# Report on Our Youth 2005 <br> $8^{\text {th }}, 10^{\text {th }}$ and $12^{\text {th }}$ grade students from Harrisonburg City and Rockingham County Schools 

family support positive family communication other adult relationships caring neighborhood caring school climate parent involvement in schooling community values youth as resources service to others integrity honesty responsibility restraint planning and decision making interpersonal competence cultural competence resistance skills peaceful conflict resolution personal power self-esteem sense of purpose positive

All children and youth need to be surrounded with networks of individuals and institutions that provide them with support, opportunities, boundaries, and structure, and that nurture in them the commitments, values, competencies, and positive identity they need to grow up healthy and competent.

The Vision of Asset Building Communities
view of person future
safety family
boundaries
school
boundaries
neighborhood
boundaries adult
role models
positive peer
influence high
expectations
creative
activities youth
programs
religious
community time
at home achievement motivation school engagement homework bonding to school reading for pleasure caring equality and social justice integrity honesty responsibility restraint planning and decision making interpersonal competence cultural competence resistance skills peaceful conflict resolution personal power self-esteem sense of purpose positive view of person future caring school climate

Forty Developmental Assets, Search Institute

# Report on Our Youth 2005-2006 $8^{\text {th }}, 10^{\text {th }}$ and $12^{\text {th }}$ grade students from Harrisonburg City and 

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

Project Design and Management<br>Institute for Innovation in Health and Human Service (IIHHS), JMU The Office on Children and Youth<br>Data Compilation<br>Stuart Broughton, JMU, Technical Services<br>Data Collection Facilitation<br>Harrisonburg City Schools<br>Rockingham County Schools<br>Eastern Mennonite High School<br>Report Preparation<br>Jane Hubbell, The Office on Children and Youth and IIHHS, JMU<br>Karen A. Ford, JMU Social Work Dept.<br>Terry A. Houser, JMU Student<br>Data Collection<br>Many dedicated volunteers<br>Surveys<br>PRIDE Survey<br>Rockingham County/Harrisonburg Youth Survey

We would also like to thank JMU, United Way of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County, and Rockingham Memorial Hospitals, Strong Families, Great Youth for their generous support of this project.

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

June 8, 2006

A Letter to the Community,

The Office on Children and Youth at James Madison Universities, Institute for Innovation in Health and Human Services (IIHHS), is pleased to present the fifth 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 3 separate survey administrations over the last 10 years. We conducted the Youth Data Survey during the 1996-1997, 1998-1999, 2000-2001, 2003-2004 and 2005-2006 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 five rounds of survey data completed we now have enough data to begin to examine trends. Because of graph limitations we have represented 3 graphs for each questions. These bar graphs represent 1996, 2000 and 2005 data. 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 2005 data survey results possible.

Sincerely,

## The Office on Children and Youth Board

## Quick Facts on Our Youth, 2005-2006

## Who did we survey?

1604 Students
50.4\% Female
49.6\% Male

Between the ages of 13 and 19

## Assets

93\% - Do not drink and drive
93\% - Never participate in gangs
72\% - Participate in school activities
64\% - Participate on sports teams
$66 \%$ - Participate in community activities
83\% - Participate in faith-based activities
68\% - Exercise 3 or more times a week
78\% - Never think about committing suicide
69\% - Are not trying to lose weight
$72 \%$ - Are sexually abstinent
82\% - Talk to their parents about drugs/alcohol
$57 \%$ - Think they are about the right weight
69\% - Never use tobacco
49\% - Never use alcohol
79\% - Never use marijuana
$77 \%$ - Never been in trouble with the police
2\% - Carried a handgun to school
$13 \%$ - Carried a knife, club, or other weapon to school

## Risk Factors

## Sexual Activity

Of sexually active students (28\% of total):
64\% - Use condoms
18\% - Use no method or withdrawal
$16 \%$ - Use birth control pills
Tobacco Use
9\% - Daily
15\% - Weekly
20\% - Monthly
2\% - Use birth control shot

## Alcohol Use

1\% - Daily
12\% - Weekly
26\% - Monthly
51\% - Annually

## Gang Activity

32\% - Annually

1\% - Participate a lot
1\% - Often
2\% - Sometimes

## Illicit Drug Use

3\% - Daily
8\% - Weekly
12\% - Monthly
24\% - Annually

4\% - Seldom

## Quick Facts on Our Eighth Graders, 2005-2006

Who did we survey?<br>$5768^{\text {th }}$ Graders<br>49.9\% Female<br>50.1\% Male<br>Between the ages of 13 and 15

## Assets

96\% - Do not drink and drive
87\% - Never participate in gangs
65\% - Participate in school activities
68\% - Participate on sports teams
67\% - Participate in community activities
85\% - Participate in faith-based activities
80\% - Exercise 3 or more times a week
80\% - Never think about committing suicide
70\% - Are not trying to lose weight
87\% - Are sexually abstinent
82\% - Talk to their parents about drugs/alcohol
$58 \%$ - Think they are about the right weight
85\% - Never use tobacco
61\% - Never use alcohol
92\% - Never use marijuana
$77 \%$ - Never been in trouble with the police
2\% - Carried a handgun to school
$11 \%$ - Carried a knife, club, or other weapon to school

## Risk Factors

## Sexual Activity

Of sexually active $8^{\text {th }}$ graders (14\% of total):
83\% - Use condoms
13\% - Use no method or withdrawal
1\% - Use birth control pills
Tobacco Use
3\% - Daily 7\% - Weekly
12\% - Monthly
21\% - Annually
$3 \%$ - Use birth control shot

## Alcohol Use

1\% - Daily
6\% - Weekly
16\% - Monthly
35\% - Annually

## Illicit Drug Use

2\% - Daily
5\% - Weekly
7\% - Monthly
17\% - Annually

## Gang Activity

Dangerous Weight Loss
2\% - Participate a lot
2\% - Often
1.4\% - Vomit
1.4\% - Use pills

3\% - Sometimes
5\% - Seldom

## Quick Facts on Our Tenth Graders, 2005-2006

## Who did we survey?

$54610^{\text {th }}$ Graders
48.5\% Female
51.5\% Male

Between the ages of 14 and 17

## Assets

95\% - Do not drink and drive
$95 \%$ - Never participate in gangs
$72 \%$ - Participate in school activities
$61 \%$ - Participate on sports teams
$62 \%$ - Participate in community activities
82\% - Participate in faith-based activities
$70 \%$ - Exercise 3 or more times a week
$76 \%$ - Never think about committing suicide
$68 \%$ - Are not trying to lose weight
$72 \%$ - Are sexually abstinent
$82 \%$ - Talk to their parents about drugs/alcohol
$56 \%$ - Think they are about the right weight
$77 \%$ - Never use tobacco
42\% - Never use alcohol
79\% - Never use marijuana
$77 \%$ - Never been in trouble with the police
2\% - Carried a handgun to school
$14 \%$ - Carried a knife, club, or other weapon to school

## Risk Factors

## Sexual Activity

Of sexually active $10^{\text {th }}$ graders ( $27 \%$ of total):
59\% - Use condoms
$26 \%$ - Use no method or withdrawal
12\% - Use birth control pills
3\% - Use birth control shot

## Alcohol Use

1\% - Daily
12\% - Weekly
26\% - Monthly
$55 \%$ - Annually

## Gang Activity

Tobacco Use
9\% - Daily
15\% - Weekly
20\% - Monthly
32\% - Annually

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

## Illicit Drug Use

3\% - Daily
9\% - Weekly
12\% - Monthly
23\% - Annually

## Dangerous Weight Loss

$0.9 \%$ - Vomit
1.1\% - Use pills
$1.3 \%$ - Both vomiting and pills

## Quick Facts on Our Twelfth Graders, 2005-2006

Who did we survey?<br>430 12 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ Graders<br>53.6\% Female<br>46.4\% Male<br>Between the ages of 16 and 19

## Assets

86\% - Do not drink and drive
97\% - Never participate in gangs
83\% - Participate in school activities
62\% - Participate on sports teams
$70 \%$ - Participate in community activities
81\% - Participate in faith-based activities
49\% - Exercise 3 or more times a week
75\% - Never think about committing suicide
70\% - Are not trying to lose weight
54\% - Are sexually abstinent
81\% - Talk to their parents about drugs/alcohol
$56 \%$ - Think they are about the right weight
61\% - Never use tobacco
27\% - Never use alcohol
67\% - Never use marijuana
$77 \%$ - Never been in trouble with the police
1\% - Carried a handgun to school
$13 \%$ - Carried a knife, club, or other weapon to school

## Risk Factors

Sexual Activity Tobacco Use
Of sexually active $12^{\text {th }}$ graders ( $46 \%$ of total):
61\% - Use condoms
16\% - Daily
25\% - Weekly
13\% - Use no method or withdrawal
25\% - Use birth control pills
32\% - Monthly
2\% - Use birth control shot

## Alcohol Use

1\% - Daily
18\% - Weekly
39\% - Monthly
67\% - Annually

## Gang Activity

1\% - Participate a lot
0\% - Often
1\% - Sometimes
2\% - Seldom








:sn ploł uо!̣вш.лоји! ләчро рие s.ıәqunu әчр ұечМ


OOEY




[^0]




What the numbers and other information told us:
Kəл.ns قaitd :əo..nos








uo!̣⿺辶np
show a slight decrease.



кəм..ns \#aitd :2o.nos



иоџеопря
Of sexually active youth, the reported median age for first sexual intercourse is 14 .
1 out of 5 youth ( $19.4 \%$ ) are sexually active by age 15 , and 1 out of 4 ( $24.5 \%$ ) by age 16 .
The number of youth remaining abstinent has increased steadily over the years from $62.4 \%$ to $71.7 \%$.

Source: Rockingham County/Harrisonburg Youth Survey





Of sexually active youth, $77 \%$ did not use drugs or alcohol during their last sexual experience.





## $16.7 \%$ of our youth smoked their first cigarette by age 13 <br> Almost three-quarters of our youth ( $71 \%$ ) have reported never smoking cigarettes. <br>  <br> 


Smokeless tobacco and cigars were new items for the 1998 PRIDE survey, so that data is presented here.
The ease of access to all types of tobacco products has significantly decreased since 1998.

Kən.ms Gaiyd :2o.nos






Beer is the easiest alcoholic beverage for youth to get (53\%) over wine coolers (47.2\%) and liquor (43.5\%).


วS IOЧOOIV
-ıonb! i pue ıəәq se [nјu..еч ssə


Kəл.ns GaIपd :2o.nos




Youth Who Used Drugs Within the Past Year




畐量

Downers ( $60.6 \%$ ) were reported as the least harmful of all other drugs.


Kəл..ns 马aivd :2o.nos


The youth reports little change in students' opinion on how harmful or very harmful are the types of drugs in the survey.
Heroin $(94 \%)$ was reported as the most harmful of the types of drugs.

Kən.ms GaIyd :2o.nos



 วつШӘ[О! $\Lambda$
The youth report otherwise shows a decrease in violence situations with a weapon from 2000.
There was only a slight increase in violence situations when students reported carrying a weapon to school ( $0.5 \%$ increase)

Kəл..ns gaiyd :2o.nos

 | Carried |
| :---: |
| Weapon |
| Schoo |





The youth report shows a decrease in students who have thought about committing suicide across the categories.

Kəı..ns gaild :po.nos

Youth Who Have Thought About Committing Suicide
There is a $1.4 \%$ decrease in youth who wear bicycle helmets and a $6.8 \%$ increase in youth who wear motorcycle helmets.


56.7 of youth say they are about right, a $5.6 \%$ increase from 2000.





ЧІโеәН







ЧІ[ЕӘН

[^1]

| $\square$ | $\square$ | $\square$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $N$ | $N$ | $\vec{~}$ |
| $O$ | $O$ | 0 |
| $O$ | $\omega$ | $\infty$ |




The sharp decrease in school activity participation is likely due to PRIDE splitting the question about School Activities into School Activities (clubs, band, or
theater) and Sports Teams for the 2005 survey. The percentage of students on sports teams is included for this most recent year.

кәл..ns gailyd :2o.nos








[^0]:    Youth who report living with one parent are more likely to live with their mother. showing an upward trend.
    

[^1]:    
    
    чппоК лno јо \%
    

