

RESULTS FROM THE 2026 LYNNFIELD PARENT/CAREGIVER SURVEY

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

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SUBMITTED:

March 2026

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BACKGROUND

A Healthy Lynnfield (AHL) is a community-wide substance use prevention coalition based in Lynnfield, Massachusetts, dedicated to empowering residents to make positive, healthy choices every day. Formed in response to rising substance misuse, including the opioid crisis, AHL brings together the Town of Lynnfield, local organizations, schools, parents, youth, health professionals, and community volunteers to promote behavioral health, prevent substance misuse, and support access to treatment and recovery resources. Through prevention education, youth leadership opportunities, partnerships with public health and safety agencies, and community events such as wellness expos and training programs, the coalition works to reduce risk factors, decrease stigma, and support the well-being of all community members.

In January and February 2026, AHL invited parents and caregivers of Lynnfield Public Schools students in grades 5 through 12 to participate in a survey designed to better understand beliefs and perceptions related to youth health and wellness in the community, including alcohol and other substance use. The survey included questions across six domains: (1) home and community life, (2) health and wellness, (3) parent-child communication and communication among parents, (4) attitudes and beliefs, (5) parenting behaviors, and (6) prevention and support.

METHODS

Survey Administration

The anonymous online survey, which consisted of 78 discrete questions, was launched on January 5, 2026. The survey remained open for six weeks and closed on February 13, 2026. To be eligible to take part in the survey, parents/caregivers had to have at least one child enrolled in grades 5-12 in public school in Lynnfield (regardless of the family's town of residence).

Validity and Reliability

Survey research is subject to several potential sources of measurement and response error. These may include duplicate submissions, poorly worded questions, insufficient response options, inattentive or patterned responding, and misinterpretation of item intent. While no survey methodology is entirely immune to such challenges, several procedural and statistical safeguards can substantially improve data quality and strengthen confidence in the findings.

The following steps were implemented during the administration and analysis of the Lynnfield Parent/Caregiver Survey:

1. Clear survey instructions: Instructions prominently identified the intended audience (parents/caregivers of students in grades 5-12 enrolled in Lynnfield Public Schools) and clearly described the survey's focus (beliefs, perceptions, and parenting behaviors related to youth health and wellness).
2. Data screening procedures: Visual and statistical screening techniques were used to identify and remove cases demonstrating inattentive or low-quality response patterns.
3. Duplicate case analysis: Statistical procedures were used to identify and remove duplicate records, reducing the likelihood of multiple submissions by a single respondent or accidental repeat entries.

Although these procedures cannot eliminate all sources of error, they strengthen data integrity and reduce the likelihood of systematic or substantial error in the results.

From a measurement perspective, survey development ideally involves an iterative process in which items are field-tested with representatives from the intended population and subjected to psychometric evaluation to establish evidence of reliability and validity. In applied, community-based settings, such comprehensive development processes are not always feasible. To mitigate this limitation, the Lynnfield survey drew primarily from previously developed and field-tested survey instruments that have been used successfully in similar projects and settings.

By integrating careful survey design with logical and statistical quality controls, the Lynnfield Parent/Caregiver Survey was structured to minimize large-scale error and support confidence in the reported findings.

Analysis Plan and Analytical Sample

Descriptive statistics are presented for each survey item, including the percentage of respondents selecting each response option. All items were also analyzed to assess whether differences were observed based on the age and gender identity of the respondents' oldest child in grades 5-12. These analyses can help inform prevention planning and messaging by identifying whether specific issues or protective factors vary across subgroups of parents/caregivers.

A total of 360 individuals accessed the survey during the six-week period it was open. Forty respondents did not complete a sufficient portion of the survey to be included in the analysis, and two respondents were excluded because they did not have a child in grades 5-12 enrolled in Lynnfield Public Schools. No surveys were removed due to suspected frivolous responses, and no duplicate submissions were identified. The final analytical sample consisted of 318 parents and caregivers who have at least one child in grades 5-12 in Lynnfield Public Schools, representing 88% of those who accessed the survey.

Generalizability of Findings

There were 1,286 students enrolled in Lynnfield Public Schools in grades 5-12 during the 2025-2026 academic year. Parents/caregivers who participated in the survey reported having 505 children in this grade range, representing approximately 39% of students in grades 5-12.

Based on data from prior administrations of this survey, respondents have reported an average of 1.57 children per household in this grade range. Using this estimate, the survey likely reflects approximately 39% of households in Lynnfield with at least one student in grades 5-12.

While this level of participation strengthens confidence in the findings, the results are most directly generalizable to those who participated in the survey and may not fully reflect the perceptions, attitudes, or parenting behaviors of other members of the Lynnfield community.

Trend Analysis

This represents the third administration of the Lynnfield Parent/Caregiver Survey by AHL. Comparable versions of the survey were administered in 2021 and 2024 with parents/caregivers who had at least one child in grades 5-12 enrolled in Lynnfield Public Schools. Trend analyses are presented where comparable items were available across survey years.

RESULTS

DEMOGRAPHICS

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

Reference Child

When completing the survey, parents/caregivers were instructed to respond with their oldest child enrolled in grades 5-12 in Lynnfield Public Schools in mind. Responses included representation across all grade levels, with the largest proportion of reference children in 5th grade (16%) and relatively consistent representation across grades 6, 7, 10, 11, and 12 (approximately 13% each). Slightly smaller proportions of respondents reported their oldest child was in grades 8 (9%) and 9 (9%). Parents/caregivers were also asked to indicate how their oldest child identifies their gender. Overall, 53% reported their oldest child identifies as female and 45% as male.

Table 1: Reference Child Demographics

| Category | N | % |
|---------------------------------|----|-----|
| Oldest Child Grade Level | | |
| 5th grade | 51 | 16% |
| 6th grade | 42 | 13% |
| 7th grade | 42 | 13% |
| 8th grade | 30 | 9% |
| 9th grade | 27 | 9% |
| 10th grade | 43 | 14% |
| 11th grade | 41 | 13% |
| 12th grade | 42 | 13% |

| Category | N | % |
|-------------------------------------|-----|------|
| Oldest Child Gender Identity | | |
| Female | 169 | 53% |
| Male | 141 | 45% |
| Some Other Way | 2 | 0.6% |
| Prefer Not to Answer | 5 | 2% |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Parent/Caregiver Demographics

Among parents/caregivers who provided demographic information, 80% identified as female and 18% identified as male. Almost all respondents (90%) indicated that English is the primary language spoken in their home.

Most respondents (85%) identified as White. Smaller proportions identified as Asian (5%), Hispanic (2%), Multi-Race (2%), African American (1%), or another race/ethnicity (2%), while 5% preferred not to answer.

Demographic questions were optional, and not all respondents provided this information.

Table 2: Parent/Caregiver Demographics

| Category | N | % |
|--|-----|-------|
| Gender Identity | | |
| Female | 160 | 80.0% |
| Male | 36 | 18.0% |
| Some Other Way | 0 | 0.0% |
| Prefer Not to Answer | 4 | 2.0% |
| Primary Language Spoken at Home | | |
| English | 171 | 90.0% |
| Language Other Than English | 14 | 7.4% |
| Prefer Not to Answer | 5 | 2.6% |

| Category | N | % |
|---------------------------|-----|-------|
| Race/Ethnicity | | |
| White | 165 | 85.1% |
| Asian | 9 | 4.6% |
| Hispanic | 3 | 1.5% |
| African American | 1 | 0.5% |
| Multi-Race | 3 | 1.5% |
| Some Other Race/Ethnicity | 3 | 1.5% |
| Prefer Not to Answer | 10 | 5.2% |

HOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

Community Protective Factors

Parents/caregivers were asked to rate their level of agreement with eight statements assessing community protective factors that support Lynnfield youth. Item-level distributions are presented in [Table 3](#). To facilitate comparison, mean ratings (1 = Strongly Disagree to 5 = Strongly Agree) are displayed. Summary patterns and the results of statistical analyses examining differences by grade level and gender identity of respondents' oldest child are also provided.

Table 3: Community Protective Factors (2025-2026 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? | | | | | | | | | | | |
| There are people outside of my family and the school that my child can talk to about things that are important to them | 2 | 1% | 21 | 8% | 31 | 11% | 163 | 58% | 62 | 22% | 3.94 |
| The people in my neighborhood care about my child | 4 | 1% | 16 | 6% | 49 | 18% | 143 | 51% | 66 | 24% | 3.90 |
| There are people at my child's school that my child can talk to about things that are important to them | 5 | 2% | 10 | 4% | 56 | 20% | 177 | 63% | 31 | 11% | 3.78 |
| Adults in Lynnfield make youth feel important | 5 | 2% | 14 | 5% | 89 | 31% | 138 | 48% | 42 | 15% | 3.69 |
| My neighbors would tell me if they saw my child doing something wrong | 5 | 2% | 25 | 9% | 67 | 24% | 144 | 52% | 38 | 14% | 3.66 |
| Lynnfield youth are given chances to help make the town a better place in which to live | 7 | 3% | 27 | 10% | 89 | 32% | 137 | 49% | 19 | 7% | 3.48 |
| Adults in Lynnfield listen to what youth have to say | 7 | 2% | 27 | 10% | 104 | 37% | 129 | 46% | 14 | 5% | 3.41 |
| Lynnfield residents respect the values and beliefs of people from different races and cultures | 14 | 5% | 56 | 20% | 83 | 30% | 108 | 39% | 18 | 6% | 3.22 |

Interpretation

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

2026 Survey Summary

Ratings were consistently in the "Neutral" to "Agree" range of the scale (mean scores ranged from 3.22 to 3.94). The highest rated item was: "There are people outside of my family and the school that my child can talk to about things that are important to them" (M = 3.94). The lowest rated item was: "Lynnfield residents respect the values and beliefs of people from different races and cultures" (M = 3.22).

2026 Grade Level Statistical Comparisons

There were no statistically significant differences across the eight items based on the grade level of the respondents' oldest child.

2026 Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons

Parents/caregivers whose oldest child identifies as female reported significantly higher agreement that their child has people outside of family and school to talk to about important matters than those whose oldest child identifies as male (Female: M = 4.04; Male: M = 3.84). No other statistically significant differences were observed.

Trend data are displayed in Table 4. The 2-Year Change column reflects the difference from 2024-2026. Directional arrows are used to identify items that moved ± .10 mean points.

Table 4: Community Protective Factors – Trend

| Community Protective Factors | Strongly Disagree ⁽¹⁾ | | Disagree ⁽²⁾ | | Neutral ⁽³⁾ | | Agree ⁽⁴⁾ | | Strongly Agree ⁽⁵⁾ | | TOTAL | |
|---|----------------------------------|----|-------------------------|-----|------------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|-------------------------------|-----|---------------------|---------------|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | Mean ¹⁻⁵ | 2-Year 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? | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | |
| 2024 Survey | 1 | 1% | 12 | 8% | 23 | 15% | 85 | 55% | 33 | 21% | 3.89 | .05 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 2 | 1% | 21 | 8% | 31 | 11% | 163 | 58% | 62 | 22% | 3.94 | |
| 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 | |
| 2024 Survey | 1 | 1% | 12 | 8% | 30 | 19% | 94 | 61% | 17 | 11% | 3.74 | .04 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 5 | 2% | 10 | 4% | 56 | 20% | 177 | 63% | 31 | 11% | 3.78 | |
| Adults in Lynnfield make youth feel important | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 4 | 1% | 18 | 6% | 106 | 35% | 127 | 42% | 46 | 15% | 3.64 | |
| 2024 Survey | 6 | 4% | 7 | 5% | 47 | 30% | 71 | 46% | 24 | 15% | 3.65 | .04 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 5 | 2% | 14 | 5% | 89 | 31% | 138 | 48% | 42 | 15% | 3.69 | |
| 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 | |
| 2024 Survey | 12 | 8% | 29 | 19% | 46 | 30% | 54 | 35% | 13 | 8% | 3.18 | .04 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 14 | 5% | 56 | 20% | 83 | 30% | 108 | 39% | 18 | 6% | 3.22 | |
| The people in my neighborhood care about my child | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 2 | 1% | 25 | 8% | 72 | 24% | 134 | 45% | 67 | 22% | 3.80 | |
| 2024 Survey | 0 | 0% | 10 | 6% | 33 | 21% | 73 | 47% | 38 | 25% | 3.90 | .00 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 4 | 1% | 16 | 6% | 49 | 18% | 143 | 51% | 66 | 24% | 3.90 | |
| Adults in Lynnfield listen to what youth have to say | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 3 | 1% | 23 | 8% | 136 | 46% | 114 | 38% | 21 | 7% | 3.43 | |
| 2024 Survey | 3 | 2% | 13 | 8% | 61 | 39% | 73 | 47% | 5 | 3% | 3.41 | .00 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 7 | 2% | 27 | 10% | 104 | 37% | 129 | 46% | 14 | 5% | 3.41 | |
| 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 | |
| 2024 Survey | 1 | 1% | 15 | 10% | 36 | 23% | 76 | 49% | 26 | 17% | 3.72 | -.06 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 5 | 2% | 25 | 9% | 67 | 24% | 144 | 52% | 38 | 14% | 3.66 | |
| 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 | |
| 2024 Survey | 2 | 1% | 13 | 8% | 47 | 30% | 79 | 51% | 14 | 9% | 3.58 | -.10 (↓) |
| 2026 Survey | 7 | 3% | 27 | 10% | 89 | 32% | 137 | 49% | 19 | 7% | 3.48 | |

Interpretation

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 remained generally stable between 2024 and 2026. Mean changes during this period were small. The item with the largest increase in agreement was: “There are people outside my family and school that my child can talk to about things that are important to them” (2024: M = 3.89; 2026: M = 3.94). The item with the largest decrease in agreement was: “Lynnfield youth are given chances to help make the town a better place in which to live” (2024: M = 3.58; 2026: M = 3.48).

Short-Term Trend Statistical Comparison (2024 to 2026)

There were no statistically significant differences between 2024 and 2026.

Long-Term Trend Statistical Comparison (2021 to 2026)

There were no statistically significant differences across the three survey administrations.

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., talking with their child about what they are doing in school). Item-level distributions are presented in Table 5. To facilitate comparison, mean ratings are displayed (1 = Never to 5 = Very Often), with higher values indicating greater frequency of the behavior.

Table 5: Home Protective Factors (2025-2026 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% | 3 | 1% | 44 | 16% | 223 | 83% | 4.81 |
| Talk to my child about what they are doing in school | 0 | 0% | 1 | 0% | 5 | 2% | 51 | 18% | 220 | 79% | 4.77 |
| Ask my child about their homework | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 11 | 4% | 58 | 21% | 201 | 74% | 4.70 |
| Eat dinner together as a family | 0 | 0% | 7 | 3% | 46 | 17% | 85 | 31% | 132 | 49% | 4.27 |
| Spend free time together as a family doing things like talking, exercising, watching TV, playing sports/games | 0 | 0% | 5 | 2% | 45 | 17% | 96 | 36% | 123 | 46% | 4.25 |

Interpretation

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

2026 Survey Summary

Ratings across the five items were consistently in the “Often” to “Very Often” range (mean scores ranged from 4.25 to 4.81). The most frequently reported behavior was: “Encourage my child to be the best that they can be” (M = 4.81). The least frequently reported behavior was: “Spend free time together as a family doing things like talking, exercising, watching TV, playing sports/games” (M = 4.25).

2026 Grade Level Statistical Comparisons

Parents/caregivers whose oldest child is in grades 5-8 reported significantly higher frequency of spending free time together as a family (Middle School: M = 4.45; High School: M = 4.06) and eating dinner together as a family (Middle School: M = 4.37; High School: M = 4.16) compared to those whose oldest child is in grades 9-12.

2026 Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons

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

Trend data are displayed in [Table 6](#). The 2-Year Change column reflects the difference from 2024-2026. Directional arrows are used to identify items that moved $\pm .10$ mean points.

Table 6: Home Protective Factors – Trend

| Home Protective Factors | Never ⁽¹⁾ | | Seldom ⁽²⁾ | | Sometimes ⁽³⁾ | | Often ⁽⁴⁾ | | Very Often ⁽⁵⁾ | | TOTAL | |
|--|----------------------|----|-----------------------|------|--------------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|---------------------------|-----|---------------------|---------------|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | Mean ¹⁻⁵ | 2-Year 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? | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | .21 (↑) |
| 2026 Survey | 0 | 0% | 7 | 3% | 46 | 17% | 85 | 31% | 132 | 49% | 4.27 | |
| 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 | .09 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 0 | 0% | 5 | 2% | 45 | 17% | 96 | 36% | 123 | 46% | 4.25 | |
| 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 | .07 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 0 | 0% | 1 | 0% | 5 | 2% | 51 | 18% | 220 | 79% | 4.77 | |
| 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 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 3 | 1% | 44 | 16% | 223 | 83% | 4.81 | |
| 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 | -.01 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 11 | 4% | 58 | 21% | 201 | 74% | 4.70 | |

Interpretation

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 were mostly stable between the 2024 and 2026 surveys. The item with the largest increase in frequency was “Eat dinner together as a family” (2024: M = 4.05; 2026: M = 4.27). No items showed a substantial decrease in frequency between 2024 and 2026.

Short-Term Trend Statistical Comparison (2024 to 2026)

There was a statistically significant increase between the 2024 and 2026 surveys in the frequency with which parents/caregivers reported that they eat dinner together as a family (2024: M = 4.05; 2026: M = 4.27).

Long-Term Trend Statistical Comparison (2021 to 2026)

Across the three survey administrations, post hoc comparisons following a one-way ANOVA indicated statistically significant increases from 2021 to 2026 in the frequency of: “Talking to my child about what they are doing in school” (2021: M = 4.64; 2026: M = 4.77), “Encouraging my child to be the best they can be” (2021: M = 4.72; 2026: M = 4.81), and “Asking my child about their homework” (2021: M = 4.59; 2026: M = 4.70).

Reports of eating dinner together as a family were significantly lower in 2024 than in both 2021 and 2026.

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 7**. Higher mean scores indicate greater perceived concern, while lower mean scores indicate less perceived concern.

Table 7: Areas of Concern (2025-2026 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) | 7 | 3% | 34 | 14% | 47 | 19% | 96 | 39% | 64 | 26% | 3.71 |
| Youth Social Culture (friendships, cliques, exclusion, teasing) | 25 | 10% | 44 | 17% | 83 | 33% | 75 | 30% | 25 | 10% | 3.12 |
| Emotional and Mental Health (worrying, stress, anxiety, depression) | 23 | 9% | 45 | 18% | 87 | 35% | 74 | 30% | 18 | 7% | 3.08 |
| Community Culture (adults modeling unhealthy behaviors, toxic culture) | 34 | 14% | 62 | 25% | 79 | 32% | 58 | 23% | 15 | 6% | 2.83 |
| Academics (grades, homework, tests, academic pressure) | 39 | 16% | 57 | 23% | 101 | 41% | 45 | 18% | 5 | 2% | 2.68 |
| Social Justice (whether people are treated fairly and equitably no matter their background, human rights, racism, etc.) | 52 | 21% | 75 | 30% | 75 | 30% | 32 | 13% | 14 | 6% | 2.52 |
| Physical Safety (bullying, violence, distracted or impaired driving) | 61 | 25% | 73 | 30% | 67 | 27% | 36 | 15% | 9 | 4% | 2.43 |
| Substance Use (alcohol, marijuana, vaping, other substances) | 80 | 32% | 62 | 25% | 45 | 18% | 47 | 19% | 13 | 5% | 2.40 |
| Physical Health (nutrition, weight, sleep, physical activity) | 64 | 26% | 88 | 35% | 59 | 24% | 34 | 14% | 4 | 2% | 2.30 |
| Limited Opportunities/Activities for Youth (extra-curricular activities, community sports, organized social activities) | 101 | 41% | 71 | 29% | 49 | 20% | 17 | 7% | 8 | 3% | 2.02 |

Interpretation

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

2026 Survey Summary

Ratings across the 10 items mostly clustered in the "Moderate Issue" range (mean scores ranged from 2.02 to 3.71). Respondents identified Technology (M = 3.71) as the greatest area of concern among the listed factors. The area perceived as least concerning was Limited Opportunities/Activities for Youth (M = 2.02).

2026 Grade Level Statistical Comparisons

Parents/caregivers whose oldest child is in grades 9-12 were significantly more likely than those whose oldest child is in grades 5-8 to perceive the following as issues: Community Culture (Middle School: M = 2.61; High School: M = 3.06), Physical Health (Middle School: M = 2.13; High School: M = 2.48), Emotional and Mental Health (Middle School: M = 2.87; High School: M = 3.30), Substance Use (Middle School: M = 1.96; High School: M = 2.85), and Academics (Middle School: M = 2.49; High School: M = 2.87).

2026 Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons

Parents/caregivers whose oldest child identifies as female were significantly more likely to perceive Youth Social Culture as an issue (Female: M = 3.33; Male: M = 2.87).

Trend data are displayed in **Table 8**. The 2-Year Change column reflects the difference from 2024-2026. Directional arrows are used to identify items that moved $\pm .10$ mean points.

Table 8: Areas of Concern – Trend

| 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 | 2-Year 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? | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Substance Use (alcohol, marijuana, vaping, other substances) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 80 | 29% | 65 | 23% | 66 | 24% | 45 | 16% | 24 | 9% | 2.53 | |
| 2024 Survey | 34 | 24% | 25 | 18% | 36 | 25% | 34 | 24% | 13 | 9% | 2.77* | -.37 (↓) |
| 2026 Survey | 80 | 32% | 62 | 25% | 45 | 18% | 47 | 19% | 13 | 5% | 2.40* | |
| Emotional and Mental Health (worrying, stress, anxiety, depression) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 29 | 10% | 49 | 17% | 74 | 26% | 88 | 31% | 42 | 15% | 3.23 | |
| 2024 Survey | 7 | 5% | 20 | 14% | 38 | 27% | 58 | 41% | 19 | 13% | 3.44* | -.36 (↓) |
| 2026 Survey | 23 | 9% | 45 | 18% | 87 | 35% | 74 | 30% | 18 | 7% | 3.08* | |
| Youth Social Culture (friendships, cliques, exclusion, teasing) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 30 | 11% | 48 | 17% | 83 | 29% | 97 | 34% | 25 | 9% | 3.14 | |
| 2024 Survey | 8 | 6% | 22 | 15% | 45 | 32% | 46 | 32% | 21 | 15% | 3.35 | -.23 (↓) |
| 2026 Survey | 25 | 10% | 44 | 17% | 83 | 33% | 75 | 30% | 25 | 10% | 3.12 | |
| Academics (grades, homework, tests, academic pressure) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 50 | 18% | 59 | 21% | 98 | 35% | 66 | 23% | 9 | 3% | 2.73 | |
| 2024 Survey | 19 | 13% | 30 | 21% | 46 | 32% | 40 | 28% | 7 | 5% | 2.90 | -.23 (↓) |
| 2026 Survey | 39 | 16% | 57 | 23% | 101 | 41% | 45 | 18% | 5 | 2% | 2.68 | |
| Physical Health (nutrition, weight, sleep, physical activity) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 65 | 23% | 77 | 27% | 91 | 32% | 38 | 14% | 10 | 4% | 2.47 | |
| 2024 Survey | 33 | 23% | 36 | 26% | 42 | 30% | 28 | 20% | 2 | 1% | 2.50 | -.20 (↓) |
| 2026 Survey | 64 | 26% | 88 | 35% | 59 | 24% | 34 | 14% | 4 | 2% | 2.30 | |
| Physical Safety (bullying, violence, distracted or impaired driving) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 67 | 24% | 77 | 27% | 85 | 30% | 34 | 12% | 18 | 6% | 2.50 | |
| 2024 Survey | 30 | 21% | 38 | 27% | 36 | 26% | 31 | 22% | 6 | 4% | 2.61 | -.18 (↓) |
| 2026 Survey | 61 | 25% | 73 | 30% | 67 | 27% | 36 | 15% | 9 | 4% | 2.43 | |
| Technology (cell phones, social media, screen time) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 13 | 5% | 27 | 10% | 67 | 24% | 105 | 37% | 69 | 25% | 3.68 | |
| 2024 Survey | 3 | 2% | 9 | 6% | 34 | 24% | 57 | 40% | 39 | 27% | 3.85 | -.14 (↓) |
| 2026 Survey | 7 | 3% | 34 | 14% | 47 | 19% | 96 | 39% | 64 | 26% | 3.71 | |
| Community Culture (adults modeling unhealthy behaviors, toxic culture) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 55 | 20% | 70 | 25% | 88 | 31% | 61 | 22% | 8 | 3% | 2.63* | |
| 2024 Survey | 14 | 10% | 37 | 26% | 52 | 37% | 24 | 17% | 14 | 10% | 2.91* | -.08 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 34 | 14% | 62 | 25% | 79 | 32% | 58 | 23% | 15 | 6% | 2.83 | |
| 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 | |
| 2024 Survey | 27 | 19% | 44 | 31% | 47 | 33% | 17 | 12% | 7 | 5% | 2.53 | -.01 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 52 | 21% | 75 | 30% | 75 | 30% | 32 | 13% | 14 | 6% | 2.52 | |
| 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 | |
| 2024 Survey | 58 | 41% | 42 | 30% | 23 | 16% | 16 | 11% | 3 | 2% | 2.04 | -.02 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 101 | 41% | 71 | 29% | 49 | 20% | 17 | 7% | 8 | 3% | 2.02 | |

Interpretation

Mean scores are presented in order from the largest decrease in concern to the smallest change.

Trend Summary

Respondents in 2026 reported lower mean levels of concern than in 2024 in seven of the ten areas measured, with the remaining three areas showing little movement. The largest decreases in concern were observed for Substance Use (2024: M = 2.77; 2026: M = 2.40) and Emotional and Mental Health (2024: M = 3.44; 2026: M = 3.08).

Short-Term Trend Statistical Comparison (2024 to 2026)

There was a statistically significant decrease between 2024 and 2026 in levels of concern for Substance Use (2024: M = 2.77; 2026: M = 2.40) and Emotional and Mental Health (2024: M = 3.44; 2026: M = 3.08).

Long-Term Trend Statistical Comparison (2021 to 2026)

Post hoc comparisons following a one-way ANOVA indicated a statistically significant increase in concern about Community Culture from 2021 to 2024; however, concern in 2026 did not differ significantly from either 2021 or 2024 levels. Statistically significant decreases in concern about Substance Use and Emotional and Mental Health were observed between 2024 and 2026. No other items demonstrated significant change across the three survey administrations.

Open-Ended Responses

Parents/caregivers were provided an opportunity to share additional concerns related to youth health and wellness. Forty-three (43) respondents provided an open-ended comment. While responses varied in specificity, several themes emerged that largely align with the survey domains but provide additional context for how these issues are experienced within the community.

Technology and Social Media Use. Comments emphasized early access to cell phones, lack of parental oversight, and the impact of social media on peer relationships, exclusion, body image, and mental health. Several respondents expressed interest in greater parent education and coordinated community norms regarding technology use among younger students.

Substance Use and Adult Modeling. In addition to concerns about vaping and underage drinking, some respondents referenced perceived normalization of substance use among adults and inconsistent enforcement of school policies. Comments highlighted concerns about parent-hosted gatherings involving alcohol and the influence of adult behavior on youth norms.

School Climate, Accountability, and Leadership. Responses described concerns related to bullying, favoritism in athletics, perceived inequities in extracurricular opportunities, and inconsistent follow-through by adults in positions of authority. Some respondents expressed a desire for stronger coordination among parents, educators, coaches, and administrators to support student well-being.

Social Culture and Inclusion. Several comments referenced cliques, economic and social status pressures, and experiences of exclusion. Some respondents raised concerns about political divisiveness, intolerance, and insufficient attention to diversity, equity, and inclusion within the broader community.

Mental Health, Overscheduling, and Sleep. Respondents noted pressures related to academic workload, competitive athletics, late practice schedules, and early school start times. Some comments highlighted the need for more structured mental health education, wellness programming, and support for neurodivergent students.

Youth Programming and Community Spaces. While “Limited Opportunities/Activities for Youth” was rated as a lower concern overall, some respondents expressed interest in expanded low-cost community programming, open recreational spaces, and structured social activities for youth.

COMMUNICATION

Discussion Times and Locations

Parents/caregivers were presented with a list of times and locations and asked to indicate when they are most likely to communicate with their child about important matters. Results in [Table 9](#) are presented for all respondents along with breakdowns based on the grade level and gender identity of their oldest child.

Table 9: Discussion Times and Locations (2025-2026 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? | | | | | | | | | | |
| After dinner | 82 | 34% | 44 | 36% | 38 | 31% | 46 | 35% | 32 | 31% |
| During car rides | 73 | 30% | 27 | 30% | 36 | 30% | 40 | 30% | 31 | 30% |
| During mealtime | 63 | 26% | 29 | 24% | 34 | 28% | 36 | 27% | 26 | 25% |
| On the weekend | 12 | 5% | 7 | 6% | 5 | 4% | 5 | 4% | 7 | 7% |
| Some other time or place | 11 | 5% | 5 | 4% | 6 | 5% | 4 | 3% | 7 | 7% |
| In the morning | 4 | 2% | 1 | 1% | 3 | 3% | 2 | 2% | 2 | 2% |
| During family vacations | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% |

Interpretation

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

2026 Survey Summary

Respondents most frequently reported communicating with their child after dinner (34%), during car rides (30%), and during mealtimes (26%).

2026 Grade Level Statistical Comparisons

No statistically significant differences were observed based on the grade level of the respondents' oldest child.

2026 Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons

No statistically significant differences were observed between parent/caregiver respondents whose oldest child identifies as female versus male.

Other Times and Locations

Respondents who selected "Some other time or place" were invited to provide additional detail. Among the 11 respondents who selected this option, the following times were noted:

- Bedtime (5 respondents)
- No specific time or place (3 respondents)
- Right after school (2 respondents)

Trend data are displayed in Table 10. The 2-Year Change column reflects the difference from 2024-2026. Directional arrows are used to identify items that moved ± .10 percentage points.

Table 10: Discussion Times and Locations – Trend

| Discussion Times and Locations | TOTAL | | | GRADE [Yes] | | | | GENDER [Yes] | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----|---------------|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|--------------|-----|------|-----|
| | All Respondents | | | Grades 5-8 | | Grades 9-12 | | Female | | Male | |
| | N | % | 2 Year Change | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| When are you most likely to communicate with your child about important things in their life? | | | | | | | | | | | |
| After dinner | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | N/A | N/A | | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 2024 Survey | 25 | 18% | 16% (↑) | 9 | 14% | 16 | 22% | 15 | 19% | 10 | 17% |
| 2026 Survey | 82 | 34% | | 44 | 36% | 38 | 31% | 46 | 35% | 32 | 31% |
| During mealtime | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | N/A | N/A | | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 2024 Survey | 28 | 20% | 6% (=) | 13 | 20% | 16 | 20% | 13 | 17% | 15 | 25% |
| 2026 Survey | 63 | 26% | | 29 | 24% | 34 | 28% | 36 | 27% | 26 | 25% |
| On the weekend | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | N/A | N/A | | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 2024 Survey | 3 | 2% | 5% (=) | 1 | 2% | 2 | 3% | 1 | 1% | 2 | 3% |
| 2026 Survey | 12 | 5% | | 7 | 6% | 5 | 4% | 5 | 4% | 7 | 7% |
| In the morning | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | N/A | N/A | | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 2024 Survey | 1 | 1% | 1% (=) | 0 | 0% | 1 | 1% | 1 | 1% | 0 | 0% |
| 2026 Survey | 4 | 2% | | 1 | 1% | 3 | 3% | 2 | 2% | 2 | 2% |
| During family vacations | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | N/A | N/A | | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 2024 Survey | 1 | 1% | -1% (=) | 1 | 2% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 1% | 0 | 0% |
| 2026 Survey | 0 | 0% | | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% |
| Some other time or place | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | N/A | N/A | | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 2024 Survey | 11 | 8% | -3% (=) | 9 | 14% | 2 | 3% | 7 | 9% | 4 | 7% |
| 2026 Survey | 11 | 5% | | 5 | 4% | 6 | 5% | 4 | 3% | 7 | 7% |
| During car rides | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | N/A | N/A | | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 2024 Survey | 71 | 51% | -21% (↓) | 33 | 50% | 38 | 51% | 40 | 51% | 29 | 48% |
| 2026 Survey | 73 | 30% | | 27 | 30% | 36 | 30% | 40 | 30% | 31 | 30% |

Interpretation

Percentages represent the proportion of respondents selecting each time/location. Percentages are presented in order from the largest increase to the largest decrease in percentage point change.

Trend Summary

Compared to 2024, a greater proportion of respondents in 2026 reported being most likely to communicate with their child after dinner (2024: 18%; 2026: 34%) and during mealtime (2024: 20%; 2026: 26%). A smaller proportion reported they are most likely to communicate during car rides (2024: 51%; 2026: 30%). Other categories showed minimal change.

Short-Term Trend Statistical Comparison (2024 to 2026)

A chi-square test of independence indicated a statistically significant shift in reported discussion times between the 2024 and 2026 surveys. Examination of the distribution suggests that the shift was primarily driven by an increase in selecting “After dinner” and a decrease in selecting “During car rides.”

Long-Term Trend Statistical Comparison (2021 to 2026)

This question was not asked in the 2021 survey.

Discussions About Substance Use

Parents/caregivers were asked to indicate whether they had talked with their child or with the parents/caregivers of their child's closest friends about substance use issues. Items in this section used a No/Yes response scale. Results in [Table 11](#) 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 11: Discussions About Substance Use (2025-2026 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 | % |
| <p>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.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Have you <u>ever</u> communicated your family's guidelines and expectations around youth alcohol and drug use to your child? | 28 | 12% | 211 | 88% | 97 | 80% | 114 | 97% | 118 | 92% | 88 | 85% |
| Since the beginning of the school year, have you talked with your child about the potential negative consequences associated with youth alcohol and drug use? | 39 | 16% | 200 | 84% | 88 | 72% | 112 | 96% | 112 | 87% | 83 | 81% |
| 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? | 107 | 45% | 131 | 55% | 62 | 51% | 69 | 59% | 72 | 56% | 57 | 56% |

Interpretation

Percentages represent the proportion of respondents who engaged in each communication behavior.

2026 Survey Summary

Most respondents (88%) reported having ever communicated their family's guidelines and expectations around youth alcohol and drug use to their child, and 84% reported having talked with their child about the potential negative consequences associated with youth alcohol and drug use since the beginning of the school year. Over half (55%) 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.

2026 Grade Level Statistical Comparisons

Parents/caregivers whose oldest child is in grades 9-12 were significantly more likely than those whose oldest child is in grades 5-8 to report ever communicating their family's guidelines and expectations around youth alcohol and drug use to their child (Middle School: 80%; High School: 97%) and to report having talked with their child about the potential negative consequences associated with youth alcohol and drug use since the beginning of the school year (Middle School: 72%; High School: 96%).

2026 Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons

No statistically significant differences were observed in any of the communication behaviors based on the gender identity of the respondents' oldest child.

Trends are displayed in Table 12. The 2-Year Change column reflects the difference from 2024-2026. Directional arrows are used to identify items that moved ± .10 percentage points.

Table 12: Discussions About Substance Use – Trend

| Discussions About Substance Use | TOTAL | | | GRADE [Yes] | | | | GENDER [Yes] | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----|---------------|-------------|-----|-------------|------|--------------|-----|------|-----|
| | All Respondents | | | Grades 5-8 | | Grades 9-12 | | Female | | Male | |
| | N | % | 2 Year Change | 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. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Since the beginning of the school year, have you talked with your child about the potential negative consequences associated with youth alcohol and drug use? | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | N/A | N/A | | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 2024 Survey | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 2026 Survey | 200 | 84% | | 88 | 72% | 112 | 96% | 112 | 87% | 83 | 81% |
| Have you <u>ever</u> communicated your family’s guidelines and expectations around youth alcohol and drug use to your child? | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 247 | 94% | | 127 | 91% | 120 | 96% | 118 | 93% | 125 | 94% |
| 2024 Survey | 127 | 91% | -3% (=) | 53 | 80% | 74 | 100% | 72 | 92% | 54 | 90% |
| 2026 Survey | 211 | 88% | | 97 | 80% | 114 | 97% | 118 | 92% | 88 | 85% |
| 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 | 140 | 53% | | 63 | 46% | 77 | 62% | 70 | 56% | 68 | 51% |
| 2024 Survey | 90 | 64% | -9% (=) | 35 | 53% | 55 | 74% | 51 | 65% | 38 | 63% |
| 2026 Survey | 131 | 55% | | 62 | 51% | 69 | 59% | 72 | 56% | 57 | 56% |

Interpretation

Percentages represent the proportion of respondents reporting each type of discussion. Percentages are presented in order of percentage point change between 2024 and 2026.

Trend Summary

Across the three survey administrations, reported discussions about substance use remained generally stable. The proportion of parents/caregivers who indicated they had ever communicated their family’s guidelines and expectations around youth alcohol and drug use to their child remained high across survey years (2021: 94%; 2024: 91%; 2026: 88%). Similarly, the proportion who reported that they had ever talked with the parents/caregivers of their child’s closest friends about alcohol- and drug-related expectations showed modest variation over time (2021: 53%; 2024: 64%; 2026: 55%) but did not reflect a consistent upward or downward trend.

Short-Term Trend Statistical Comparison (2024 to 2026)

A chi-square test of independence indicated no statistically significant differences between the 2024 and 2026 surveys on any of these items.

Long-Term Trend Statistical Comparison (2021 to 2026)

No statistically significant differences were observed across survey administrations in the proportion of respondents reporting substance use-related communication behaviors. Overall levels of reported discussion remained relatively consistent over time.

The item regarding discussions about potential negative consequences of youth alcohol and drug use since the beginning of the school year was introduced in 2026 and therefore could not be examined for long-term trends.

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 13](#). To facilitate comparisons, summary (mean) ratings are displayed, with higher values indicating greater agreement.

Table 13: Discussions About Health and Wellness (2025-2026 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% | 4 | 2% | 18 | 8% | 116 | 48% | 100 | 42% | 4.28 |
| I believe that I have the knowledge and tools needed to have an effective discussion with my child about youth substance use | 1 | 0% | 3 | 1% | 17 | 7% | 126 | 53% | 92 | 38% | 4.28 |
| I believe that I have the knowledge and tools needed to have an effective discussion with my child about youth mental health | 2 | 1% | 5 | 2% | 43 | 18% | 115 | 49% | 72 | 30% | 4.05 |
| I feel that I could have an open and non-judgmental discussion with other Lynnfield parents/caregivers about youth mental health | 3 | 1% | 14 | 6% | 67 | 28% | 113 | 47% | 42 | 18% | 3.74 |
| I feel that I could have an open and non-judgmental discussion with other Lynnfield parents/caregivers about youth alcohol and drug use | 2 | 1% | 23 | 10% | 59 | 25% | 112 | 47% | 43 | 18% | 3.72 |

Interpretation

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

2026 Survey Summary

Ratings across the five items were consistently in the “Neutral” to “Agree” range (mean scores ranged from 3.72 to 4.28). Respondents most strongly agreed that they can have an influence on whether their child chooses to use alcohol or other drugs (M = 4.28) and that they have the knowledge and tools needed to have an effective discussion with their child about youth substance use (M = 4.28). Lower levels of agreement were observed for items related to having open and non-judgmental discussions with other Lynnfield parents/caregivers about youth mental health (M = 3.74) and youth alcohol and drug use (M = 3.72).

2026 Grade Level Statistical Comparisons

No statistically significant differences were observed in any of the five items based on the grade level of the respondents’ oldest child.

2026 Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons

No statistically significant differences were observed in any of the five items based on the gender identity of the respondents’ oldest child.

Trend data are displayed in Table 14. The 2-Year Change column reflects the difference from 2024-2026. Directional arrows are used to identify items that moved ± .10 mean points.

Table 14: Discussions About Health and Wellness – Trend

| 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 | 2-Year 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 mental health | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 2 | 1% | 25 | 9% | 48 | 18% | 128 | 48% | 61 | 23% | 3.84 | |
| 2024 Survey | 1 | 1% | 13 | 10% | 25 | 18% | 56 | 41% | 41 | 30% | 3.90 | .15 (↑) |
| 2026 Survey | 2 | 1% | 5 | 2% | 43 | 18% | 115 | 49% | 72 | 30% | 4.05 | |
| 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 | |
| 2024 Survey | 1 | 1% | 24 | 18% | 26 | 19% | 65 | 48% | 20 | 15% | 3.58 | .14 (↑) |
| 2026 Survey | 2 | 1% | 23 | 10% | 59 | 25% | 112 | 47% | 43 | 18% | 3.72 | |
| 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 | |
| 2024 Survey | 1 | 1% | 3 | 2% | 10 | 7% | 73 | 54% | 49 | 36% | 4.22 | .06 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 1 | 0% | 3 | 1% | 17 | 7% | 126 | 53% | 92 | 38% | 4.28 | |
| 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 | |
| 2024 Survey | 2 | 1% | 3 | 2% | 11 | 8% | 54 | 40% | 66 | 49% | 4.32 | .03 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 2 | 1% | 4 | 2% | 18 | 8% | 116 | 48% | 100 | 42% | 4.28 | |
| 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 | |
| 2024 Survey | 3 | 2% | 14 | 10% | 26 | 19% | 68 | 50% | 25 | 18% | 3.72 | .02 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 3 | 1% | 14 | 6% | 67 | 28% | 113 | 47% | 42 | 18% | 3.74 | |

Interpretation

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 were largely stable between the 2024 and 2026 surveys. Modest increases were observed in agreement with the statements that respondents have the knowledge and tools needed to have an effective discussion with their child about youth mental health (2024: M = 3.90; 2026: M = 4.05) and that they could have an open and non-judgmental discussion with other Lynnfield parents about youth alcohol and drug use (2024: M = 3.58; 2026: M = 3.72).

Short-Term Trend Statistical Comparison (2024 to 2026)

No statistically significant differences were observed between 2024 and 2026 in any of the items.

Long-Term Trend Statistical Comparison (2021 to 2026)

Post hoc comparisons following a one-way ANOVA indicated statistically significant increases from 2021 to 2026 in respondents indicating that they have the knowledge and tools needed to have an effective discussion with their child about youth mental health (2021: M = 3.84; 2026: M = 4.05) and youth substance use (2021: M = 4.08; 2026: M = 4.28). No other items demonstrated statistically significant change across the three survey administrations.

Safety Strategies

Parents/caregivers were presented with a list of safety strategies related to situations in which 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 15 are presented for all respondents along with breakdowns based on the grade level and gender identity of their oldest child.

Table 15: Safety Strategies (2025-2026 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 | 35 | 15% | 200 | 85% | 91 | 76% | 109 | 94% | 116 | 91% | 79 | 79% |
| Not feeling afraid to call home for help because they are frightened about being punished | 38 | 16% | 197 | 84% | 90 | 76% | 107 | 92% | 115 | 90% | 77 | 77% |
| Never riding in a vehicle driven by someone who has been drinking alcohol or using drugs | 61 | 26% | 174 | 74% | 68 | 57% | 106 | 91% | 103 | 80% | 66 | 66% |
| Never driving a vehicle if they have been drinking alcohol or using drugs | 80 | 34% | 155 | 66% | 54 | 45% | 101 | 87% | 94 | 73% | 56 | 56% |
| Refusal strategies – ways to say no if someone offers them alcohol or other drugs | 83 | 35% | 152 | 65% | 68 | 57% | 84 | 72% | 88 | 69% | 61 | 61% |
| Never using alcohol or other drugs while they are a minor (abstinence) | 89 | 38% | 146 | 62% | 79 | 66% | 67 | 58% | 84 | 66% | 59 | 59% |
| 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) | 97 | 41% | 138 | 59% | 60 | 50% | 78 | 67% | 85 | 66% | 49 | 49% |
| Call a taxi or ride service like Uber or Lyft if they have been drinking alcohol or using drugs | 162 | 69% | 73 | 31% | 26 | 22% | 47 | 41% | 35 | 27% | 35 | 35% |

Interpretation

Percentages represent the proportion of respondents who reported having discussed each strategy with their child.

2026 Survey Summary

Almost all respondents (97%) 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 (85%) and not feeling afraid to call home for help (84%). Respondents were least likely to report discussing calling a taxi or ride service if they have been drinking alcohol or using drugs (31%).

2026 Grade Level Statistical Comparisons

Parents/caregivers whose oldest child is in grades 9-12 were significantly more likely than those whose oldest child is in grades 5-8 to report discussing nearly all listed safety strategies. Differences were observed across strategies related to calling home for help, contacting emergency medical services, refusal skills, avoiding riding or driving under the influence, and use of ride services.

2026 Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons

Parents/caregivers whose oldest child identifies as female were significantly more likely than those whose oldest child identifies as male to report discussing several of the safety strategies listed. Differences were most evident for calling home for help, contacting emergency services, and avoiding riding or driving under the influence.

Open-Ended Responses

Parents/caregivers were provided an opportunity to share additional safety strategies. Eleven respondents provided an open-ended comment. While many comments mirrored strategies already listed, some mentioned strategies not in the survey, including encouraging youth to intervene when peers are engaging in unsafe behaviors and discussing precautions such as not leaving drinks unattended.

Trend data are displayed in Table 16. The 2-Year Change column reflects the difference from 2024-2026. Directional arrows are used to identify items that moved ± .10 percentage points.

Table 16: Safety Strategies – Trend

| Safety Strategies | TOTAL | | | GRADE [Yes] | | | | GENDER [Yes] | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----|---------------|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|--------------|-----|------|-----|
| | All Respondents | | 2 Year Change | Grades 5-8 | | Grades 9-12 | | Female | | Male | |
| | 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? | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Never using alcohol or other drugs while they are a minor (abstinence) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 165 | 62% | | 93 | 66% | 72 | 57% | 88 | 69% | 73 | 55% |
| 2024 Survey | 76 | 56% | 6% (=) | 34 | 55% | 42 | 58% | 41 | 55% | 35 | 59% |
| 2026 Survey | 146 | 62% | | 79 | 66% | 67 | 58% | 84 | 66% | 59 | 59% |
| Never driving a vehicle if they have been drinking alcohol or using drugs | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 169 | 64% | | 57 | 41% | 112 | 89% | 91 | 71% | 77 | 58% |
| 2024 Survey | 88 | 65% | 1% (=) | 31 | 50% | 57 | 78% | 52 | 69% | 36 | 61% |
| 2026 Survey | 155 | 66% | | 54 | 45% | 101 | 87% | 94 | 73% | 56 | 56% |
| Not feeling afraid to call the police or emergency medical services (911) if there is a medical emergency | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 143 | 54% | | 67 | 48% | 76 | 60% | 74 | 58% | 66 | 49% |
| 2024 Survey | 78 | 58% | 1% (=) | 36 | 58% | 42 | 58% | 45 | 60% | 33 | 56% |
| 2026 Survey | 138 | 59% | | 60 | 50% | 78 | 67% | 85 | 66% | 49 | 49% |
| Not feeling afraid to call home for help because they are frightened about being punished | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 215 | 81% | | 102 | 73% | 113 | 90% | 111 | 87% | 100 | 75% |
| 2024 Survey | 114 | 84% | 0% (=) | 48 | 77% | 66 | 90% | 62 | 83% | 51 | 86% |
| 2026 Survey | 197 | 84% | | 90 | 76% | 107 | 92% | 115 | 90% | 77 | 77% |
| Call a taxi or ride service like Uber or Lyft if they have been drinking alcohol or using drugs | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 70 | 26% | | 20 | 14% | 50 | 40% | 34 | 27% | 36 | 27% |
| 2024 Survey | 42 | 31% | 0% (=) | 10 | 16% | 32 | 44% | 26 | 35% | 16 | 27% |
| 2026 Survey | 73 | 31% | | 26 | 22% | 47 | 41% | 35 | 27% | 35 | 35% |
| Refusal strategies – ways to say no if someone offers them alcohol or other drugs | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 185 | 70% | | 92 | 66% | 93 | 74% | 96 | 75% | 85 | 63% |
| 2024 Survey | 91 | 67% | -2% (=) | 36 | 58% | 55 | 75% | 49 | 65% | 41 | 69% |
| 2026 Survey | 152 | 65% | | 68 | 57% | 84 | 72% | 88 | 69% | 61 | 61% |
| Never riding in a vehicle driven by someone who has been drinking alcohol or using drugs | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 197 | 74% | | 79 | 56% | 118 | 94% | 102 | 80% | 93 | 69% |
| 2024 Survey | 104 | 77% | -3% (=) | 37 | 60% | 67 | 92% | 59 | 79% | 44 | 75% |
| 2026 Survey | 174 | 74% | | 68 | 57% | 106 | 91% | 103 | 80% | 66 | 66% |
| Call home or send a text message if they feel unsafe | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 218 | 82% | | 105 | 75% | 113 | 90% | 114 | 89% | 100 | 75% |
| 2024 Survey | 122 | 90% | -5% (=) | 53 | 85% | 69 | 95% | 70 | 93% | 51 | 86% |
| 2026 Survey | 200 | 85% | | 91 | 76% | 109 | 94% | 116 | 91% | 79 | 79% |

Interpretation

Percentages represent the proportion of respondents reporting discussing each safety strategy. Strategies are presented in order of percentage point change between 2024 and 2026.

Trend Summary

Across the three survey administrations, reported discussions of safety strategies remained generally stable. While modest fluctuations were observed for individual strategies between survey years, no consistent upward or downward pattern emerged.

Short-Term Trend Statistical Comparison (2024 to 2026)

No statistically significant differences were observed between the 2024 and 2026 surveys.

Long-Term Trend Statistical Comparison (2021 to 2026)

No statistically significant differences were observed across survey administrations in the proportion of respondents reporting discussion of the listed safety strategies.

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. Items in Table 17 are grouped into those reflecting protective norms and those reflecting permissive attitudes toward substance use.

Table 17: Acceptability of Youth Substance Use (2025-2026 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 | 0% | 6 | 3% | 38 | 17% | 105 | 48% | 68 | 31% | 4.07 |
| 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 | 2 | 1% | 12 | 6% | 67 | 31% | 69 | 32% | 68 | 31% | 3.87 |
| 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 | 109 | 49% | 73 | 33% | 26 | 12% | 13 | 6% | 3 | 1% | 1.79 |
| Occasional youth alcohol use without adult supervision is OK if there is no driving involved | 127 | 58% | 58 | 26% | 27 | 12% | 5 | 2% | 2 | 1% | 1.62 |
| 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 | 139 | 63% | 60 | 27% | 15 | 7% | 5 | 2% | 2 | 1% | 1.51 |
| I think it is OK to allow youth marijuana use at home if it is responsible and not excessive | 166 | 76% | 42 | 19% | 9 | 4% | 1 | 0% | 1 | 0% | 1.31 |
| Occasional youth marijuana use without adult supervision is OK if there is no driving involved | 165 | 76% | 41 | 19% | 11 | 5% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 0% | 1.31 |

Interpretation

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).

2026 Survey Summary

On the protective factor items, respondents reported high levels of agreement, particularly regarding comfort calling other parents/caregivers (M = 4.07). On the items reflecting permissive attitudes toward youth substance use, mean scores were low (range 1.31 to 1.79), indicating general disagreement with allowing youth alcohol or marijuana use under the circumstances described.

2026 Grade Level Statistical Comparisons

Parents/caregivers whose oldest child is in grades 5-8 were significantly more likely than those whose oldest child is in grades 9-12 to report stronger agreement with protective norms, including comfort calling other parents (Middle School: M = 4.33; High School: M = 3.81) and wanting other parents to call them (Middle School: M = 4.16; High School: M = 3.58). In contrast, parents of high school students were significantly more likely to express comparatively more permissive attitudes toward youth alcohol use. These differences were observed for allowing youth alcohol use at home (Middle School: M = 1.63; High School: M = 1.94), allowing adult-supervised youth alcohol use at another parent's home (Middle School: M = 1.39; High School: M = 1.63), and occasional unsupervised youth alcohol use without driving (Middle School: M = 1.50; High School: M = 1.74).

2026 Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons

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

Trend data are displayed in Table 18. The 2-Year Change column reflects the difference from 2024-2026. Directional arrows are used to identify items that moved ± .10 mean points.

Table 18: Acceptability of Youth Substance Use – Trend

| 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 | 2-Year 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 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 | |
| 2024 Survey | 5 | 4% | 9 | 7% | 32 | 24% | 49 | 37% | 39 | 29% | 3.81 | .06 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 2 | 1% | 12 | 6% | 67 | 31% | 69 | 32% | 68 | 31% | 3.87 | |
| 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 | |
| 2024 Survey | 1 | 1% | 4 | 3% | 26 | 19% | 63 | 47% | 40 | 30% | 4.02 | .05 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 1 | 0% | 6 | 3% | 38 | 17% | 105 | 48% | 68 | 31% | 4.07 | |
| Risk Factors | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | |
| 2024 Survey | 65 | 49% | 43 | 32% | 18 | 13% | 7 | 5% | 1 | 1% | 1.78 | -.16 (↓) |
| 2026 Survey | 127 | 58% | 58 | 26% | 27 | 12% | 5 | 2% | 2 | 1% | 1.62 | |
| 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 | |
| 2024 Survey | 58 | 43% | 40 | 30% | 23 | 17% | 11 | 8% | 2 | 1% | 1.95 | -.16 (↓) |
| 2026 Survey | 109 | 49% | 73 | 33% | 26 | 12% | 13 | 6% | 3 | 1% | 1.79 | |
| 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 | |
| 2024 Survey | 79 | 59% | 36 | 27% | 11 | 8% | 7 | 5% | 1 | 1% | 1.62 | -.11 (↓) |
| 2026 Survey | 139 | 63% | 60 | 27% | 15 | 7% | 5 | 2% | 2 | 1% | 1.51 | |
| 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 | |
| 2024 Survey | 93 | 70% | 33 | 25% | 6 | 5% | 1 | 1% | 0 | 0% | 1.36 | -.05 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 165 | 76% | 41 | 19% | 11 | 5% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 0% | 1.31 | |
| 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 | |
| 2024 Survey | 96 | 72% | 34 | 25% | 4 | 3% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 1.31 | .00 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 166 | 76% | 42 | 19% | 9 | 4% | 1 | 0% | 1 | 0% | 1.31 | |
| Interpretation | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Means are presented in order from the largest increase to the largest decline in agreement within each table section. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trend Summary | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ratings were largely stable between the 2024 and 2026 surveys. Modest decreases in agreement were observed for several alcohol-related permissiveness items, including occasional unsupervised alcohol use, allowing youth alcohol use at home, and allowing adult-supervised alcohol use at another parent’s home. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Short-Term Trend Statistical Comparison (2024 to 2026) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No statistically significant differences were observed between 2024 and 2026 in any of the items. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Long-Term Trend Statistical Comparison (2021 to 2026) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Post hoc comparisons following a one-way ANOVA indicated a statistically significant increase from 2021 to 2024 in agreement with the statement that occasional youth alcohol use without supervision is okay if there is no driving involved (2021: M = 1.50; 2024: M = 1.78). However, agreement in 2026 (M = 1.62) did not differ significantly from 2021 levels. No other items demonstrated statistically significant change across the three survey administrations. | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Feelings About Youth Substance Use

Parents/caregivers were asked to indicate how wrong they believe it would be for a student their child's age to use eight different types of substances. Ratings for the individual items in this section of the survey are displayed in [Table 19](#).

Table 19: Feelings About Youth Substance Use (2025-2026 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% | 2 | 1% | 207 | 99% | 3.99 |
| use prescription drugs not prescribed to them? | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 2 | 1% | 207 | 99% | 3.99 |
| have one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day? | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 3 | 1% | 203 | 99% | 3.99 |
| use an electronic vapor product such as JUUL, Vuse, or NJOY? | 0 | 0% | 3 | 1% | 10 | 5% | 195 | 94% | 3.92 |
| use smokeless tobacco, or nicotine pouches, such as Skoal, ZYN, or Velo? | 0 | 0% | 2 | 1% | 13 | 6% | 193 | 93% | 3.92 |
| smoke tobacco? | 0 | 0% | 4 | 2% | 18 | 9% | 189 | 90% | 3.88 |
| use marijuana? | 0 | 0% | 5 | 2% | 20 | 10% | 184 | 88% | 3.86 |
| drink alcohol occasionally? | 1 | 0% | 23 | 11% | 30 | 14% | 156 | 74% | 3.62 |

Interpretation

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

2026 Survey Summary

Ratings across the eight items reflected high levels of disapproval, with mean scores ranging from 3.62 to 3.99 on a scale from 1 = Not At All Wrong to 4 = Very Wrong). Respondents expressed the strongest disapproval for youth use of other illegal drugs such as cocaine, heroin, or ecstasy (M = 3.99) and prescription drugs not prescribed to them (M = 3.99). Disapproval was comparatively lower for youth drinking alcohol occasionally (M = 3.62), though the majority of respondents still indicated that this behavior would be wrong or very wrong.

2026 Grade Level Statistical Comparisons

Parents/caregivers whose oldest child is in grades 5-8 reported significantly higher levels of disapproval than those whose oldest child is in grades 9-12 for smoking tobacco (Middle School: M = 3.96; High School: M = 3.80), drinking alcohol occasionally (Middle School: M = 3.97; High School: M = 3.30), using marijuana (Middle School: M = 3.97; High School: M = 3.75), using an electronic vapor product (Middle School: M = 3.98; High School: M = 3.87), and using smokeless tobacco or nicotine pouches (Middle School: M = 3.98; High School: M = 3.86).

2026 Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons

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

Trend data are displayed in Table 20. The 2-Year Change column reflects the difference from 2024-2026. Directional arrows are used to identify items that moved ± .10 mean points.

Table 20: Feelings About Youth Substance Use - Trend

| Feelings About Youth Substance Use | Not At All Wrong ⁽¹⁾ | | A Little Bit Wrong ⁽²⁾ | | Wrong ⁽³⁾ | | Very Wrong ⁽⁴⁾ | | TOTAL | |
|--|---------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------|------|----------------------|-----|---------------------------|-----|---------------------|---------------|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | Mean ¹⁻⁴ | 2-Year Change |
| How wrong do you think it would be for a student your child's age to... | | | | | | | | | | |
| drink alcohol occasionally | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 3 | 1% | 28 | 11% | 47 | 19% | 173 | 69% | 3.55 | |
| 2024 Survey | 2 | 2% | 15 | 11% | 24 | 18% | 90 | 69% | 3.54 | .08 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 1 | 0% | 23 | 11% | 30 | 14% | 156 | 74% | 3.62 | |
| smoke tobacco | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 0 | 0% | 8 | 3% | 35 | 14% | 209 | 83% | 3.80 | |
| 2024 Survey | 0 | 0% | 1 | 1% | 17 | 13% | 114 | 86% | 3.86 | .02 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 0 | 0% | 4 | 2% | 18 | 9% | 189 | 90% | 3.88 | |
| 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 | |
| 2024 Survey | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 2 | 2% | 129 | 98% | 3.98 | .01 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 3 | 1% | 203 | 99% | 3.99 | |
| use an electronic vapor product such as JUUL, Vuse, or NJOY? | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 0 | 0% | 3 | 1% | 23 | 9% | 225 | 90% | 3.88 | |
| 2024 Survey | 0 | 0% | 1 | 1% | 10 | 8% | 121 | 92% | 3.91 | .01 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 0 | 0% | 3 | 1% | 10 | 5% | 195 | 94% | 3.92 | |
| use marijuana | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 1 | 0.4% | 7 | 3% | 33 | 13% | 211 | 84% | 3.80 | |
| 2024 Survey | 0 | 0% | 4 | 3% | 12 | 9% | 116 | 88% | 3.85 | .01 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 0 | 0% | 5 | 2% | 20 | 10% | 184 | 88% | 3.86 | |
| use other illegal drugs (such as cocaine, heroin, ecstasy) | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 0 | 0% | 1 | 0.4% | 7 | 3% | 243 | 97% | 3.96 | |
| 2024 Survey | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 1% | 131 | 99% | 3.99 | .00 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 2 | 1% | 207 | 99% | 3.99 | |
| use prescription drugs not prescribed to them | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 7 | 3% | 243 | 97% | 3.97 | |
| 2024 Survey | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 1% | 130 | 99% | 3.99 | .00 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 2 | 1% | 207 | 99% | 3.99 | |
| use smokeless tobacco, or nicotine pouches, such as Skoal, ZYN, or Velo? | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| 2024 Survey | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A N/A |
| 2026 Survey | 0 | 0% | 2 | 1% | 13 | 6% | 193 | 93% | 3.92 | |

Interpretation

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

Trend Summary

Ratings across the eight items were highly consistent across the three administrations, with minimal fluctuation.

Short-Term Trend Statistical Comparison (2024 to 2026)

No statistically significant differences were observed between 2024 and 2026 in any of the items.

Long-Term Trend Statistical Comparison (2021 to 2026)

Post hoc comparisons following a one-way ANOVA indicated a statistically significant increase from 2021 to 2026 in disapproval of having one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day (2021: M = 3.94; 2026: M = 3.99). However, the magnitude of this change was small, and no other items demonstrated statistically significant change across the three survey administrations.

The question about using smokeless tobacco or nicotine pouches was added to the survey in 2026.

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 21](#).

Table 21: Community Culture (2025-2026 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 | 3 | 1% | 12 | 6% | 90 | 42% | 84 | 39% | 27 | 13% | 3.56 |
| 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 | % | |
| Too many parents/caregivers in Lynnfield ignore or disregard underage alcohol use | 1 | 0% | 12 | 5% | 95 | 43% | 60 | 27% | 51 | 23% | 3.68 |
| Too many parents/caregivers in Lynnfield ignore or disregard youth marijuana use | 3 | 1% | 9 | 4% | 124 | 57% | 46 | 21% | 35 | 16% | 3.47 |
| Too many parents/caregivers in Lynnfield set a bad example for their children by their own excessive use of substances | 4 | 2% | 19 | 9% | 82 | 38% | 70 | 32% | 42 | 19% | 3.59 |
| Adult alcohol consumption at school-sponsored sporting events (e.g., tailgating, alcohol in thermoses) is an issue in Lynnfield | 9 | 4% | 43 | 20% | 92 | 43% | 49 | 23% | 23 | 11% | 3.16 |
| I think adults in Lynnfield feel pressure to consume alcohol for social reasons at gatherings in Lynnfield | 19 | 9% | 56 | 26% | 78 | 36% | 48 | 22% | 14 | 7% | 2.92 |

Interpretation

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).

2026 Survey Summary

Ratings across the six items reflected responses generally clustered around the midpoint of the scale, with mean scores ranging from 2.92 to 3.68. Respondents tended to agree that other adults are supportive when an adult abstains from alcohol at social gatherings ($M = 3.56$) and that too many parents/caregivers ignore or disregard underage alcohol use ($M = 3.68$). In contrast, respondents tended to disagree that adults in Lynnfield feel pressure to consume alcohol for social reasons ($M = 2.92$).

2026 Grade Level Statistical Comparisons

Parents/caregivers whose oldest child is in grades 9-12 reported significantly higher agreement that too many parents/caregivers in Lynnfield ignore or disregard underage alcohol use (Middle School: $M = 3.42$; High School: $M = 3.93$), ignore or disregard youth marijuana use (Middle School: $M = 3.23$; High School: $M = 3.69$), set a bad example through excessive substance use (Middle School: $M = 3.40$; High School: $M = 3.76$), and that adult alcohol consumption at school-sponsored sporting events is an issue (Middle School: $M = 2.96$; High School: $M = 3.35$).

2026 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.

Trend data are displayed in Table 22. The 2-Year Change column reflects the difference from 2024-2026. Directional arrows are used to identify items that moved ± .10 mean points.

Table 22: Community Culture – Trend

| Community Culture | Strongly Disagree ⁽¹⁾ | | Disagree ⁽²⁾ | | Neutral ⁽³⁾ | | Agree ⁽⁴⁾ | | Strongly Agree ⁽⁵⁾ | | TOTAL | |
|--|----------------------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|------------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|-------------------------------|-----|---------------------|---------------|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | Mean ¹⁻⁵ | 2-Year Change |
| Protective Factors | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | |
| 2024 Survey | 2 | 2% | 10 | 8% | 45 | 34% | 64 | 49% | 11 | 8% | 3.55 | .01 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 3 | 1% | 12 | 6% | 90 | 42% | 84 | 39% | 27 | 13% | 3.56 | |
| Risk Factors | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | |
| 2024 Survey | 1 | 1% | 5 | 4% | 53 | 40% | 42 | 32% | 31 | 23% | 3.73 | -.06 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 1 | 0% | 12 | 5% | 95 | 43% | 60 | 27% | 51 | 23% | 3.68 | |
| 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 | |
| 2024 Survey | 1 | 1% | 13 | 10% | 51 | 39% | 39 | 30% | 28 | 21% | 3.61 | -.02 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 4 | 2% | 19 | 9% | 82 | 38% | 70 | 32% | 42 | 19% | 3.59 | |
| 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 | |
| 2024 Survey | 5 | 4% | 9 | 7% | 64 | 48% | 31 | 23% | 23 | 17% | 3.44 | .03 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 3 | 1% | 9 | 4% | 124 | 57% | 46 | 21% | 35 | 16% | 3.47 | |
| 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* | |
| 2024 Survey | 8 | 6% | 42 | 32% | 51 | 39% | 24 | 18% | 7 | 5% | 2.85 | .07 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 19 | 9% | 56 | 26% | 78 | 36% | 48 | 22% | 14 | 7% | 2.92* | |
| 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 | |
| 2024 Survey | 9 | 7% | 29 | 22% | 54 | 41% | 27 | 20% | 13 | 10% | 3.05 | .11 (↑) |
| 2026 Survey | 9 | 4% | 43 | 20% | 92 | 43% | 49 | 23% | 23 | 11% | 3.16 | |

Interpretation

Mean scores are presented in order based on magnitude of change between 2024 and 2026.

Trend Summary

Ratings across the six items were generally consistent across administrations, with only minor fluctuations in levels of agreement. The largest short-term change between 2024 and 2026 was a modest increase in perceptions that adult alcohol consumption at school-sponsored events is an issue; however, this difference was not statistically significant.

Short-Term Trend Statistical Comparison (2024 to 2026)

No statistically significant differences were observed between 2024 and 2026 in any of the items.

Long-Term Trend Statistical Comparison (2021 to 2026)

Post hoc comparisons following a one-way ANOVA indicated a statistically significant increase from 2021 to 2026 in agreement with the statement that adults in Lynnfield feel pressure to consume alcohol for social reasons at gatherings in Lynnfield (2021: M = 2.63; 2026: M = 2.92). Although agreement increased over time, average responses remained below the midpoint of the scale. No other items demonstrated statistically significant change across the three survey administrations.

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 23** are presented for all respondents along with breakdowns based on the grade level and gender identity of their oldest child.

Table 23: Police-Involved Youth Substance Use (2025-2026 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 | 6 | 3% | 208 | 97% | 104 | 99% | 104 | 95% | 116 | 96% | 86 | 99% |
| Require that the teens attend substance use education class | 67 | 31% | 147 | 69% | 72 | 69% | 75 | 69% | 88 | 73% | 57 | 66% |
| Require teens to participate in community service hours or other restorative justice activities | 67 | 31% | 147 | 69% | 76 | 72% | 71 | 65% | 81 | 67% | 62 | 71% |
| Require that the teens meet with a youth counselor | 102 | 48% | 112 | 52% | 57 | 54% | 55 | 51% | 63 | 52% | 46 | 53% |
| Issue a verbal warning to the teens | 113 | 53% | 101 | 47% | 50 | 48% | 51 | 47% | 61 | 50% | 35 | 40% |
| Require the parents/caregivers attend a substance use education class for teens | 118 | 55% | 96 | 45% | 52 | 50% | 44 | 40% | 61 | 50% | 32 | 37% |
| Inform school personnel | 148 | 69% | 66 | 31% | 32 | 31% | 34 | 31% | 40 | 33% | 25 | 29% |
| Issue a ticket/notice to appear in court | 181 | 85% | 33 | 15% | 19 | 18% | 14 | 13% | 21 | 17% | 10 | 12% |
| Arrest the teens | 203 | 95% | 11 | 5% | 8 | 8% | 3 | 3% | 8 | 7% | 2 | 2% |

Interpretation

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

2026 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 contacting the teens’ parents/caregivers (97%), requiring that the teens attend a substance use education class (69%), and requiring teens to participate in community service hours or other restorative justice activities (69%). Support for more punitive law enforcement actions was limited, including issuing a ticket or notice to appear in court (15%) or arresting the teens (5%).

2026 Grade Level Statistical Comparisons

No statistically significant differences were observed based on the grade level of the respondents’ oldest child.

2026 Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons

No statistically significant differences were observed based on the gender identity of the respondents’ oldest child.

Trends data are displayed in **Table 24**. The 2-Year Change column reflects the difference from 2024-2026. Directional arrows are used to identify items that moved ± .10 percentage points.

Table 24: Police-Involved Youth Substance Use – Trend

| Consequences for Police-Involved Youth Substance Use | TOTAL | | | GRADE [Yes] | | | | GENDER [Yes] | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----|---------------|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|--------------|-----|------|-----|
| | All Respondents | | 2 Year Change | Grades 5-8 | | Grades 9-12 | | Female | | Male | |
| | N | % | | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| If the police became aware of Lynnfield teens drinking alcohol, what action(s) would you support being taken? | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Require teens to participate in community service hours or other restorative justice activities | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | N/A | N/A | | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 2024 Survey | 65 | 49% | 20% (↑) | 35 | 57% | 30 | 43% | 41 | 55% | 24 | 42% |
| 2026 Survey | 147 | 69% | | 76 | 72% | 71 | 65% | 81 | 67% | 62 | 71% |
| Require the parents/caregivers attend a substance use education class for teens | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | N/A | N/A | | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 2024 Survey | 47 | 36% | 9% (=) | 22 | 36% | 25 | 36% | 27 | 37% | 20 | 35% |
| 2026 Survey | 96 | 45% | | 52 | 50% | 44 | 40% | 61 | 50% | 32 | 37% |
| Inform school personnel | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 78 | 31% | | 38 | 28% | 40 | 33% | 36 | 29% | 40 | 31% |
| 2024 Survey | 31 | 24% | 7% (=) | 16 | 26% | 15 | 21% | 19 | 26% | 12 | 21% |
| 2026 Survey | 66 | 31% | | 32 | 31% | 34 | 31% | 40 | 33% | 25 | 29% |
| Issue a ticket/notice to appear in court | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 31 | 12% | | 17 | 13% | 14 | 12% | 13 | 11% | 17 | 13% |
| 2024 Survey | 12 | 9% | 6% (=) | 11 | 18% | 1 | 1% | 6 | 8% | 6 | 11% |
| 2026 Survey | 33 | 15% | | 19 | 18% | 14 | 13% | 21 | 17% | 10 | 12% |
| Require that the teens meet with a youth counselor | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 140 | 55% | | 79 | 59% | 61 | 50% | 63 | 51% | 74 | 57% |
| 2024 Survey | 65 | 49% | 3% (=) | 34 | 55% | 31 | 44% | 34 | 46% | 31 | 54% |
| 2026 Survey | 112 | 52% | | 57 | 54% | 55 | 51% | 63 | 52% | 46 | 53% |
| Call or contact the teens' parents/caregivers | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 243 | 95% | | 129 | 96% | 114 | 94% | 114 | 93% | 125 | 97% |
| 2024 Survey | 127 | 96% | 1% (=) | 60 | 97% | 67 | 96% | 72 | 97% | 54 | 95% |
| 2026 Survey | 208 | 97% | | 104 | 99% | 104 | 95% | 116 | 96% | 86 | 99% |
| Arrest the teens | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 12 | 5% | | 6 | 4% | 6 | 5% | 6 | 5% | 5 | 4% |
| 2024 Survey | 5 | 4% | 1% (=) | 4 | 7% | 1 | 1% | 0 | 0% | 5 | 9% |
| 2026 Survey | 11 | 5% | | 8 | 8% | 3 | 3% | 8 | 7% | 2 | 2% |
| Issue a verbal warning to the teens | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 91 | 36% | | 45 | 33% | 46 | 38% | 42 | 34% | 49 | 38% |
| 2024 Survey | 68 | 52% | -5% (=) | 33 | 53% | 35 | 50% | 40 | 54% | 27 | 47% |
| 2026 Survey | 101 | 47% | | 50 | 48% | 51 | 47% | 61 | 50% | 35 | 40% |
| Require that the teens attend substance use education class | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 150 | 59% | | 90 | 67% | 60 | 50% | 69 | 56% | 79 | 61% |
| 2024 Survey | 72 | 55% | -10% (↓) | 32 | 52% | 40 | 57% | 42 | 57% | 30 | 53% |
| 2026 Survey | 96 | 45% | | 52 | 50% | 44 | 40% | 61 | 50% | 32 | 37% |

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

Trend Summary
 There was little change between 2024 and 2026 for most actions. However, support increased for requiring teens to participate in community service hours or other restorative justice practices (2024: 49%; 2026: 69%) and decreased for requiring that teens attend a substance use education class (2024: 55%; 2026: 45%).

Short-Term Trend Statistical Comparison (2024 to 2026)
 There was a statistically significant increase from 2024 to 2026 in support for requiring teens to participate in community service hours or other restorative justice activities. There was a statistically significant decrease between 2024 and 2026 in support for requiring that teens attend a substance use education class.

Long-Term Trend Statistical Comparison (2021 to 2026)
 Support for issuing a verbal warning increased significantly from 2021 to 2024 but declined in 2026, returning closer to 2021 levels. No other items differed significantly across the three survey administrations.

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 25](#) are presented for all respondents along with breakdowns based on the grade level and gender identity of their oldest child.

Table 25: School-Involved Youth Substance Use (2025-2026 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 | 14 | 7% | 197 | 93% | 94 | 91% | 103 | 95% | 109 | 92% | 83 | 95% |
| Require the student attend a substance use education class | 71 | 34% | 140 | 66% | 69 | 67% | 71 | 66% | 81 | 69% | 58 | 67% |
| Require that the student meet with a youth counselor | 84 | 40% | 127 | 60% | 66 | 64% | 61 | 57% | 73 | 62% | 51 | 59% |
| Enforce MIAA sanctions if student is on a school sports team | 98 | 46% | 113 | 54% | 51 | 50% | 62 | 57% | 70 | 59% | 41 | 47% |
| Require teens to participate in community service hours or other restorative justice practices | 104 | 49% | 107 | 51% | 58 | 56% | 49 | 45% | 65 | 55% | 41 | 47% |
| Temporarily bar the student from non-academic activities | 124 | 59% | 87 | 41% | 44 | 43% | 43 | 40% | 57 | 48% | 28 | 32% |
| Require that parents/caregivers attend a substance use education class for teens | 128 | 61% | 83 | 39% | 42 | 41% | 41 | 38% | 55 | 47% | 27 | 31% |
| Suspend the student | 195 | 92% | 16 | 8% | 11 | 11% | 5 | 5% | 13 | 11% | 3 | 3% |

Interpretation

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

2026 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 contacting the student’s parents/caregivers (93%) and requiring that the student attend a substance use education class (66%). Support for exclusionary or punitive actions was more limited, particularly suspending the student (8%), while 41% endorsed temporarily barring the student from non-academic activities.

2026 Grade Level Statistical Comparisons

No statistically significant differences were observed based on the grade level of the respondents’ oldest child.

2026 Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons

A chi-square analysis indicated that parents/caregivers whose oldest child identifies as female were significantly more likely to endorse temporarily barring the student from non-academic activities (Female: 48%; Male: 32%) and requiring parents/caregivers to attend a substance use education class for teens (Female: 47%; Male: 31%).

Trend data are displayed in Table 26. The 2-Year Change column reflects the difference from 2024-2026. Directional arrows are used to identify items that moved ± .10 percentage points.

Table 26: School-Involved Youth Substance Use – Trend

| Consequences for School-Involved Youth Substance Use | TOTAL | | | GRADE [Yes] | | | | GENDER [Yes] | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----|---------------|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|--------------|-----|------|-----|
| | All Respondents | | 2 Year Change | Grades 5-8 | | Grades 9-12 | | Female | | Male | |
| | N | % | | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| If school personnel became aware of a Lynnfield student drinking alcohol, what action(s) would you support being taken? | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Temporarily bar the student from non-academic activities | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 80 | 31% | | 44 | 33% | 36 | 30% | 36 | 29% | 43 | 33% |
| 2024 Survey | 34 | 26% | 15% (↑) | 17 | 27% | 17 | 25% | 23 | 32% | 11 | 20% |
| 2026 Survey | 87 | 41% | | 44 | 43% | 43 | 40% | 57 | 48% | 28 | 32% |
| Require the student attend a substance use education class | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 145 | 57% | | 83 | 62% | 62 | 51% | 66 | 54% | 77 | 60% |
| 2024 Survey | 73 | 56% | 10% (↑) | 35 | 57% | 38 | 55% | 41 | 56% | 32 | 56% |
| 2026 Survey | 140 | 66% | | 69 | 67% | 71 | 66% | 81 | 69% | 58 | 67% |
| Require that the student meet with a youth counselor | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 161 | 63% | | 88 | 65% | 73 | 60% | 74 | 60% | 84 | 65% |
| 2024 Survey | 71 | 54% | 6% (=) | 38 | 61% | 33 | 48% | 40 | 55% | 30 | 53% |
| 2026 Survey | 127 | 60% | | 66 | 64% | 61 | 57% | 73 | 62% | 51 | 59% |
| Require that parents/caregivers attend a substance use education class for teens | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | N/A | N/A | | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 2024 Survey | 44 | 34% | 5% (=) | 22 | 36% | 22 | 32% | 24 | 33% | 20 | 35% |
| 2026 Survey | 83 | 39% | | 42 | 41% | 41 | 38% | 55 | 47% | 27 | 31% |
| Suspend the student | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 20 | 8% | | 9 | 7% | 11 | 9% | 7 | 6% | 13 | 10% |
| 2024 Survey | 7 | 5% | 3% (=) | 4 | 7% | 3 | 4% | 1 | 1% | 6 | 11% |
| 2026 Survey | 16 | 8% | | 11 | 11% | 5 | 5% | 13 | 11% | 3 | 3% |
| Require teens to participate in community service hours or other restorative justice practices | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 98 | 38% | | 52 | 39% | 46 | 38% | 45 | 37% | 52 | 40% |
| 2024 Survey | 64 | 49% | 2% (=) | 34 | 55% | 30 | 44% | 38 | 52% | 26 | 46% |
| 2026 Survey | 107 | 51% | | 58 | 56% | 49 | 45% | 65 | 55% | 41 | 47% |
| Enforce MIAA sanctions if student is on a school sports team | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 128 | 50% | | 67 | 50% | 61 | 50% | 57 | 46% | 69 | 54% |
| 2024 Survey | 69 | 53% | 1% (=) | 29 | 47% | 40 | 58% | 39 | 53% | 30 | 53% |
| 2026 Survey | 113 | 54% | | 51 | 50% | 62 | 57% | 70 | 59% | 41 | 47% |
| Call or contact the student’s parents/caregivers | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 239 | 93% | | 124 | 92% | 115 | 95% | 110 | 89% | 125 | 97% |
| 2024 Survey | 127 | 97% | -4% (=) | 59 | 95% | 68 | 99% | 70 | 96% | 56 | 98% |
| 2026 Survey | 197 | 93% | | 94 | 91% | 103 | 95% | 109 | 92% | 83 | 95% |

Interpretation

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

Trend Summary

There was little change between 2024 and 2026 for most school-based consequences. However, support increased for temporarily barring the student from non-academic activities (2024: 26%; 2026: 41%) and for requiring that the student attend a substance use education class (2024: 56%; 2026: 66%).

Short-Term Trend Statistical Comparison (2024 to 2026)

There was a statistically significant increase between 2024 and 2026 in support for temporarily barring students from non-academic activities, with support significantly higher in 2026 (41%) compared to 2024 (26%).

Long-Term Trend Statistical Comparison (2021 to 2026)

A statistically significant upward trend was observed in support for requiring students to complete community service, increasing from 38% in 2021 to 51% in 2026.

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 27](#). To facilitate comparisons, summary (mean) ratings for each item are displayed, with values indicating higher or lower frequency of the behavior.

Table 27: Parenting Behaviors (2025-2026 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 | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 17 | 9% | 174 | 91% | 4.91 |
| Engage your child in a conversation to learn about their activities when they return from being out with friends | 0 | 0% | 2 | 1% | 3 | 2% | 38 | 20% | 147 | 77% | 4.74 |
| Check in by phone or text message at least one time when your child is out with friends | 1 | 1% | 4 | 2% | 8 | 4% | 37 | 19% | 140 | 74% | 4.64 |
| Visually assess your child for signs of substance use when they come home from being out with friends | 58 | 31% | 15 | 8% | 11 | 6% | 20 | 11% | 81 | 44% | 3.28 |
| Risk Factors | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Knowingly allow your child to attend parties or gatherings where underage drinking or other substance use likely occurs | 141 | 69% | 26 | 13% | 27 | 13% | 8 | 4% | 2 | 1% | 1.55 |

Interpretation

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

2026 Survey Summary

Parents/caregivers reported high engagement in protective monitoring behaviors, with mean scores ranging from 3.28 to 4.91. The most frequently reported behavior was requiring their child to disclose where and with whom they will be when going out (M = 4.91), followed by engaging in conversation upon returning home (M = 4.74), and checking in by phone or text (M = 4.64). Visually assessing for signs of substance use was reported less frequently (M = 3.28), though 55% reported doing so often or very often. Knowingly allowing attendance at gatherings where underage substance use likely occurs was uncommon (M = 1.55), with 69% reporting they never engage in this behavior.

2026 Grade Level Statistical Comparisons

Parents/caregivers of high school students were significantly more likely to report knowingly allowing attendance at gatherings where substance use likely occurs (Middle School: M = 1.05; High School: M = 2.01) and visually assessing for signs of substance use upon return home (Middle School: M = 2.71; High School: M = 3.78). In contrast, parents/caregivers of middle school students were significantly more likely to require disclosure of where and with whom their child will be when going out (Middle School: M = 4.98; High School: M = 4.85). No differences were observed for checking in by phone/text or engaging in conversation upon return home.

2026 Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons

No statistically significant differences were observed based on the gender identity of the respondents' oldest child.

Trend data are displayed in **Table 28**. The 2-Year Change column reflects the difference from 2024-2026. Directional arrows are used to identify items that moved $\pm .10$ mean points.

Table 28: Parenting Behaviors – Trend

| Parenting Behaviors | Never ⁽¹⁾ | | Seldom ⁽²⁾ | | Sometimes ⁽³⁾ | | Often ⁽⁴⁾ | | Very Often ⁽⁵⁾ | | TOTAL | |
|--|----------------------|------|-----------------------|------|--------------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|---------------------------|-----|---------------------|---------------|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | Mean ¹⁻⁵ | 2-Year Change |
| 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? | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | |
| 2024 Survey | 3 | 2% | 3 | 2% | 8 | 6% | 24 | 18% | 93 | 71% | 4.53 | .11 (↑) |
| 2026 Survey | 1 | 1% | 4 | 2% | 8 | 4% | 37 | 19% | 140 | 74% | 4.64 | |
| 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 | |
| 2024 Survey | 0 | 0% | 1 | 1% | 6 | 5% | 29 | 22% | 95 | 73% | 4.66 | .08 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 0 | 0% | 2 | 1% | 3 | 2% | 38 | 20% | 147 | 77% | 4.74 | |
| 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 | |
| 2024 Survey | 2 | 2% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 13 | 10% | 116 | 89% | 4.84 | .07 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 17 | 9% | 174 | 91% | 4.91 | |
| 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 | |
| 2024 Survey | 30 | 23% | 15 | 12% | 13 | 10% | 20 | 15% | 52 | 40% | 3.38 | -.10 (↓) |
| 2026 Survey | 58 | 31% | 15 | 8% | 11 | 6% | 20 | 11% | 81 | 44% | 3.28 | |
| Risk Factors | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | |
| 2024 Survey | 80 | 61% | 22 | 17% | 17 | 13% | 9 | 7% | 3 | 2% | 1.73 | -.18 (↓) |
| 2026 Survey | 141 | 69% | 26 | 13% | 27 | 13% | 8 | 4% | 2 | 1% | 1.55 | |
| Interpretation | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mean scores are presented in order based on magnitude of change between 2024 and 2026. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trend Summary | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Between 2024 and 2026, respondents reported modest increases in checking in by phone or text (2024: M = 4.53; 2026: M = 4.64) and decreases in knowingly allowing their child to attend gatherings where substance use likely occurs (2024: M = 1.73; 2026: M = 1.55). A slight decline was observed in visually assessing their child for signs of substance use upon returning home (2024: M = 3.38; 2026: M = 3.28). All other items showed minimal change. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Short-Term Trend Statistical Comparison (2024 to 2026) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No statistically significant differences were observed between 2024 and 2026 for any of the parenting behavior items. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Long-Term Trend Statistical Comparison (2021 to 2026) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Post hoc comparisons following a one-way ANOVA indicated a statistically significant increase from 2021 to 2024 in the frequency of knowingly allowing a child to attend gatherings where substance use likely occurs (2021: M = 1.35; 2024: M = 1.73). However, responses in 2026 (M = 1.55) were closer to 2021 levels. No other items demonstrated statistically significant change across the three survey administrations. | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Parents/caregivers were asked to indicate the steps they take to monitor and store any alcohol or prescription medications present in their home (Table 29).

Table 29: Access to Alcohol and Prescription Medications (2025-2026 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 | 48 | 23% | 46 | 22% | 101 | 49% | 12 | 6% | |
| Prescription Medications | 71 | 37% | 26 | 14% | 75 | 39% | 19 | 10% | |
| Interpretation | | | | | | | | | |
| Percentages reflect the proportion of respondents selecting each response category. | | | | | | | | | |
| 2026 Survey Summary | | | | | | | | | |
| Most parents/caregivers reported having alcohol (77%) and prescription medications (63%) present in their home. Among all respondents, 49% reported monitoring alcohol but not securing it, while 6% reported both monitoring and securing it. Similarly, 39% reported monitoring prescription medications without securing them, and 10% reported both monitoring and securing them. Approximately one in five parents/caregivers (22%) reported not monitoring alcohol at all, and 14% reported not monitoring prescription medications. | | | | | | | | | |
| 2026 Grade Level and Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons | | | | | | | | | |
| No statistically significant differences were observed based on grade level or gender identity of the respondents' oldest child. | | | | | | | | | |

Trends over time between the 2021, 2024, and 2026 surveys are displayed in Table 30.

Table 30: 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% | |
| 2026 Survey | 48 | 23% | 46 | 22% | 101 | 49% | 12 | 6% | |
| Prescription Medications | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Survey | 100 | 41% | 33 | 14% | 88 | 36% | 21 | 9% | |
| 2024 Survey | 50 | 39% | 22 | 17% | 52 | 40% | 6 | 5% | |
| 2026 Survey | 71 | 37% | 26 | 14% | 75 | 39% | 19 | 10% | |
| Interpretation | | | | | | | | | |
| Percentages reflect the proportion of respondents selecting each response category. | | | | | | | | | |
| Trend Summary | | | | | | | | | |
| Patterns related to the monitoring and storage of alcohol and prescription medications remained generally consistent across the 2021, 2024, and 2026 surveys. The proportion of parents/caregivers reporting that alcohol or prescription medications were not present in the home fluctuated modestly across years but showed no clear directional trend. Similarly, the distribution of responses across monitoring and securing practices remained relatively stable over time. | | | | | | | | | |
| Trend Statistical Comparison | | | | | | | | | |
| No statistically significant differences were observed across survey years for either alcohol or prescription medication monitoring and storage practices. | | | | | | | | | |

PREVENTION AND SUPPORT

Prevention Supports

Parents/caregivers were asked to rate their agreement with four questions about prevention supports. Ratings for the individual items in this section of the survey are displayed in [Table 31](#). 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 31: Prevention Supports (2025-2026 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? | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I believe schools should provide education programs for students my child's age that are designed to help with social and emotional learning | 2 | 1% | 2 | 1% | 11 | 5% | 53 | 26% | 134 | 66% | 4.56 |
| 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 | 3 | 1% | 3 | 1% | 19 | 9% | 64 | 31% | 117 | 57% | 4.40 |
| I am aware of the school-based supports available to students if they need help with a mental health or substance use issue | 4 | 2% | 29 | 14% | 51 | 25% | 70 | 35% | 47 | 23% | 3.63 |
| I am aware of the community supports available to students if they need help with a mental health or substance use issue | 6 | 3% | 37 | 18% | 59 | 29% | 64 | 32% | 35 | 17% | 3.42 |

Interpretation

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

2026 Survey Summary

Parents/caregivers expressed strong support for school-based prevention programming. Mean scores ranged from 3.42 to 4.56 across the four items. The highest levels of agreement were observed for schools providing education programs focused on social and emotional learning (M = 4.56) and programs designed to prevent and reduce underage drinking and substance use (M = 4.40).

In contrast, awareness of available supports was more moderate. Parents/caregivers were less likely to report awareness of school-based supports (M = 3.63) and community-based supports (M = 3.42) available to students experiencing mental health or substance use concerns.

2026 Grade Level Statistical Comparisons

No statistically significant differences were observed based on the grade level of the respondents' oldest child.

2026 Gender Identity Statistical Comparisons

No statistically significant differences were observed based on the gender identity of the respondents' oldest child.

Trend data are displayed in **Table 32**. The 2-Year Change column reflects the difference from 2024-2026. Directional arrows are used to identify items that moved $\pm .10$ mean points.

Table 32: Prevention Supports - Trend

| 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 | 2-Year 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? | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | .24 (↑) |
| 2026 Survey | 6 | 3% | 37 | 18% | 59 | 29% | 64 | 32% | 35 | 17% | 3.42 | |
| 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 | .21 (↑) |
| 2026 Survey | 4 | 2% | 29 | 14% | 51 | 25% | 70 | 35% | 47 | 23% | 3.63 | |
| 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 | .05 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 2 | 1% | 2 | 1% | 11 | 5% | 53 | 26% | 134 | 66% | 4.56 | |
| 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 | .00 (=) |
| 2026 Survey | 3 | 1% | 3 | 1% | 19 | 9% | 64 | 31% | 117 | 57% | 4.40 | |

Interpretation

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

Trend Summary

Support for school-based prevention programming remained consistently high across the three survey administrations. Awareness of available supports increased modestly over time, particularly for school-based supports (2021: M = 3.36; 2026: M = 3.63) and community supports (2021: M = 3.18; 2026: M = 3.42). All other items showed minimal fluctuation.

Short-Term Trend Statistical Comparison (2024 to 2026)

No statistically significant differences were observed between 2024 and 2026 for any of the prevention support items.

Long-Term Trend Statistical Comparison (2021 to 2026)

Post hoc comparisons following a one-way ANOVA indicated a statistically significant increase from 2021 to 2026 in awareness of school-based supports available to students experiencing mental health or substance use concerns (2021: M = 3.36; 2026: M = 3.63). No other items demonstrated statistically significant change across the three survey administrations.

PROMOTING YOUTH HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Parents/caregivers were asked to provide any additional comments about things they would like to see in Lynnfield to promote youth health and wellness. Thirty (30) parents/caregivers provided additional comments. Responses are thematically organized below into six main areas.

School-Based Health Education and Student Supports (number of responses in parentheses)

- Expand health and wellness education across all grade levels, particularly at the high school (4)
- Provide more comprehensive sexual health education, including relationships, safe sex, sexually transmitted diseases, and teen pregnancy (3)
- Increase academic and mental health supports, including confidential reporting options and support for students experiencing issues on athletic teams (2)
- Consider structural supports such as later school start times and improved school lunch options to promote student well-being (1)
- Integrate wellness more fully into school culture rather than limiting it to a single class/elective (1)

Prevention Programming and Youth Engagement

- Reintroduce engaging guest speakers and real-world messaging to strengthen prevention efforts (2)
- Develop strategies to better engage students less connected to traditional programming (1)
- Explore partnerships (e.g., mentorship or community collaborations) to strengthen positive relationships between youth and trusted adults (1)

Community Norms and Underage Drinking

- Increase enforcement and accountability related to underage drinking, including parties and post-graduation trips (4)
- Concerns about norms and messaging related to underage drinking (3)

Inclusion, Diversity, and Social Climate

- Foster diversity, empathy, and discussion of social and historical issues beyond textbook instruction (2)
- Concerns about discriminatory or exclusionary behavior and negative peer social pressures (2)
- Host inclusive events such as an annual Pride Day (1)

Community Spaces and Activities for Youth

- Provide additional community activities and social spaces for youth (2)
- Increase non-sport afterschool fitness opportunities (e.g., running, walking, weightlifting clubs) (1)
- Expand accessible community spaces such as the public library (1)
- Increase visibility and presence of prevention initiatives at community and sporting events (1)

Parent and Community Partnership

- Promote student health initiatives as shared community priorities (1)
- Reinforce that prevention and wellness efforts require collaboration among schools, families, and the broader community (1)

SUMMARY OF MAIN FINDINGS

A Healthy Lynnfield (AHL) invited all parents/caregivers of students in grades 5-12 enrolled in Lynnfield Public Schools to participate in an anonymous online survey in January and February 2026. The survey assessed parent perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors related to youth health and substance use. Results are compared across 2021, 2024, and 2026 administrations to identify emerging trends.

HOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

Community Protective Factors

Parents/caregivers were asked to rate their level of agreement with eight statements assessing community protective factors that support Lynnfield youth. Overall, perceptions of community support were moderately positive. The strongest protective factor reported was that youth have supportive adults outside the family and school (80% agree/strongly agree). A majority of parents also agreed that people in their neighborhood care about their child (75%), there are adults at school youth can talk to (74%), neighbors would intervene if youth were doing something wrong (66%), and adults in Lynnfield make youth feel important (63%).

Perceptions were comparatively weaker in areas related to youth voice and inclusion. Just over half agreed that youth are given opportunities to help improve the town (56%) and that adults listen to youth (51%). Fewer than half (45%) agreed that Lynnfield residents respect the values and beliefs of people from different races and cultures.

No statistically significant differences were observed by grade level. Parents of female youth reported slightly higher agreement that their child has supportive adults outside of family and school than parents of male youth; no other gender differences were identified.

Ratings remained stable between 2024 and 2026, with only small changes and no statistically significant short-term differences. Agreement that youth have supportive adults outside the family and school increased slightly from 76% in 2024 to 80% in 2026. Agreement that youth are given opportunities to help improve the town decreased modestly from 60% to 56%. All other items remained stable. No statistically significant differences were observed across the three survey administrations.

Home Protective Factors

Parents/caregivers were asked to indicate how frequently they engage in five protective behaviors at home. Overall, reported engagement was high, with all items falling between “Often” and “Very Often.” The most frequently reported behavior was encouraging their child to be the best they can be (99% often/very often; 83% very often). Similarly, 97% reported often or very often talking with their child about what they are doing in school (79% very often), and 95% reported often or very often asking about homework (74% very often).

Family connection behaviors were also common, though comparatively lower. Eighty percent (80%) reported often or very often eating dinner together as a family (49% very often), and 82% reported often or very often spending free time together (46% very often).

Parents/caregivers of middle school students reported significantly higher frequency of eating dinner together and spending free time together as a family compared to parents of high school students. No statistically significant differences were observed based on gender identity.

Ratings across the five items remained generally stable between 2024 and 2026, with one notable increase. Eating dinner together as a family increased from 70% reporting “often/very often” in 2024 (41% very often) to 80% in 2026 (49% very often), representing a statistically significant increase. All other items showed minimal short-term change. Across the three survey administrations, several home protective behaviors demonstrated modest but statistically significant increases from 2021 to 2026, including talking about school, encouraging their child to be the best they can be, and asking about homework.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Areas of Concern

Parents/caregivers were asked to rate how much of an issue 10 factors are in affecting the health and wellness of Lynnfield youth in their oldest child’s age group. Overall, most items fell within the “Minor” to “Moderate Issue” range. Technology (cell phones, social media, screen time) was identified as the greatest concern, with 65% rating it as a major or severe issue (39% major; 26% severe). Other areas frequently identified as concerns included youth social culture (40% major/severe) and emotional and mental health (37% major/severe). Community culture was rated as a major or severe issue by 29% of respondents.

Fewer respondents identified substance use (24%), academics (20%), physical safety (19%), social justice (19%), or physical health (16%) as major or severe issues. Limited opportunities or activities for youth was perceived as the least concerning factor, with 10% rating it as a major or severe issue.

Parents/caregivers of high school students were significantly more likely than parents of middle school students to perceive several areas as concerns, including substance use, emotional and mental health, academics, community culture, and physical health. Parents/caregivers of female youth were significantly more likely than parents of male youth to perceive youth social culture (e.g., friendships, cliques, exclusion, teasing) as an issue. No other statistically significant gender differences were observed.

Perceived concern declined between 2024 and 2026 in most areas. The largest decreases were observed for substance use and emotional and mental health, both of which demonstrated statistically significant declines between 2024 and 2026. No areas demonstrated statistically significant increases in concern during this period. Across the three survey administrations, overall levels of concern remained generally stable, with recent fluctuations reflecting short-term changes rather than indicating a sustained long-term pattern.

COMMUNICATION

Discussion Times and Locations

Parents/caregivers were asked to indicate when they are most likely to communicate with their child about important matters. The most frequently reported time was after dinner (34%), followed by

during car rides (30%) and during mealtime (26%). Fewer respondents identified weekends (5%), mornings (2%), or other specific times (5%). No statistically significant differences were observed by grade level or gender identity.

Between 2024 and 2026, a statistically significant shift in preferred discussion times was observed. The proportion of respondents identifying after dinner as the most likely time for communication increased from 18% in 2024 to 34% in 2026, while those identifying car rides decreased from 51% to 30%. Reports of discussions during mealtime increased modestly (20% to 26%). Other categories showed minimal change.

Discussions About Substance Use

Parents/caregivers were asked whether they have discussed substance use with their child and with other parents. Overall, most respondents reported engaging in direct communication with their child about alcohol and drug use. Eighty-eight percent (88%) reported communicating their family's guidelines and expectations around youth alcohol and drug use to their child. Similarly, 84% reported talking with their child since the beginning of the school year about potential negative consequences associated with youth substance use.

Communication with other parents was less common but still reported by a majority of respondents. Fifty-five percent (55%) indicated 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.

Parents/caregivers of high school students were significantly more likely than parents of middle school students to report both communicating family expectations (97% vs. 80%) and discussing potential negative consequences since the start of the school year (96% vs. 72%). No statistically significant differences were observed based on gender identity of the respondents' oldest child.

Across the three administrations, reported discussions about substance use remained generally stable. The proportions of parents/caregivers who reported communicating their family's guidelines and expectations around alcohol and drug use to their child remained high (2021: 94%, 2024: 91%, 2026: 88%). Discussions with other parents showed modest fluctuation (2021: 53%, 2024: 64%, 2026: 55%) but no consistent long-term pattern. No statistically significant differences were observed across survey administrations in reported communication behaviors.

Discussions About Health and Wellness

Parents/caregivers were asked to rate their agreement with statements related to their confidence in discussing substance use and mental health with their child and with other parents. Overall, responses reflected relatively high levels of perceived influence and communication confidence. A large majority of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they can influence whether their child chooses to use alcohol or other drugs (90% agree/strongly agree). Similarly, 91% agreed that they have the knowledge and tools to have an effective discussion with their child about youth substance use. Confidence was slightly lower, though still high, for discussions about youth mental health, with 79% agreeing that they have the knowledge and tools needed.

Agreement was comparatively lower for items related to conversations with other parents. Approximately two-thirds of respondents agreed that they could have an open and non-

judgmental discussion with other Lynnfield parents/caregivers about youth mental health (65%) or youth alcohol and drug use (65%). No statistically significant differences were observed by grade level or gender identity.

Across the three administrations, agreement levels remained generally stable. Between 2024 and 2026, modest increases were observed in parents' perceived knowledge and tools to discuss youth mental health and in comfort having non-judgmental discussions with other parents about youth alcohol and drug use; however, these short-term changes were not statistically significant.

Over the longer term (2021 to 2026), statistically significant increases were observed in parents' confidence that they have the knowledge and tools to discuss both youth mental health and youth substance use. No other items demonstrated statistically significant change across survey administrations.

Safety Strategies

Parents/caregivers were asked whether they had discussed specific safety strategies with their child related to situations involving alcohol or other drug use. Nearly all respondents (97%) reported discussing at least one strategy, with the most common involving contacting a trusted adult. Eighty-five percent (85%) indicated they had discussed calling home or sending a text message if their child feels unsafe, and 84% emphasized that their child should not feel afraid to call home for help. A majority also reported discussing avoiding riding in a vehicle driven by someone who has been drinking or using drugs (74%) and avoiding driving under the influence (66%). Discussions of refusal strategies (65%) and abstinence (62%) were also common.

Slightly fewer reported discussing calling emergency medical services in the event of a medical emergency (59%). The least frequently discussed strategy was using a taxi or ride service if alcohol or drugs were involved (31%).

Parents/caregivers of high school students were significantly more likely than parents of middle school students to report discussing most of the listed safety strategies. Parents/caregivers of female youth were also significantly more likely than parents of male youth to report discussing several strategies, particularly those related to calling home for help, contacting emergency services, and avoiding riding or driving under the influence.

Across the three survey administrations, reported discussions of safety strategies remained generally stable. While modest fluctuations were observed for individual strategies between survey years, no consistent upward or downward pattern emerged. No statistically significant differences were observed across survey administrations in the proportion of respondents reporting discussion of the listed safety strategies.

ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS

Acceptability of Youth Substance Use

Parents/caregivers were asked to rate their agreement with statements reflecting both protective norms and permissive attitudes toward youth substance use. Overall, responses reflected strong protective norms and low levels of permissiveness. On the protective items, a large majority of respondents agreed that they are comfortable calling other parents/caregivers to confirm

awareness if their child is visiting their home (79% agree/strongly agree). Similarly, 63% agreed that they would like other parents to call them under similar circumstances.

Responses to items reflecting permissive attitudes were notably low. More than four in five respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed that it is acceptable to allow youth alcohol use at home (82%) or at another parent's home (90%). Eighty-four percent (84%) disagreed that occasional unsupervised youth alcohol use is acceptable. Disagreement was even stronger for marijuana use, with 95% disagreeing that youth marijuana use is acceptable either at home or without adult supervision.

Parents/caregivers of middle school students reported stronger endorsement of protective norms compared to parents of high school students. In contrast, parents of high school students expressed comparatively more permissive attitudes toward youth alcohol use, although overall agreement with permissive statements remained low. No statistically significant differences were observed based on gender identity.

Across the three survey administrations, attitudes remained generally stable. Between 2024 and 2026, modest decreases in agreement were observed for several alcohol-related permissiveness items, including allowing youth alcohol use at home, allowing adult-supervised alcohol use at another parent's home, and occasional unsupervised alcohol use. However, these short-term changes were not statistically significant. Over the longer term, there was a temporary increase in agreement with the statement that occasional unsupervised youth alcohol use is acceptable between 2021 and 2024, but agreement in 2026 returned to levels that did not differ significantly from 2021. No other items demonstrated statistically significant change across survey administrations.

Feelings About Youth Substance Use

Parents/caregivers were asked how wrong they believe it would be for a student their child's age to use various substances. Overall, responses reflected very high levels of disapproval across all substances assessed. Nearly all respondents (99%) indicated that using other illegal drugs (e.g., cocaine, heroin, ecstasy) or prescription drugs not prescribed to them would be "very wrong." Similarly, 99% indicated that having one or two alcoholic drinks nearly every day would be very wrong. High levels of disapproval were also observed for use of electronic vapor products (94% very wrong), smokeless tobacco or nicotine pouches (93%), smoking tobacco (90%), and marijuana use (88%).

Disapproval was comparatively lower for drinking alcohol occasionally, though a strong majority (88%) still indicated that this would be wrong or very wrong, including 74% who rated it as very wrong.

Parents/caregivers of middle school students reported significantly higher levels of disapproval than parents of high school students for several substances, including tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, and vaping products. No statistically significant differences were observed based on gender identity.

Across the three survey administrations, levels of disapproval remained highly consistent. Only minimal fluctuations were observed across substances. No statistically significant differences

were observed between 2024 and 2026 for any of the items. Over the longer term, a small but statistically significant increase in disapproval was observed for having one or two alcoholic drinks nearly every day between 2021 and 2026; however, overall levels of disapproval for this behavior were already very high. No other items demonstrated statistically significant change across survey administrations.

Community Culture

Parents/caregivers were asked to rate their agreement with statements related to community culture and substance use norms in Lynnfield. Overall, responses clustered around the midpoint of the scale, reflecting mixed perceptions. A majority of respondents agreed that too many parents/caregivers in Lynnfield ignore or disregard underage alcohol use (50% agree/strongly agree). Similarly, 51% agreed that too many parents set a bad example through excessive substance use. Agreement was somewhat lower for perceptions that parents ignore youth marijuana use (37%) and that adult alcohol consumption at school-sponsored sporting events is an issue (34%).

Regarding protective norms, 52% agreed that other adults in Lynnfield are supportive when someone abstains from alcohol at social gatherings. Fewer respondents (29%) agreed that adults feel pressure to consume alcohol for social reasons, with a larger proportion disagreeing (35%).

Parents/caregivers of high school students reported significantly higher agreement than parents of middle school students that parents ignore underage alcohol use, ignore youth marijuana use, set a poor example through excessive substance use, and that alcohol use at school-sponsored sporting events is an issue. No significant differences were observed based on gender identity.

Across the three survey administrations, perceptions of community culture remained generally stable, with only minimal fluctuation in mean levels of agreement. No statistically significant differences were observed between 2024 and 2026 for any of the items. Over the longer term, a statistically significant increase was observed from 2021 to 2026 in agreement that adults in Lynnfield feel pressure to consume alcohol for social reasons. However, average responses remained below the midpoint of the scale. No other items demonstrated statistically significant change across survey administrations.

Consequences for Youth Substance Use – Police-Involved

Parents/caregivers were asked which actions they would support if police became aware of Lynnfield teens drinking alcohol. All respondents indicated that some action should be taken. The most widely supported action was contacting the teens' parents/caregivers (97%). A majority also supported requiring teens to attend a substance use education class (69%) or participate in community service or other restorative justice activities (69%). Approximately half supported requiring teens to meet with a youth counselor (52%) or issuing a verbal warning (47%).

Support for more punitive actions was limited. Fewer respondents supported requiring parents to attend an education class (45%), informing school personnel (31%), issuing a ticket or notice to appear in court (15%), or arresting the teens (5%).

No statistically significant differences were observed based on grade level or gender identity.

Overall, support for most police-involved responses remained relatively stable between 2024 and 2026. Two notable shifts were observed. Support for requiring teens to participate in community service or other restorative justice activities increased (2024: 49%; 2026: 69%), while support for requiring that teens attend a substance use education class decreased (2024: 55%; 2026: 45%). All other actions showed minimal fluctuation. Statistically significant changes between 2024 and 2026 were observed for both community service/restorative justice (increase) and substance use education class (decrease). Support for issuing a verbal warning increased significantly from 2021 to 2024 but declined in 2026, returning closer to 2021 levels. No other statistically significant differences were observed across survey administrations.

Consequences for Youth Substance Use – School-Involved

Parents/caregivers were asked which actions they would support if school personnel became aware of a Lynnfield student drinking alcohol. Almost all respondents (99%) indicated that some action should be taken. The most widely supported action was contacting the student’s parents/caregivers (93%). A majority also supported requiring the student to attend a substance use education class (66%) and requiring that the student meet with a youth counselor (60%). Approximately half supported enforcing MIAA sanctions for student athletes (54%) or requiring participation in community service or other restorative justice practices (51%).

Support for more exclusionary or punitive actions was more limited. Forty-one percent (41%) supported temporarily barring the student from non-academic activities, 39% supported requiring parents/caregivers to attend a substance use education class, and only 8% supported suspending the student.

No statistically significant differences were observed based on grade level. Statistically significant gender differences were observed for two items. Parents/caregivers whose oldest child identifies as female were more likely than those whose oldest child identifies as male to endorse temporarily barring the student from non-academic activities (48% vs. 32%) and requiring parents/caregivers to attend a substance use education class (47% vs. 31%).

Overall, support for most school-based consequences remained relatively stable between 2024 and 2026. Two notable increases were observed. Support for temporarily barring the student from non-academic activities increased from 26% in 2024 to 41% in 2026, representing a statistically significant change. Support for requiring that the student attend a substance use education class also increased (56% to 66%), though this change was not statistically significant. Over the longer term, a statistically significant increase was observed in support for requiring students to participate in community service or other restorative justice practices (2021: 38%; 2026: 51%). No other statistically significant differences were observed across survey administrations.

PARENTING BEHAVIORS

Parental Monitoring and Permissiveness

Parents/caregivers were asked to report how frequently they engage in several parenting behaviors related to youth substance use. Overall, responses reflected high levels of protective monitoring and low levels of permissiveness. The vast majority of respondents reported requiring their child to disclose where they are going and with whom when going out with friends (91% very often). Most also reported engaging their child in conversation upon returning home (77% very

often) and checking in by phone or text while their child is out (74% very often). Visual assessment for signs of substance use was reported less frequently, though more than half (55%) indicated doing so often or very often.

Knowingly allowing a child to attend gatherings where underage substance use is likely to occur was uncommon, with 69% reporting that they never engage in this behavior.

Parents/caregivers of high school students were significantly more likely than parents of middle school students to report knowingly allowing attendance at gatherings where substance use likely occurs and to report visually assessing for signs of substance use upon return home. In contrast, parents of middle school students were significantly more likely to require disclosure of where and with whom their child will be when going out. No statistically significant differences were observed based on gender identity.

Across the three survey administrations, parenting behaviors remained generally stable. Between 2024 and 2026, modest increases were observed in checking in by phone or text message, while decreases were observed in knowingly allowing attendance at gatherings where substance use likely occurs. A slight decline was also observed in visually assessing for signs of substance use upon return home. All other items showed minimal fluctuation. No statistically significant differences were observed between 2024 and 2026 for any parenting behavior items.

Over the longer term, a statistically significant increase was observed from 2021 to 2024 in the frequency of knowingly allowing attendance at gatherings where substance use likely occurs. However, responses in 2026 did not differ significantly from 2021 levels. No other items demonstrated statistically significant changes across survey administrations.

Access to Alcohol and Prescription Medications

Parents/caregivers were asked to indicate how they monitor and store alcohol and prescription medications present in their home. Most respondents reported having alcohol (77%) and prescription medications (63%) present in the home. Nearly half of respondents (49%) reported monitoring alcohol but not securing it, while 6% reported both monitoring and securing it. Approximately one in five (22%) reported not monitoring alcohol at all. For prescription medications, 39% reported monitoring but not securing them, 10% reported both monitoring and securing them, and 14% reported not monitoring them at all.

No statistically significant differences were observed based on grade level or gender identity of the respondents' oldest child.

Across the three survey administrations, monitoring and storage practices remained generally stable. The proportion of respondents reporting that alcohol or prescription medications were not present in the home fluctuated modestly but showed no consistent pattern over time. Similarly, the distribution of responses across monitoring and securing practices did not demonstrate meaningful change. No statistically significant differences were observed across survey years for either alcohol or prescription medication practices.

PREVENTION AND SUPPORT

Prevention Supports

Parents/caregivers were asked to rate their agreement with statements related to prevention programming and awareness of supports available to students. Overall, responses reflected strong support for school-based prevention programming and more moderate awareness of available supports. A large majority of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that schools should provide education programs focused on social and emotional learning (92% agree/strongly agree) and programs designed to prevent and reduce underage drinking and substance use (88% agree/strongly agree).

In contrast, awareness of available supports was comparatively lower. Fifty-eight percent (58%) agreed that they are aware of school-based supports available to students experiencing mental health or substance use concerns, while 49% agreed that they are aware of community-based supports.

No statistically significant differences were observed based on grade level or gender identity.

Across the three survey administrations, support for school-based prevention programming remained consistently high. Awareness of available supports increased modestly over time, particularly for school-based supports and community supports. No statistically significant differences were observed between 2024 and 2026. Over the longer term, a statistically significant increase was observed from 2021 to 2026 in awareness of school-based supports. No other items demonstrated statistically significant change across survey administrations.

PROMOTING YOUTH HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Parents/caregivers were invited to provide additional comments about ways Lynnfield can promote youth health and wellness. Thirty (30) respondents shared open-ended feedback. Responses reflected interest in strengthening school-based health education and student supports, particularly at the high school level, including expanded wellness and sexual health education and increased mental health resources.

Several comments emphasized enhancing prevention programming and youth engagement through guest speakers, mentorship opportunities, and partnerships that foster positive connections with trusted adults. Concerns related to community norms surrounding underage drinking and calls for increased accountability were also noted.

Additional themes included promoting inclusion and diversity, expanding community spaces and activities for youth, and reinforcing prevention and wellness efforts as shared community responsibilities among schools, families, and local organizations.

KEY FINDINGS AND CONSIDERATIONS

Overall, findings reflect strong protective norms and prevention-oriented attitudes among parents/caregivers in Lynnfield. Parents report high levels of monitoring and communication with their children, strong disapproval of youth substance use, and broad support for school-based

prevention programming. Across both police- and school-involved scenarios, respondents favored restorative and educational responses over punitive measures, with limited support for arrest or suspension.

Most attitudes and behaviors remained stable across survey administrations. Notable changes included statistically significant declines in perceived concern about youth substance use and mental health between 2024 and 2026, increased awareness of school-based supports over the longer term, and greater support for restorative responses in certain contexts. While short-term fluctuations were observed in some areas, few sustained long-term shifts were identified.

Areas for continued attention include persistent concern related to technology use, moderate awareness of available mental health and substance use supports (particularly community-based supports), and home practices related to monitoring and securing alcohol and prescription medications. Additionally, parents of high school students were more likely than parents of middle school students to express comparatively permissive attitudes toward youth alcohol use and to report knowingly allowing attendance at gatherings where substance use may occur, though overall permissiveness remained low.