# Report on Our Youth 2003-2004 

## Harrisonburg and Rockingham County

## A project supporting the Healthy Community Council's community assessment mission.

Project Design and Management
Institute for Innovation in Health and Human Services, JMU
The Office on Children and Youth
Data Compilation
Stuart Broughton, JMU, Technical Services
Data Collection Facilitation
Harrisonburg City Schools
Rockingham County Schools
Eastern Mennonite High School
Report Preparation
The Office on Children and Youth
Karen A. Ford, JMU Social Work Dept.
Shannon Willison and Rachel Dobis, JMU Research Assoc.

Data Collection
Many dedicated volunteers
Surveys
PRIDE Survey
Harrisonburg/Rockingham Youth Risk Behavior Survey

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For additional copies of this report or information, contact The Office on Children and
Youth, (540) 568-2558 or email, hubbeljx@jmu.edu

A Letter to the Community,

The Office on Children and Youth Commission is pleased to present the fourth annual edition of the Youth data Survey for Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. This report is collaboration between many community organizations including the Harrisonburg City and Rockingham County Schools, Eastern Mennonite High School, James Madison University, Rockingham Memorial Hospital and United Way. This presentation is in a graphic format and represents 4 separate survey administrations over the last 8 years. We conducted the Youth Data Survey during the 1996-1997, 1998-1999, 2000-2001, and 2003-2004 school year. The data has been drawn from the PRIDE and Harrisonburg/Rockingham YRBS surveys which were administered to over 1500 Harrisonburg and Rockingham County students in eighth, tenth and twelfth grade. In some cases we have altered the format from previous editions to standardize the statistical analysis of the data and to accommodate the addition of a new school (Eastern Mennonite High School) in the 2000-2001 to the data pool.

Having four rounds of survey data completed we now have enough data to begin to examine trends but we are hesitant to draw any conclusions until we have at least 5 rounds of data. We are still subject to short-term fluctuations in the data and should resist drawing too many conclusions concerning trends. With each graph we have provided explanatory information to help the reader know where the information has come from and to better understand the data. In some cases we have cross-tabulated the data to draw new conclusions.

On the first 4 pages we have summarized the survey data using the Search Institutes Asset Model of Youth Development. What you will see is how well the majority of our youth are doing in a variety of areas. Providing the data in two formats allows us to examine the needs of our youth while also celebrating the positive accomplishments they have achieved. This dual approach will also allow our community to build on existing programs that promote assets while examining the critical needs and developing initiatives to address them.

Our goal in issuing this report is three fold. First, our goal is to provide our community with current data around youth behaviors, examining needs and assets. Second, we want to build a base of longitudinal data to track the behavior of our youth that we can evaluate in light of new
programming. And third, we want to stimulate community discussions around our youth issues using quantitative as well as qualitative measurements. The Office on Children and Youth is committed to promoting positive youth development through collaboration and the coordinated examination of needs and assets in the Harrisonburg and Rockingham County community. We appreciate everyone's time and energy in making these 2003 data survey results possible.

Sincerely,

The Office on Children and Youth Commission

## Quick Facts on Our Youth, 2003-2004

## Who did we survey?

1574 Students
48.1\% Female
51.9\% Male

Between the ages of 12 and 19

## Assets

88\% - Do not drink and drive
90\% - Never participate in gangs
74\% - Are active in school activities
$67 \%$ - Are active in community activities
69\% - Exercise 3 or more times a week
79\% - Never use illicit drugs
74\% - Never think about committing suicide
69\% - Are not trying to lose weight
84\% - Participate in faith-based activities
71\% - Are sexually abstinent
74\% - Talk to their parents about problems
$75 \%$ - Talk to their parents about drugs/alcohol
$52 \%$ - Think they are about the right weight
64\% - Never use tobacco
49\% - Never use alcohol
47\% - Always wear a seatbelt

## Risk Factors

## Sexual Activity

Of sexually active students(29\% of total):
55\% - Use condoms
23\% - Use no method or withdrawal
19\% - Use birth control pills

## Alcohol Use

2\% - Daily
13\% - Weekly
27\% - Monthly
51\% - Annually

## Gang Activity

2\% - Participate a lot
1\% - Often
3\% - Sometimes
4\% - Seldom

Tobacco Use
10\% - Daily
18\% - Weekly
23\% - Monthly
36\% - Annually

## Illicit Drug Use

4\% - Daily
9\% - Weekly
13\% - Monthly
22\% - Annually
Dangerous Weight Loss
1\% - Vomit
1\% - Use pills
$0.9 \%$ - Both vomiting and pills

## Quick Facts on Our Eighth Graders, 2003-2004

## Who did we survey?

$5928^{\text {th }}$ graders
$49.5 \%$ of the $8^{\text {th }}$ grade population
48.1\% Female
51.9\% Male
97.4\% Ages 13 and 14

## Assets

89\% - Never participate in gangs
70\% - Are active in school activities
$68 \%$ - Are active in community activities
$76 \%$ - Exercise 3 or more times a week
88\% - Never use illicit drugs
78\% - Never think about committing suicide
$70 \%$ - Are not trying to lose weight
86\% - Participate in faith-based activities
93\% - Are sexually abstinent
76\% - Talk to their parents about problems
80\% - Talk to their parents about drugs/alcohol
$55 \%$ - Think they are about the right weight
80\% - Never use tobacco
69\% - Never use alcohol
43\% - Always wear a seatbelt
Risk Factors
Sexual Activity Tobacco Use
Of sexually active $8^{\text {th }}$ graders(7\% of total): $3 \%$ - Daily
66\% - Use condoms
21\% - Use no method or withdrawal
14\% - Use birth control pills
8\% - Weekly
11\% - Monthly
20\% - Annually
Alcohol Use
1\% - Daily
5\% - Weekly
11\% - Monthly
31\% - Annually
Illicit Drug Use
1\% - Daily
4\% - Weekly
7\% - Monthly
12\% - Annually

## Gang Activity

Dangerous Weight Loss
0\% - Vomit
$0.8 \%$ - Use pills
$0.5 \%$ - Both vomiting and pills
3\% - Sometimes
5\% - Seldom

## Quick Facts on Our Tenth Graders, 2003-2004

## Who did we survey?

$52010^{\text {th }}$ graders
$42.3 \%$ of the $10^{\text {th }}$ grade population
46.2\% Female
53.8\% Male
97.8\% Ages 15 and 16

## Assets

91\% - Do not drink and drive
90\% - Never participate in gangs
68\% - Are active in school activities
$61 \%$ - Are active in community activities
69\% - Exercise 3 or more times a week
77\% - Never use illicit drugs
70\% - Never think about committing suicide
$70 \%$ - Are not trying to lose weight
84\% - Participate in faith-based activities
70\% - Are sexually abstinent
$73 \%$ - Talk to their parents about problems
$75 \%$ - Talk to their parents about drugs/alcohol
49\% - Think they are about the right weight
59\% - Never use tobacco
42\% - Never use alcohol
44\% - Always wear a seatbelt
Risk Factors
Sexual Activity Tobacco Use
Of sexually active $10^{\text {th }}$ graders( $30 \%$ of total): $14 \%$ - Daily
$57 \%$ - Use condoms
21\% - Weekly
26\% - Use no method or withdrawal 26\% - Monthly
$15 \%$ - Use birth control pills
41\% - Annually

## Alcohol Use

3\% - Daily
15\% - Weekly
32\% - Monthly
59\% - Annually

## Illicit Drug Use

5\% - Daily
11\% - Weekly
15\% - Monthly
23\% - Annually

## Gang Activity

## Dangerous Weight Loss

2\% - Participate a lot
2\% - Often
2\% - Sometimes
1\% - Vomit
2\% - Use pills
$1 \%$ - Both vomiting and pills

## Quick Facts on Our Twelfth Graders, 2003-2004

## Who did we survey?

$48612^{\text {th }}$ graders
$48.4 \%$ of the $12^{\text {th }}$ grade population
50.1\% Female
49.9\% Male
98.9\% Ages 16-18

## Assets

74\% - Do not drink and drive
91\% - Never participate in gangs
85\% - Are active in school activities
$73 \%$ - Are active in community activities
58\% - Exercise 3 or more times a week
69\% - Never use illicit drugs
$71 \%$ - Never think about committing suicide
$66 \%$ - Are not trying to lose weight
81\% - Participate in faith-based activities
55\% - Are sexually abstinent
$72 \%$ - Talk to their parents about problems
$71 \%$ - Talk to their parents about drugs/alcohol
$54 \%$ - Think they are about the right weight
50\% - Never use tobacco
32\% - Never use alcohol
$56 \%$ - Always wear a seatbelt

## Risk Factors

Sexual Activity Tobacco Use
Of sexually active $12^{\text {th }}$ graders( $45 \%$ of total): $16 \%$ - Daily
53\% - Use condoms
20\% - Use no method or withdrawal
22\% - Use birth control pills
27\% - Weekly
34\% - Monthly
50\% - Annually

## Alcohol Use

Illicit Drug Use
3\% - Daily
22\% - Weekly
6\% - Daily
14\% - Weekly
41\% - Monthly
68\% - Annually
20\% - Monthly
31\% - Annually

## Gang Activity

## Dangerous Weight Loss

3\% - Participate a lot
1\% - Often
2\% - Sometimes
3\% - Seldom
$72.3 \%$ of youth surveyed were between the ages of 14 and 17 .



Source: Harrisonburg/Rockingham County Youth Survey




Youth who report living with one parent are more likely to live with their mother.
The number of youth living with both parents is showing a downward trend, while youth living with one parent is slightly increasing.


Source: Harrisonburg/Rockingham County Youth Survey
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What the numbers and other information told us:
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School Enrollemnt


What the numbers and other information told us:
Source: PRIDE Survey


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The number of youth staying abstinent has increased steadily over the years from $62.4 \%$ to $71 \%$.
What the numbers and other information told us:
Source: Harrisonburg/Rockingham County Youth Survey


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What the numbers and other information told us:
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There is no 1996 data for smokeless tobacco or cigars because these were new items on the 1998 PRIDE survey.
Source: PRIDE Survey
What the numbers
Percent of Youth







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Annually, more students drank beer (42.1\%) than wine coolers (37.2\%) and liquor (36.3\%).
Source: PRIDE Survey
What the numbers
Percent of Youth



More youth are abstaining with $44.3 \%$ never having tried alcohol, an increase from the past years.
What the numbers and other information told us:
Source: Harrisonburg/Rockingham County Youth Survey




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Few youth (2.5\%) report using drugs during school hours.
Youth who use drugs the most often do so on weekends, followed by week nights.

What the numbers and other information told us:
Source: PRIDE Survey


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Steroids represent a new question on the 1998 PRIDE survey, therefore there is no 1996 data.
What the numbers and other information told us:
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Percent of Youth

 sұшегечи! Youth who use marijuana, cocaine, and uppers are more likely to get bombed or very high compared to youth who use downers and

 Source: PRIDE Survey

Ecstasy and OxyContin represent new questions on the 2003 survey, therefore there is no previous data.




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Source: PRIDE Survey


The majority of youth report that all illicit drugs are harmful or very harmful to your health

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Youth report heroin (94.9\%) as more harmful than all other illicit drugs.

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Source: PRIDE Survey


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Source: PRIDE Survey


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Source: PRIDE Survey
Percent of Youth Frequency






Of the youth who reported to never drink and drive, only $40 \%$ of them are legally old enough to drive a car.



donuts, pies or cakes.
14.9-18.2\% of youth eat two or more of the following foods a day: hamburgers, hot dogs, sausages, French fries, chips, cookies,
In a day, $61.4 \%$ of youth report they eat fruit, $32 \%$ eat green salad, and $51.7 \%$ eat cooked vegetables

What the numbers and other information told us:




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Youth do not report pills and/or vomiting as commonly as other methods of weight loss.


Source: Harrisonburg/Rockingham County Youth Survey
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$67.1 \%$ of our youth exercise 3 or more times a week, a slight decrease from last year's, $70.8 \%$
$86.7 \%$ of our youth exercise at least once a week.

Source: Harrisonburg/Rockingham County Youth Survey



[^2]
The majority of parents set clear rules ( $88.8 \%$ ) but not all of them enforce those rules ( $80.3 \%$ ).

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 drug, and tobacco use.
For 2003, the Talking With Parents topic was separated into three sections specifically highlighting problems associated with alcohol,

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[^0]:    marijuana tried cocaine.
    $21.3 \%$ of high school students who used marijuana in the past year also used cocaine, while only $0.3 \%$ of the students who did not use
    
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[^1]:    
    Youth in gangs report using liquor (61.3\%), marijuana (54.7\%), inhalants (23.4\%), and cocaine (29.7\%) approximately 2 to 12 times

[^2]:    What the numbers and other information told us:
    
    Source: PRIDE Survey
    Youth participation has decreased across all activities from 2000 to 2003.
    

