

### Alcohol: 2013 Barrington Youth Data (July 2013)

Student surveys are administered to all 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in the Barrington School District every other year in the spring since 2009. This nationally developed survey assesses the risk and protective factors associated with underage substance use. The data is used by the BAY Team to monitor trends and direct future strategies. The full report may be viewed on our website at [www.thebayteam.org](http://www.thebayteam.org). Further information may be obtained by contacting Kristen Westmoreland, Program Manager of The BAY Team at [kwestmoreland@barrington.ri.gov](mailto:kwestmoreland@barrington.ri.gov).

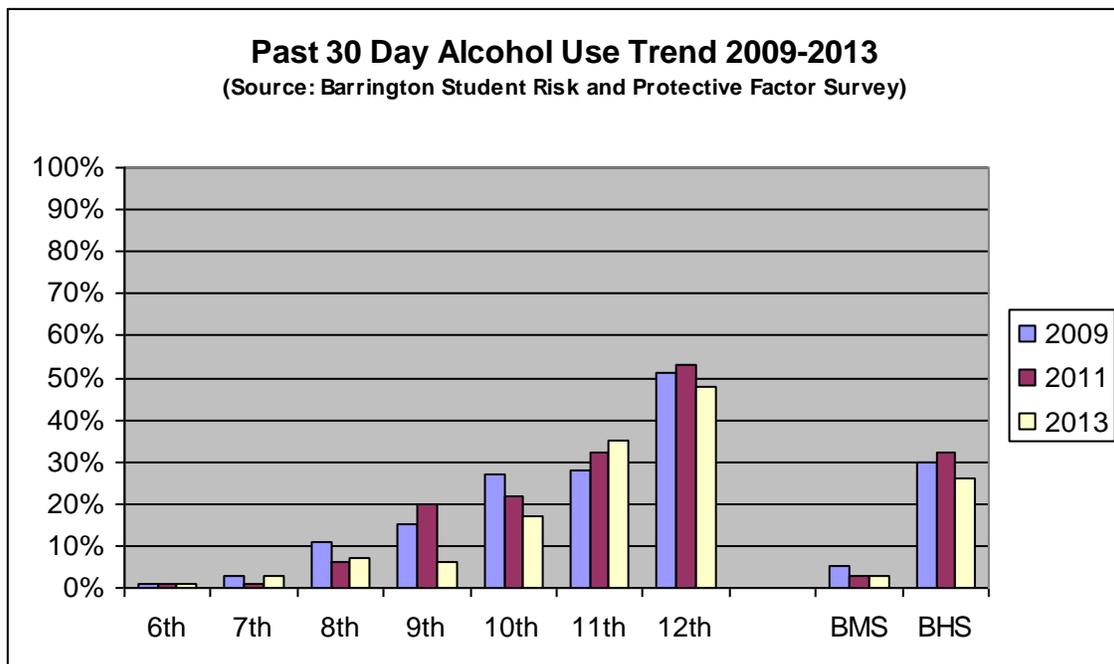
#### Alcohol Findings at a glance:

**Alcohol continues to be the most commonly used substance in 2013 with the sharpest increases in use between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades and between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades. Compared to 2009, however, a relatively larger proportion of students in Barrington have refrained from alcohol use.**

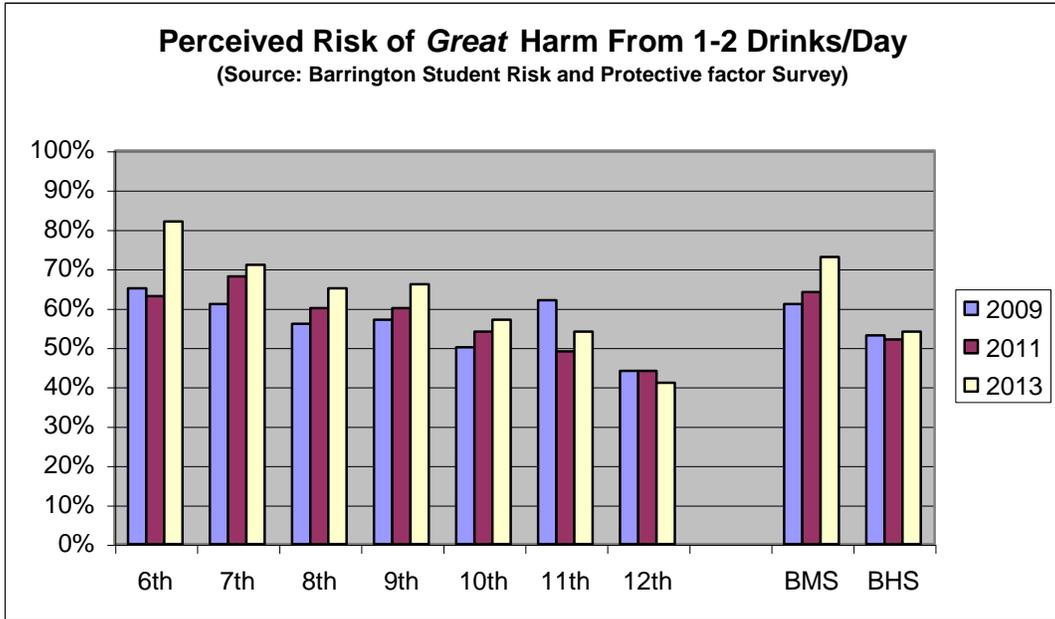
- Past 30 day use of alcohol: 26% of BHS students and declining from 2009-2013 for all grades but 11<sup>th</sup>
- Perceived risk of great harm from regular alcohol use: increasing for all grades except 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>
- Students who perceive that their parents disapprove strongly of underage drinking: increasing at BHS but decreasing at BMS
- BHS students who know at least one adult who has gotten drunk: 71%
- BHS students who affirmatively believe a student would not be seen as cool for drinking regularly: 51% and increasing for all grades except 8<sup>th</sup>
- 90% of students who get mostly A's do not drink versus 67% of students who get mostly C's
- 72% of students who drink had their last drink in a private home
- 19% of students' last drinks were from alcohol taken from a private home
- 25% of students' last drinks were purchased by an underage person

#### Expanded results:

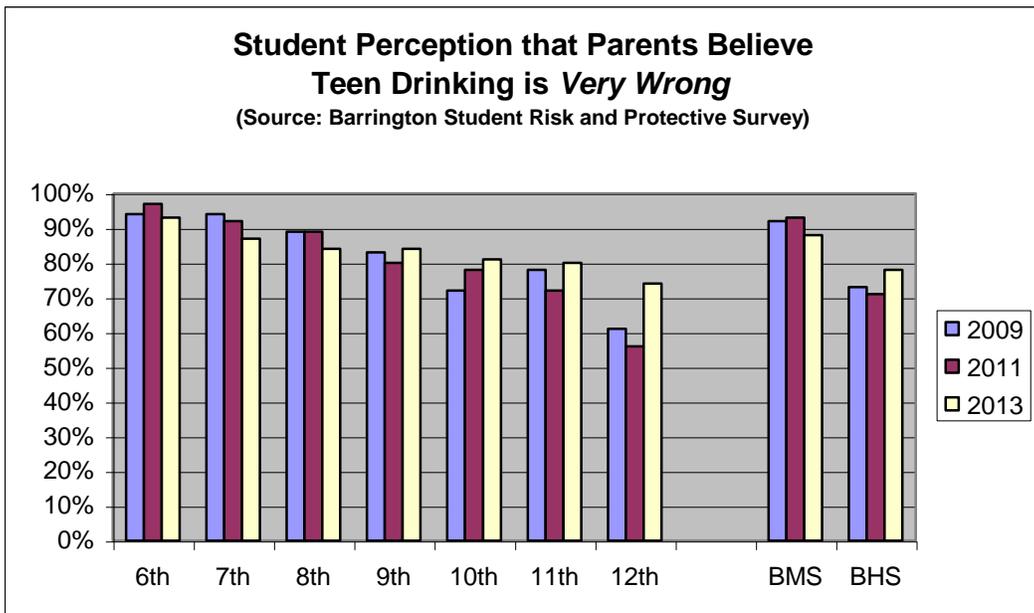
Except for the Class of 2014, overall alcohol use is down for all. In addition the *frequency* of drinking declined significantly for 12<sup>th</sup> grade students such that the percent of students drinking three or more drinks in a month declined from 35% in 2009 to 20% in 2013.



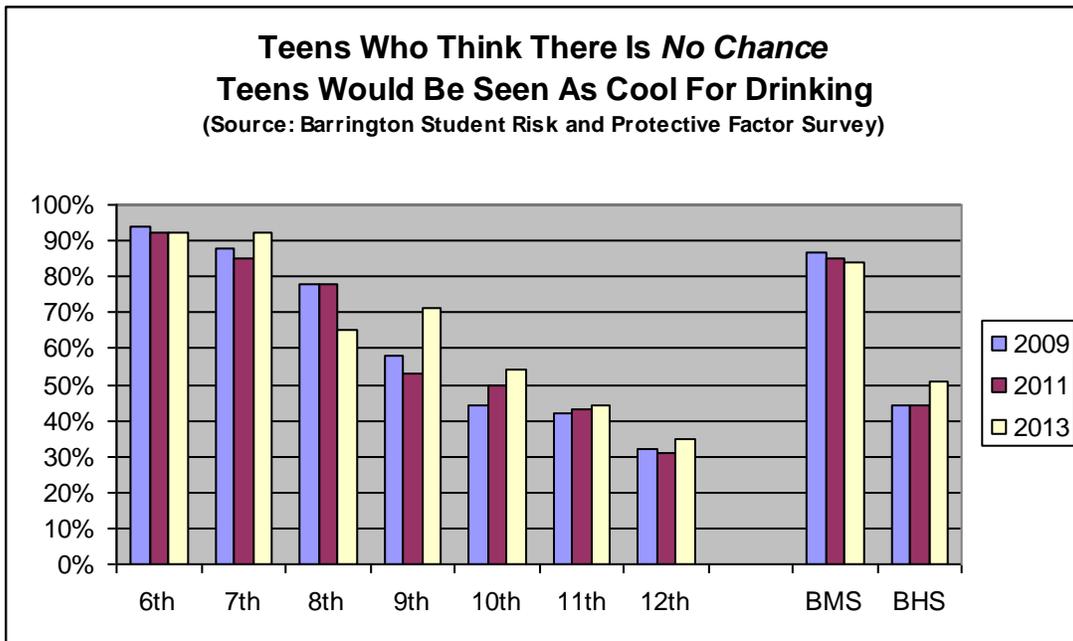
A greater perception of risk from using alcohol is associated with lower use rates. Therefore, it is encouraging to see significant improvements in these perceptions.



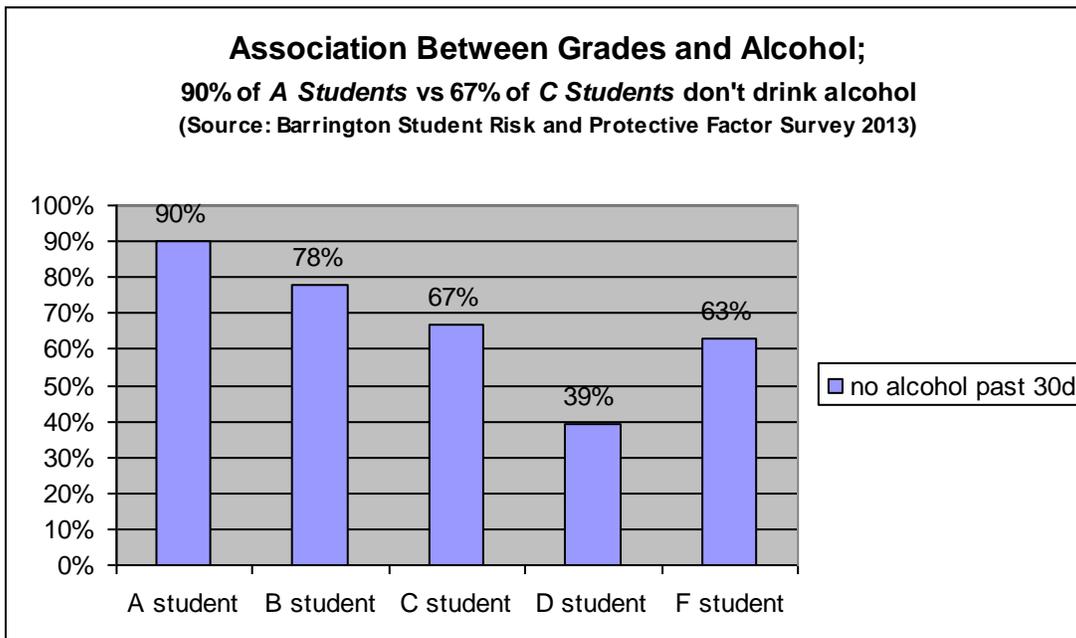
The messages students perceive their parents to be communicating to them about underage drinking are very influential on a youth’s behavior. It is encouraging to see all high school students reporting that their parents believe teen drinking to be very wrong. However, there is significant concern that fewer middle school students share this belief. It is imperative that parents communicate by their words and actions to their children that underage drinking is unacceptable.



Students who believe they would be seen as cool for drinking alcohol regularly are more likely to drink. Therefore, it is encouraging that there are increasing numbers of students who do not view this activity as cool. One notable exception is the 8<sup>th</sup> grade (Class of 2017), which is the only class to reverse this trend.



The association between alcohol use and academic achievement is well known. While we don't know the causal factor, grades can be a motivating and protective factor and students should be encouraged to do their best while surrounding themselves with friends who have this same goal.



Where teens drink and how they obtain their alcohol is helpful in guiding The BAY Team’s activities. Decreasing access to alcohol is one of the most effective preventive measures to underage alcohol use. Many successful legislative measures such as the keg registration and police patrols of outdoor gathering areas have significantly decreased the number of large outdoor gatherings by youth who drink. However, Barrington continues to have a problem with youth drinking in private homes – 72% of students who drink had their last drinks in private homes and nearly 20% took the alcohol from a home. People need to secure their alcohol where teens cannot access it. Furthermore, retail access continues to be an issue with 25% of students who drink involved in underage purchase of alcohol. While not all purchases occur in Barrington, the community needs to be more vigilant in monitoring teens whereabouts and their access to retail alcohol.

