about their day and about important things in their life</i> (4.23).											
2024 Grade Level Statistical Comparisons											
There were no statistically significant differences in these two items based on the grade level of the respondents’ oldest child in grades 5-12.											
2024 Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons											
There were no statistically significant differences in these two items between parent/caregiver respondents whose oldest child identifies as female versus male.											

Discussion Times and Locations

Parents/caregivers were presented with a list of times and locations during which they might communicate with their child about important things in their child's life and were asked to indicate when they were *most* likely to communicate with their child. Results in [Table 11](#) are presented for all respondents along with breakdowns based on the grade level and gender identity of their oldest child.

Table 11: Discussion Times and Locations (2023-2024 Academic Year)

Discussion Times and Locations	TOTAL		GRADE				GENDER			
	All Respondents		Grades 5-8		Grades 9-12		Female		Male	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
When are you most likely to communicate with your child about important things in their life?										
During car rides	71	51%	33	50%	38	51%	40	51%	29	48%
During mealtime	28	20%	13	20%	16	20%	13	17%	15	25%
After dinner	25	18%	9	14%	16	22%	15	19%	10	17%
On the weekend	3	2%	1	2%	2	3%	1	1%	2	3%
During family vacations	1	1%	1	2%	0	0%	1	1%	0	0%
In the morning	1	1%	0	0%	1	1%	1	1%	0	0%
Some other time or place	11	8%	9	14%	2	3%	7	9%	4	7%

Interpretation (Frequencies)

The percentage columns represent the proportion of respondents who selected each time/location.

2024 Survey Summary

Respondents indicated that they were most likely to communicate with their child about important things in their child's life *during car rides* (51%), *during mealtimes* (20%), and *after dinner* (18%).

2024 Grade Level Statistical Comparisons

There was no statistically significant difference in this item based on the grade level of the respondents' oldest child in grades 5-12.

2024 Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons

There was no statistically significant difference in this item between parent/caregiver respondents whose oldest child identifies as female versus male.

Other Times and Locations

Parents/caregivers who indicated *some other time or place* were given the opportunity to provide a comment. Additional times and locations provided by the 11 respondents who selected *some other time or place* were:

- Bedtime (5 respondents)
- Right after school (3 respondents)
- No specific time or place (3 respondents)

Discussions About Substance Use

Parents/caregivers were asked to indicate whether they had talked with their child or talked with the parents/caregivers of their child's closest friends about substance use issues. This section of the survey used a No or Yes scale. Results in [Table 12](#) are presented for all respondents along with breakdowns of the proportion of respondents who replied in the affirmative based on the grade level and gender identity of their oldest child.

Table 12: Discussions About Substance Use (2023-2024 Academic Year)

Discussions About Substance Use	TOTAL				GRADE [Yes]				GENDER [Yes]			
	No		Yes		Grades 5-8		Grades 9-12		Female		Male	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
The following questions are about communication with your child and other adults in the community. Please think about your oldest child in grades 5-12 when answering these questions.												
Have you <u>ever</u> communicated your family's guidelines and expectations around youth alcohol and drug use to your child?	13	9%	127	91%	53	80%	74	100%	72	92%	54	90%
Since the beginning of the school year, have you talked with your child about the potential negative consequences associated with using an electronic vapor product (vaping)?	27	19%	113	81%	50	76%	63	85%	67	86%	46	77%
Since the beginning of the school year, have you talked with your child about the potential negative consequences associated with marijuana use or use of other drugs?	29	21%	110	79%	46	70%	64	88%	62	81%	47	78%
Since the beginning of the school year, have you talked with your child about the potential negative consequences associated with underage alcohol use?	31	22%	109	78%	39	59%	70	95%	63	81%	46	77%
Have you <u>ever</u> talked with the parents/caregivers of your child's closest friends to share and compare parental philosophies and standards regarding alcohol and drugs?	50	36%	90	64%	35	53%	55	74%	51	65%	38	63%

Interpretation (Frequencies)

The percentage columns represent the proportion of respondents who engaged in each communication behavior.

2024 Survey Summary

Almost all respondents (91%) indicated they ever communicated their family's guidelines and expectations around youth alcohol and drug use to their child. Over half (64%) of all respondents indicated that they had ever talked with the parents/caregivers of their child's closest friends to share and compare parental philosophies and standards regarding alcohol and drugs. Parents were most likely to have spoken to their child since the beginning of the school year about the negative consequences of *using an electronic vapor product* (81%), followed by *marijuana use or use of other drugs* (79%), and *underage alcohol use* (78%).

2024 Grade Level Statistical Comparisons

Parents/caregivers whose oldest child is in grades 9-12 were significantly more likely to report having engaged in all these communication behaviors. The biggest difference was for *talking with their child since the beginning of the school year about the potential negative consequences associated with underage alcohol use* (middle school: 59% vs. high school: 95%). The only exception was for *talking with their child about the potential negative consequences associated with using an electronic vapor product*, which did not differ significantly by their oldest child's grade level.

2024 Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons

There were no significant differences in any of the communication behaviors based on the gender identity of the respondents' oldest child.

Trends over time between the 2021 survey and 2024 survey are displayed in **Table 13**. To facilitate comparisons, ratings for each item are displayed, with **green** font indicating areas with increased occurrence of discussion over time, **orange** indicating little movement between the two data points, and **red** indicating lower occurrence of discussion over time.

Table 13: Discussions About Substance Use – Trend

KEY (Mean Scores): **Green** = Increased Discussions (≥ +10%), **Orange** = Little Movement, **Red** = Decreased Discussions (≥ -10%)
 * = statistically significant

Discussions About Substance Use	TOTAL				GRADE [Yes]				GENDER [Yes]			
	No		Yes		Grades 5-8		Grades 9-12		Female		Male	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
The following questions are about communication with your child and other adults in the community. Please think about your oldest child in grades 5-12 when answering these questions.												
Have you <u>ever</u> talked with the parents/caregivers of your child’s closest friends to share and compare parental philosophies and standards regarding alcohol and drugs?												
2021 Survey	123	47%	140	53%	63	46%	77	62%	70	56%	68	51%
2024 Survey	50	36%	90	64%*	35	53%	55	74%	51	65%	38	63%
Since the beginning of the school year, have you talked with your child about the potential negative consequences associated with using an electronic vapor product (vaping)?												
2021 Survey	59	22%	205	78%	100	72%	105	84%	103	81%	99	74%
2024 Survey	27	19%	113	81%	50	76%	63	85%	67	86%	46	77%
Have you <u>ever</u> communicated your family’s guidelines and expectations around youth alcohol and drug use to your child?												
2021 Survey	17	6%	247	94%	127	91%	120	96%	118	93%	125	94%
2024 Survey	13	9%	127	91%	53	80%	74	100%	72	92%	54	90%
Since the beginning of the school year, have you talked with your child about the potential negative consequences associated with underage alcohol use?												
2021 Survey	43	16%	219	84%	100	73%	119	96%	108	85%	107	82%
2024 Survey	31	22%	109	78%	39	59%	70	95%	63	81%	46	77%
Since the beginning of the school year, have you talked with your child about the potential negative consequences associated with marijuana use or use of other drugs?												
2021 Survey	38	14%	224	86%	110	79%	114	93%	112	89%	109	83%
2024 Survey	29	21%	110	79%	46	70%	64	88%	62	81%	47	78%

Interpretation (Frequencies)

Percentages are presented in order from the largest increase in discussions to the largest decline in discussions.

Trend Summary

Respondents in 2024 reported similar levels of discussion about substance use as respondents in 2021 across the five areas measured. The one exception was for the proportion of respondents reporting that they ever talked with the parents of their child’s closest friends to share and compare parental philosophies and standard regarding alcohol and drugs – which increased from 53% in 2021 to 64% in 2024.

Trend Statistical Comparison

There was a statistically significant increase between the 2021 and 2024 survey in respondents who reported they ever talked with parents of their child’s closest friends to share/compare parental philosophies and standards regarding alcohol and drugs.

Discussions About Health and Wellness

Parents/caregivers were asked to rate their agreement with five questions related to their beliefs about talking with their child and with other parents/caregivers about youth substance use and mental health issues. Ratings for the individual items in this section of the survey are displayed in [Table 14](#). To facilitate comparisons, summary (mean) ratings for each item are displayed, with values indicating higher and lower levels of agreement.

Table 14: Discussions About Health and Wellness (2023-2024 Academic Year)

Discussions About Health and Wellness	Strongly Disagree ⁽¹⁾		Disagree ⁽²⁾		Neutral ⁽³⁾		Agree ⁽⁴⁾		Strongly Agree ⁽⁵⁾		TOTAL Mean ¹⁻⁵
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
The following questions are about communication with your child and other adults in the community. Please think about your oldest child in grades 5-12 when answering these questions. How much do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements?											
I believe that I can have an influence on whether my child chooses to use alcohol or other drugs	2	1%	3	2%	11	8%	54	40%	66	49%	4.32
I believe that I have the knowledge and tools needed to have an effective discussion with my child about youth substance use	1	1%	3	2%	10	7%	73	54%	49	36%	4.22
I believe that I have the knowledge and tools needed to have an effective discussion with my child about youth mental health	1	1%	13	10%	25	18%	56	41%	41	30%	3.90
I feel that I could have an open and non-judgmental discussion with other Lynnfield parents/caregivers about youth mental health	3	2%	14	10%	26	19%	68	50%	25	18%	3.72
I feel that I could have an open and non-judgmental discussion with other Lynnfield parents/caregivers about youth alcohol and drug use	1	1%	24	18%	26	19%	65	48%	20	15%	3.58

Interpretation (Scale Direction)

Mean scores are presented in descending order from the highest to the lowest level of agreement.

2024 Survey Summary

Ratings across the five items related to **DISCUSSIONS ABOUT HEALTH AND WELLNESS** were consistently in the “Neutral” to “Agree” range of the scale (mean scores ranged between 3.58 and 4.32). Respondents were most likely to *believe they can have an influence on whether their child chooses to use alcohol or other drugs* (mean = 4.32) and were least likely to *believe they could have an open and non-judgmental discussion with other Lynnfield parents about youth mental health* (3.72) or *youth alcohol and drug use* (3.58).

2024 Grade Level Statistical Comparisons

There were no statistically significant differences in these five items based on the grade level of the respondents’ oldest child in grades 5-12.

2024 Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons

There were no statistically significant differences in these five items between parent/caregiver respondents whose oldest child identifies as female versus male.

Trends over time between the 2021 survey and 2024 survey are displayed in **Table 15**. To facilitate comparisons over time, summary (mean) differences for each item are displayed, with **green** font indicating increased levels of agreement, **orange** indicating little movement between the two data points, and **red** indicating decreased levels of agreement.

Table 15: Discussions About Health and Wellness – Trend

KEY (Mean Scores): **Green** = Increased Level of Agreement (≥ .10), **Orange** = Little Movement, **Red** = Decreased Level of Agreement (≥ -.10)
* = statistically significant

Discussions About Health and Wellness	Strongly Disagree ⁽¹⁾		Disagree ⁽²⁾		Neutral ⁽³⁾		Agree ⁽⁴⁾		Strongly Agree ⁽⁵⁾		TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	Mean ¹⁻⁵	Change
The following questions are about communication with your child and other adults in the community. Please think about your oldest child in grades 5-12 when answering these questions. How much do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements?												
I believe that I have the knowledge and tools needed to have an effective discussion with my child about youth substance use												
2021 Survey	1	1%	13	5%	29	11%	142	54%	78	30%	4.08	.14 (↑)
2024 Survey	1	1%	3	2%	10	7%	73	54%	49	36%	4.22	
I feel I could have an open and non-judgmental discussion with other Lynnfield parents about youth mental health												
2021 Survey	12	5%	29	11%	61	23%	113	43%	48	18%	3.59	.13 (↑)
2024 Survey	3	2%	14	10%	26	19%	68	50%	25	18%	3.72	
I believe that I can have an influence on whether my child chooses to use alcohol or other drugs												
2021 Survey	1	1%	6	2%	15	6%	145	55%	97	37%	4.25	.07 (=)
2024 Survey	2	1%	3	2%	11	8%	54	40%	66	49%	4.32	
I believe that I have the knowledge and tools needed to have an effective discussion with my child about youth mental health												
2021 Survey	2	1%	25	9%	48	18%	128	48%	61	23%	3.84	.06 (=)
2024 Survey	1	1%	13	10%	25	18%	56	41%	41	30%	3.90	
I feel I could have an open and non-judgmental discussion with other Lynnfield parents about youth alcohol and drug use												
2021 Survey	8	3%	38	14%	58	22%	113	43%	46	17%	3.57	.01 (=)
2024 Survey	1	1%	24	18%	26	19%	65	48%	20	15%	3.58	

Interpretation (Scale Direction)

Mean scores are presented in order from the largest increase in agreement to the largest decline in agreement.

Trend Summary

Ratings across the five items related to **DISCUSSIONS ABOUT HEALTH AND WELLNESS** were mostly stable between the 2021 and 2024 survey with two exceptions. There was an increase in respondents indicating that they *believe they have the knowledge and tools needed to have an effective discussion with their child about youth substance use* (mean = 4.08 in 2021 vs. 4.22 in 2024) and an increase in those who *feel they could have an open and non-judgmental discussion with other Lynnfield parents about youth mental health* (2021: 3.59; 2024: 3.72).

Trend Statistical Comparison

There were no statistically significant differences in the five items between the 2021 survey and the 2024 survey.

Safety Strategies

Parents/caregivers were presented with a list of 11 safety strategies related to situations when their child might be faced with alcohol or other drug use and were asked to indicate whether they had discussed each strategy with their child. Results in Table 16 are presented for all respondents along with breakdowns based on the grade level and gender identity of their oldest child.

Table 16: Safety Strategies (2023-2024 Academic Year)

Safety Strategies	TOTAL				GRADE [Yes]				GENDER [Yes]			
	No		Yes		Grades 5-8		Grades 9-12		Female		Male	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Which of the following safety strategies, if any, have you ever discussed with your child related to situations when they might be faced with alcohol or other drug use?												
Call home or send a text message if they feel unsafe	13	10%	122	90%	53	85%	69	95%	70	93%	51	86%
Not feeling afraid to call home for help because they are frightened about being punished	21	16%	114	84%	48	77%	66	90%	62	83%	51	86%
Never riding in a vehicle driven by someone who has been drinking alcohol or using drugs	31	23%	104	77%	37	60%	67	92%	59	79%	44	75%
Refusal strategies – ways to say no if someone offers them alcohol or other drugs	44	33%	91	67%	36	58%	55	75%	49	65%	41	69%
Never driving a vehicle if they have been drinking alcohol or using drugs	47	35%	88	65%	31	50%	57	78%	52	69%	36	61%
Not feeling afraid to call the police or emergency medical services (911) if there is a medical emergency (e.g., alcohol poisoning, someone gets hurt)	57	42%	78	58%	36	58%	42	58%	45	60%	33	56%
Never using alcohol or other drugs while they are a minor (abstinence)	59	44%	76	56%	34	55%	42	58%	41	55%	35	59%
Call a sibling, extended family member, friend's parent, or other trusted adult if they don't want to call home	65	48%	70	52%	29	47%	41	56%	39	52%	31	53%
Call a taxi or ride service like Uber or Lyft if they have been drinking alcohol or using drugs	93	69%	42	31%	10	16%	32	44%	26	35%	16	27%
Only using responsibly or in moderation if they do choose to use alcohol or other drugs	105	78%	30	22%	6	10%	24	33%	17	23%	13	22%
Always having a close friend present if they choose to use alcohol or other drugs	111	82%	24	18%	7	11%	17	23%	17	23%	7	12%

Interpretation (Frequencies)

The percentage columns represent the proportion of respondents who had discussed each safety strategy with their child related to situations when they might be faced with alcohol or other drug use.

2024 Survey Summary

Almost all respondents (96%) indicated they had discussed at least one safety strategy with their child. Respondents were most likely to have discussed *calling home or sending a text message if they feel unsafe* (90%) and *not feeling afraid to call home for help* (84%). Respondents were least likely to report discussing *using only in moderation* (22%) or *having a close friend present if they choose to use alcohol or other drugs* (18%).

2024 Grade Level Statistical Comparisons

Parents/caregivers whose oldest child is in grades 9-12 were significantly more likely to report having discussed *any safety strategies* with their child (middle school: 90% vs. high school: 100%), *never riding in a vehicle driven by someone who has been drinking alcohol or using drugs* (MS: 60%; HS: 92%), *refusal strategies* (MS: 58%; HS: 75%), *never driving under the influence* (MS: 50%; HS: 78%), *calling a taxi or ride service if they have been using substances* (MS: 16%; HS: 44%), and *only using responsibly or in moderation if they choose to use* (MS: 10%; HS: 33%).

2024 Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons

There were no statistically significant differences in reports of discussing safety strategies between respondents whose oldest child identifies as female versus male.

Trends over time between the 2021 survey and 2024 survey are displayed in **Table 17**. To facilitate comparisons, ratings for each item are displayed, with **green** font indicating areas with increased occurrence of discussion over time, **orange** indicating little movement between the two data points, and **red** indicating lower occurrence of discussion over time.

Table 17: Safety Strategies – Trend

KEY (Mean Scores): **Green** = Increased Discussions (≥ +10%), **Orange** = Little Movement, **Red** = Decreased Discussions (≥ -10%)
 * = statistically significant

Safety Strategies	TOTAL				GRADE [Yes]				GENDER [Yes]			
	No		Yes		Grades 5-8		Grades 9-12		Female		Male	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Which of the following safety strategies, if any, have you ever discussed with your child related to situations when they might be faced with alcohol or other drug use?												
Call home or send a text message if they feel unsafe												
2021 Survey	48	18%	218	82%	105	75%	113	90%	114	89%	100	75%
2024 Survey	13	10%	122	90%*	53	85%	69	95%	70	93%	51	86%
Call a taxi or ride service like Uber or Lyft if they have been drinking alcohol or using drugs												
2021 Survey	196	74%	70	26%	20	14%	50	40%	34	27%	36	27%
2024 Survey	93	69%	42	31%	10	16%	32	44%	26	35%	16	27%
Not feeling afraid to call home for help because they are frightened about being punished												
2021 Survey	51	19%	215	81%	102	73%	113	90%	111	87%	100	75%
2024 Survey	21	16%	114	84%	48	77%	66	90%	62	83%	51	86%
Only using responsibly or in moderation if they do choose to use alcohol or other drugs												
2021 Survey	219	82%	47	18%	9	6%	38	30%	24	19%	23	17%
2024 Survey	105	78%	30	22%	6	10%	24	33%	17	23%	13	22%
Always having a close friend present if they choose to use alcohol or other drugs												
2021 Survey	230	87%	36	14%	7	5%	29	23%	25	20%	11	8%
2024 Survey	111	82%	24	18%	7	11%	17	23%	17	23%	7	12%
Not feeling afraid to call the police or emergency medical services (911) if there is a medical emergency												
2021 Survey	123	46%	143	54%	67	48%	76	60%	74	58%	66	49%
2024 Survey	57	42%	78	58%	36	58%	42	58%	45	60%	33	56%
Never riding in a vehicle driven by someone who has been drinking alcohol or using drugs												
2021 Survey	69	26%	197	74%	79	56%	118	94%	102	80%	93	69%
2024 Survey	31	23%	104	77%	37	60%	67	92%	59	79%	44	75%
Never driving a vehicle if they have been drinking alcohol or using drugs												
2021 Survey	97	37%	169	64%	57	41%	112	89%	91	71%	77	58%
2024 Survey	47	35%	88	65%	31	50%	57	78%	52	69%	36	61%
Refusal strategies – ways to say no if someone offers them alcohol or other drugs												
2021 Survey	81	31%	185	70%	92	66%	93	74%	96	75%	85	63%
2024 Survey	44	33%	91	67%	36	58%	55	75%	49	65%	41	69%
Never using alcohol or other drugs while they are a minor (abstinence)												
2021 Survey	101	38%	165	62%	93	66%	72	57%	88	69%	73	55%
2024 Survey	59	44%	76	56%	34	55%	42	58%	41	55%	35	59%

Interpretation (Frequencies)

Percentages are presented in order from the largest increase in discussions to the largest decline in discussions.

Trend Summary

There was little change between 2021 and 2024. Respondents in 2024 were more likely to report that they discussed *calling home or sending a text message if they feel unsafe* (2021: 82% vs. 2024: 90%).

Trend Statistical Comparison

There was a statistically significant increase between the 2021 and 2024 survey in respondents who reported they discussed *calling home or sending a text message if they feel unsafe*.

ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS

Acceptability of Youth Substance Use

Parents/caregivers were asked to rate their agreement with seven statements about their attitudes and beliefs about youth substance use. Ratings for the individual items in this section of the survey are displayed in [Table 18](#).

Table 18: Acceptability of Youth Substance Use (2023-2024 Academic Year)

Acceptability of Youth Substance Use Protective Factors	Strongly Disagree ⁽¹⁾		Disagree ⁽²⁾		Neutral ⁽³⁾		Agree ⁽⁴⁾		Strongly Agree ⁽⁵⁾		TOTAL Mean ¹⁻⁵
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
The following questions are about your attitudes and beliefs about youth substance use. Think about your oldest child in grades 5-12 when answering these questions. How much do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements?											
I am comfortable calling other parents/caregivers if my child is going to their home to make sure they are aware	1	1%	4	3%	26	19%	63	47%	40	30%	4.02
I would like other parents/caregivers to call me if their child says they are coming to my home to make sure I am aware	5	4%	9	7%	32	24%	49	37%	39	29%	3.81
Acceptability of Youth Substance Use Risk Factors	Strongly Disagree ⁽¹⁾		Disagree ⁽²⁾		Neutral ⁽³⁾		Agree ⁽⁴⁾		Strongly Agree ⁽⁵⁾		TOTAL Mean ¹⁻⁵
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
I think it is OK to allow youth alcohol use at home if it is responsible and not excessive	58	43%	40	30%	23	17%	11	8%	2	1%	1.95
Occasional youth alcohol use without adult supervision is OK if there is no driving involved	65	49%	43	32%	18	13%	7	5%	1	1%	1.78
I think it is OK to allow adult-supervised youth alcohol use at another parent/caregiver's home if it is responsible and not excessive	79	59%	36	27%	11	8%	7	5%	1	1%	1.62
Occasional youth marijuana use without adult supervision is OK if there is no driving involved	93	70%	33	25%	6	5%	1	1%	0	0%	1.36
I think it is OK to allow youth marijuana use at home if it is responsible and not excessive	96	72%	34	25%	4	3%	0	0%	0	0%	1.31

Interpretation (Scale Direction)

Mean scores are presented in descending order from the highest to the lowest level of agreement within each section of the table (i.e., protective factors and risk factors sub-headings).

2024 Survey Summary

On the protective factor side, respondents were most likely to report that they are comfortable *calling other parents/caregivers* (mean = 4.02) and least likely to indicate that they would like *other parents/caregivers to call them* (3.81). On the risk factor side, respondents were most likely to think it is *OK to allow youth alcohol use at home* (1.95) and least likely to think it is *OK to allow youth marijuana use at home* (1.31).

2024 Grade Level Statistical Comparisons

Parents/caregivers whose oldest child is in grades 5-8 were significantly more likely to indicate that they would *like other parents/caregivers to call them* (middle School: 4.05, high School: 3.60) and that they are comfortable *calling other parents/caregivers* (MS: 4.26, HS: 3.82) to verify awareness of youth presence at another's home. Respondents whose oldest child is in grades 9-12 were significantly more likely to believe that *occasional youth alcohol use without adult supervision is OK if there is no driving involved* (MS: 1.58, HS: 1.94).

2024 Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons

There were no statistically significant differences in these seven items between respondents whose oldest child identifies as female versus male.

Trends over time between the 2021 survey and 2024 survey are displayed in **Table 19**. To facilitate comparisons over time, summary (mean) differences for each item are displayed, with **green** font indicating increased levels of protection, **orange** indicating little movement between the two data points, and **red** indicating decreased levels of protection.

Table 19: Acceptability of Youth Substance Use – Trend

KEY (Mean Scores): **Green** = Increased Level of Protection ($\geq \pm .10$), **Orange** = Little Movement, **Red** = Decreased Level of Protection ($\geq \pm .10$)
* = statistically significant

Acceptability of Youth Substance Use Protective Factors	Strongly Disagree ⁽¹⁾		Disagree ⁽²⁾		Neutral ⁽³⁾		Agree ⁽⁴⁾		Strongly Agree ⁽⁵⁾		TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	Mean ¹⁻⁵	Change
The following questions are about your attitudes and beliefs about youth substance use. Think about your oldest child in grades 5-12 when answering these questions. How much do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements?												
I am comfortable calling other parents/caregivers if my child is going to their home to make sure they are aware												
2021 Survey	9	4%	10	4%	47	19%	107	42%	79	31%	3.94	.08 (=)
2024 Survey	1	1%	4	3%	26	19%	63	47%	40	30%	4.02	
I would like other parents/caregivers to call me if their child says they are coming to my home to make sure I am aware												
2021 Survey	10	4%	15	6%	54	21%	89	35%	84	33%	3.88	-.07 (=)
2024 Survey	5	4%	9	7%	32	24%	49	37%	39	29%	3.81	
Acceptability of Youth Substance Use Risk Factors	Strongly Disagree ⁽¹⁾		Disagree ⁽²⁾		Neutral ⁽³⁾		Agree ⁽⁴⁾		Strongly Agree ⁽⁵⁾		TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	Mean ¹⁻⁵	
Occasional youth alcohol use without adult supervision is OK if there is no driving involved												
2021 Survey	165	66%	58	23%	13	5%	14	6%	0	0%	1.50	.28* (↑)
2024 Survey	65	49%	43	32%	18	13%	7	5%	1	1%	1.78	
I think it is OK to allow youth alcohol use at home if it is responsible and not excessive												
2021 Survey	135	54%	73	29%	28	11%	14	6%	2	1%	1.71	.24* (↑)
2024 Survey	58	43%	40	30%	23	17%	11	8%	2	1%	1.95	
I think it is OK to allow adult-supervised youth alcohol use at another parent/caregiver’s home if it is responsible and not excessive												
2021 Survey	168	67%	54	21%	23	9%	7	3%	0	0%	1.48	.14 (↑)
2024 Survey	79	59%	36	27%	11	8%	7	5%	1	1%	1.62	
Occasional youth marijuana use without adult supervision is OK if there is no driving involved												
2021 Survey	197	78%	41	16%	8	3%	4	2%	1	1%	1.29	.07 (=)
2024 Survey	93	70%	33	25%	6	5%	1	1%	0	0%	1.36	
I think it is OK to allow youth marijuana use at home if it is responsible and not excessive												
2021 Survey	191	76%	49	20%	9	4%	2	1%	0	0%	1.29	.02 (=)
2024 Survey	96	72%	34	25%	4	3%	0	0%	0	0%	1.31	

Interpretation (Scale Direction)

Mean scores are presented in order from the largest increase in agreement to the largest decline in agreement within each section of the table (i.e., protective factors and risk factors sub-headings).

Trend Summary

Ratings across the seven items related to **ACCEPTABILITY OF YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE** were mixed between the 2021 and 2024 survey – four of the items had little movement while three suggest increased levels of risk. Specifically, respondents in 2024 were more likely than respondents in 2021 to believe: *occasional youth alcohol use without adult supervision is OK if there is no driving involved* (mean = 1.50 in 2021 vs. 1.78 in 2024), *it is OK to allow youth alcohol use at home if it is responsible and not excessive* (2021: 1.71; 2024: 1.95), and *it is OK to allow adult-supervised youth alcohol use at another parent/caregiver’s home if it is responsible and not excessive* (2021: 1.48; 2024: 1.62).

Trend Statistical Comparison

There was a statistically significant increase between the 2021 and 2024 survey in levels of risk related to acceptability of youth alcohol use. Respondents in 2024 were significantly more likely to believe *occasional youth alcohol use without adult supervision is OK if there is no driving involved* and that *it is OK to allow youth alcohol use at home if it is responsible and not excessive*.

Feelings About Youth Substance Use

Parents/caregivers were asked to indicate how wrong they feel it would be for a student their child's age to use seven different types of substances. Ratings for the individual items in this section of the survey are displayed in [Table 20](#).

Table 20: Feelings About Youth Substance Use (2023-2024 Academic Year)

Feelings About Youth Substance Use	Not At All Wrong ⁽¹⁾		A Little Bit Wrong ⁽²⁾		Wrong ⁽³⁾		Very Wrong ⁽⁴⁾		TOTAL Mean ¹⁻⁴
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Use other illegal drugs (such as cocaine, heroin, ecstasy)	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%	131	99%	3.99
Use prescription drugs not prescribed to them	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%	130	99%	3.99
Have one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day	0	0%	0	0%	2	2%	129	98%	3.98
Use an electronic vapor product (vaping, Juul)	0	0%	1	1%	10	8%	121	92%	3.91
Smoke tobacco	0	0%	1	1%	17	13%	114	86%	3.86
Use marijuana	0	0%	4	3%	12	9%	116	88%	3.85
Drink alcohol occasionally	2	2%	15	11%	24	18%	90	69%	3.54

Interpretation (Scale Direction)

Mean scores are presented in descending order from the highest to the lowest level of disapproval.

2024 Survey Summary

Ratings across the seven items related to **FEELINGS ABOUT YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE** were consistently in the “Very Wrong” range of the scale. Mean scores ranged between 3.54 and 3.99 across the items. Respondents expressed the strongest negative opinions for youth use of *other illegal drugs such as cocaine, heroin, or ecstasy* (3.99) and *prescription drugs not prescribed to the person taking them* (mean = 3.99). Parents/caregivers expressed slightly more moderate opinions related to youth *drinking alcohol occasionally* (3.54).

2024 Grade Level Statistical Comparisons

Parents/caregivers whose oldest child is in grades 5-8 were significantly more likely to feel that *smoking tobacco* (middle school: 3.94, high school: 3.79), *drinking alcohol occasionally* (MS: 3.93, HS: 3.20), *using marijuana* (MS: 3.95, HS: 3.76), and *using an electronic vapor product* (MS: 3.98, HS: 3.84) was wrong for students their child's age.

2024 Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons

There were no statistically significant differences in any of these items based on how the respondents' oldest child identifies their gender.

Trends over time between the 2021 survey and 2024 survey are displayed in **Table 21**. To facilitate comparisons over time, summary (mean) differences for each item are displayed, with **green** font indicating increased levels of disapproval, **orange** indicating little movement between the two data points, and **red** indicating decreased levels of disapproval.

Table 21: Feelings About Youth Substance Use - Trend

KEY (Mean Scores): **Green** = Increased Level of Disapproval (≥ +10%), **Orange** = Little Movement, **Red** = Decreased Level of Disapproval (≥ -10%)
* = statistically significant

Feelings About Youth Substance Use	Not At All Wrong ⁽¹⁾		A Little Bit Wrong ⁽²⁾		Wrong ⁽³⁾		Very Wrong ⁽⁴⁾		TOTAL Mean ¹⁻⁴	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%		
The following questions are about your attitudes and beliefs about youth substance use. Please think about your oldest child in grades 5-12 when answering these questions. How wrong do you think it would be for a student your child's age to...										
Smoke tobacco										
2021 Survey	0	0%	8	3%	35	14%	209	83%	3.80	.06 (=)
2024 Survey	0	0%	1	1%	17	13%	114	86%	3.86	
Use marijuana										
2021 Survey	1	0.4%	7	3%	33	13%	211	84%	3.80	.05 (=)
2024 Survey	0	0%	4	3%	12	9%	116	88%	3.85	
Have one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day										
2021 Survey	1	0.4%	1	0.4%	11	4%	238	95%	3.94	.04 (=)
2024 Survey	0	0%	0	0%	2	2%	129	98%	3.98	
Use other illegal drugs (such as cocaine, heroin, ecstasy)										
2021 Survey	0	0%	1	0.4%	7	3%	243	97%	3.96	.03 (=)
2024 Survey	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%	131	99%	3.99	
Use an electronic vapor product (vaping, Juul)										
2021 Survey	0	0%	3	1%	23	9%	225	90%	3.88	.03 (=)
2024 Survey	0	0%	1	1%	10	8%	121	92%	3.91	
Use prescription drugs not prescribed to them										
2021 Survey	0	0%	0	0%	7	3%	243	97%	3.97	.02 (=)
2024 Survey	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%	130	99%	3.99	
Drink alcohol occasionally										
2021 Survey	3	1%	28	11%	47	19%	173	69%	3.55	-.01 (=)
2024 Survey	2	2%	15	11%	24	18%	90	69%	3.54	

Interpretation (Scale Direction)
Mean scores are presented in order from the largest increase in disapproval to the largest decline in disapproval.

Trend Summary
Ratings across the seven items related to **FEELINGS ABOUT YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE** were highly consistent between the 2021 and 2024 survey.

Trend Statistical Comparison
There were no statistically significant differences between the 2021 and 2024 survey in any of these items.

Community Culture

Parents/caregivers were asked to rate their agreement with six questions about their attitudes and beliefs about community culture related to substance use. Ratings for the individual items in this section of the survey are displayed in [Table 22](#).

Table 22: Community Culture (2023-2024 Academic Year)

Community Culture Protective Factors	Strongly Disagree ⁽¹⁾		Disagree ⁽²⁾		Neutral ⁽³⁾		Agree ⁽⁴⁾		Strongly Agree ⁽⁵⁾		TOTAL Mean ¹⁻⁵
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
The following questions are about your attitudes and beliefs about youth substance use. Please think about your oldest child in grades 5-12 when answering these questions. How much do you disagree or agree with each of the following?											
Other adults in Lynnfield are supportive when an adult abstains from using alcohol at adult social gatherings	2	2%	10	8%	45	34%	64	49%	11	8%	3.55
Community Culture Risk Factors	Strongly Disagree ⁽¹⁾	Disagree ⁽²⁾	Neutral ⁽³⁾	Agree ⁽⁴⁾	Strongly Agree ⁽⁵⁾	TOTAL Mean ¹⁻⁵					
N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Too many parents/caregivers in Lynnfield ignore or disregard underage alcohol use	1	1%	5	4%	53	40%	42	32%	31	23%	3.73
Too many parents/caregivers in Lynnfield set a bad example for their children by their own excessive use of substances	1	1%	13	10%	51	39%	39	30%	28	21%	3.61
Too many parents/caregivers in Lynnfield ignore or disregard youth marijuana use	5	4%	9	7%	64	48%	31	23%	23	17%	3.44
Adult alcohol consumption at school-sponsored sporting events (e.g., tailgating, alcohol in thermoses) is an issue in Lynnfield	9	7%	29	22%	54	41%	27	20%	13	10%	3.05
I think adults in Lynnfield feel pressure to consume alcohol for social reasons at gatherings in Lynnfield	8	6%	42	32%	51	39%	24	18%	7	5%	2.85

Interpretation (Scale Direction)

Mean scores are presented in descending order from the highest to the lowest level of agreement within each section of the table (i.e., protective factors and risk factors sub-headings).

2024 Survey Summary

Ratings across the six items related to **COMMUNITY CULTURE** were consistently in the “Neutral” range of the scale. At the two extremes, parents/caregivers tended to agree that *other adults are supportive when an adult abstains from using alcohol at adult social gatherings* (mean = 3.55) and disagreed that *adults feel pressure to consume alcohol for social reasons at gatherings* (2.85). At the other end, parents/caregivers tended to agree that *too many parents/caregivers ignore or disregard underage alcohol use* (3.73).

2024 Grade Level Statistical Comparisons

Parents/caregivers whose oldest child is in grades 9-12 were significantly more likely to believe that *too many parents/caregivers in Lynnfield ignore or disregard underage alcohol use* (mean = 3.53 middle school vs. 3.91 high school) and to believe that *too many parents/caregivers in Lynnfield set a bad example for their children by their own excessive use of substances* (MS: 3.35, HS: 3.83).

2024 Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons

There were no statistically significant differences in any of these items based on how the respondents’ oldest child identifies their gender.

Trends over time between the 2021 survey and 2024 survey are displayed in **Table 23**. To facilitate comparisons over time, summary (mean) differences for each item are displayed, with **green** font indicating increased levels of protection, **orange** indicating little movement between the two data points, and **red** indicating decreased levels of protection.

Table 23: Community Culture – Trend

KEY (Mean Scores): **Green** = Increased Level of Protection ($\geq \pm .10$), **Orange** = Little Movement, **Red** = Decreased Level of Protection ($\geq \pm .10$)
* = statistically significant

Community Culture Protective Factors	Strongly Disagree ⁽¹⁾		Disagree ⁽²⁾		Neutral ⁽³⁾		Agree ⁽⁴⁾		Strongly Agree ⁽⁵⁾		TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	Mean ¹⁻⁵	Change
The following questions are about your attitudes and beliefs about youth substance use. Please think about your oldest child in grades 5-12 when answering these questions. How much do you disagree or agree with each of the following?												
Other adults in Lynnfield are supportive when an adult abstains from using alcohol at adult social gatherings												
2021 Survey	7	3%	11	4%	121	48%	87	35%	26	10%	3.45	.10 (↑)
2024 Survey	2	2%	10	8%	45	34%	64	49%	11	8%	3.55	
Community Culture Risk Factors	Strongly Disagree ⁽¹⁾		Disagree ⁽²⁾		Neutral ⁽³⁾		Agree ⁽⁴⁾		Strongly Agree ⁽⁵⁾		TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	Mean ¹⁻⁵	Change
I think adults in Lynnfield feel pressure to consume alcohol for social reasons at gatherings in Lynnfield												
2021 Survey	32	13%	81	32%	94	37%	35	14%	9	4%	2.63	.22* (↑)
2024 Survey	8	6%	42	32%	51	39%	24	18%	7	5%	2.85	
Too many parents/caregivers in Lynnfield set a bad example for their children by their own excessive use of substances												
2021 Survey	2	1%	33	13%	108	43%	69	28%	38	15%	3.43	.18 (↑)
2024 Survey	1	1%	13	10%	51	39%	39	30%	28	21%	3.61	
Too many parents/caregivers in Lynnfield ignore or disregard underage alcohol use												
2021 Survey	5	2%	13	5%	106	42%	84	33%	44	17%	3.59	.14 (↑)
2024 Survey	1	1%	5	4%	53	40%	42	32%	31	23%	3.73	
Adult alcohol consumption at school-sponsored sporting events (e.g., tailgating, alcohol in thermoses) is an issue in Lynnfield												
2021 Survey	16	6%	48	19%	123	49%	45	18%	20	8%	3.02	.03 (=)
2024 Survey	9	7%	29	22%	54	41%	27	20%	13	10%	3.05	
Too many parents/caregivers in Lynnfield ignore or disregard youth marijuana use												
2021 Survey	4	2%	16	6%	123	49%	70	28%	38	15%	3.49	-.05 (=)
2024 Survey	5	4%	9	7%	64	48%	31	23%	23	17%	3.44	

Interpretation (Scale Direction)

Mean scores are presented in order from the largest increase in agreement to the largest decline in agreement within each section of the table (i.e., protective factors and risk factors sub-headings).

Trend Summary

Ratings across the six items related to **COMMUNITY CULTURE** were mixed between the 2021 and 2024 survey – one of the items suggests higher levels of protection, two of the items had little movement, and three of the items suggest increased levels of risk. On the one hand, respondents in 2024 were more likely than respondents in 2021 to believe *other adults in Lynnfield are supportive when an adult abstains from using alcohol at adult social gatherings* (mean = 3.45 in 2021 vs. 3.55 in 2024). On the other hand, respondents in 2024 were more likely to believe: *adults in Lynnfield feel pressure to consume alcohol for social reasons at gatherings in Lynnfield* (2021: 2.63 vs. 2024: 2.85), *too many parents/caregivers in Lynnfield set a bad example for their children by their own excessive use of substances* (2021: 3.43; 2024: 3.61), and *too many parents/caregivers in Lynnfield ignore or disregard underage alcohol use* (2021: 3.59; 2024: 3.73).

Trend Statistical Comparison

There was a statistically significant increase between the 2021 and 2024 survey in respondents who believe *adults in Lynnfield feel pressure to consume alcohol for social reasons at gatherings in Lynnfield*.

Consequences for Youth Substance Use – Police-Involved

Parents/caregivers were asked to indicate which actions, if any, they would support if police became aware of Lynnfield teens drinking alcohol. Results in [Table 24](#) are presented for all respondents along with breakdowns based on the grade level and gender identity of their oldest child.

Table 24: Police-Involved Youth Substance Use (2023-2024 Academic Year)

Consequences for Police-Involved Youth Substance Use	TOTAL				GRADE [Yes]				GENDER [Yes]			
	No		Yes		Grades 5-8		Grades 9-12		Female		Male	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
The following questions are about your attitudes and beliefs about youth substance use. Please think about your oldest child in grades 5-12 when answering these questions. If the police became aware of Lynnfield teens drinking alcohol, what action(s) would you support being taken?												
Call or contact the teens' parents/caregivers	5	4%	127	96%	60	97%	67	96%	72	97%	54	95%
Require that the teens attend substance use education class	60	46%	72	55%	32	52%	40	57%	42	57%	30	53%
Issue a verbal warning to the teens	64	49%	68	52%	33	53%	35	50%	40	54%	27	47%
Require teens to participate in community service hours or other restorative justice activities	67	51%	65	49%	35	57%	30	43%	41	55%	24	42%
Require that the teens meet with a youth counselor	67	51%	65	49%	34	55%	31	44%	34	46%	31	54%
Require the parents/caregivers attend a substance use education class for teens	85	64%	47	36%	22	36%	25	36%	27	37%	20	35%
Inform school personnel	101	77%	31	24%	16	26%	15	21%	19	26%	12	21%
Issue a ticket/notice to appear in court	120	91%	12	9%	11	18%	1	1%	6	8%	6	11%
Arrest the teens	127	96%	5	4%	4	7%	1	1%	0	0%	5	9%

Interpretation (Frequencies)

The percentage columns represent the proportion of respondents who endorse each action being taken.

2024 Survey Summary

All respondents (100%) indicated that some action should be taken if police became aware of Lynnfield teens drinking alcohol. Parents/caregivers were most likely to endorse *calling or contacting the teens' parents/caregivers* (96%) and *requiring that the teens attend a substance use education class* (55%). Parents were least likely to endorse law enforcement actions such as *issuing a ticket or notice to appear in court* (9%) or *arresting the teens* (4%).

2024 Grade Level Statistical Comparisons

Parents/caregivers whose oldest child is in grades 5-8 were significantly more likely than their peers with older children to endorse *issuing a ticket/notice to appear in court* (middle school: 18%, high school: 1%).

2024 Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons

Parents/caregivers whose oldest child identifies as male were significantly more likely than parents/caregivers whose oldest child identifies as female to endorse *arrest the teens* (Female: 0%, Male: 9%).

Trends over time between the 2021 survey and 2024 survey are displayed in **Table 25**. To facilitate comparisons, ratings for each item are displayed, with **green** font indicating areas with increased endorsement of the action over time, **orange** indicating little movement between the two data points, and **red** indicating lower endorsement of the action over time.

Table 25: Police-Involved Youth Substance Use – Trend

KEY (Mean Scores): **Green** = Increased Endorsement (≥ +10%), **Orange** = Little Movement, **Red** = Decreased Endorsement (≥ -10%)
 * = statistically significant

Consequences for Police-Involved Youth Substance Use	TOTAL				GRADE [Yes]				GENDER [Yes]			
	No		Yes		Grades 5-8		Grades 9-12		Female		Male	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
The following questions are about your attitudes and beliefs about youth substance use. Please think about your oldest child in grades 5-12 when answering these questions. If the police became aware of Lynnfield teens drinking alcohol, what action(s) would you support being taken?												
Issue a verbal warning to the teens												
2021 Survey	165	64%	91	36%	45	33%	46	38%	42	34%	49	38%
2024 Survey	64	49%	68	52%*	33	53%	35	50%	40	54%	27	47%
Call or contact the teens’ parents/caregivers												
2021 Survey	13	5%	243	95%	129	96%	114	94%	114	93%	125	97%
2024 Survey	5	4%	127	96%	60	97%	67	96%	72	97%	54	95%
Arrest the teens												
2021 Survey	244	95%	12	5%	6	4%	6	5%	6	5%	5	4%
2024 Survey	127	96%	5	4%	4	7%	1	1%	0	0%	5	9%
Issue a ticket/notice to appear in court												
2021 Survey	225	88%	31	12%	17	13%	14	12%	13	11%	17	13%
2024 Survey	120	91%	12	9%	11	18%	1	1%	6	8%	6	11%
Require that the teens attend substance use education class												
2021 Survey	106	41%	150	59%	90	67%	60	50%	69	56%	79	61%
2024 Survey	60	46%	72	55%	32	52%	40	57%	42	57%	30	53%
Require that the teens meet with a youth counselor												
2021 Survey	116	45%	140	55%	79	59%	61	50%	63	51%	74	57%
2024 Survey	67	51%	65	49%	34	55%	31	44%	34	46%	31	54%
Inform school personnel												
2021 Survey	178	69%	78	31%	38	28%	40	33%	36	29%	40	31%
2024 Survey	101	77%	31	24%	16	26%	15	21%	19	26%	12	21%

Interpretation (Frequencies)

Percentages are presented in order from the largest increase in endorsement to the largest decline in endorsement.

Trend Summary

There was little change between 2021 and 2024 except for the proportion of respondents who endorsed *issue a verbal warning to the teens* – which increased across the two surveys (2021: 36%; 2024: 52%).

Trend Statistical Comparison

There was a statistically significant increase overall between the 2021 and 2024 survey in respondents who endorsed *issue a verbal warning to the teens*. The items related to community service hours and requiring parents to attend a substance use class were added to the survey in 2024 so trend data are not available.

Consequences for Youth Substance Use – School-Involved

Parents/caregivers were asked to indicate which actions, if any, they would support if school personnel became aware of a Lynnfield student drinking alcohol. Results in [Table 26](#) are presented for all respondents along with breakdowns based on the grade level and gender identity of their oldest child.

Table 26: School-Involved Youth Substance Use (2023-2024 Academic Year)

Consequences for School-Involved Youth Substance Use	TOTAL				GRADE [Yes]				GENDER [Yes]			
	No		Yes		Grades 5-8		Grades 9-12		Female		Male	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
The following questions are about your attitudes and beliefs about youth substance use. Please think about your oldest child in grades 5-12 when answering these questions. If school personnel became aware of a Lynnfield student drinking alcohol, what action(s) would you support being taken?												
Call or contact the student’s parents/caregivers	4	3%	127	97%	59	95%	68	99%	70	96%	56	98%
Require the student attend a substance use education class	58	44%	73	56%	35	57%	38	55%	41	56%	32	56%
Require that the student meet with a youth counselor	60	46%	71	54%	38	61%	33	48%	40	55%	30	53%
Enforce MIAA sanctions if student is on a school sports team	62	47%	69	53%	29	47%	40	58%	39	53%	30	53%
Require teens to participate in community service hours or other restorative justice practices	67	51%	64	49%	34	55%	30	44%	38	52%	26	46%
Require that parents/caregivers attend a substance use education class for teens	87	66%	44	34%	22	36%	22	32%	24	33%	20	35%
Temporarily bar the student from non-academic activities	97	74%	34	26%	17	27%	17	25%	23	32%	11	20%
Suspend the student	124	95%	7	5%	4	7%	3	4%	1	1%	6	11%

Interpretation (Frequencies)

The percentage columns represent the proportion of respondents who endorse each action being taken.

2024 Survey Summary

Almost all respondents (99%) indicated that some action should be taken if school personnel became aware of a Lynnfield student drinking alcohol. Parents/caregivers were most likely to endorse *calling or contacting the student’s parents/caregivers* (97%). Parents/caregivers were least likely to endorse *suspending the student* (5%).

2024 Grade Level Statistical Comparisons

There were no statistically significant differences in any of these items based on whether the respondents’ oldest child was in grades 5-8 or grades 9-12.

2024 Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons

Parents/caregivers whose oldest child identifies as male were significantly more likely than their peers whose oldest child identifies as female to endorse *suspend the student* (female: 1%; male: 11%).

Trends over time between the 2021 survey and 2024 survey are displayed in **Table 27**. To facilitate comparisons, ratings for each item are displayed, with **green** font indicating areas with increased endorsement of the action over time, **orange** indicating little movement between the two data points, and **red** indicating lower endorsement of the action over time.

Table 27: School-Involved Youth Substance Use – Trend

KEY (Mean Scores): **Green** = Increased Endorsement (≥ +10%), **Orange** = Little Movement, **Red** = Decreased Endorsement (≥ -10%)
 * = statistically significant

Consequences for School-Involved Youth Substance Use	TOTAL				GRADE [Yes]				GENDER [Yes]			
	No		Yes		Grades 5-8		Grades 9-12		Female		Male	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
The following questions are about your attitudes and beliefs about youth substance use. Please think about your oldest child in grades 5-12 when answering these questions. If school personnel became aware of a Lynnfield student drinking alcohol, what action(s) would you support being taken?												
Require teens to participate in community service hours or other restorative justice practices												
2021 Survey	158	62%	98	38%	52	39%	46	38%	45	37%	52	40%
2024 Survey	67	51%	64	49%*	34	55%	30	44%	38	52%	26	46%
Call or contact the student’s parents/caregivers												
2021 Survey	17	7%	239	93%	124	92%	115	95%	110	89%	125	97%
2024 Survey	4	3%	127	97%	59	95%	68	99%	70	96%	56	98%
Enforce MIAA sanctions if student is on a school sports team												
2021 Survey	128	50%	128	50%	67	50%	61	50%	57	46%	69	54%
2024 Survey	62	47%	69	53%	29	47%	40	58%	39	53%	30	53%
Require the student attend a substance use education class												
2021 Survey	111	43%	145	57%	83	62%	62	51%	66	54%	77	60%
2024 Survey	58	44%	73	56%	35	57%	38	55%	41	56%	32	56%
Suspend the student												
2021 Survey	236	92%	20	8%	9	7%	11	9%	7	6%	13	10%
2024 Survey	124	95%	7	5%	4	7%	3	4%	1	1%	6	11%
Temporarily bar the student from non-academic activities												
2021 Survey	176	69%	80	31%	44	33%	36	30%	36	29%	43	33%
2024 Survey	97	74%	34	26%	17	27%	17	25%	23	32%	11	20%
Require that the student meet with a youth counselor												
2021 Survey	95	37%	161	63%	88	65%	73	60%	74	60%	84	65%
2024 Survey	60	46%	71	54%	38	61%	33	48%	40	55%	30	53%

Interpretation (Frequencies)

Percentages are presented in order from the largest increase in endorsement to the largest decline in endorsement.

Trend Summary

There was little change between 2021 and 2024 except for the proportion of respondents who endorsed *require teens to participate in community service hours or other restorative justice practices* – which increased across the two surveys (2021: 38%; 2024: 49%). Note that “*or other restorative justice practices*” was added to the survey in 2024 – the 2021 survey only asked about “*community service hours*.”

Trend Statistical Comparison

There was a statistically significant increase overall between the 2021 and 2024 survey in respondents who endorsed *require teens to participate in community service hours or other restorative justice practices*. The item related requiring parents to attend a substance use class was added to the survey in 2024 so trend data are not available.

PARENTING BEHAVIORS

Parents/caregivers were asked to rate the frequency with which they engaged in five parenting behaviors related to youth substance use. Ratings for the individual items in this section of the survey are displayed in [Table 28](#). To facilitate comparisons, summary (mean) ratings for each item are displayed, with values indicating higher or lower frequency of the behavior.

Table 28: Parenting Behaviors (2023-2024 Academic Year)

Parenting Behaviors	Never ⁽¹⁾		Seldom ⁽²⁾		Sometimes ⁽³⁾		Often ⁽⁴⁾		Very Often ⁽⁵⁾		TOTAL Mean ¹⁻⁵
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Protective Factors											
These questions ask about things that you currently do. Remember, your answers are anonymous and cannot be linked back to you. How often do you do the following things?											
Require your child to tell you with whom and where they will be if they go out with friends	2	2%	0	0%	0	0%	13	10%	116	89%	4.84
Engage your child in a conversation to learn about their activities when they return from being out with friends	0	0%	1	1%	6	5%	29	22%	95	73%	4.66
Check-in by phone or text message at least one time when your child is out with friends	3	2%	3	2%	8	6%	24	18%	93	71%	4.53
Visually assess your child for signs of substance use when they come home from being out with friends	30	23%	15	12%	13	10%	20	15%	52	40%	3.38
Risk Factors											
Knowingly allow your child to attend parties or gatherings where underage drinking or other substance use likely occurs	80	61%	22	17%	17	13%	9	7%	3	2%	1.73

Interpretation (Scale Direction)

Mean scores are presented in descending order from the most to least frequent behavior within each section of the table (i.e., protective factors and risk factors sub-headings).

2024 Survey Summary

Ratings across the five items related to **PARENTING BEHAVIORS** were consistently on the higher end (protective factor) side of the scale. Mean scores ranged between 3.38 and 4.84 across the protective factor items. Parents were most likely to report that they frequently *require their child to tell them where they will be if they go out with friends* (mean = 4.84) and were least likely to report that they frequently *visually assess their child for signs of substance use when they come home from being out with friends* (3.38).

2024 Grade Level Statistical Comparisons

Parents/caregivers whose oldest child is in grades 9-12 were significantly more likely than their peers to *knowingly allow their child to attend parties or gatherings where underage drinking or other substance use likely occurs* (middle school: 1.10, high school: 2.29) and to *visually assess their child for signs of substance use* (MS: 2.70, HS: 3.97).

2024 Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons

There were no statistically significant differences in any of these items by gender identity.

Trends over time between the 2021 survey and 2024 survey are displayed in **Table 29**. To facilitate comparisons over time, summary (mean) differences for each item are displayed, with **green** font indicating increased levels of protection, **orange** indicating little movement between the two data points, and **red** indicating decreased levels of protection.

Table 29: Parenting Behaviors – Trend

KEY (Mean Scores): **Green** = Increased Level of Protection ($\geq \pm .10$), **Orange** = Little Movement, **Red** = Decreased Level of Protection ($\geq \pm .10$)
* = statistically significant

Parenting Behaviors Protective Factors	Never ⁽¹⁾		Seldom ⁽²⁾		Sometimes ⁽³⁾		Often ⁽⁴⁾		Very Often ⁽⁵⁾		TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	Mean ¹⁻⁵	Change
These questions ask about things that you currently do. Remember, your answers are anonymous and cannot be linked back to you. How often do you do the following things?												
Visually assess your child for signs of substance use when they come home from being out with friends												
2021 Survey	77	32%	16	7%	27	11%	25	10%	96	40%	3.20	.18 (↑)
2024 Survey	30	23%	15	12%	13	10%	20	15%	52	40%	3.38	
Check-in by phone or text message at least one time when your child is out with friends												
2021 Survey	2	1%	9	4%	21	9%	51	21%	158	66%	4.47	.06 (=)
2024 Survey	3	2%	3	2%	8	6%	24	18%	93	71%	4.53	
Require your child to tell you with whom and where they will be if they go out with friends												
2021 Survey	1	0.4%	3	1%	2	1%	31	13%	204	85%	4.80	.04 (=)
2024 Survey	2	2%	0	0%	0	0%	13	10%	116	89%	4.84	
Engage your child in a conversation to learn about their activities when they return from being out with friends												
2021 Survey	2	1%	1	0.4%	9	4%	50	21%	180	74%	4.67	-.01 (=)
2024 Survey	0	0%	1	1%	6	5%	29	22%	95	73%	4.66	
Parenting Behaviors Risk Factors	Never ⁽¹⁾		Seldom ⁽²⁾		Sometimes ⁽³⁾		Often ⁽⁴⁾		Very Often ⁽⁵⁾		TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	Mean ¹⁻⁵	
Knowingly allow your child to attend parties or gatherings where underage drinking or other substance use likely occurs												
2021 Survey	188	78%	30	12%	17	7%	7	3%	0	0%	1.35	-.38* (↑)
2024 Survey	80	61%	22	17%	17	13%	9	7%	3	2%	1.73	

Interpretation (Scale Direction)

Mean scores are presented in order from the largest increase in occurrence to the largest decline in occurrence within each section of the table (i.e., protective factors and risk factors sub-headings).

Trend Summary

Ratings across the five items related to **PARENTING BEHAVIORS** were mixed between the 2021 and 2024 survey – one of the items suggests higher levels of protection, three of the items had little movement, and one of the items suggest increased levels of risk. On the one hand, respondents in 2024 were more likely than respondents in 2021 to *visually assess their child for signs of substance use when they come home from being out with friends* (mean = 3.20 in 2021 vs. 3.38 in 2024). On the other hand, respondents in 2024 were more likely to *knowingly allow their child to attend parties or gatherings where underage drinking or other substance use likely occurs* (2021: 1.35 vs. 2024: 1.73).

Trend Statistical Comparison

There was a statistically significant increase between the 2021 and 2024 survey in respondents who *knowingly allow their child to attend parties or gatherings where underage drinking or other substance use likely occurs*.

Parents/caregivers were asked to indicate the steps they take to monitor and store any alcohol or prescription medications present in their home (Table 30).

Table 30: Access to Alcohol and Prescription Medications (2023-2024 Academic Year)

Access to Alcohol and Prescription Medications	Not Present in the Home		When Present in the Home					
			Don't Monitor At All		Monitor, But Don't Secure		Monitor and Secure	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Which of the following best describes how you monitor and store alcohol and prescription medications present in your home?								
Alcohol	21	16%	39	30%	65	50%	6	5%
Prescription Medications	50	39%	22	17%	52	40%	6	5%

Interpretation (Frequencies)

The percentage columns represent the proportion of respondents who took each action to monitor and store any alcohol or prescription medications in their home (if present).

2024 Survey Summary

Most parents/caregivers report having alcohol (84%) and prescription medications (61%) in their home. Among all parents/caregivers, half report monitoring the alcohol (50%) and slightly under half report monitoring the prescription medications (40%). Fewer reported securing or locking-up these substances (alcohol: 5%, prescriptions: 5%).

2024 Grade Level and Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons

Respondents whose oldest child is in grades 9-12 were significantly more likely than respondents whose oldest child is in grades 5-8 to report monitoring alcohol present in their home (middle school: 35%, high school: 62%).

Trends over time between the 2021 survey and 2024 survey are displayed in Table 31.

Table 31: Access to Alcohol and Prescription Medications – Trend

Access to Alcohol and Prescription Medications	Not Present in the Home		When Present in the Home					
			Don't Monitor At All		Monitor, But Don't Secure		Monitor and Secure	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Which of the following best describes how you monitor and store alcohol and prescription medications present in your home?								
Alcohol								
2021 Survey	44	18%	69	28%	116	48%	14	6%
2024 Survey	21	16%	39	30%	65	50%	6	5%
Prescription Medications								
2021 Survey	100	41%	33	14%	88	36%	21	9%
2024 Survey	50	39%	22	17%	52	40%	6	5%

Interpretation (Frequencies)

The percentage columns represent the proportion of respondents who took each action to monitor and store any alcohol or prescription medications in their home (if present).

Trend Summary

Behaviors related to preventing home access to alcohol and prescription medications were largely consistent between the 2021 and 2024 surveys.

Trend Statistical Comparison

There were no statistically significant differences in these two items over time.

PREVENTION AND SUPPORT

Prevention Supports

Parents/caregivers were asked to rate their agreement with seven questions about prevention supports. Ratings for the individual items in this section of the survey are displayed in [Table 32](#). To facilitate comparisons, summary (mean) ratings for each item are displayed, with higher values indicating higher levels of agreement and lower values indicating lower levels of agreement.

Table 32: Prevention Supports (2023-2024 Academic Year)

Prevention Supports: Parent/Caregiver Education	Strongly Disagree ⁽¹⁾		Disagree ⁽²⁾		Neutral ⁽³⁾		Agree ⁽⁴⁾		Strongly Agree ⁽⁵⁾		TOTAL Mean ¹⁻⁵
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
The following questions are about prevention and support. Please think about your oldest child in grades 5-12 when answering these questions. How much do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements?											
Parents/caregivers in Lynnfield need more education about the Massachusetts Social Host Liability Law	0	0%	5	4%	33	26%	46	36%	45	35%	4.02
Parents/caregivers in Lynnfield need more education about marijuana, CBD, and the new laws in Massachusetts	1	1%	13	10%	35	27%	49	38%	31	24%	3.74
Parents/caregivers in Lynnfield need more education about electronic vapor products (vaping)	2	2%	14	11%	36	28%	47	37%	29	23%	3.68
Prevention Supports: School and Community	Strongly Disagree ⁽¹⁾		Disagree ⁽²⁾		Neutral ⁽³⁾		Agree ⁽⁴⁾		Strongly Agree ⁽⁵⁾		TOTAL Mean ¹⁻⁵
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
I believe schools should provide education programs for students my child's age that are designed to help with social and emotional learning	0	0%	1	1%	7	5%	46	36%	75	58%	4.51
I believe schools should provide education programs for students my child's age designed to help prevent and reduce underage drinking and substance use	0	0%	2	2%	6	5%	59	46%	62	48%	4.40
I am aware of school-based supports available to students if they need help with a mental health or substance use issue	7	5%	22	17%	31	24%	48	37%	21	16%	3.42
I am aware of community supports available to students if they need help with a mental health or substance use issue	8	6%	32	25%	31	24%	44	34%	14	11%	3.19

Interpretation (Scale Direction)

Mean scores are presented in descending order from the highest to the lowest level of agreement within each section of the table (i.e., parent/caregiver education and school and community sub-headings).

2024 Survey Summary

Ratings across the seven items related to **PREVENTION SUPPORTS** varied between the “Neutral” and “Strongly Agree” categories of the scale. Mean scores ranged between 3.19 and 4.51 across the items. Parents/caregivers expressed strong agreement that *schools should provide education programs for students their child's age that are designed to help with social and emotional learning* (mean = 4.51) and *schools should provide education programs that prevent and reduce underage drinking and substance use* (4.40). Respondents were less likely to agree that they are *aware of school-based supports* (3.42) and *community supports* (3.19) available to students if they need help with a mental health or substance use issue.

2024 Grade Level Statistical Comparisons

Parents/caregivers whose oldest child is in grades 9-12 were significantly more likely to report *parents/caregivers in Lynnfield need more education about the MA Social Host Liability Law* (middle school: 3.84, high school: 4.18).

2024 Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons

There were no statistically significant differences in any of these items based on how the respondents' oldest child identifies their gender.

Trends over time between the 2021 survey and 2024 survey are displayed in **Table 33**. To facilitate comparisons over time, summary (mean) differences for each item are displayed, with **green** font indicating increased levels of agreement, **orange** indicating little movement between the two data points, and **red** indicating decreased levels of agreement.

Table 33: Prevention Supports - Trend

KEY (Mean Scores): **Green** = Increased Level of Agreement (≥ .10), **Orange** = Little Movement, **Red** = Decreased Level of Agreement (≥ -.10)
* = statistically significant

Prevention Supports: Parent/Caregiver Education		Strongly Disagree ⁽¹⁾		Disagree ⁽²⁾		Neutral ⁽³⁾		Agree ⁽⁴⁾		Strongly Agree ⁽⁵⁾		TOTAL	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	Mean ¹⁻⁵	Change
The following questions are about prevention and support. Please think about your oldest child in grades 5-12 when answering these questions. How much do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements?													
Parents/caregivers in Lynnfield need more education about the Massachusetts Social Host Liability Law													
2021 Survey		6	3%	4	2%	54	23%	95	40%	78	33%	3.99	
2024 Survey		0	0%	5	4%	33	26%	46	36%	45	35%	4.02	.03 (=)
Parents/caregivers in Lynnfield need more education about electronic vapor products (vaping)													
2021 Survey		3	1%	13	6%	65	28%	102	43%	53	22%	3.80	
2024 Survey		2	2%	14	11%	36	28%	47	37%	29	23%	3.68	-.12 (↓)
Parents/caregivers in Lynnfield need more education about marijuana, CBD, and the new laws in Massachusetts													
2021 Survey		4	2%	11	5%	56	24%	105	44%	61	26%	3.88	
2024 Survey		1	1%	13	10%	35	27%	49	38%	31	24%	3.74	-.14 (↓)
Prevention Supports: School and Community		Strongly Disagree ⁽¹⁾		Disagree ⁽²⁾		Neutral ⁽³⁾		Agree ⁽⁴⁾		Strongly Agree ⁽⁵⁾		TOTAL	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	Mean ¹⁻⁵	Change
I am aware of school-based supports available to students if they need help with a mental health or substance use issue													
2021 Survey		9	4%	61	26%	47	20%	75	32%	45	19%	3.36	
2024 Survey		7	5%	22	17%	31	24%	48	37%	21	16%	3.42	.06 (=)
I believe schools should provide education programs for students my child's age that are designed to help with social and emotional learning													
2021 Survey		4	2%	1	0.4%	15	6%	76	32%	140	59%	4.47	
2024 Survey		0	0%	1	1%	7	5%	46	36%	75	58%	4.51	.04 (=)
I am aware of community supports available to students if they need help with a mental health or substance use issue													
2021 Survey		18	8%	62	26%	57	24%	57	24%	42	18%	3.18	
2024 Survey		8	6%	32	25%	31	24%	44	34%	14	11%	3.19	.01 (=)
I believe schools should provide education programs for students my child's age that are designed to help prevent and reduce underage drinking and substance use													
2021 Survey		3	1%	0	0%	19	8%	91	38%	124	52%	4.41	
2024 Survey		0	0%	2	2%	6	5%	59	46%	62	48%	4.40	-.01 (=)
Interpretation (Scale Direction)													
Mean scores are presented in order from the largest increase in agreement to the largest decline in agreement within each section of the table (i.e., parent/caregiver education and school and community sub-headings).													
Trend Summary													
Ratings across the seven items related to PREVENTION SUPPORTS were largely consistent between the 2021 and 2024 survey. Respondents in 2024 were less likely to agree that <i>parents/caregivers in Lynnfield need more education about electronic vapor products (vaping)</i> (mean = 3.80 in 2021 vs. 3.68 in 2024) and <i>parents/caregivers in Lynnfield need more education about marijuana, CBD, and the new laws in Massachusetts</i> (2021: 3.88; 2024: 3.74).													
Trend Statistical Comparison													
There were no statistically significant differences in these items over time.													

Youth Health Information

Parents/caregivers were asked to indicate what they felt were effective ways or places to reach other Lynnfield parents/caregivers like themselves with youth health information. Respondents were provided with a list of 19 options. Results in [Table 34](#) are presented for all respondents along with breakdowns based on the grade level and gender identity of their oldest child.

Table 34: Youth Health Information (2023-2024 Academic Year)

Youth Health Information	TOTAL				GRADE [Yes]				GENDER [Yes]			
	No		Yes		Grades 5-8		Grades 9-12		Female		Male	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
What are some effective ways or places to reach Lynnfield parents/caregivers like you with youth health information?												
Parent newsletter from schools	27	21%	102	79%	47	77%	55	81%	55	77%	46	81%
A Healthy Lynnfield emails and materials	40	31%	89	69%	41	67%	48	71%	50	70%	38	67%
Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)	43	33%	86	67%	41	67%	45	66%	55	77%	31	54%
Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Emails	50	39%	79	61%	42	69%	37	54%	43	61%	35	61%
School website	55	43%	74	57%	31	51%	43	63%	44	62%	29	51%
A Healthy Lynnfield website	59	46%	70	54%	29	48%	41	60%	40	56%	29	51%
Town recreation and sports programs	62	48%	67	52%	33	54%	34	50%	37	52%	30	53%
Lynnfield Villager	63	49%	66	51%	27	44%	39	57%	38	54%	27	47%
School events	68	53%	61	47%	25	41%	36	53%	34	48%	26	46%
House mailings	83	64%	46	36%	17	28%	29	43%	26	37%	20	35%
Doctor's office	87	67%	42	33%	17	28%	25	37%	21	30%	20	35%
Lynnfield Public Library	99	77%	30	23%	17	28%	13	19%	18	25%	12	21%
Civic clubs/organizations	106	82%	23	18%	9	15%	14	21%	16	23%	7	12%
Church, mosque, synagogue, or other faith community	110	85%	19	15%	9	15%	10	15%	11	15%	8	14%
Take-out restaurants	120	93%	9	7%	6	10%	3	4%	6	8%	3	5%
Bank, grocery store, convenience store	121	94%	8	6%	5	8%	3	4%	6	8%	2	4%
Local cable television	123	95%	6	5%	4	7%	2	3%	6	8%	0	0%
Radio	125	97%	4	3%	2	3%	2	3%	3	4%	1	2%
Some other way or place	126	98%	3	2%	3	5%	0	0%	0	0%	3	5%

Interpretation (Frequencies)

The percentage columns represent the proportion of respondents who selected each way/place.

2024 Survey Summary

Parents/caregivers were most likely to identify *parent newsletter from schools* (79%), *A Healthy Lynnfield emails and materials* (69%), and *social media* (67%) as effective ways to reach parents/caregivers in Lynnfield with youth health information. Respondents were least likely to identify *local cable television* (5%) and *radio* (3%).

2024 Grade Level Statistical Comparisons

There were no statistically significant differences based on whether the respondents' oldest child was in grades 5-8 or grades 9-12.

2024 Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons

Parents/caregivers whose oldest child identifies as female were significantly more likely than their peers whose oldest child identifies as male to identify *social media* (female: 77%, male: 54%) and *local cable television* (female: 8%; male: 0%) as effective ways to reach parents/caregivers with youth health information.

PROMOTING YOUTH HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Parents/caregivers were asked to provide any other comments they had about things they would like to see in Lynnfield to promote youth health and wellness. Twenty-six (26) parents/caregivers provided additional comments. Responses are thematically organized below into four main areas.

School-Based Supports and Services (number of responses in parentheses)

- More programs on bullying and relational aggression in the elementary and middle schools (4)
- More non-sport and inclusive activities for youth who aren't athletes (3)
- More opportunities to promote teacher and coach connections with youth (2)
- Senior class role models/mentors who choose not to use substances (2)
- More education for teachers on student social/emotional development and youth mental health (1)
- Vaping cessation programs in schools (1)

Community Culture and Modeling

- Action to ban billboards advertising marijuana shops (1)
- More student-driven community projects and initiatives (1)

Community Events, Activities, and Services

- More family engagement and community events with schools (1)

Information, Education, and Awareness

- Increase substance use education/awareness for parents/caregivers (4)
 - Communication skills
 - Electronic bullying
 - Knowing signs and symptoms of a potential issue
 - Preventive tools and strategies
- Increase substance use education/awareness for students (3)
 - Health decision-making
 - Refusal skills
 - Social host liability for students (so they know about it too)
- More awareness and accountability on the part of parents/caregivers (3)

SUMMARY OF MAIN FINDINGS

The Lynnfield Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, known as **A Healthy Lynnfield (AHL)**, invited all parents/caregivers of 5th-12th graders in Lynnfield Public Schools to take part in an anonymous online survey between the end of 2023 and beginning of 2024 to help AHL and its partners learn more about parent/caregiver beliefs and perceptions regarding health and wellness among youth. A total of 170 parents/guardians participated in the survey. Main findings related to the six broad domains covered in the survey: (1) **home and community life**, (2) **health and wellness**, (3) **communication with youth and other caregivers**, (4) **attitudes and beliefs**, (5) **parenting behaviors**, and (6) **prevention and support**, are summarized below.

HOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

Community Protective Factors

Parent/caregiver respondents provided generally positive assessments of the presence of community protective factors within Lynnfield. Most respondents expressed agreement with items asking about whether they feel that community members care about their child and that their child has people outside of the family that they can talk to about important issues. Respondents were somewhat less likely to express agreement that Lynnfield residents respect the values and beliefs of people from different races and cultures. Responses were generally consistent between the 2021 and 2024 surveys with marginal, non-significant movement on some of the individual items.

Home Protective Factors

Almost all respondents indicated that they frequently engage in a series of protective behaviors in the home (e.g., providing encouragement to their child, asking their child about their homework, talking to their child about school). Respondents were somewhat less likely to report that they frequently eat dinner together as a family – a behavior that decreased significantly between the 2021 and 2024 surveys. On average, respondents reported that the members of their family living in their home eat dinner together an average of 4 days a week during a typical week during the academic year.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Parents/caregivers reported feeling that the top three issues facing the health and wellness of Lynnfield youth are: (1) Technology (cell phones, social media, screen time), (2) Emotional and Mental Health (worrying, stress, anxiety, depression), and (3) Youth Social Culture (friendships, cliques, exclusion, teasing). Respondents expressed marginally higher levels of concern in the 2024 survey than the 2021 survey across almost all areas – including significantly more concern between the two survey periods for Community Culture (adults modeling unhealthy behaviors, toxic culture).

COMMUNICATION

Family Mealtime Discussions

Respondents expressed high levels of agreement with two new items asking about the importance of family mealtimes. Specifically, respondents agreed that family mealtime is an

important opportunity for communication with their child and that they use family mealtime to connect with their child about their day and important things in their life.

Discussion Times and Locations

Parents/caregivers indicated that they are most likely to communicate with their child about important things in their life during car rides, followed by during mealtime, and after dinner.

Discussions About Substance Use

Most respondents reported having talked with their child about substance use issues. This included communicating their family's guidelines and expectations around youth alcohol and drug use with their child and talking with their child about the potential consequences of vaping, using marijuana, and underage alcohol use. Responses were highly consistent between the 2021 and 2024 surveys with one exception – respondents were significantly more likely in the 2024 survey to report that they had talked with the parents/caregivers of their child's closest friends to share and compare parental philosophies and standards regarding alcohol and drugs.

Discussions About Health and Wellness

Parents/caregivers generally felt that they can have an influence on whether their child chooses to use alcohol or other drugs and felt equipped with the knowledge and tools needed to have an effective discussion with their child about youth substance use and youth mental health. Respondents were slightly less likely to feel that they could have an open and non-judgmental discussion with other Lynnfield parents/caregivers about these issues. Responses were generally consistent between the 2021 and 2024 surveys with marginal, non-significant movement on some of the individual items.

Safety Strategies

Almost all respondents reported that they had discussed safety strategies with their child related to situations when they might be faced with alcohol or other drug use. The most cited strategies were calling home or sending a text message if they feel unsafe, not feeling afraid to call home for help due to fear of being punished, and never riding in a vehicle with someone who had been drinking or using drugs. Responses were generally consistent between the 2021 and 2024 surveys with marginal, non-significant movement on some of the individual items. A notable exception was a significant increase in 2024 in the proportion of parents/caregivers who had discussed calling home or sending a text if they feel unsafe.

ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS

Acceptability of Youth Substance Use

Most parents/caregivers expressed comfort calling other parents/caregivers if the respondent's child is going to a friend's house to make sure the other parents/caregivers are aware. Respondents were slightly less likely to indicate that they would like to receive a call from other parents/caregivers in this situation.

A high proportion of respondents felt that there are no circumstances under which youth alcohol use or youth marijuana use are acceptable. Some respondents felt that youth alcohol use is OK if the alcohol use occurs at home, is responsible and not excessive, and if no driving is involved. Respondents in 2024 were significantly more likely than respondents in 2021 to report that

occasional youth alcohol use without adult supervision is OK if there is no driving involved and were significantly more likely to report thinking it is OK to allow youth alcohol use at home if it is responsible and not excessive.

Feelings About Youth Substance Use

Respondents expressed the strongest negative opinions for youth use of illegal drugs such as cocaine, heroin, or ecstasy and prescription drugs not prescribed to the person taking them. This was followed by drinking alcohol daily, using electronic vapor products, smoking tobacco, and using marijuana. Parents expressed slightly more moderate opinions related to youth drinking alcohol occasionally. Responses were highly consistent between the 2021 and 2024 surveys.

Community Culture

Over half of respondents felt that too many parents/caregivers in Lynnfield ignore or disregard underage alcohol use and felt that too many parents/caregivers set a bad example for their children by their own excessive use of substances. A sizeable minority of respondents also felt that adult alcohol consumption at school-sponsored sporting events is an issue in Lynnfield. Responses were generally consistent between the 2021 and 2024 surveys with marginal, non-significant movement on some of the individual items. A notable exception was a significant increase in 2024 in the proportion of parents/caregivers who felt adults in Lynnfield feel pressure to consume alcohol for social reasons at gatherings in Lynnfield.

Consequences for Youth Substance Use – Police-Involved

All respondents indicated that some action should be taken if police became aware of Lynnfield teens drinking alcohol. Parents/caregivers were most likely to endorse calling or contacting the teens' parents/caregivers and requiring that the teens attend a substance use education class. Parents were least likely to endorse law enforcement actions such as issuing a ticket or notice to appear in court or arresting the teens. Responses were generally consistent between the 2021 and 2024 surveys with marginal, non-significant movement on some of the individual items. A notable exception was a significant increase in 2024 in the proportion of parents/caregivers who endorsed issuing a verbal warning to teens caught drinking alcohol.

Consequences for Youth Substance Use – School-Involved

Almost all respondents indicated that some action should be taken if school personnel became aware of a Lynnfield student drinking alcohol. Parents/caregivers were most likely to endorse calling or contacting the student's parents/caregivers. Parents/caregivers were least likely to endorse suspending the student. Responses were generally consistent between the 2021 and 2024 surveys with marginal, non-significant movement on some of the individual items. A notable exception was a significant increase in 2024 in the proportion of parents/caregivers who endorsed requiring the teens to participate in community service hours or other restorative justice practices.

PARENTING BEHAVIORS

Most respondents reported taking active steps to monitor their child (including requiring their child to tell them with whom and where they will be going if they go out with friends, engaging their child in a conversation to learn about their activities when they return home, and checking-in by phone or text message when their child is out with friends). Responses were generally consistent

between the 2021 and 2024 surveys with marginal, non-significant movement on some of the individual items. A notable exception was a significant increase in 2024 in the proportion of parents/caregivers who indicated that they knowingly allow their child to attend parties or gatherings where underage drinking or other substance use likely occurs.

Most parents/caregivers who have alcohol and prescription medications in their home reported taking steps to monitor and secure these substances. Responses to these two questions were nearly identical in the 2021 and 2024 surveys.

PREVENTION AND SUPPORT

Prevention Supports

Almost all parents/caregivers endorsed school-based education programs for students their child's age designed to help with social and emotional development and to prevent underage drinking and substance use. Respondents were comparatively less likely to report being aware of school and community resources available to students who need help with a mental health or substance use issue. Responses were generally consistent between the 2021 and 2024 surveys with marginal, non-significant movement on some of the individual items. Notably, respondents in 2024 were significantly less likely than respondents in 2021 to feel that parents/caregivers in Lynnfield need more education about vaping and more education about marijuana, CBD, and the new laws in Massachusetts.

Youth Health Information

Parents/caregivers were most likely to identify parent newsletter from schools, A Healthy Lynnfield emails and materials, and social media as effective ways to reach parents/caregivers in Lynnfield with youth health information. Respondents were least likely to identify local cable television and radio.

PROMOTING YOUTH HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Parents/caregivers offered multiple suggestions about things they would like to see in Lynnfield to promote youth health and wellness including additional school-based support and services and more educational opportunities for parents and students. Bullying and relational aggression emerged as the most cited issue/topic of interest.