



**County-Wide Assessment of the Needs of
Adolescents:**

Part 1: A Survey of Wood County Adolescents

Psychological Services Center

Report Prepared For:

Wood County Family and Children First Council

Report Prepared By:

Eric F. Dubow, PhD., William O. Donnelly, PhD., Carolyn Tompsett, PhD.,
Elizabeth Kryszak, M.A., Sarah Domoff, M.A., Gina Veits, M.A.,
Molly Meers, M.A., Lendi Joy, Jennifer Hayman, B.S., Stacey Bradbury, B.A.,
Kendra Gorman, Lisa Reinemann, B.A., Samantha Zbur, B.S.

Psychological Services Center, Department of Psychology,
Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH, 43403, (419) 372-2540

August 2011

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	5
Introduction	14
Method	15
Results	18
Prevalence of Problems Adolescents Experienced	18
Perceptions of Barriers to Seeking Services	23
Adolescents’ Exposure to Stressful Life Events in the Past Year	25
Adolescents’ Perceptions of Preparedness during the Transition out of High School	27
Recommending Help to a Friend.....	29
Adolescents’ Knowledge and Utilization of Services/Resources within the County.....	31
Adolescents’ Perceived Neighborhood Assets	33
Adolescents’ Perceived Developmental Assets	35
Discussion/Implications	38
Appendices	42

List of Tables (see Appendices for supplemental tables)

Table 1: Frequency (Percentage) of Adolescent Respondents by District.....16

Table 2: Frequency (Percentage) of Adolescent Demographic Variables..... 16

Table 3: Prevalence of Problems Adolescents Experienced in the Past Year.....19

Table 4: Problems Reported as Most Troubling..... 21

Table 5: Adolescents’ Perceptions of Barriers to Seeking Services for Problems. 23

Table 6: Adolescents’ Exposure to Stressful Life Events
in the Past Year..... 26

Table 7: Adolescents’ Perceptions of Preparedness during the Transition out of
High School.....28

Table 8: Adolescents’ Recommendations of Sources of Help to Peers Dealing with
Specific Problems.....30

Table 9: Adolescents’ Knowledge and Utilization of Services in the County.....32

Table 10: Adolescents’ Perceptions of Neighborhood Assets.....34

Table 11: Adolescents’ Perceptions of Neighborhood Qualities.....35

Table 12: Adolescents’ Perceptions of Available Developmental Assets.....36

Appendices

Table A: Prevalence of Problems Experienced, by Grade Level.....42

Table B: Prevalence of Problems Experienced, by Gender.....44

Table C: Exposure to Stressful Life Events, by Grade Level46

Table D: Developmental Assets, by Grade Level.....47

Adolescent Survey.....49

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

This needs assessment was conducted for the Wood County Family and Children First Council by staff from the Psychological Services Center (PSC) in the Department of Psychology at Bowling Green State University. Working collaboratively, Council members and PSC staff decided, for Phase Two of the needs assessment, to focus on the needs of children ages 13-18 in the following areas: teens' experiences of problems; teens' perceptions of barriers to seeking services; teens' exposure to stressful life events; teens' plans for after high school; what types of support they prefer to help them with a problem (e.g., parent, teacher, counselor, etc.); teens' knowledge and utilization of services/resources within the County; and teens' perceptions of assets available to support their development.

Highlights of Results

Problems Adolescents Experience

Adolescents were asked to indicate if and to what degree a range of problems had affected them in the past year. Respondents were asked to answer questions about 29 different problems. The following are the top five problems experienced by adolescents:

- ◆ **Anxiety and nervousness (72%)**
- ◆ **Trouble with attention (69%)**
- ◆ **Stress related to school (69%)**
- ◆ **Irritable mood (63%)**
- ◆ **Trouble getting along with family members (62%)**

The following are other problems experienced that raise concern, because even though fewer youth experienced them, the problems have significant impact:

- ◆ **Serious financial stress in your family (e.g., lost our home, or a parent lost job) (31%)**
- ◆ **Being sexually active (27%)**
- ◆ **Feelings that you want to hurt yourself (e.g., cutting) (17%)**

- ◆ **Eating problems (such as binge eating, purging, or starving self) (17%)**
- ◆ **Had to live on your own or at a friend's because you had nowhere else to go (7%)**

Of the problems adolescents experienced, the following were the top five problems reported as the **most troubling**:

- ◆ **Pregnancy**
- ◆ **Parental separation or divorce**
- ◆ **Feelings that you want to hurt yourself (e.g. cutting)**
- ◆ **Alcohol or drug abuse by a family member**
- ◆ **Serious financial stress in your family (e.g., lost our home, or a parent lost job)**

Perceived Barriers to Seeking Services

The top five reasons adolescents indicated they would be reluctant to seek services for a problem were:

- ◆ **Rather get help from a friend (75%)**
- ◆ **Able to handle the problem myself (72%)**
- ◆ **Paying for services would be an issue (40%)**
- ◆ **It would be embarrassing to get help (39%)**
- ◆ **Worried parents would find out (38%)**

Other perceived barriers that raise concern are the following:

- ◆ **Too big a hassle (37%)**
- ◆ **Transportation or distance would be difficult (34%)**
- ◆ **Knowing where to get help would be confusing (34%)**
- ◆ **Confidentiality/Privacy (33%)**

- ◆ **Difficult to receive services in the language I am comfortable with (12%)**

Exposure to Stressful Life Events

Adolescents had the most exposure to the following six stressful life situations during the past year:

- ◆ **Heard threats or saw property destroyed (22%)**
- ◆ **Harassed because of skin color, religion, sexual orientation, appearance or where your family was from (19%)**
- ◆ **Seen someone attacked (17%)**
- ◆ **Someone used the internet or cell phone to bother or harass you, or to spread mean words or pictures about you (17%)**
- ◆ **Someone close to you was mugged, robbed, or threatened (16%)**
- ◆ **Someone on the internet tried to talk to you about sexual things and you did not want to (16%)**

The following were additional stressful situations experienced by adolescents that also raise concern:

- ◆ **Been in a situation where physical conflict between teens and adult family members where you were concerned someone might get hurt (14%)**
- ◆ **Been in a situation where physical conflict between adult family members where you were concerned someone might get hurt (11%)**
- ◆ **Someone you were dating threatened or did something verbally, sexually, or physically to you (9%)**

Perceptions of Preparedness during the Transition out of High School

When responding to the following questions, adolescents indicated they were most confident in their preparedness:

- ◆ **How likely is it that you will graduate high school (95%)**
- ◆ **How confident are you that you will have the time management skills to either succeed in college or at a job (90%)**

- ◆ **How likely is it that you will attend college right after high school (87%)**
- ◆ **By the time you graduate high school, how well prepared academically will you be to attend college (84%)**
- ◆ **When it comes time to apply to college, how well prepared will you feel to complete your college applications (78%)**

Relatively fewer, but still a significant number of adolescents reported the following:

- ◆ **How likely is it that right after high school, you will join the military (any branch: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard or Reserves) (18%)**
- ◆ **How likely is it that your parents will make you leave home right after high school even if you do not have anywhere else to go (10%)**

Recommending Help to a Friend

The top three sources of help that adolescents said they would recommend if a friend had problems with depression, substance use, or legal issues were:

- ◆ **Talk to a friend
(Depression – 92%; Substance Use – 86%; Legal Issues – 85%)**
- ◆ **Talk to an adult family member/parent
(Depression – 94%; Substance Use – 78%; Legal Issues – 81%)**
- ◆ **Talk to a mental health care counselor or therapist
(Depression –85%; Substance Use –81%; Legal Issues –75%)**

Recommending that a friend seek help from an adult at school was consistently one of the least recommended forms of help; however, it was still endorsed by nearly 75% of adolescents regardless of the kind of problem:

- ◆ **Depression (84%)**
- ◆ **Substance Use (73%)**
- ◆ **Legal Issues (75%)**

Knowledge and Utilization of Services/Resources in Wood County

Adolescents were provided with a list of agencies and services available to adolescents and their families in Wood County. They were asked to indicate how much knowledge they had of each service and if they had personally used the

service. We note that it may be possible that the lack of “knowledge” may be due to lack of name recognition. The following are three services/resources about which the largest percentage of adolescents had NO KNOWLEDGE:

- ◆ **2-1-1(92%)**
- ◆ **The Link (89%)**
- ◆ **CareerLink (79%)**

The following were services/resources adolescents in Wood County identified as MOST WIDELY KNOWN:

- ◆ **Health Department (79%)**
- ◆ **Food Pantries (71%)**
- ◆ **Children’s Resource Center (65%)**

Neighborhood Assets

The following three items had the highest percentage of adolescents reporting the statement was either “very likely” or “likely” in their neighborhood:

- ◆ **If you saw a group of kids your age in your neighborhood beating up a much younger child, how likely is it that you would say something to an adult or try to intervene (84%)**
- ◆ **If some children were spray-painting graffiti on a local building, how likely is it that your neighbors would do something about it (73%)**
- ◆ **If there was a fight in front of your house and someone was being beaten or threatened, how likely is it that your neighbors would break it up (73%)**

The following were neighborhood assets endorsed by less than 50% of adolescents:

- ◆ **43% reported that their neighbors would likely do something about neighborhood children seen skipping school**
- ◆ **43% reported that their neighbors would organize and work to keep a fire station open that was in threat of closing**

Interestingly, less than half of adolescents believe there are fun things to do in the area:

- ◆ **There are a lot of fun things to do in my neighborhood (48%)**

Developmental Assets and Influences

The following are the top four most endorsed developmental assets:

- ◆ **I can resist negative peer pressure in dangerous situations (91%)**
- ◆ **My family sets standards for appropriate conduct and monitors my whereabouts (89%)**
- ◆ **I know one parent, adult and/or friends I can go to for advice and support (86%)**
- ◆ **I think my life has purpose and I am optimistic (84%)**

Additional statements endorsed that raise concern, specifically about community support and involvement, are:

- ◆ **There is at least one adult at my school who cares about me and knows me well (73%)**
 - **This suggests that 27% of adolescents do not believe this statement**
- ◆ **I spend 3 hours or more each week in school or community clubs, sports, and/or extracurricular activities (72%)**
 - **This suggests that 28% of adolescents have no other community involvement other than attending school**
- ◆ **I feel like I am involved in my community (52%)**
 - **This suggests 48% of adolescents do not believe they are involved in their community**

Adolescents were given a list of five situations (e.g., adults in my family listen to me and respect my opinions, adults at school listen to me and respect my opinions, I have a lot of say in decisions about my education) and were asked to indicate how true each statement was for them. The following situation is the one adolescents believed to be the most true:

- ◆ **Adults in my family listen to me and respect my opinions (68%)**

Additional perceptions about adolescents' influences that raise concern are:

- ◆ **Adults at school listen to me and respect my opinions (47%)**
 - **This suggests 53% of adolescents believe that they have no adult contact at school that will respect their opinions**

Implications

Adolescents' Experiences with Problems and Stressful Events

Adolescents disclosed an extensive array of problems of concern. The five *most common problems*, with each one indicated by at least 60% of respondents, were: *anxiety and nervousness; attentional difficulties; academic stress; irritable mood; and family conflict*. These problems were not only frequent, they were relatively distressing. Additionally, adolescents reported relatively high rates of *problems with well known and significant implications* for well-being, development, transition to adulthood, and/or health status: approximately 20-30% experienced: *marked family financial stress* (lost home, or parent lost job); being *sexually active*; *self-harm feelings*; and *eating problems* (binging, purging, self-starving). The two final problems in the list (eating, self-harm) are potentially life threatening, and both of these are acknowledged by about one out of every six teens. This should raise significant concern for Wood County FCFC members.

Seven per cent of teens said that they had experienced *living on their own or at a friend's because they had nowhere else to go*, and most of these found that to be troubling. Even though this is a relatively infrequent problem, it is notable given the potential consequences (e.g., hunger, health, supervision and monitoring, safety, victimization, academic and economic failure, substance use, delinquency).

These findings give us significant insight into those problems that are most prevalent for Wood County adolescents, and those that pose significant risk to health status. What problems, though, do these youth find *most distressing*? Teens told us that *pregnancy, parental separation/divorce, and self-harm feelings* were most difficult. Over 90% of youth with these problems indicated that they were troubled by them. Additionally, at least three out of every four identified *family alcohol/drug abuse, marked family financial stress, and family member health/mental health issues* as troubling.

Adolescents also indicated that they had experienced a variety of stressful events within the past year. For example, 15%-20% indicated having: *experienced threats; been harassed because of their skin color, religion, sexual orientation, appearance, etc.; or been harassed through the internet*. Approximately 10%-15% experienced *physical conflict in the home directed at themselves or between adult family members*. And, as would be expected, further analyses showed that those who experienced such stressful events indeed were more likely to experience the kinds of problems discussed above. These results highlight the continuing need for counseling services for families and adolescents throughout the county.

Knowledge and Utilization of Services, and Perceptions of Barriers to Seeking Services

Results do show that many adolescents know about county services that address their various problems. For example, approximately two-thirds or more had knowledge of Job and Family Services, Children’s Resource Center, and the Health Department (10%-20% reported having used these services in the past year). Yet, it is concerning that many adolescents perceive a range of barriers to seeking help for their problems. Nearly three-quarters indicated they would *prefer to seek help from a family member* or that they *could handle the problem on their own*. Over a third were concerned that they would *feel embarrassed to seek help, that their parents would find out, or that there would be confidentiality/privacy issues*. Thus, county agencies should consider mounting educational efforts to allay adolescents’ concerns regarding seeking services.

Sources of Support and Assets for Adolescents

There were several results from this survey that suggest that adolescents generally perceive high levels of support from parents, friends, and members of the community. For example, over 80% of adolescents indicated that they could go to their family members or non-family adults and friends for help with their problems. Yet, although relatively high numbers of adolescents do perceive support in their community, we did find that approximately half **did not** feel that they were *involved* in the community; for example, only 40% said that they *belong to a group of kids my age that can influence decisions that affect us or other teens*; 28% **did not** “*spend 3 hours or more each week in school or community clubs, sports, or extracurricular activities*;” and 40% **did not** endorse the statement, “*I want to do well in school and I do an hour or more of homework each school day.*” Over half of the adolescents **did not** agree that “*Adults at school listen to me and respect my opinions*” and over a quarter of them **did not** endorse the statement, “*There is an adult at school who cares about me and knows me well.*” These results suggest the need for outreach efforts by the schools and community

agencies to attract those youth who do not perceive that they have access to community assets or adult social support (or lack the motivation or skills to access those assets/supports) that have been shown to facilitate their development.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Wood County Family and Children First Council (FCFC) is one of the 88 county-level councils that works in partnership with the Ohio Family and Children First Council on a variety of important issues. According to the Ohio Family and Children First Council¹, the County FCFCs serve to, “determine, develop, and implement strategies to achieve their own county’s highest priorities and implement strategies that make a positive impact on state-initiated priorities.” The Wood County FCFC includes representatives from human service agencies, community agencies, schools, government bodies, and local families. Periodically, the Council engages in empirically-based assessments of families and children in Wood County. Specifically, the Council seeks information on the needs of and services available to families in order to plan and coordinate services, resources, and systems that provide help to children and families so that these services can be as beneficial as possible.

Through careful review of previous assessments of the Wood County area, Wood County FCFC uncovered three major populations for which up-to-date needs-based information was lacking. So, in the fall of 2009, Wood County FCFC partnered with a research team from the Psychological Services Center at Bowling Green State University to conduct a 3- phase needs assessment to fill these gaps in knowledge. The first phase gathered information from the parents of children ages 0-12. A report summarizing the Phase One results was completed in November of 2010 and was presented to the council. The second phase was designed to assess the needs of adolescents from age 13 to 18-years-old and their parents; responses from the adolescents are presented in this current report, whereas responses from parents will be presented in a forthcoming report. Finally, the third phase will seek to gather information on “transitional youth” (i.e., adolescents, ages 18-21) who were no longer in secondary school, and also not in college.

The following report describes results of the second phase of this needs assessment, which assessed the perceived needs of a representative sample of adolescents (aged 13 to 18 years) in Wood County.

¹ source: <http://www.fcf.ohio.gov/resources/presentations.dot>

II. METHOD

In order to avoid overlap with previous needs assessments, the Wood County FCFC reviewed those assessments and identified the populations and issues that needed to be assessed. The Council then contracted with a research team at BGSU to create a survey for adolescents (i.e., children aged 13-18) and a survey for parents of adolescents. The research team then gathered a representative sample of adolescents by randomly sampling students from county middle and high schools, administered the survey, analyzed the data, and created a comprehensive report. This report is based on results of the adolescent survey. A separate report will focus on the results of the parent survey.

Adolescent Survey. The last section of the Appendix includes the survey for adolescents. Based on meetings with a subcommittee of FCFC members, the research team created an eight-part adolescent survey that assessed: 1) teens' experiences of problems; 2) teens' perceptions of barriers to seeking services; 3) teens' exposure to stressful life events; 4) teens' plans for after high school; 5) what types of support teens prefer to help them with a problem (e.g., parent, teacher, counselor); 6) teens' knowledge and utilization of services/resources within the county; 7) teens' experience of support within their neighborhoods; and 8) assets teens see themselves as possessing.

Adolescent Sample. It was determined that the most cost effective method to survey a representative sample of Wood County adolescents was to randomly sample classrooms in middle schools and high schools throughout the county. We randomly sampled students from one large district (Bowling Green) and four small districts (Otsego, North Baltimore, Northwood, and Lake) as well as the Penta Career Center. The size of the schools was determined through the Ohio Department of Education's website:

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDefaultPage.aspx?page=1>

Information letters were sent to parents of the selected students describing the study and asking parents to return the form only if they *did not* want their child to participate. Only seven opt-out forms were received across students from all schools that participated.

Approximately two weeks after information letters were sent, members of the BGSU research team went to classrooms on dates selected by the teachers to survey the students. Students were also given an informational form describing the study which was read aloud to them. Students were told that their participation was voluntary and they could stop participating at any time. Students then completed the survey which took 30 to 45 minutes. The survey was completed by 256 students from the five districts (130 middle school students and 126 high school students) and 69 Wood County Penta students. To ensure that students from Penta

were not overrepresented in the sample, a subsample of eight of the 69 students was selected based on appropriate percentages of Wood County youth in the Penta Career Center, and the size of our sample. This resulted in a total sample of 264 students. Table 1 shows the numbers and percentages of students in each school district who completed surveys.

Table 1
Frequency (Percentage) of Adolescent Respondents by District

	Middle School	High School	Total Sample
Bowling Green City	36 (28%)	50 (37%)	86 (33%)
Otsego Local	23 (18%)	21 (16%)	44 (17%)
North Baltimore Local	24 (18%)	20 (15%)	44 (17%)
Northwood Local	27 (21%)	15 (11%)	42 (16%)
Lake Local	20 (15%)	20 (15%)	40 (15%)
Penta Career Center	0 (0%)	8 (6%)	8 (3%)
Totals	130	134	264

Of the 264 students included in the final sample, 53% were female and 47% were male; 25% were 12-13 years old, 44% were 14-15 years old, 27% were 16-17 years old, and 5% were over 18 years old. Eighty percent of the sample listed their ethnicity as Caucasian which is representative of the Wood County population. Other ethnicities included: African American (4%), Hispanic (7%), Middle Eastern (2%), and other (8%). Sixty-two percent of respondents have lived in Wood County for 10 years or more, 20% have lived in the county for 6-10 years, 12% have lived in the county for 1-5 years, and 5% of the sample have lived in the county for less than a year. Table 2 shows the specific demographic characteristics of the sample.

Table 2
Frequency (Percentage) of Adolescent Demographic Variables

	Middle School	High School	Total Sample
Age			
12-13	63 (48%)	2 (2%)	65 (25%)
14-15	68 (52%)	48 (36%)	116 (44%)

<i>Table 2 continued</i>			
	Middle School	High School	Total Sample
16-17	0 (0%)	71 (54%)	71 (27%)
18+	0 (0%)	11 (8%)	12 (4%)
Gender			
Male	67 (51%)	57 (43%)	124 (47%)
Female	65 (49%)	76 (57%)	141 (53%)
Ethnicity			
Caucasian	106 (80%)	104 (79%)	210 (80%)
African American	4 (3%)	6 (5%)	10 (4%)
Hispanic	8 (6%)	10 (8%)	18 (7%)
Middle Eastern	1 (1%)	3 (2%)	4 (2%)
other	13 (10%)	8 (6%)	21 (8%)
# of children in home			
0-1	46 (35%)	53 (40%)	99 (37%)
2-3	69 (52%)	61 (46%)	130 (49%)
4-5	12 (9%)	11 (8%)	23 (9%)
6+	5 (4%)	8 (7%)	13 (5%)
# of adults in home			
1	25 (19%)	24 (18%)	49 (19%)
2	91 (69%)	85 (64%)	176 (67%)
3	10 (8%)	13 (10%)	23 (8%)
4+	6 (5%)	10 (8%)	16 (6%)
Immediate family member in the military			
no	103 (78%)	103 (77%)	206 (78%)
Yes, currently	10 (8%)	14 (11%)	24 (9%)
Yes, in past 5 years	5 (4%)	3 (2%)	8 (3%)
Yes, more than 5 yrs ago	14 (11%)	13 (10%)	27 (10%)
Health insurance or Medicaid			
No	7 (5%)	9 (7%)	16 (6%)
Yes	93 (71%)	101 (76%)	194 (74%)

Table 2 Continued

	Middle School	High School	Total Sample
Don't know	31 (24%)	22 (17%)	53 (20%)
Internet access in home			
no	12 (9%)	13 (10%)	25 (10%)
yes	120 (91%)	119 (90%)	239 (91%)
Lived in Wood County			
0-12 months	5 (4%)	9 (7%)	14 (5%)
1-5 years	17 (13%)	15 (11%)	32 (12%)
6-10 years	27 (21%)	24 (18%)	51 (20%)
10-15 years	76 (59%)	42 (32%)	118 (45%)
16+ years	3 (2%)	42 (32%)	45 (17%)

III. Results

The results of the survey are presented under 8 major headings, followed by and Implications section. These major headings include: A) Prevalence of Problems Adolescents Experienced; B) Perceptions of Barriers to Seeking Services; C) Adolescents' Exposure to Stressful Life Events in the Past Year; D) Adolescents' Perceptions of Preparedness after High School; E) Recommending Help to a Friend; F) Adolescents' Knowledge and Utilization of Services/Resources within the County; G) Neighborhood Assets; and H) Developmental Assets.

A) Prevalence of Problems Adolescents Experienced

Adolescents were asked to indicate if and to what degree a range of problems had affected them in the past year. Respondents were asked to answer questions about 29 different problems (see Table 3). The top five problems experienced by adolescents are:

- ◆ Anxiety and nervousness (72%)
- ◆ Trouble with attention (69%)
- ◆ Stress related to school performance (69%)
- ◆ Irritable mood (63%)
- ◆ Trouble getting along with family members (62%)

The following are other problems experienced that raise concern, because even though fewer youth experienced them, the problems have significant impact:

- ◆ Serious financial stress in your family (e.g., lost our home, or a parent lost job) (31%)
- ◆ Being sexually active (27%)
- ◆ Feelings that you want to hurt yourself (e.g., cutting) (17%)
- ◆ Eating problems (such as binge eating, purging, or starving self) (17%)
- ◆ Had to live on your own or at a friend's because you had nowhere else to go (7%)

Table 3
Prevalence of Problems Adolescents Experienced in the Past Year

<i>Problem</i>	<i>% saying “Yes, (the problem) did happen in the past year”</i>
Anxiety, nervousness (feeling tense, anxious, nervous, worry a lot)	72%
Trouble with attention, focus, or concentration	69%
Stress related to your school performance	69%
Moody or irritable (frequent changes in your emotions)	63%
Trouble getting along with family members (e.g., parents, brothers and sisters)	62%
Depression (feeling low, worthless, guilty, loss of usual interests)	58%
Worries about your weight (overweight or underweight)	49%
Parents being too strict in setting rules	42%
Academic problems (poor grades, learning problems)	42%
Sleeping problems (e.g., nightmares, insomnia)	40%
Fighting, anger	40%
Peer pressure	35%
Serious financial stress in your family (e.g., lost our home, or a parent lost job)	31%

<i>Table 3 continued</i>	
<i>Problem</i>	<i>% saying “Yes, (the problem) did happen in the past year”</i>
Trouble dating (getting along with the opposite sex)	27%
Being sexually active	27%
Feeling lonely, difficulty making friends	26%
Alcohol or drug abuse by a close friend	24%
Health or mental health problems of family members (e.g., parents or siblings) in your home	24%
Alcohol use	22%
Parent separation or divorce	22%
Feelings that you want to hurt yourself (e.g., cutting)	17%
Eating problems (such as binge eating, purging, or starving self)	17%
Truancy (frequent school absences)	16%
Alcohol or drug abuse by a family member	14%
Stress or worry about a family member in the military	13%
Vandalism (damaging others’ property) or stealing	11%
Running away from home	8%
Had to live on your own or at a friend’s because you had nowhere else to go	7%
Pregnancy	4%

1)Prevalence of Problems Experienced, by Grade Level. Table A in the appendix shows that there were eight problems that were more likely to be experienced by high school students compared to middle school students:

- ◆ Attention Problems
- ◆ Stress related to school performance
- ◆ Irritable mood
- ◆ Being sexually active

- ◆ Pregnancy
- ◆ Academic problems
- ◆ Alcohol use
- ◆ Alcohol or drug use by a family member

2) Prevalence of Problems Experienced, by Gender. Table B in the appendix shows that there were four problems more likely to be experienced by females, and two that were more likely to be experienced by males:

More likely to be experienced by females:

- ◆ Irritable mood
- ◆ Trouble getting along with family members
- ◆ Sleeping problems
- ◆ Worrying about weight

More likely to be experienced by males:

- ◆ Vandalism
- ◆ Fighting and anger

3) Percent of Those Problems Experienced that were Reported as Troubling. For those problems that were experienced, adolescents were asked to indicate how “troubling” each problem was. The following are the problems that were reported as being the most troubling (see Table 4):

- ◆ Pregnancy
- ◆ Parental separation or divorce
- ◆ Feelings that you want to hurt yourself (e.g. cutting)
- ◆ Alcohol or drug abuse by a family member
- ◆ Serious financial stress in your family (e.g., lost our home, or a parent lost job)

**Table 4
Problems Reported as Most Troubling**

Problem	<i>% of those with the problem who said it was "troubling" or "extremely troubling"</i>	<i>% of those with the problem who said it was "extremely troubling"</i>
Pregnancy	100%	50%
Parentseparation or divorce	95%	32%

<i>Table 4 continued</i>		
<i>Problem</i>	<i>% of those with the problem who said it was "troubling" or "extremely troubling"</i>	<i>% of those with the problem who said it was "extremely troubling"</i>
Feelings that you want to hurt yourself (e.g., cutting)	94%	29%
Alcohol or drug abuse by a family member	86%	21%
Serious financial stress in your family (e.g., lost our home, or a parent lost job)	77%	19%
Health or mental health problems of family members (e.g., parents or siblings) in your home	75%	21%
Had to live on your own or at a friend's because you had nowhere else to go	71%	29%
Sleeping problems (e.g., nightmares, insomnia)	70%	18%
Trouble getting along with family members (e.g., parents, brothers and sisters)	66%	16%
Parents being too strict in setting rules	64%	14%
Running away from home	63%	25%
Trouble dating (getting along with the opposite sex)	63%	11%
Anxiety, nervousness (feeling tense, anxious, nervous, worry a lot)	60%	14%
Worries about your weight (overweight or underweight)	59%	12%
Eating problems (such as binge eating, purging, or starving self)	59%	12%

<i>Table 4 continued</i>		
<i>Problem</i>	<i>% of those with the problem who said it was "troubling" or "extremely troubling"</i>	<i>% of those with the problem who said it was "extremely troubling"</i>
Alcohol or drug abuse by a close friend	58%	17%
Feeling lonely, difficulty making friends	58%	15%
Truancy (frequent school absences)	56%	19%
Moody or irritable (frequent changes in your emotions)	56%	11%
Vandalism (damaging others' property) or stealing	55%	18%
Stress or worry about a family member in the military	54%	15%
Being sexually active	52%	19%
Academic problems (poor grades, learning problems)	52%	12%
Depression (feeling low, worthless, guilty, loss of usual interests)	52%	12%
Stress related to your school performance	49%	7%
Trouble with attention, focus, or concentration	48%	7%
Fighting, anger	45%	8%
Peer pressure	37%	9%
Alcohol use	36%	14%

B) Perceptions of Barriers to Seeking Services

Adolescents were asked about the kinds of issues that may prevent them from using/accessing services if they had a problem. A list of 11 possible barriers

(e.g., too big of a hassle, transportation or distance would be a problem) was presented. Adolescents were asked to imagine that they had to deal with one of the previously mentioned problems, and how much they agreed or disagreed that a specific barrier would prevent them from seeking services. Table 5 shows the results.

The following were the top five perceived barriers to seeking services in Wood County:

- ◆ Prefer to get help from a family member (75%)
- ◆ Able to handle problems by oneself (72%)
- ◆ Problems paying for services (40%)
- ◆ Feel it would be embarrassing to get help (39%)
- ◆ Worried parents would find out (38%)

Table 5
Adolescents' Perceptions of Barriers to Seeking Services for Problems

<i>Barriers</i>	<i>% Agree or Strongly Agree</i>
Rather get help from a family member	75%
Able to handle it myself	72%
Paying for services would be an issue	40%
Embarrassing to get help	39%
Parents would find out	38%
Too big a hassle	37%
Transportation or distance would be difficult	34%
Knowing where to get help would be confusing	34%
Confidentiality/Privacy	33%
Difficult to receive services in the language I am comfortable with	12%
Religious values/beliefs would be a problem	11%

1) Perceptions of Barriers to Seeking Services, by Grade Level. Two barriers were significantly different based on grade level:

- ◆ **Confidentiality/privacy** was noted as a barrier by 38% of middle school students compared to 31% of high school students
- ◆ **Embarrassing to get help** was noted as a barrier by 43% of high school students compared to 37% of middle school students

2) Perceptions of Barriers to Seeking Services, by Gender. One barrier was significantly different between genders.

- ◆ Ability to handle the issue myself was noted as a barrier by 78% of males compared to 72% of females

C) Adolescents' Exposure to Stressful Life Events in the Past Year

Adolescents were asked about what kinds of stressful life events they have experienced. A list of 11 situations was presented and students were asked to indicate if each situation had happened to them, and if it happened in the past year or more than a year ago. Table 6 shows these results

The following were the top five stressful situations adolescents had been exposed to:

- ◆ Saw property destroyed or heard threats of property damage (e.g., bomb threat) (22%)
- ◆ Been harassed because of skin color, religion, sexual orientation, appearance or where your family was from (19%)
- ◆ Seen someone attacked (17%)
- ◆ Someone used the internet or cell phone to bother or harass you or to spread mean words or pictures about you (17%)
- ◆ Someone close to you was mugged, robbed, or threatened (16%)

The following were additional stressful situations experienced by adolescents that were also concerning:

- ◆ Someone on the internet tried to talk about sexual things and you did not want to (16%)
- ◆ Been in a situation where physical conflict between teens and adult family members where you were concerned someone might get hurt (14%)
- ◆ Been in a situation where physical conflict between adult family members where you were concerned someone might get hurt (11%)
- ◆ Someone you were dating threatened or did something verbally, sexually, or physically to you (9%)

Table 6
Adolescents' Exposure to Stressful Life Events in the Past Year

<i>Exposure</i>	<i>% Reporting Event Happened IN THE PAST YEAR</i>
Threats or see property destroyed	22%
Harassed because of skin color, religion, sexual orientation, appearance or where your family was from	19%
Seen someone attacked	17%
Someone used the internet or cell phone to bother or harass you or to spread mean words or pictures about you	17%
Someone close to you was mugged, robbed, or threatened	16%
Someone on the internet tried to talk about sexual things and you did not want to	16%
Been in a situation where physical conflict between teens and adult family members were you were concerned someone might get hurt	14%
Someone close to you been hurt or killed in a fire, accident, or natural disaster (e.g., bad storm, tornado, flood, or car accident)	14%
Been in a situation where physical conflict between adult family members were you were concerned someone might get hurt	11%
Someone you were dating threatened or did something verbally, sexually, or physically to you	9%
Home has been damaged by fire accident or natural disaster (e.g., bad storm, tornado, or flood)	5%

1) Exposure to Stressful Life Events, by Grade Level. Table C in the appendix presents the results for exposure to stressful life events by grade level of the adolescent. High school students reported being exposed to the following situations more frequently than middle school students:

- ◆ Someone on the internet tried to talk about sexual things and they did not want to
- ◆ Someone used the internet or cell phone to bother or harass them or to spread mean words or pictures about them

- ◆ Someone they were dating threatened or did something verbally, sexually, or physically
- ◆ Been in a situation where physical conflict between teens and adult family members where they were concerned someone might get hurt

2)Exposure to Stressful Life Events, by Gender. Females reported significantly higher rates of exposure than males for two events:

- ◆ Someone on the internet tried to talk about sexual things and they did not want to
- ◆ Someone used the internet or cell phone to bother or harass them or to spread mean words or pictures about them

D) Adolescents' Perceptions of Preparedness during the Transition out of High School

Adolescents were asked about their preparedness for life after high school. A list of 14 issues facing students transitioning out of high school was presented. Students were asked to indicate their preparedness or confidence in dealing with each issue. Table 7 shows these results.

The following were adolescents' top five issues for which they felt most prepared to deal with as they transition out of high school:

- ◆ 95% of adolescents felt that it was likely they will graduate from high school
- ◆ 90% of adolescents felt they will have time management skills to either succeed in college or succeed at a job
- ◆ 87% of adolescents planned to attend college right after high school
- ◆ 84% of adolescents felt they would be prepared academically to attend college
- ◆ 78% of adolescents felt they would be prepared to complete college applications by the time they graduate high school

Relatively fewer, but still a significant number of adolescents reported the following:

- ◆ 18% of adolescents said they will join the military (any branch: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard or Reserves)
- ◆ 10% of adolescents thought their parents would make them leave home right after high school even if they do not have anywhere else to go

Table 7
Adolescents' Perceptions of Preparedness for the Transition from High School

<i>Preparedness</i>	<i>% Reporting "fairly/very"</i>
How likely is it that you will graduate from high school?	95%
How confident are you that you will have the time management skills to either succeed in college or succeed at a job?	90%
How likely is it that you will attend college right after high school?	87%
By the time you graduate high school, how well prepared academically will you be to attend college?	84%
When it comes time to apply to college, how prepared will you feel to complete your college applications?	78%
If you move out of your family home right after high school, how confident are you that you will have the skills to manage on your own?	72%
By the time you are ready to graduate high school, how confident are you that you can find financial resources to pay for college?	63%
If you decide not to go to college, how confident are you that you will be able to get a job right after high school?	55%
How likely is it that you will be moving out of your family home right after high school?	50%
If you do not go to college, and you move out of your family home right after high school, how confident are you that you will have the financial resources to live on your own?	36%
How confident are you that you have the skills to succeed in the military?	35%
How likely are you to look for a job right after high school instead of attending college?	27%
How likely is it that right after high school, you will join the military (any branch: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard or Reserves)?	18%
How likely is it that your parents will make you leave home after high school, even if you don't have somewhere else to go?	10%

1) Perceptions of Preparedness after High School, by Grade Level. Two items were significantly different by grade level.

- ◆ 59% of high school students reported they felt fairly or very confident that **they would move out of the family home immediately after high school**, whereas 39% of youth currently attending middle school reported this.
- ◆ 86% of youth in middle school reported that they felt fairly or very **prepared academically for college** compared to 80% of high school youth.

2) Perceptions of Preparedness after High School, by Gender. Four items were significantly different by gender.

- ◆ 89% of females reported that they felt fairly or very confident they would **attend college immediately after high school**, whereas 82% of males reported this.
- ◆ 58% of males reported that they felt fairly or very confident that they would **be able to find a job after high school if they did not attend college**, whereas 36% of females reported this.
- ◆ Males were more likely to report that they felt fairly or very confident that they **would join (25%) and succeed (48%) in the military, compared to females (9% and 13%, respectively).**

E) Recommending Help to a Friend

Adolescents were asked what kinds of help they would recommend to a friend with a problem. Students were presented with three different problems (i.e., a friend dealing with depression, a friend dealing with substance abuse, and a friend dealing with legal issues) and were given a list of six possible sources of help. They were asked to indicate if they would recommend the particular source of help to a friend for each problem. Table 8 shows the results.

The most widely recommended source for help to deal with substance use or a legal issue was:

- ◆ Talk to a friend (Substance Use – 86%, Legal Issue - 85%)

The most widely recommended source for help to deal with depression was:

- ◆ Talk to an adult family member/parent (94%)

It should be noted that, although recommending that a friend seek help from an adult at school was consistently one of the least recommended forms of help, it was still endorsed by nearly 75% of adolescents regardless of the kind of problem:

- ◆ Depression (84%)
- ◆ Substance Use (73%)
- ◆ Legal Issues (75%)

Table 8
Adolescents' Recommendations of Sources of Help to Peers Dealing with Specific Problems

	<i>% who responded that they might/definitely would recommend each suggested source to a friend dealing with...</i>		
<i>Source of help to recommend to a friend</i>	<i>Depression</i>	<i>Substance Use</i>	<i>Legal Issues</i>
Talk to an adult family member/parent	94%	78%	81%
Talk to a friend	92%	86%	85%
Talk to an adult at school (e.g., teacher, principal, coach, counselor, nurse)	84%	73%	75%
Talk to a mental health counselor or therapist	85%	81%	75%
Talk to a doctor/physician	81%	80%	64%
Find another helping agency	72%	75%	70%

1) Recommending Help to a Friend, by Grade Level. There were some differences by grade level in terms of recommending help for specific types of problems:

- ◆ For problems regarding **depression**, middle school students were more likely to recommend talking to a friend, compared to high school students
- ◆ For problems regarding **substance use**, middle school students were more likely to recommend talking to an adult family member or a mental health counselor or therapist, compared to high school students

- ◆ For problems regarding **legal issues**, middle school students were more likely to recommend talking to an adult family member, compared to high school students

2) Recommending Help to a Friend, by Gender. There were some gender differences in terms of recommending help to a friend for specific types of problems:

- ◆ For problems regarding **substance use**, females were more likely to suggest talking to a friend, compared to males.
- ◆ For problems regarding **legal issues**, females were more likely to suggest talking to an adult family member or a friend, compared to males.

F) Adolescents' Knowledge and Utilization of Services/Resources within the County

Participants were provided with a list of agencies and services for children, families, and adolescents available in Wood County. They were asked if they had heard of the agency or service and if they had used the service in the last year.

Table 9 shows the percent of respondents reporting never having heard of a service or agency, along with the percent of respondents who had used the service in the past year.

The following were the top three services/resources adolescents in Wood County identified as having **NO KNOWLEDGE**:

- ◆ 2-1-1 (92%)
- ◆ The Link (89%)
- ◆ CareerLink (79%)

The following were services/resources adolescents in Wood County identified as **MOST WIDELY KNOWN**:

- ◆ Health Department (79%)
- ◆ Food Pantries (71%)
- ◆ Children's Resource Center (65%)

The following are services/resources Wood County adolescents identified as LEAST UTILIZED:

- ◆ 2-1-1 (0%)
- ◆ The Link (2%)
- ◆ CareerLink (3%)
- ◆ ATOD (4%)
- ◆ Behavioral Connections (4%)

The following services/resources were identified as the MOST UTILIZED by adolescents in the Wood County:

- ◆ Doctor (89%)
- ◆ Dentist (84%)
- ◆ Public library (64%)
- ◆ Eye doctor (59%)
- ◆ Hospital (58%)

Table 9
Adolescents’ Knowledge and Utilization of Services in the County

<i>Agency/ Resource</i>	<i>% With No Knowledge</i>	<i>% Who Used Service in the Past Year</i>
Doctor	N/A	89%
Dentist	N/A	85%
Public Library	N/A	64%
Eye Doctor	N/A	59%
Hospital	N/A	58%
Adult at School	N/A	38%
Recreation Programs	N/A	34%
Police and Sheriff Department	N/A	27%
Minister /Priest /Clergy	N/A	20%
Health Department	21%	19%
ACT/ SAT Prep Course	N/A	12%
Job & Family Services	36%	11%
Children’s Resource Center	35%	9%
Food Pantries	29%	9%
ATOD	56%	4%
Behavioral Connections	63%	4%

Table 9 continued

<i>Agency/ Resource</i>	<i>% With No Knowledge</i>	<i>% Who Used Service in the Past Year</i>
CareerLink	79%	3%
The Link	89%	2%
2-1-1	92%	0%

1) Knowledge and Utilization of Services/Resources within the County, by Grade Level. As one would expect, high school students were more likely than middle school students to have utilized an ACT/SAT prep course. On the other hand, middle school students were more likely to have used the public library.

2) Knowledge and Utilization of Services/Resources within the County, by Gender. Compared to males, females were more likely to know about Job and Family Services, as well as utilize an adult at school as a resource.

G) Neighborhood Assets

Respondents were presented with six questions regarding their perceptions of specific neighborhood assets. Table 10 shows the percentage of respondents who answered that it was “likely” or “very likely” that either they or their neighbors would engage in the listed behaviors to monitor the youth’s activities in the neighborhood.

The following were adolescents’ top three neighborhood assets:

- ◆ 84% reported that they would say something to an adult if a kid in their neighborhood was beating up a younger child
- ◆ 73% reported their neighbors would likely do something if children were spray-painting graffiti on a local building
- ◆ 73% reported their neighbors would likely break up a fight in front of the adolescent’s house.

The following were neighborhood assets endorsed by less than 50% of adolescents:

- ◆ 43% reported that their neighbors would likely do something about neighborhood children seen skipping school
- ◆ 43% reported that their neighbors would organize and work to keep a fire station open that was in threat of closing

Table 10
Adolescents' Perceptions of Neighborhood Assets

Neighborhood Asset Items	% Indicating "Very Likely" and "Likely"
If you saw a group of kids your age in your neighborhood beating up a much younger child, how likely is it that you would say something to an adult or try to intervene?	84%
If some children were spray-painting graffiti on a local building, how likely is it that your neighbors would do something about it?	73%
If there was a fight in front of your house and someone was being beaten or threatened, how likely is it that your neighbors would break it up?	73%
If a child was showing disrespect to an adult, how likely is it that people in your neighborhood would scold that child?	53%
If a group of neighborhood children were skipping school and hanging out on a street corner, how likely is it that your neighbors would do something about it?	43%
Suppose that because of budget cuts the fire station closest to your home was going to be closed down by the city. How likely is it that neighborhood residents would organize to try to do something to keep the fire station open?	43%

Respondents were also asked to respond to 4 questions regarding perceptions of qualities of their neighborhoods (e.g., safety). Table 11 shows the percentage of respondents who answered that they "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" with various questions about their neighborhood. The following neighborhood qualities were endorsed most frequently by adolescents.

- ◆ 94% of respondents reported that they Agree or Strongly Agree that their neighborhood is safe
- ◆ 80% of respondents reported that they Agree or Strongly Agree to liking their neighborhood

Interestingly, less than half of adolescents believe there are fun things to do in the area:

- ◆ There are a lot of fun things to do in my neighborhood (48%)

Table 11
Adolescents' Perceptions of Neighborhood Qualities

Neighborhood qualities	<i>% Indicating "Strongly agree" or "Agree"</i>
I feel safe in my neighborhood.	94%
I like my neighborhood.	80%
There are a lot of fun things to do in my neighborhood.	48%
There is a lot of crime in my neighborhood.	9%

1) Neighborhood Assets and Qualities, by Grade Level. There was one difference between grade levels for neighborhood assets:

- ◆ Middle school students were more likely than high school students to believe that a neighbor would intervene if children were seen skipping school.

Additionally, there was one difference between grade levels for neighborhood qualities:

- ◆ Middle school students were more likely than high school students to endorse the belief that "there are a lot of fun things to do in my neighborhood."

2) Neighborhood Assets and Qualities, by Gender. There were no significant differences in males' and females' responses to these items.

H) Developmental Assets

We included a list of 15 items asking adolescents about various family, school, neighborhood, and individual assets that are available to support their development. Table 12 shows the percentage of respondents who believe that they have a specific asset.

The five most endorsed assets are:

- ◆ I can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations (91%)
- ◆ My family sets standards for appropriate conduct and monitors my whereabouts (89%)

- ◆ I know non-parent adults and/or friends I can go to for advice and support (86%)
- ◆ I think my life has purpose and I'm optimistic (84%)
- ◆ I can go to my family members for advice and support and have frequent in-depth conversations with them (78%)

Additional statements endorsed that raise concern, specifically about community support and involvement are:

- ◆ There is at least one adult at my school who cares about me and knows me well (73%)
 - This suggests that 27% of adolescents do not believe this
- ◆ I spend 3 hours or more each week in school or community clubs, sports, and/or extracurricular activities (72%)
 - This suggests that 28% of adolescents have no other community involvement other than attending school
- ◆ I feel like I am involved in my community (52%)
 - This suggests 48% of adolescents do not believe they are involved in their community

In addition, we included 5 items assessing adolescents' perceptions of their own influence within their family and community. Responses to these items are also included in Table 12. Adolescents most frequently reported that:

- ◆ Adults in my family listen to me and respect my opinions (68%)
- ◆ Health care professionals (like doctors and counselors) listen to me and respect my opinions about the care I receive (62%)
- ◆ I have a lot to say in decisions about my education (62%)

Additional perceptions about adolescents' influences that raise concern are:

- ◆ Adults at school listen to me and respect my opinions (47%)
 - This suggests 53% of adolescents believe that they have no adult contact at school that will respect their opinions

Table 12
Adolescents' Perceptions of Available Developmental Assets

<i>Assets</i>	<i>% Who Said They Have the Asset</i>
I can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations.	91%

<i>Table 12 continued: Adolescents' Perceptions of Influence</i>	
<i>Assets</i>	<i>% Indicating "Great Deal" or "Very Much"</i>
My family sets standards for appropriate conduct and monitors my whereabouts.	89%
I know non-parent adults and/or friends I can go to for advice and support.	86%
I think my life has purpose and I'm optimistic.	84%
I can go to my family members for advice and support and have frequent in-depth conversations with them.	78%
There is at least one adult at my school who cares about me and knows me well.	73%
I spend 3 hours or more each week in school or community clubs, sports, and/or extracurricular activities.	72%
There are adults in my neighborhood who encourage me to do my best.	68%
I want to do well in school and I do an hour or more of homework each school day.	60%
I feel like I am involved in my community.	52%
Adults in my family listen to me and respect my opinions.	68%
Health care professionals (like doctors and counselors) listen to me and respect my opinions about the care I receive.	62%
I have a lot to say in decisions about my education.	62%
Adults at school listen to me and respect my opinions.	47%
I belong to a group of kids my age that can influence decisions that affect us or other teens.	40%

1) Developmental Assets, by Grade Level. Table D in the appendix presents assets by grade level of adolescents. There were five assets that differed across adolescents in middle vs. high school:

Assets more likely to be endorsed by middle school students were:

- ◆ There are adults in my neighborhood who encourage me to do my best
- ◆ My family sets standards for appropriate conduct and monitors my whereabouts
- ◆ I want to do well in school and I do an hour or more of homework each school day
- ◆ Adults in my family listen to me and respect my opinions

Assets more likely to be endorsed by high school students were:

- ◆ I belong to a group of kids my age that can influence decisions that affect us or other teens

2) Developmental Assets, by Gender. There were no significant differences between males and females in their perceptions of their developmental assets.

IV. DISCUSSION/IMPLICATIONS

In this section, we review the major findings and present some implications of the results in three broad areas: Adolescents' Experiences with Problems and Stressful Events; Knowledge and Utilization of Services, and Perceptions of Barriers to Seeking Services; and Sources of Support and Assets for Adolescents.

Adolescents' Experiences with Problems and Stressful Events

Adolescents disclosed an extensive array of problems of concern. The five *most common problems*, with each one indicated by at least 60% of respondents, were: *anxiety and nervousness; attentional difficulties; academic stress; irritable mood; and family conflict*. These problems were not only frequent, they were relatively distressing. Approximately half the teens who reported these problems identified them as troubling (i.e., they endorsed them as "troubling" or "extremely troubling").

Additionally, adolescents reported relatively high rates of *problems with well known and significant implications* for well-being, development, transition to adulthood, and/or health status. Sizable numbers of youth reported (approximately 20-30%) that they had experienced: *marked family financial stress* (lost home, or parent lost job); being *sexually active; self-harm feelings; and eating problems*

(binging, purging, self- starving). More than half said that these experiences were troubling to them. The two final problems in the list (eating, self-harm) are potentially life threatening, and both of these are acknowledged by about one out of every six teens. This should raise significant concern for Wood County FCFC members.

Seven per cent of teens said that they had experienced *living on their own or at a friend's because they had nowhere else to go*, and most of these found that troubling. Even though this is a relatively infrequent problem, it is notable given the potential consequences. Roughly one in fourteen students is at least transiently homeless, which presents a host of risks (hunger, health, supervision and monitoring, safety, victimization, academic and economic failure, substance use, delinquency etc.)

These findings give us significant insight into those problems that are most prevalent for Wood County adolescents, and those that pose significant risk to health status. What problems, though, do these youth find *most distressing*? Resoundingly, teens told us that *pregnancy, parental separation/divorce, and self-harm feelings* were most difficult. Over 90% of youth with these problems indicated that they were troubled by them. Additionally, at least three out of every four identified *family alcohol/drug abuse, marked family financial stress, and family member health/mental health issues* as troubling. These rates were at least double the percentage of teens who said that peer pressure, or their own alcohol use, were troubling.

The present needs assessment did not include many items about substance use because of the extensive analysis on this topic conducted by Dr. William J. Ivoska in his bi-annual Wood County Youth Survey supported by Wood County's ADAMHS Board and Educational Services Center. We asked about teens' own alcohol use and found rates consistent with local and national surveys, with a clear and predictable developmental trend (use increases with age). We asked about alcohol or drug abuse by close friends and learned, not surprisingly, that the rate was similar to teens' own alcohol use. We asked about alcohol/drug abuse by family members and youth reported a rate that was only two-thirds of their own alcohol use. Of particular interest, teens were more likely to be troubled by alcohol/drug abuse by a family member (86%) or by a close friend (58%) than by their own alcohol use (36%). This finding should be interpreted cautiously because of differences in item wording ("alcohol use" for self-report, "alcohol or drug abuse" for reports of friends and family members). Nevertheless, it is evident that

teens are distressed by substance abuse by friends, and especially by family members.

Adolescents also indicated that they had experienced a variety of stressful events within the past year. For example, 15%-20% indicated having: *experienced threats; been harassed because of their skin color, religion, sexual orientation, appearance, etc.; or been harassed through the internet*. Approximately 10%-15% experienced *physical conflict in the home directed at themselves or between adult family members*. And, as would be expected, further analyses showed that those who experienced such stressful events indeed were more likely to experience the kinds of problems discussed above. These results highlight the continuing need for counseling services for families and adolescents throughout the county.

Knowledge and Utilization of Services, and Perceptions of Barriers to Seeking Services

Results do show that many adolescents know about county services that address their various problems. For example, approximately two-thirds or more had knowledge of Job and Family Services, Children's Resource Center, and the Health Department (10%-20% reported having used these services in the past year). Yet, it is concerning that many adolescents perceive a range of barriers to seeking help for their problems. Nearly three-quarters indicated they would *prefer to seek help from a family member* or that they *could handle the problem on their own*. Over a third were concerned that they would *feel embarrassed to seek help, that their parents would find out, or that there would be confidentiality/privacy issues*. Thus, county agencies should consider mounting educational efforts to allay adolescents' concerns regarding seeking services.

Sources of Support and Assets for Adolescents

There were several results from this survey that suggest that adolescents generally perceive high levels of support from parents, friends, and members of the community. For example, we presented adolescents with vignettes describing a friend who had problems with depression, substance use, or legal issues, and asked which sources of support the adolescents would recommend to a friend. The top sources of support endorsed were *"talk to an adult family member"* or *"talk to a friend."* Over 80% of adolescents indicated that they could go to their family members or non-family adults and friends for help with their problems. More than half of the adolescents believed that their neighbors would exert influence to deal with social control issues in their community (e.g., neighbors would intervene to stop youth antisocial behavior), and over 90% indicated they feel safe in their neighborhoods.

Yet, although relatively high numbers of adolescents do perceive support in their community, we did find that approximately half **did not** feel that they were *involved* in the community; for example, only 40% said that they *belong to a group of kids my age that can influence decisions that affect us or other teens*; 28% **did not** “*spend 3 hours or more each week in school or community clubs, sports, or extracurricular activities*,” and 40% **did not** endorse the statement, “*I want to do well in school and I do an hour or more of homework each school day.*” Over half of the adolescents **did not** agree that “*Adults at school listen to me and respect my opinions*” and over a quarter of them **did not** endorse the statement, “*There is an adult at school who cares about me and knows me well.*” These results suggest the need for outreach efforts by the schools and community agencies to attract those youth who do not perceive that they have access to community assets or adult social support (or lack the motivation or skills to access those assets/supports) that have been shown to facilitate their development.

Appendices

Table A. Prevalence of Problems Experienced, by Grade Level

<i>Problem</i>	<i>Middle School: % saying “Yes (the problem) did happen in the past year”</i>	<i>High School: % saying “Yes (the problem) did happen in the past year”</i>
Anxiety, nervousness (feeling tense, anxious, nervous, worry a lot)	72%	71%
Trouble with attention, focus, or concentration+	60%	74%
Stress related to your school performance+	59%	75%
Moody or irritable (frequent changes in your emotions)+	58%	70%
Trouble getting along with family members (e.g., parents, brothers and sisters)	59%	65%
Depression (feeling low, worthless, guilty, loss of usual interests)	49%	51%
Worries about your weight (overweight or underweight)	47%	52%
Parents being too strict in setting rules	36%	47%
Academic problems (poor grades, learning problems)+	31%	53%
Sleeping problems (e.g., nightmares, insomnia)	40%	41%
Fighting, anger	43%	47%
Peer pressure	40%	29%
Serious financial stress in your family (e.g., lost our home, or a parent lost job)	28%	35%
Trouble dating (getting along with the opposite sex)	28%	26%
Being sexually active+	12%	45%

<i>Table A continued</i>		
<i>Problem</i>	<i>Middle School: % saying “Yes (the problem) did happen in the past year”</i>	<i>High School: % saying “Yes (the problem) did happen in the past year”</i>
Feeling lonely, difficulty making friends	25%	27%
Alcohol or drug abuse by a close friend	15%	32%
Health or mental health problems of family members (e.g., parents or siblings) in your home	21%	28%
Alcohol use+	8%	35%
Parent separation or divorce	24%	20%
Feelings that you want to hurt yourself (e.g., cutting)	18%	17%
Eating problems (such as binge eating, purging, or starving self)	10%	24%
Truancy (frequent school absences)	12%	21%
Alcohol or drug abuse by a family member+	9%	20%
Stress or worry about a family member in the military	13%	13%
Vandalism (damaging others’ property) or stealing	8%	13%
Running away from home	5%	10%
Had to live on your own or at a friend’s because you had nowhere else to go	5%	8%
Pregnancy+	1%	6%

+Significant at the .05 level.

Table B. Prevalence of Problems Experienced, by Gender

<i>Problem</i>	<i>Males: % saying “Yes (the problem) did happen in the past year”</i>	<i>Females: % saying “Yes (the problem) did happen in the past year”</i>
Anxiety, nervousness (feeling tense, anxious, nervous, worry a lot)	66%	76%
Trouble with attention, focus, or concentration	66%	67%
Stress related to your school performance	63%	70%
Moody or irritable (frequent changes in your emotions)+	47%	78%
Trouble getting along with family members (e.g., parents, brothers and sisters)+	54%	69%
Depression (feeling low, worthless, guilty, loss of usual interests)	52%	64%
Worries about your weight (overweight or underweight)+	35%	62%
Parents being too strict in setting rules	40%	43%
Academic problems (poor grades, learning problems)	46%	39%
Sleeping problems (e.g., nightmares, insomnia)+	31%	49%
Fighting, anger+	47%	33%
Peer pressure	36%	34%
Serious financial stress in your family (e.g., lost our home, or a parent lost job)	28%	34%
Trouble dating (getting along with the opposite sex)	27%	27%
Being sexually active	29%	28%

<i>Table B continued</i>		
Problem	<i>Males: % saying “Yes (the problem) did happen in the past year”</i>	<i>Females: % saying “Yes (the problem) did happen in the past year”</i>
Feeling lonely, difficulty making friends	27%	26%
Alcohol or drug abuse by a close friend	21%	26%
Health or mental health problems of family members (e.g., parents or siblings) in your home	21%	27%
Alcohol use	27%	18%
Parent separation or divorce	26%	18%
Feelings that you want to hurt yourself (e.g., cutting)	15%	19%
Eating problems (such as binge eating, purging, or starving self)	13%	21%
Truancy (frequent school absences)	16%	16%
Alcohol or drug abuse by a family member	16%	13%
Stress or worry about a family member in the military	13%	13%
Vandalism (damaging others’ property) or stealing+	16%	4%
Running away from home	9%	6%
Had to live on your own or at a friend’s because you had nowhere else to go	7%	6%
Pregnancy	5%	2%

+Significant at the .05 level

Table C. Exposure to Stressful Life Events, by Grade Level

<i>Exposure</i>	<i>% Saying Event Happened IN THE PAST YEAR</i>	
	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>High School</i>
Threats or see property destroyed	20%	24%
Harassed because of skin color, religion, sexual orientation, appearance or where your family was from	18%	20%
+ Someone used the internet or cell phone to bother or harass you or to spread mean words or pictures about you	11%	23%
Seen someone attacked	12%	21%
+ Someone on the internet tried to talk about sexual things and you did not want to	10%	23%
+ Someone close to you was mugged, robbed, or threatened	11%	20%
Someone close to you been hurt or killed in a fire, accident or natural disaster (e.g. bad storm, tornado, flood, or car accident)	12%	17%
+ Been in a situation where physical conflict between teens and adult family members where you were concerned someone might get hurt	7%	21%
Been in a situation where physical conflict between adult family members where you were concerned someone might get hurt	8%	14%
+ Someone you were dating threatened or did something verbally, sexually, or physically	5%	14%
Home has been damaged by fire accident or natural disaster (e.g. bad storm, tornado, flood)	4%	7%

+ Significant at the .05 level

Table D. Developmental Assets, by Grade Level

<i>Assets</i>	<i>% Who Said They Have the Asset</i>	
	<i>Middle school</i>	<i>High School</i>
I can go to my family members for advice and support and have frequent in-depth conversations with them.	83%	74%
I know non-parent adults and/or friends I can go to for advice and support.	87%	86%
There are adults in my neighborhood who encourage me to do my best.+	77%	59%
I feel like I am involved in my community.	54%	50%
My family sets standards for appropriate conduct and monitors my whereabouts.+	94%	84%
I spend 3 hours or more each week in school or community clubs, sports, and/or extracurricular activities.	76%	68%
I want to do well in school and I do an hour or more of homework each school day.+	69%	52%
There is at least one adult at my school who cares about me and knows me well.	77%	70%
I can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations.	91%	90%
I think my life has purpose and I'm optimistic.	86%	84%
Adults in my family listen to me and respect my opinions.+	75%	62%
Adults at school listen to me and respect my opinions.	47%	47%

<i>Table D continued</i>		
	<i>% Indicating “Great Deal” or “Very Much”</i>	
<i>Assets</i>	<i>Middle school</i>	<i>High School</i>
Health care professionals (like doctors and counselors) listen to me and respect my opinions about the care I receive.	69%	54%
I have a lot to say in decisions about my education.	57%	68%
I belong to a group of kids my age that can influence decisions that affect us or other teens.+	35%	46%

+Significant at the 0.05 level

Adolescent Survey

Wood County Family and Children First Needs Assessment

The Wood County Family and Children First Council is a group of community agencies, schools, and family representatives that plan services for teens, children and families in Wood County. To help plan needed services, we have put together a questionnaire that asks questions about you—about your opinions, experiences, and feelings. Your responses are anonymous. At no time can your individual responses be singled out and connected to you because we are not collecting names. It is important that you understand this so that you feel free to answer the items as accurately as you can. Hopefully, from the information we learn from Wood County students, we can plan and develop better services for teens and their families.

SECTION 1: Have You Experienced any of these Problems?

We are interested in the kinds of problems you experience. Please indicate whether each item has happened to you in the past year, and if so, how much it has troubled you. Circle one response for each question.

- 1 – Did not happen in the past year
- 2 – Happened in the last year but not at all troubling
- 3 – Happened in the past year and somewhat troubling
- 4 – Happened in the past year and extremely troubling

	Did not happen in the past year	Happened in the past year but not at all troubling	Happened in the past year and somewhat troubling	Happened in the past year extremely troubling
1. Depression (feeling low, worthless, guilty, loss of usual interests)	1	2	3	4
2. Trouble with attention, focus, or concentration	1	2	3	4
3. Stress related to your school performance	1	2	3	4
4. Feelings that you want to hurt yourself (e.g., cutting)	1	2	3	4
5. Anxiety, nervousness (feeling tense, anxious, nervous, worry a lot)	1	2	3	4
6. Moody or irritable (frequent changes in your emotions)	1	2	3	4
7. Trouble getting along with family members (e.g., parents, brothers and sisters)	1	2	3	4
8. Parents being too strict in setting rules	1	2	3	4
9. Feeling lonely, difficulty making friends	1	2	3	4
10. Trouble dating (getting along with the opposite sex)	1	2	3	4
11. Being sexually active	1	2	3	4
12. Sleeping problems (e.g., nightmares, insomnia)	1	2	3	4

County-Wide Needs Assessment: Part 1: Adolescents | 2011

Section 1 continued...	Did not happen in the past year	Happened in the past year but not at all troubling	Happened in the past year and somewhat troubling	Happened in the past year extremely troubling
13. Pregnancy	1	2	3	4
14. Truancy (frequent school absences)	1	2	3	4
15. Vandalism (damaging others' property) or stealing	1	2	3	4
16. Academic problems (poor grades, learning problems)	1	2	3	4
17. Fighting, anger	1	2	3	4
18. Running away from home	1	2	3	4
19. Alcohol use	1	2	3	4
20. Worries about your weight (overweight or underweight)	1	2	3	4
21. Alcohol or drug abuse by a family member	1	2	3	4
22. Alcohol or drug abuse by a close friend	1	2	3	4
23. Health or mental health problems of family members (e.g., parents or siblings) in your home	1	2	3	4
24. Parent separation or divorce	1	2	3	4
25. Serious financial stress in your family (e.g., lost our home, or a parent lost job)	1	2	3	4
26. Stress or worry about a family member in the military	1	2	3	4
27. Eating problems (such as binge eating, purging, or starving self)	1	2	3	4
28. Peer pressure	1	2	3	4
29. Had to live on your own or at a friend's because you had nowhere else to go	1	2	3	4

SECTION 2: Your Opinions about Seeking Help for Problems

We are also interested in why teens may decide not to use services.

Please write down **the most important problem that you experienced in SECTION 1:** _____

If you had to deal with a problem like this again, circle how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about getting services for this problem.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
30. It would be too big of a hassle to get help (because of waiting lists, time constraints, paperwork)	1	2	3	4
31. I would be able to handle this problem myself	1	2	3	4
32. Confidentiality/privacy would be a problem	1	2	3	4
33. Transportation or distance would be difficult	1	2	3	4
34. It would be embarrassing to get help for the problem	1	2	3	4
35. Paying for services would be a problem	1	2	3	4
36. Knowing where or how to get help would be confusing	1	2	3	4
37. My parents would find out and I wouldn't want them to find out	1	2	3	4
38. I would not use a helping agency because of my family values or religious beliefs	1	2	3	4
39. It would be difficult to receive services in the language I am most comfortable speaking	1	2	3	4
40. I would rather get help from family members or friends	1	2	3	4

SECTION 3: Things I Have Experienced

Please indicate whether each item has happened to you, using the following responses:

1 – Never

2 – Happened, but more than a year ago

3 – Happened, in the past year

Circle one response for each question.	Never Happened	Happened, BUT MORE THAN A YEAR AGO	Happened, IN THE PAST YEAR
41. When you were at school, did you hear threats of property being destroyed, or did you actually see property being destroyed (e.g., bomb threat, fire, vandalism)?	1	2	3
42. Was anyone close to you, like a family member or a good friend, robbed, mugged, or threatened with or without a weapon?	1	2	3
43. Have you been on the internet and had someone try to talk about sexual things with you when you did not want to?	1	2	3
44. Has anyone used the internet or cell phone to bother or harass you or to spread mean words or pictures about you?	1	2	3
45. Have you seen someone attacked with or without an object or a weapon?	1	2	3
46. Has your home been damaged by fire, accident, or natural disaster (e.g., bad storm, tornado, flood)?	1	2	3
47. Has someone close to you been hurt or killed in a fire, accident, or natural disaster (e.g., bad storm, tornado, flood, or car accident)?	1	2	3
48. Did someone you were dating threaten or do something to you verbally, sexually, or physically?	1	2	3
49. Have you been harassed because of your skin color, religion, sexual orientation, appearance, or because of where your family comes from?	1	2	3
50. Have you been in a situation where there was physical conflict between teenagers and adult family members where you were concerned that someone might get hurt?	1	2	3
51. Have you been in a situation where there was physical conflict between adult family members where you were concerned that someone might get hurt?	1	2	3

SECTION 4: Life after High School

**We are interested in your preparation for life after high school.
Please circle one response for each question.**

	Not at all	Somewhat	Fairly	Very	Does not apply
52. How likely is it that you will graduate from high school?	1	2	3	4	5
53. How likely is it that you will attend college right after high school?	1	2	3	4	5
54. How likely are you to look for a job right after high school instead of attending college?	1	2	3	4	5
55. How likely is it that you will be moving out of your family home right after high school?	1	2	3	4	5
56. When it comes time to apply to college, how prepared will you feel to complete your college applications?	1	2	3	4	5
57. By the time you graduate high school, how well prepared academically will you be to attend college?	1	2	3	4	5
58. By the time you are ready to graduate high school, how confident are you that you can find financial resources to pay for college?	1	2	3	4	5
59. If you decide not to go to college, how confident are you that you will be able to get a job right after high school?	1	2	3	4	5
60. How likely is it that right after high school, you will join the military (any branch: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard or Reserves)?	1	2	3	4	5
61. How confident are you that you have the skills to succeed in the military?	1	2	3	4	5
62. How confident are you that you will have the time management skills to either succeed in college or succeed at a job?	1	2	3	4	5
63. How likely is it that your parents will make you leave home after high school, even if you don't have somewhere else to go?	1	2	3	4	5
64. If you move out of your family home right after high school, how confident are you that you will have the skills to manage on your own?	1	2	3	4	5
65. If you do not go to college, and you move out of your family home right after high school, how confident are you that you will have the financial resources to live on your own?	1	2	3	4	5

SECTION 5: Recommending Help to a Friend

In this section, we will ask you what kind of help you would recommend to a friend who came to you with certain concerns. Read each situation, and then indicate how likely you would be to recommend a certain kind of help to a friend who is in that situation. Circle one response for each question.			
66. Your friend has been feeling very depressed, lonely, and worthless, and tells you he is thinking about killing himself. How likely would you be to recommend the following types of help?	Would not recommend	Might recommend	Definitely would recommend
66.1 Talk to an adult family member/parent	1	2	3
66.2 Talk to a friend	1	2	3
66.3 Talk to an adult at school (e.g., teacher, principal, coach, counselor, nurse)	1	2	3
66.4 Talk to a mental health counselor or therapist	1	2	3
66.5 Talk to a doctor/physician	1	2	3
66.6 Find another helping agency	1	2	3
67. You find out that your friend is using marijuana and drinking alcohol a lot. You think that he might be an addict. How likely would you be to recommend the following types of help?	Would not recommend	Might recommend	Definitely would recommend
67.1 Talk to an adult family member/parent	1	2	3
67.2 Talk to a friend	1	2	3
67.3 Talk to an adult at school (e.g., teacher, principal, coach, counselor, nurse)	1	2	3
67.4 Talk to a mental health counselor or therapist	1	2	3
67.5 Talk to a doctor/physician	1	2	3
67.6 Find another helping agency	1	2	3
68. Lately you've been noticing that your friend has been staying out past curfew, breaking the law (for example, knocking down mailboxes) and arguing a lot with you and your other friends. How likely would you be to recommend the following types of help?	Would not recommend	Might recommend	Definitely would recommend
68.1 Talk to an adult family member/parent	1	2	3
68.2 Talk to a friend	1	2	3
68.3 Talk to an adult at school (e.g., teacher, principal, coach, counselor, nurse)	1	2	3
68.4 Talk to a mental health counselor or therapist	1	2	3
68.5 Talk to a doctor/physician	1	2	3
68.6 Find another helping agency	1	2	3

SECTION 6: Your Knowledge of Help Available in Wood County

Below is a list of helping services in Wood County. After reading each service, please indicate whether you have heard of the service and whether you have used it IN THE PAST YEAR. Circle yes or no for each question.

69.	Have you heard of 2-1-1?	No	Yes
70.	Have you used 2-1-1 in the past year?	No	Yes
71.	Have you heard of Behavioral Connections?	No	Yes
72.	Have you used Behavioral Connections in the past year?	No	Yes
73.	Have you heard of the Children’s Resource Center?	No	Yes
74.	Have you used Children’s Resource Center in the past year?	No	Yes
75.	Have you heard of the Link?	No	Yes
76.	Have you used the Link in the past year?	No	Yes
77.	Have you heard of the Wood County Health Department or any of its programs (such as medical clinics, physical exams, vaccination or immunization clinics, WIC nutritional services, or Help Me Grow)?	No	Yes
78.	Have you used the Wood County Health Department or any of its programs in the past year?	No	Yes
79.	Have you heard of the Wood County Department of Job and Family Services?	No	Yes
80.	Have you used Job and Family Services in the past year?	No	Yes
81.	Have you heard of CareerLink?	No	Yes
82.	Have you used CareerLink in the past year?	No	Yes
83.	Have you heard of Food Pantries?	No	Yes
84.	Have you used Food Pantries in the past year?	No	Yes
85.	Have you heard of ATOD (Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug) prevention specialists in the schools?	No	Yes
86.	Have you used ATOD prevention specialist services at school in the past year?	No	Yes
87.	Have you used the Police or Sheriff Department in Wood County the past year?	No	Yes
88.	Have you used the Public Library in Wood County in the past year?	No	Yes
89.	Have you used a recreation program in Wood County in the past year?	No	Yes
90.	Have you gone to Wood County Hospital in the past year?	No	Yes
91.	Have you gone to the doctor in the past year?	No	Yes
92.	Have you gone to the dentist in the past year?	No	Yes
93.	Have you gone to the eye doctor in the past year?	No	Yes
94.	Have you talked to a minister, priest, or clergy for help with problems in the past year?	No	Yes
95.	Have you talked to an adult at school (e.g., teacher, principal, coach, counselor, nurse) for help with problems in the past year?	No	Yes
96.	Have you taken a prep course for college testing (e.g., ACT/SAT) in the past year?	No	Yes

SECTION 7: About your Neighborhood

These questions ask your opinions about your neighborhood. Please answer how much each item describes what your neighborhood is like. Circle one response for each question.

	Very Likely	Likely	Neither Likely nor Unlikely	Unlikely	Very Unlikely
97. If a group of neighborhood teens were skipping school and hanging out on a street corner, how likely is it that your neighbors would do something about it?	1	2	3	4	5
98. If some teens were spray-painting graffiti on a local building, how likely is it that your neighbors would do something about it?	1	2	3	4	5
99. If a teen was showing disrespect to an adult, how likely is it that people in your neighborhood would scold that teen?	1	2	3	4	5
100. If there was a fight in front of your house and someone was being beaten or threatened, how likely is it that your neighbors would break it up?	1	2	3	4	5
101. Suppose that because of budget cuts the fire station closest to your home was going to be closed down by the city. How likely is it that neighborhood residents would organize to try to do something to keep the fire station open?	1	2	3	4	5
102. If you saw a group of kids your age in your neighborhood beating up a much younger child, how likely is it that you would say something to an adult or try to intervene?	1	2	3	4	5

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about your neighborhood.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
103. I feel safe in my neighborhood.	1	2	3	4
104. There is a lot of crime in my neighborhood.	1	2	3	4
105. There are a lot of fun things to do in my neighborhood.	1	2	3	4
106. I like my neighborhood.	1	2	3	4

SECTION 8: About You

Please circle "Yes" if the statement applies to you or "No" if the statement does not apply to you.		
107. I can go to my family members for advice and support and have frequent in-depth conversations with them.	Yes	No
108. I know non-parent adults and/or friends I can go to for advice and support.	Yes	No
109. There are adults in my neighborhood who encourage me to do my best.	Yes	No
110. I feel like I am involved in my community.	Yes	No
111. My family sets standards for appropriate conduct and monitors my whereabouts.	Yes	No
112. I spend 3 hours or more each week in school or community clubs, sports, and/or extracurricular activities.	Yes	No
113. I want to do well in school and I do an hour or more of homework each school day.	Yes	No
114. There is at least one adult at my school who cares about me and knows me well.	Yes	No
115. I can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations.	Yes	No
116. I think my life has purpose and I'm optimistic.	Yes	No

SECTION 9: Your Influence

These questions ask about your own experiences. Please answer how much each statement is true for you. Circle one response for each question.

	A great deal	Very much	Somewhat	A little	Not at all
117. Adults in my family listen to me and respect my opinions.	1	2	3	4	5
118. Adults at school listen to me and respect my opinions.	1	2	3	4	5
119. Health care professionals (like doctors and counselors) listen to me and respect my opinions about the care I receive.	1	2	3	4	5
120. I have a lot of say in decisions about my education.	1	2	3	4	5
121. I belong to a group of kids my age that can influence decisions that affect us or other teens.	1	2	3	4	5

SECTION 10: Background Information

Circle one response to each question					
122. How old are you?	12-13	14-15	16-17	18 or older	
123. What is your sex?	Male	female			
124. What is your ethnic background?	Caucasian (white)	African American (black)	Hispanic	Middle Eastern	Other
125. How many children under age 18 live in your home?	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8+
126. How many adults live in your home?	1	2	3	4 or more	
127. Is an immediate family member (parent or sibling) currently serving in the military (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Guard, or Reserves) or has served in the military in the past 5 years?	No	Yes, currently serving	Served in past 5 years	Served more than 5 years ago	
128. Are you covered by health insurance or Medicaid?	Yes	No	Don't Know		
129. How long have you lived in Wood County?	0-12 months	1-5 years	6-10 years	10-15 years	16+ years
130. Do you have internet access at your house?	Yes	No			