



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

**Adolescents:**

**Part 2: A Survey of Wood County Parents of Adolescents**

Psychological Services Center

***Report Prepared For:***

**Wood County Family and Children First Council**

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## 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 families with adolescents ages 13-18 in the following areas: parents' perceptions of adolescents' general problems; parents' perceptions of their adolescents' mental and physical health conditions; parents' knowledge and utilization of services/resources/programs for adolescents within the county; parents' perceptions of barriers to seeking services for adolescents' problems; parents' perceptions of assets (family, school, community, individual) available to support their adolescents' development; and parents' perceptions of their neighborhoods as a supportive asset for adolescents.

### Highlights of Results

#### **Parents' Perceptions of Adolescents' General Problems**

Parents were asked what they believe to be problems or needs of adolescents and their families in Wood County. The following five problems and needs were reported most frequently as being faced by families with adolescents:

- ◆ **A teenager in the family who is moody or irritable (frequent changes in emotions) (51%)**
- ◆ **A teenager in the family who has stress related to school performance (49%)**
- ◆ **A teenager in the family who has problems with peer pressure (44%)**
- ◆ **A teenager in the family who is sexually active (42%)**
- ◆ **Serious financial stress in the family (e.g., family lost its home, or a parent lost a job) (41%)**

#### **Parents' Perceptions of Adolescents' General Problems Affecting their Own Family**

Parents were asked to indicate which problems affected their family directly. The following were the top five problems that parents of adolescents identified as impacting them directly:

- ◆ **A teenager in the family who is moody or irritable (frequent changes in emotions) (58%)**

- ◆ **A teenager in the family who has stress related to school performance (51%)**
- ◆ **A teenager in the family who has anxiety, nervousness (feeling tense, anxious, nervous, worry a lot) (41%)**
- ◆ **A teenager in the family who has trouble with attention, focus, or concentration (33%)**
- ◆ **A teenager in the family who has worries about weight (overweight or underweight) (32%)**
- ◆ **A teenager in the family with depression (feeling low, worthless, guilty, loss of usual interests) (28%)**

Additionally, parents 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 parents (**approximately 10-15%**) reported that their adolescents experienced:

- ◆ **Drug or alcohol problems**
- ◆ **Self-harm feelings**
- ◆ **Fighting/anger**
- ◆ **Sleeping problems**

It is also important to highlight that a significant number of parents (**approximately 20-25%**) reported family-related problems that would have important effects on adolescent well-being:

- ◆ **Health or mental health problems of family members**
- ◆ **Serious financial stress in the family**
- ◆ **Parental marital problems or divorce**
- ◆ **Alcohol or drug use by a family member**

### **Parents' Perceptions of their Adolescents' Mental and Physical Health Conditions**

Parents were provided with a list of physical and mental health conditions and asked if their adolescent has the condition, and if the adolescent needs treatment for the condition. The following are the top five conditions parents reported that their adolescents experienced:

- ◆ **Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) (20%)**
- ◆ **Emotional problems (18%)**
- ◆ **Asthma (15%)**

- ◆ **Dental problems (9%)**
- ◆ **Developmental delay affecting learning (8%)**

The following are the problems that parents reported as most in need of treatment:

- ◆ Of the 8% of parents who indicated their adolescent has a **developmental delay affecting learning**, 75% said their adolescent was in need of treatment
- ◆ Of the 9% of parents who indicated their adolescent has **dental problems**, 72% said their adolescent was in need of treatment
- ◆ Of the 20% of parents who indicated their adolescent has **ADHD**, 59% said their adolescent was in need of treatment
- ◆ Of the 18% of parents who indicated their adolescent has an **emotional problem**, 50% said their adolescent was in need of treatment
- ◆ Of the 15% of parents who indicated their adolescent has **asthma**, 50% said their adolescent was in need of treatment
- ◆ Of the 7% of parents who indicated their adolescent has **vision problems**, 50% said their adolescent was in need of treatment
- ◆ Of the 3% of parents who indicated their adolescent has **hearing problems**, 50% said their adolescent was in need of treatment

### **Parents' Knowledge and Utilization of Services/Resources/Programs for Adolescents within the County**

Parents were provided with a list of agencies and services available to adolescents and 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 in the past year. *We note that it is possible that the lack of "knowledge" may be due to a lack of name recognition.* The following are five services/resources/programs about which the largest percentage of parents with adolescents had **NO KNOWLEDGE**:

- ◆ **211 (84%)**
- ◆ **First Step (80%)**
- ◆ **Career Link (70%)**
- ◆ **National Alliance on Mental Illness (67%)**
- ◆ **No Wrong Door (67%)**

70% or more of parents had some knowledge of:

- ◆ **Behavioral Connections**
- ◆ **Children’s Resource Center**
- ◆ **Juvenile Court**
- ◆ **Family Services**
- ◆ **Job and Family Services**
- ◆ **Health Department**

The following are the top five services for adolescents that parents reported **using the MOST** in the past year:

- ◆ **Public libraries (73%)**
- ◆ **Wood County Hospital (50%)**
- ◆ **Recreation programs for youth (41%)**
- ◆ **Wood County Job and Family Services (26%)**
- ◆ **Wood County Health Department (21%)**

### **Parents’ Perceptions of Barriers to Seeking Services for Adolescents’ Problems**

The top five reasons parents indicated they would be reluctant to seek services for adolescents’ problems were:

- ◆ **67% of parents indicated that paying for services would be an issue for their family**
- ◆ **58% of parents reported that knowing where to get help would be confusing**
- ◆ **47% of parents felt they could handle the issue on their own and did not need to seek services**
- ◆ **37% of parents felt that seeking services for an issue would make things worse for their family**
- ◆ **35% of parents felt it would be embarrassing to seek services for an issue**

### **Parents’ Perceptions of Assets (family, school, community, individual) Available to Support their Adolescents’ Development**

Parents were provided with a list of 10 potential family, school, community, and individual assets that might be available to support their adolescents’ development. The five most endorsed assets are:

- ◆ **As parents, we set standards for appropriate conduct and monitor my teenagers' whereabouts (97%)**
- ◆ **My teenager knows non-parent adults and/or friends to go to for advice and support (92%)**
- ◆ **My teenager can go to my family members for advice and support and have frequent in-depth conversations with them (92%)**
- ◆ **My teenager thinks life has purpose and is optimistic (87%)**
- ◆ **My teenager can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations (84%)**

Additional statements endorsed that raise concern, specifically about potential community assets are:

- ◆ **My teenager feels involved in the community (58%)**
  - **This suggests that 42% of parents of adolescents report that their teenager feels uninvolved in the community**
- ◆ **There are adults in my neighborhood who encourage my teenager to do his/her best (56%)**
  - **This suggests that 44% of parents do not perceive adult non-family sources of support within the neighborhood**
- ◆ **My teenager spends 3 hours or more each week in school or community clubs, sports, and/or extracurricular activities (76%)**
  - **This suggests that 24% of parents do not perceive these community sources of support**

### **Parents' Perceptions of their Neighborhoods as a Supportive Asset for Adolescents**

The following two items had the highest percentage of parents reporting the statement was either "very likely" or "likely" in their neighborhood:

- ◆ **85% reported their neighbors would likely do something if adolescents were spray-painting graffiti on a local building**
- ◆ **84% reported their neighbors would likely break up a fight in front of their house**

The following are neighborhood assets that were endorsed by less than 60% of parents:



- ◆ **58% reported that their neighbors would likely do something in response to seeing adolescents in their neighborhood skipping school**
- ◆ **51% reported that their neighbors would scold an adolescent for showing disrespect**

### **Implications**

#### **Parents' Perceptions of Adolescents' General Problems and Mental and Physical Health Conditions**

Parents perceived that, within their own families, their adolescents experienced an extensive array of problems (e.g., *depression, irritable mood, anxiety and nervousness, attentional difficulties, stress related to school performance, weight problems*). Additionally, parents reported relatively high rates of *problems with well known and significant implications* for well-being, development, transition to adulthood, and/or health status (e.g., *drug or alcohol problems; self-harm feelings; fighting/anger; sleeping problems*). When asked about specific mental and physical health conditions that a physician had diagnosed at some point during the adolescent's life, 20% of parents said their adolescents had been diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, 18% said their adolescents had been diagnosed with emotional problems, and 15 % said their adolescent had been diagnosed with asthma. It is particularly troubling that of these parents, approximately 50% said their adolescent was in need of but currently not receiving treatment for these conditions. These findings give us significant insight into those problems that are most prevalent for Wood County adolescents, those that pose significant risk to health status, and those in need of treatment.

It is also important to highlight that a significant number of parents (approximately 20-25%) reported family-related problems that would have important effects on adolescent well-being: *health or mental health problems of family members, serious financial stress in the family, parental marital problems or divorce, and alcohol or drug use by a family member*. These results highlight the continuing need for broad-based services (e.g., mental and behavioral health, physical health, employment) for parents throughout the county.

Finally, we compared parents' reports of adolescents' problems with their adolescents' own reports (based on the results of the Phase 2 Adolescent Survey). For most problems, adolescents were more likely to report that they had experienced the problems than their parents perceived them as having experienced, except for family problems, where similar levels of adolescents and their parents reported these problems (e.g., health problems in the family, financial stress in the

family). Discrepancies between parents' and adolescents' reports are most problematic for a few problems that we noted to be particularly life-threatening: "eating problems (such as binge eating, purging, starving self)" and feelings that you want to hurt yourself (e.g., cutting)." These findings highlight that health professionals need to be keenly aware of the importance of assessing problems *from the perspective of adolescents*, and that their parents might not know that adolescents are experiencing these very troubling, potentially life-threatening problems.

### **Parents' Knowledge and Utilization of Services, and Perceptions of Barriers to Seeking Services**

Many parents know about county services that address their various problems. For example, approximately 70% or more had knowledge of Job and Family Services, Children's Resource Center, Behavioral Connections, the Health Department, and the Juvenile Court (10%-20% reported having used these services in the past year). Yet, it is concerning that many parents perceive a range of barriers to seeking help for their adolescents' problems. Approximately 50% or more indicated that *paying for services would be a problem, knowing where or how to get help would be confusing*, or that they could *handle the problems myself*. Thus, county agencies should consider mounting educational efforts to address these barriers to seeking services.

### **Parents' Perceptions of Sources of Support and Assets for Adolescents**

Parents generally perceive high levels of supportive family, community, and individual assets to support their adolescents' development. For example, over 90% of parents believed that their adolescents have family and non-family adults who could provide advice and support for the youth. Regarding the youth's individual assets, over 80% of parents believe their adolescent "*thinks life has a purpose and is optimistic*," and "*can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations*." Yet, 30% did not endorse the statement, "*My teenager wants to do well in school and does an hour or more of homework each day*." And, a significant number of parents believe the community could do more to support their adolescents' development: 42% did not think their adolescent *feels involved in the community* and 24% did not endorse the statement, "*My teenager spends 3 hours or more each week in school or community clubs, sports, and/or extracurricular activities*." 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) 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 Council<sup>1</sup>, 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 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, the Wood County FCFC uncovered three major populations for which up-to-date needs-based information was lacking. In the fall of 2009, the Wood County FCFC partnered with a research team from the Psychological Services Center at Bowling Green State University’s Department of Psychology to conduct a 3-phase needs assessment to fill these gaps in knowledge. The first phase gathered information from the parents of children aged 0-12; it was completed in 2010. The second (and current) phase assesses the needs of adolescents from ages 13 to 18 and their parents. Finally, the third phase will seek to gather information on “transitional youth” (i.e., adolescents aged 18-21) who were no longer in secondary school and also not in college; that phase will be completed by December, 2011. Reports based on the results of Phase 1 and the survey of adolescents themselves for the current Phase 2 have already been presented to the Council. The following report describes results of the Phase 2 survey of parents of the adolescents.

<sup>1</sup>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., youth of ages 13-18) and a survey for the parents of adolescents. The research team sampled adolescents from Wood County middle and high schools, and then sent mailed surveys to parents of these adolescents as well as additional parents to increase the sample size (see parent sample below). This report is based on the results of the parent survey. As noted, the results of the adolescent survey have already been shared with FCFC.

**Parent Survey.** Appendix A includes the Parent Survey. Based on meetings with a subcommittee of FCFC members, the research team created a 6-part parent survey that assessed: 1) parents' perceptions of adolescents' general problems; 2) parents' perceptions of their adolescents' mental and physical health conditions; 3) parents' knowledge and utilization of services/resources/programs for adolescents within the County; 4) parents' perceptions of barriers to seeking services for adolescents' problems; 5) parents' perceptions of assets (family, school, community, individual) available to support their adolescents' development; and 6) parents' perceptions of their neighborhoods as a supportive asset for adolescents.

**Parent Sample.** It was determined that the most cost-effective method to survey a relatively representative sample of Wood County parents with adolescents was to obtain parents' addresses during the administration of the school-based adolescent survey. For the adolescent survey, we randomly sampled over 250 adolescents from middle and high schools in Wood County. We mailed surveys to parents of those adolescents. However, because we expected between a 25-50% return rate, we mailed additional surveys to parents of adolescents who did not participate in the adolescent survey. These parents were from Bowling Green High School because we sought to increase the sample size from a large district within the county. A packet was sent to the parents containing a letter describing the survey, a business reply envelope, and a \$5 incentive to return the survey. Approximately a month after the initial mailing, another survey was sent to the parents who had not yet returned the survey along with a reminder letter. Two weeks after that, a reminder post card was sent to parents who had still not returned the survey.

We sent out a total of 403 parent surveys: 69 were sent to parents of Penta Career Center adolescents who completed the adolescent survey; 259 were sent to parents of middle and high school adolescents (other than Penta students) who completed the adolescent survey; and 75 were sent to parents of Bowling Green High School

adolescents who did not complete the adolescent survey. We received 174 completed surveys, for a total return rate of 43%. Because the 174 returned surveys included an over-representation of parents of students from Bowling Green High School and Penta Career Center, we randomly removed 12 surveys from both schools to achieve a more representative sample across the districts. This resulted in a total sample of 150 parents (3 participants did not provide district information). Table 1 shows the numbers and percentages of parents in each school district who completed surveys.

**Table 1**  
*Frequency/Percentage of Parent Respondents by School District*

<i>District</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage of Respondents</i>
Bowling Green City	60	41%
Otsego Local	21	14%
Northwood Local	20	14%
North Baltimore Local	19	13%
Lake Local	16	11%
Penta Career Center	11	8%

Of the total sample, the majority of parents identified their child's ethnicity as Caucasian (90%), followed by Hispanic (4%), African American (2%), Asian American (1%), Native American (1%), and other (4%). Additionally, respondents were most likely to be mothers (83%), followed by fathers (10%), other (5%) step-mother (1%) and step-father (1%). Table 2 provides a breakdown of the respondents' family income compared to that of the 2009 American Community Survey's representative sample for Wood County. As can be seen, the current sample's income levels appear to be relatively representative of that of Wood County.

**Table 2**  
*Family Income of Respondents Compared to Data from the 2009 American Community Survey*

<i>Income</i>	<i>Our 2011 Needs Assessment Sample</i>	<i>2009 American Community Survey (Wood County)</i>
Under \$7,999	1%	8%
\$8,000-14,999	3%	
\$15,000-24,999	10%	6%
\$25,000-34,999	8%	9%
\$35,000-49,999	16%	16%

<i>Income</i>	<i>Our 2011 Needs Assessment Sample</i>	<i>2009 American Community Survey (Wood County)</i>
\$50,000-74,999	28%	21%
\$75,000-99,999	20%	16%
\$100,000 +	15%	25%

Parents also were asked to indicate the number of children and adults living in their household. The average number of people in a household is 4. This number is larger than the average household sample of 2.4 reported in the 2009 American Community Survey. However, because we specifically targeted families with adolescents living in the home, this accounts for our larger family size.

Table 3 shows that in a 13-year period since the 1998 Wood County Needs Assessment, marital status of families has remained relatively stable (approximately 75% of families in the two surveys included married parents in the households). Also, the number who indicated full-time employment has remained relatively stable (65% of respondents, 85% of respondents' partners).

**Table 3**  
*Marital and Employment Demographics in 1998 and Current 2011 Wood County Needs Assessment Surveys*

<i>Demographic Variable</i>	<i>2011 Needs Assessment</i>	<i>1998 Needs Assessment</i>
Marital Status		
Married/remarried	75%	73%
Divorced/separated/single	24%	25%
Occupational Status		
Respondent		
Full-time	65%	67%
Part-time	17%	13%
Homemaker	11%	13%
Student	1%	
Retired	1%	
Unemployed	2%	
Disabled	3%	
Partner		
Full-time	84%	82%
Part-time	3%	9%
Homemaker	0%	3%
Student	1%	

<i>Demographic Variable</i>	<i>2011 Needs Assessment</i>	<i>1998 Needs Assessment</i>
Retired	4%	
Unemployed	5%	
Disabled	3%	

Table 4 shows the educational attainment information from the current 2011 survey in comparison with the 2009 American Community Survey results for Wood County. Because the 2009 American Community Survey does not address questions about “partners,” we replicated those data for respondents’ partners assuming that they are representative of the population as a whole. Because 5% of our current respondents reported an education level of less than 12<sup>th</sup> grade, as compared to the 9% from the American Community Survey, we can assume that the Needs Assessment respondents represent a sample that is slightly more educated than a representative county sample. It can be seen that 20% of the respondents had achieved a Bachelor’s degree, while 13% of respondents’ partners reported having achieved a Bachelor’s degree. These percentages compare to 17% of respondents who reported receiving a Bachelor’s degree in the American Community Survey. For most other education levels, it appears that our respondents appear quite similar in educational levels compared to a representative sample of Wood County residents.

**Table 4**  
*Educational Levels of Respondents Compared to Data from the  
2009 American Community Survey*

<i>Demographic Variable</i>	<i>2011 Needs Assessment</i>	<i>2009 American Community Survey</i>
Educational Level		
Respondent		
Less than 12 <sup>th</sup> grade	5%	9%
Graduated High School	21%	37%
Some College	21%	18%
Associate's degree	19%	8%
Bachelor's degree	20%	17%
Graduate/Professional Degree	13%	11%
Partner		
Less than 12 <sup>th</sup> grade	7%	9%
Graduated High School	26%	37%
Some College	33%	18%
Associate's degree	11%	8%
Bachelor's degree	13%	17%
Graduate/Professional Degree	10%	11%

### III. Results

The results are presented for each of the six major sections of the survey, followed by a Discussion/Implications section. These major sections include: 1) Parents' Perceptions of Adolescents' Problems; 2) Parents' Perceptions of their Adolescents' Mental and Physical Health Conditions; 3) Parents' Knowledge and Utilization of Services/Resources/Programs for Adolescents within the County; 4) Parents' Perceptions of Barriers to Seeking Services for Adolescents' Problems; 5) Parents' Perceptions of Assets (family, school, community, individual) Available to Support their Adolescents' Development; and 6) Parents' Perceptions of their Neighborhoods as a Supportive Asset for Adolescents.

#### *A) Parents' Perceptions of Adolescents' General Problems*

Parents were asked how many families in Wood County with adolescents they think are affected by a range of problems. Table 5 shows these results. Parents were also asked if their own family had been affected by each of these problems during the past year. Table 6 shows these results.



The top five problems that parents believe affect *many* or *most* county families with adolescents are:

- ◆ A teenager in the family who is moody or irritable (frequent changes in emotions) (51%)
- ◆ A teenager in the family who has stress related to school performance (49%)
- ◆ A teenager in the family who has problems with peer pressure (44%)
- ◆ A teenager in the family who is sexually active (42%)
- ◆ Serious financial stress in the family (e.g., family lost its home, or a parent lost a job) (41%)

The top five problems Wood County parents report as affecting *their own family* the most frequently are:

- ◆ A teenager in the family who is moody or irritable (frequent changes in emotions) (58%)
- ◆ A teenager in the family who has stress related to school performance (51%)
- ◆ A teenager in the family who has anxiety, nervousness (feeling tense, anxious, nervous, worry a lot) (41%)
- ◆ A teenager in the family who has trouble with attention, focus, or concentration (33%)
- ◆ A teenager in the family who has worries about weight (overweight or underweight) (32%)

Also, in their own family, parents 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 parents (**approximately 10-15%**) reported that their adolescents experienced:

- ◆ **Drug or alcohol problems**
- ◆ **Self-harm feelings**
- ◆ **Fighting/anger**
- ◆ **Sleeping problems**

It is also important to highlight that a significant number of parents (**approximately 20-25%**) reported family-related problems that would have important effects on adolescent well-being:

- ◆ **Health or mental health problems of family members**
- ◆ **Serious financial stress in the family**

- ◆ Parental marital problems or divorce
- ◆ Alcohol or drug use by a family member

**Table 5**  
*Parents’ Perceptions of Problems Affecting Families with Adolescents in Wood County*

<i>Problems/needs</i>	<i>% of parents saying “many” or “most” county families with adolescents are affected by the problem</i>
A teenager in the family who is moody or irritable (frequent changes in emotions)	51%
A teenager in the family who has stress related to school performance	49%
A teenager in the family who has problems with peer pressure	44%
A teenager in the family who is sexually active	42%
Serious financial stress in the family (e.g., family lost its home, or a parent lost a job)	41%
Parental marital problems or divorce	40%
A teenager in the family who has trouble getting along with family members (e.g., parents, brothers and sisters)	36%
A teenager in the family who has worries about weight (overweight or underweight)	33%
A teenager in the family who has anxiety, nervousness (feeling tense, anxious, nervous, worry a lot)	31%
A teenager in the family with depression (feeling low, worthless, guilty, loss of usual interests)	26%
A teenager in the family who has trouble with attention, focus, or concentration	25%
Alcohol or drug use by another family member	18%
A teenager in the family who is feeling lonely, difficulty making friends	14%

<i>Problems/needs</i>	<i>% of parents saying “many” or “most” county families with adolescents are affected by the problem</i>
Health or mental health problems of family members	13%
Teenager in the family with a drug or alcohol problem	13%
Teen pregnancy	11%
A teenager in the family with academic problems (e.g., poor grades, learning problems)	10%
A teenager in the family who is truant (frequent school absences)	10%
A teenager in the family who has sleeping problems (e.g., nightmares, insomnia)	8%
A teenager in the family who has had problems with fighting, anger	8%
A teenager in the family who has problems with alcohol abuse	7%
Parents being too strict in rule setting	6%
A teenager in the family who has feelings that he/she wants to hurt himself/herself (e.g., cutting)	6%
A teenager in the family who has trouble dating (getting along with the opposite sex)	6%
A teenager in the family who has damaged others’ property or has been in trouble for stealing	6%
A teenager in the family who has serious thoughts about killing himself/herself	4%
Stress or worry about a family member in the military	4%
A teenager in the family who has eating problems (such as binge eating, purging, or starving self)	3%
Family had to live at a relative’s or friend’s because they had nowhere else to go	3%
A teenager in the family who has made a suicide attempt	3%

<i>Problems/needs</i>	<i>% of parents saying “many” or “most” county families with adolescents are affected by the problem</i>
A teenager in the family who has run away from home	1%

***1) Parents’ Perceptions of Adolescents’ General Problems, by Grade Level.*** Parents of high school students were more likely to see the following two problems as more prevalent compared to families of middle school students:

- ◆ Serious illness
- ◆ Sexual activity

**Table 6**  
***Parents’ Perceptions of Adolescents’ Problems Affecting their Own Family***

<i>Problems/needs</i>	<i>% of parents indicating that their family was affected by the problem</i>
A teenager in the family who is moody or irritable (frequent changes in emotions)	58%
A teenager in the family who has stress related to school performance	51%
A teenager in the family who has anxiety, nervousness (feeling tense, anxious, nervous, worry a lot)	41%
A teenager in the family who has trouble with attention, focus, or concentration	33%
A teenager in the family who has worries about weight (overweight or underweight)	32%
A teenager in the family who has trouble getting along with family members (e.g., parents, brothers and sisters)	31%
A teenager in the family with depression (feeling low, worthless, guilty, loss of usual interests)	28%
Serious financial stress in the family (e.g., family lost its home, or a parent lost a job)	27%
A teenager in the family who has problems with peer pressure	27%

<i>Problems/needs</i>	<i>% of parents indicating that their family was affected by the problem</i>
Health or mental health problems of family members	27%
A teenager in the family with academic problems (e.g., poor grades, learning problems)	25%
Parental marital problems or divorce	24%
Alcohol or drug use by another family member	19%
A teenager in the family who is sexually active	18%
A teenager in the family who is feeling lonely, difficulty making friends	16%
Parents being too strict in rule setting	14%
A teenager in the family who has sleeping problems (e.g., nightmares, insomnia)	14%
A teenager in the family who has had problems with fighting, anger	13%
Teenager in the family with a drug or alcohol problem	13%
A teenager in the family who has feelings that he/she wants to hurt himself/herself (e.g., cutting)	10%
A teenager in the family who has trouble dating (getting along with the opposite sex)	8%
A teenager in the family who is truant (frequent school absences)	7%
A teenager in the family who has serious thoughts about killing himself/herself	5%
Stress or worry about a family member in the military	5%
A teenager in the family who has damaged others' property or has been in trouble for stealing	4%
A teenager in the family who has eating problems (such as binge eating, purging, or starving self)	4%
Family had to live at a relative's or friend's because they had nowhere else to go	4%
Teen pregnancy	3%
A teenager in the family who has made a suicide attempt	2%

<i>Problems/needs</i>	<i>% of parents indicating that their family was affected by the problem</i>
A teenager in the family who has run away from home	2%
A teenager in the family who has problems with alcohol abuse	1%

**1) Parents' Perceptions of Adolescents' Problems Affecting their Own Family, by Grade Level.** Families of high school students were more likely than families of middle school students to be affected by the following two problems:

- ◆ Sexually active
- ◆ Marital problems, divorce

**2) Parents' Perceptions of Adolescents' Problems Affecting their Own Family, by Gender.** One problem was more likely to affect male adolescents relative to female adolescents:

- ◆ Academic problems

**B) Parents' Perceptions of their Adolescents' Mental and Physical Health Conditions**

Parents were provided with a list of physical and mental health conditions and were asked if their adolescent has been diagnosed with the condition, if the adolescent needs and is receiving treatment, and if the adolescent needs but is not receiving treatment. Table 7 shows the percent of adolescents with a mental or physical health problem, along with the percent of those who are in need of but *not* receiving treatment and also those who were reported to be in need of and receiving treatment. The following are the most prevalent problems reported by parents:

- ◆ ADHD (20%)
- ◆ Emotional problems (18%)
- ◆ Asthma (15%)
- ◆ Dental problems (9%)
- ◆ Developmental delay affecting learning (8%)

The following are the problems most in need of treatment:

- ◆ Of the 8% of parents who indicated their adolescent has a **developmental delay affecting learning**, 75% said their adolescent was in need of treatment
- ◆ Of the 9% of parents who indicated their adolescent has **dental problems**, 72% said their adolescent was in need of treatment
- ◆ Of the 20% of parents who indicated their adolescent has **ADHD**, 59% said their adolescent was in need of treatment
- ◆ Of the 18% of parents who indicated their adolescent has **emotional problems**, 50% said their adolescent was in need of treatment
- ◆ Of the 15% of parents who indicated their adolescent has **asthma**, 50% said their adolescent was in need of treatment
- ◆ Of the 7% of parents who indicated their adolescent has **vision problems**, 50% said their adolescent was in need of treatment
- ◆ Of the 3% of parents who indicated their adolescent has **hearing problems**, 50% said their adolescent was in need of treatment

**Table 7**  
*Parents’ Perceptions of their Adolescents’ Mental and Physical Health Conditions*

<i>Mental and physical health conditions</i>	<i>% who have condition</i>	<i>% with condition in need of treatment</i>	<i>% of those needing treatment who are in fact receiving treatment</i>
ADD or ADHD	20%	59%	61%
Emotional Problems	18%	50%	50%
Asthma	15%	50%	72%
Dental Problems	9%	72%	62%
Developmental Delay affecting learning	8%	75%	92%
Vision Problems	7%	50%	89%
Brain Injury or Concussion	6%	13%	14%
Hearing Problems	3%	50%	0%
Diabetes	3%	40%	40%
Cardiologic or heart problems	3%	40%	50%

<i>Mental and physical health conditions</i>	<i>% who have condition</i>	<i>% with condition in need of treatment</i>	<i>% of those needing treatment who are in fact receiving treatment</i>
Behavioral or Conduct Problems	3%	33%	33%
Autism or Autism Spectrum Disorders	1%	50%	50%
Tourette’s Syndrome	1%	33%	33%
Epilepsy	1%	33%	33%
Stuttering, stammering, speech problems	1%	25%	33%
Cancer	0%	n/a	n/a
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome	0%	n/a	n/a
Immune System Disorder	0%	n/a	n/a

**1) Parents’ Perceptions of their Adolescents’ Mental and Physical Health Conditions, by Gender.** There were two health problems that differed between males and females:

- ◆ ADHD – 27% of parents with male adolescents endorsed this problem compared to 14% of parents with female adolescents
- ◆ Behavioral/Conduct Problems – 7% of parents with male adolescents endorsed this problem compared to 0% of parents with female adolescents

**C) Parents’ Knowledge and Utilization of Services/Resources/Programs for Adolescents within the County**

Parents were provided with a list of services and resources for adolescents and families in Wood County. They were asked how much knowledge they had of the service and if they used the service in the last year. Table 8 shows the percent of parents reporting “no knowledge” about a service, along with the percent of parents who used the service in the past year.



The following are the top five services of which parents identified as having NO KNOWLEDGE:

- ◆ 211(84%)
- ◆ First Step (80%)
- ◆ Career Link (70%)
- ◆ National Alliance on Mental Illness (67%)
- ◆ No Wrong Door (67%)

Parents identified the following services as the MOST WIDELY KNOWN (i.e., parents indicated they had “a lot of knowledge” about the service):

- ◆ Public libraries (76%)
- ◆ Police/Sheriff Department (49%)
- ◆ Wood County Hospital (56%)
- ◆ Recreation programs for youth (36%)
- ◆ Wood County Health Department (19%)

The following are services that parents identified as LEAST UTILIZED:

- ◆ Cocoon Shelter (0%)
- ◆ 211 (1%)
- ◆ First Step (1%)
- ◆ NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) (1%)
- ◆ Career Link (2%)

The following services were identified as the MOST UTILIZED in the county:

- ◆ Public libraries (73%)
- ◆ Wood County Hospital (50%)
- ◆ Recreation programs for youth (41%)
- ◆ Wood County Job and Family Services (26%)
- ◆ Wood County Health Department (21%)

**Table 8**  
*Parents’ Knowledge and Utilization of Services/Resources/Programs for Families with Adolescents in Wood County*

<i>Service/Resource</i>	<i>% with no knowledge</i>	<i>% who used service in past year</i>
211	84%	1%

<i>Service/Resource</i>	<i>% with no knowledge</i>	<i>% who used service in past year</i>
First Step	80%	1%
Career Link	70%	2%
National Alliance on Mental Illness	67%	1%
No Wrong Door	67%	3%
ATOD	58%	3%
Cocoon Shelter	58%	0%
The Link	54%	4%
Wood County Educational Services Center	41%	14%
Prep Courses for college testing	41%	12%
Family and child abuse prevention center	40%	1%
Behavioral Connections	30%	9%
Food Pantries	27%	8%
Children's Resource Center	27%	18%
Wood County Juvenile Court	27%	10%
Family Services of Wood County	26%	14%
Wood County Job and Family Services	20%	26%
Wood County Health Department	20%	21%
Recreation Programs for Youth	16%	41%
Wood County Hospital	5%	50%
Police / Sheriff Department	1%	18%
Public Libraries	1%	73%

**1) Parents' Knowledge and Utilization of Services/Resources/Programs for Adolescents within the County, by Grade Level.** More parents of high school students than middle school students knew about:

- ◆ The Link

More parents of high school students than middle school students used the following service:

- ◆ College Preparation Courses

**D) Parents’ Perceptions of Barriers to Seeking Services for Adolescents’ Problems**

Parents of adolescents were asked about the kinds of issues that would prevent them from using/accessing services if their adolescent had a problem. A list of 13 possible barriers (e.g., too big of a hassle, transportation or distance would be a problem) was presented. Parents were asked to imagine that they had to deal with one of the previously mentioned problems, and they were asked to rate how much they agreed or disagreed that a specific barrier would prevent them from seeking services. Table 9 shows the results.

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

- ◆ Paying for services would be a problem (67%)
- ◆ Knowing where or how to get help would be confusing (58%)
- ◆ I would be able to handle these problems myself (47%)
- ◆ Getting services may make the problem worse (37%)
- ◆ It would be embarrassing (35%)

**Table 9**  
***Parents’ Perceptions of Barriers to Seeking Services for their Adolescents’ Problems***

<b><i>Barriers</i></b>	<b><i>% of parents who “agree” or “strongly agree” that the following are barriers to seeking services</i></b>
Paying for services would be a problem	67%
Knowing where or how to get help would be confusing	58%
I would be able to handle these problems myself	47%
Getting services may make the problem worse (because family members might get angry, lost time at job, etc.)	37%
It would be embarrassing to get help for such problems	35%

<i>Barriers</i>	<i>% of parents who “agree” or “strongly agree” that the following are barriers to seeking services</i>
It would be too big of a hassle (because of waiting lists, time constraints, paperwork)	32%
I would rather get help from family members or friends	31%
The quality of available services for these problems would not be good enough	30%
Confidentiality/privacy would be a problem	27%
Transportation would be difficult	27%
Arranging for child care while I got help would be a problem	22%
I would not use these services because of my family values or religious beliefs	9%
It would be difficult to receive these services in the language I am most comfortable speaking	3%

**E) Parents’ Perceptions of Assets (family, school, community, individual) Available to Support their Adolescents’ Development**

Parents were provided a list of 10 potential family, school, neighborhood, and individual assets that might be available to support their adolescents’ development. Table 10 shows the percentage of parents who believe that their adolescent has a specific asset.

The five most frequently endorsed assets are:

- ◆ As parents, we set standards for appropriate conduct and monitor my teenagers’ whereabouts (97%)
- ◆ My teenager knows non-parent adults and/or friends to go to for advice and support (92%)
- ◆ My teenager can go to my family members for advice and support and have frequent in-depth conversations with them (92%)
- ◆ My teenager thinks life has purpose and is optimistic (87%)
- ◆ My teenager can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations (84%)

Additional statements endorsed that raise concern, specifically about potential community assets are:

- ◆ My teenager feels involved in the community (58%)
  - This suggests that 42% of parents of adolescents report that their teenager feels uninvolved in the community
- ◆ There are adults in my neighborhood who encourage my teenager to do his/her best (56%)
  - This suggests that 44% of parents do not perceive adult non-family sources of support within the neighborhood
- ◆ My teenager spends 3 hours or more each week in school or community clubs, sports, and/or extracurricular activities (76%)
  - This suggests that 24% of parents do not perceive these community sources of support

**Table 10**  
***Parents’ Perceptions of Assets Available to Support their Adolescents’ Development***

<i>Assets</i>	<i>% who said their adolescent has the asset</i>
As parents, we set standards for appropriate conduct and monitor my teenagers’ whereabouts.	97%
My teenager knows non-parent adults and/or friends to go to for advice and support.	92%
My teenager can go to my family members for advice and support and have frequent in-depth conversations with them.	92%
My teenager thinks life has purpose and is optimistic.	87%
My teenager can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations.	84%
There is at least one adult at my teenagers school who cares about and knows him/her well.	76%
My teenager spends 3 hours or more each week in school or community clubs, sports, and/or extracurricular activities.	76%
My teenager wants to do well in school and does an hour or more of homework each school day.	70%

<i>Assets</i>	<i>% who said their adolescent has the asset</i>
My teenager feels involved in the community.	58%
There are adults in my neighborhood who encourage my teenager to do his/her best.	56%

**1) Parents' Perceptions of Assets (family, school, community, individual) Available to Support their Adolescents' Development, by Gender.** Assets more likely to be endorsed by parents of females were:

- ◆ My teenager wants to do well in school and does an hour or more of homework each day
- ◆ My teenager spends 3 hours or more each week in school or community clubs, sports, and/or extracurricular activities
- ◆ My teenager can go to my family members for advice and support and have frequent in depth conversations with them

**F) Parents' Perceptions of their Neighborhoods as a Supportive Asset for Adolescents**

Parents were presented with five questions regarding their perceptions of specific neighborhood assets to support adolescents. Table 11 shows the percentage of parents 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 two neighborhood assets were identified most frequently by parents:

- ◆ 85% reported their neighbors would likely do something if adolescents were spray-painting graffiti on a local building
- ◆ 84% reported their neighbors would likely break up a fight in front of their house.

The following were neighborhood assets endorsed by *less than 60%* of parents:

- ◆ 58% reported that their neighbors would likely do something about neighborhood adolescents seen skipping school
- ◆ 51% reported that their neighbors would scold an adolescent for showing disrespect

**Table 11**  
***Parents' Perceptions of Neighborhood Assets Supporting Adolescent Development***

<i>Neighborhood Asset Items</i>	<i>% indicating "Very Likely" and "Likely"</i>
If some teens were spray-painting graffiti on a local building, how likely is it that your neighbors would do something about it?	85%
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?	84%
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?	58%
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?	55%
If a teen was showing disrespect to an adult, how likely is it that people in your neighborhood would scold that teen?	51%

#### IV. DISCUSSION/IMPLICATIONS

In this section, we review the major findings and present some implications of the results in three broad areas: Parents' Perceptions of Adolescents' General Problems and Mental and Physical Health Conditions; Parents' Knowledge and Utilization of Services, and Perceptions of Barriers to Seeking Services; and Parents' Perceptions of Sources of Support and Assets for Adolescents.

##### **Parents' Perceptions of Adolescents' General Problems and Mental and Physical Health Conditions**

Parents perceived that, within their own families, their adolescents experienced an extensive array of problems. The five *most common problems*, with each one indicated by a third or more of respondents, were: *adolescents' irritable mood, anxiety and nervousness, attentional difficulties, stress related to school performance, and weight problems*. Notably, 28% of parents indicated that they

have “*a teenager in the family with depression (feeling low, worthless, guilty, loss of usual interests).*” Additionally, parents 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 parents (approximately 10-15%) reported that their adolescents experienced: *drug or alcohol problems; self-harm feelings; fighting/anger; sleeping problems*. When asked about specific mental and physical health conditions that a physician had diagnosed at some point during the adolescent’s life, 20% of parents said their adolescents had been diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, 18% said their adolescents had been diagnosed with emotional problems, and 15 % said their adolescent had been diagnosed with asthma. It is particularly troubling that of these parents, approximately 50% said their adolescent was in need of but currently not receiving treatment for these conditions. These findings give us significant insight into those problems that are most prevalent for Wood County adolescents, those that pose significant risk to health status, and those in need of treatment.

We compared parents’ reports of adolescents’ problems with their adolescents’ own reports (based on the results of the Phase 2 Adolescent Survey). For most problems, adolescents were more likely to report that they had experienced the problems than their parents perceived them as having experienced, except for family problems, where similar levels of adolescents and their parents reported these problems (e.g., health problems in the family, financial stress in the family). Discrepancies between parents’ and adolescents’ reports are most problematic for a few problems that we noted to be particularly life-threatening: “*eating problems (such as binge eating, purging, starving self)*” and feelings that you want to hurt yourself (e.g., cutting).” These findings highlight that health professionals need to be keenly aware of the importance of assessing problems *from the perspective of adolescents*, and that their parents might not know that adolescents are experiencing these very troubling, potentially life-threatening problems.

It is also important to highlight that a significant number of parents (approximately 20-25%) reported family-related problems that would have important effects on adolescent well-being: *health or mental health problems of family members, serious financial stress in the family, parental marital problems or divorce, and alcohol or drug use by a family member*. These results highlight the continuing need for broad-based services (e.g., mental and behavioral health, physical health, employment) for parents throughout the county.

### **Parents’ Knowledge and Utilization of Services, and Perceptions of Barriers to Seeking Services**



Results do show that many parents know about county services that address their various problems. For example, approximately 70% or more had knowledge of Job and Family Services, Children’s Resource Center, Behavioral Connections, the Health Department, and the Juvenile Court (10%-20% reported having used these services in the past year). Yet, it is concerning that many parents perceive a range of barriers to seeking help for their adolescents’ problems. Approximately 50% or more indicated that *paying for services would be a problem, knowing where or how to get help would be confusing, or that they could handle the problems myself*. Thus, county agencies should consider mounting educational efforts to address these barriers to seeking services.

### **Parents’ Perceptions of Sources of Support and Assets for Adolescents**

There were several results from this survey that suggest that parents generally perceive high levels of supportive family, community, and individual assets to support their adolescents’ development. For example, over 90% of parents believed that their adolescents have family and non-family adults who could provide advice and support for the youth (e.g., 92% endorsed the statement, “*My teenager can go to family members for advice and support and have frequent in-depth conversations with them*”).

Regarding the youth’s individual assets, over 80% of parents believe their adolescent “*thinks life has a purpose and is optimistic,*” and “*can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations.*” Yet, 30% did not endorse the statement, “*My teenager wants to do well in school and does an hour or more of homework each day.*” And, a significant number of parents believe the community could do more to support their adolescents’ development: 42% did not think their adolescent *feels involved in the community* and 24% did not endorse the statement, “*My teenager spends 3 hours or more each week in school or community clubs, sports, and/or extracurricular activities.*” 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.

## Appendix: Parent Survey

### SECTION 1: YOUR OPINIONS ABOUT PROBLEMS IN WOOD COUNTY

**We are interested in your opinions about problems that families in Wood County with teenagers may experience.**

First, circle the number corresponding to how many families in Wood County with teenagers you think are affected by these problems (i.e., 1 = "Very few" families, 2 = "Some" families, 3 = "About half of" families, 4 = "Many" families, and 5 = "Most" families.)

Next, circle whether you or a family member in your household has been affected by these problems IN THE PAST YEAR.

	<i>How many families in Wood County with teenagers are affected by...</i>					<i>Was your family affected by...</i>	
	Very Few	Some	About Half	Many	Most	Yes	No
1. A teenager in the family with depression (feeling low, worthless, guilty, loss of usual interests)	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
2. A teenager in the family who has trouble with attention, focus, or concentration	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
3. A teenager in the family who has stress related to school performance	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
4. A teenager in the family who has feelings that he/she wants to hurt himself/herself (e.g., cutting)	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
5. A teenager in the family who has serious thoughts about killing himself/herself	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
6. A teenager in the family who has made a suicide attempt	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
7. A teenager in the family who has anxiety, nervousness (feeling tense, anxious, nervous, worry a lot)	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
8. A teenager in the family who is moody or irritable (frequent changes in emotions)	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
9. A teenager in the family who has trouble getting along with family members (e.g., parents, brothers and sisters)	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
10. Parents being too strict in setting rules	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
11. A teenager in the family who is feeling lonely, difficulty making friends	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
12. A teenager in the family who has trouble dating (getting along with the opposite sex)	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
13. A teenager in the family who is sexually active	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
14. A teenager in the family who has sleeping problems (e.g., nightmares, insomnia)	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
15. Teen pregnancy	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
16. A teenager in the family who is truant (frequent school absences)	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
17. A teenager in the family who has damaging others' property or has been in trouble for stealing	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
18. A teenager in the family with academic problems (poor grades, learning problems)	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
19. A teenager in the family who has had problems with fighting, anger	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No

	<i>How many families in Wood County with teenagers are affected by...</i>					<i>Was your family affected by...</i>	
	Very Few	Some	About half	Many	Most		
20. A teenager in the family who has run away from home							
21. A teenager in the family who has problems with alcohol abuse							
22. A teenager in the family who has worries about weight (overweight or underweight)	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
23. Parent marital problems or divorce	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
24. Serious financial stress in family (e.g., family lost its home, or a parent lost job)	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
25. Stress or worry about a family member in the military	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
26. A teenager in the family who has eating problems (such as binge eating, purging, or starving self)	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
27. A teenager in the family who has problems with peer pressure	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
28. Family had to live at a relative's or friend's because they had nowhere else to go	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
29. Alcohol or drug use by another family member	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
30. A teenager in the family who has a close friend with alcohol or drug use problems	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
31. Health or mental health problems of family members	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No

**OTHER PROBLEMS:**

Are there any other child and family problems or service needs in Wood County that were not included on this list?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**TOP THREE PROBLEMS:**

Please indicate which three problems of teenagers and families you think deserve the most attention in Wood County, in order of their importance.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION 2: YOUR OPINIONS ABOUT BARRIERS TO SEEKING SERVICES**

**We are also interested in why people may decide not to use services for teenagers and families.**

Please write down **the most important problem that you listed on the previous page:** \_\_\_\_\_

If your family had to deal with a problem in this area in the future, how much would you agree or disagree with the following statements about getting services for this problem.

	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>
32. It would be too big of a hassle (because of waiting lists, time constraints, paperwork)	1	2	3	4
33. I would be able to handle these problems myself	1	2	3	4
34. The quality of available services for these problems would not be good enough	1	2	3	4
35. Confidentiality/privacy would be a problem	1	2	3	4
36. Transportation or distance would be difficult	1	2	3	4
37. It would be embarrassing to get help for such problems	1	2	3	4
38. Paying for these services would be a problem	1	2	3	4
39. Knowing where or how to get help would be confusing	1	2	3	4
40. Arranging for child care while I got help would be a problem	1	2	3	4
41. Getting services may make the problem worse (because family members may get angry, lost time at job, etc.)	1	2	3	4
42. I would not use these services because of my family values or religious beliefs	1	2	3	4
43. It would be difficult to receive these services in the language I am most comfortable speaking	1	2	3	4
44. I would rather get help from family members or friends.	1	2	3	4

**SECTION 3: YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF WOOD COUNTY SERVICES**

**We are also interested in whether you know about and use particular agencies for teenagers and families in Wood County.**

Below is a list of services. **After reading each service, please indicate whether you have “No Knowledge,” “Some Knowledge,” or “A Lot of Knowledge” about these services.**

**Then, please indicate whether you or your teenager has used these services IN THE PAST YEAR.**

	No Knowledge	Some Knowledge	A Lot of Knowledge	Used Services?	
45. 2-1-1	1	2	3	Yes	No
46. Behavioral Connections	1	2	3	Yes	No
47. Children’s Resource Center	1	2	3	Yes	No
48. Cocoon Shelter	1	2	3	Yes	No
49. Family and Child Abuse Prevention Center	1	2	3	Yes	No
50. Family Service of Wood County	1	2	3	Yes	No
51. First Step	1	2	3	Yes	No
52. Food Pantries	1	2	3	Yes	No
53. The Link	1	2	3	Yes	No
54. National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)	1	2	3	Yes	No
55. No Wrong Door	1	2	3	Yes	No
56. Police/Sheriff Department	1	2	3	Yes	No
57. Public libraries	1	2	3	Yes	No
58. Recreation programs for youth	1	2	3	Yes	No
59. CareerLink	1	2	3	Yes	No
60. Wood County Educational Services Center	1	2	3	Yes	No
61. Wood County Job and Family Services (and Job Solutions)	1	2	3	Yes	No
62. ATOD (Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug) prevention specialists in the schools	1	2	3	Yes	No
63. Wood County Health Department (and Help Me Grow)	1	2	3	Yes	No
64. Wood County Hospital	1	2	3	Yes	No
65. Wood County Juvenile Court	1	2	3	Yes	No
66. Prep course for college testing (ACT/SAT)	1	2	3	Yes	No

SECTION 4: ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH

Please answer the following questions about your oldest teenager in the age range from 13-18:

67. In general, how would you describe your child's health?       Excellent       Very Good       Fair       Poor
68. How tall is your child now?      \_\_\_\_\_ inches
69. How much does your child weigh now?      \_\_\_\_\_ lbs
70. Is your child limited or prevented in any way in [his/her] ability to do the things most children of the same age can do?       Yes       No

The next questions are about common health problems children may have. For each condition, please tell me if a doctor or other health care provider ever told you that this child had the condition, even if (he/she) does not have the condition now. If your child does not have the condition, answer NO, and skip to the next item.

	Does your child have this condition?		If Yes: Does your child need treatment?		If Yes: Does your child receive treatment?	
	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
71. Attention Deficit Disorder or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, that is, ADD or ADHD	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
72. Emotional problems such as depression, anxiety, or mood disorders	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
73. Behavioral or conduct problems, such as oppositional defiant disorder or conduct disorder	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
74. Autism, Asperger's Disorder, pervasive developmental disorder, or other autism spectrum disorder	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
75. A learning disability or any developmental delay that affects (his/her) ability to learn	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
76. Fetal alcohol syndrome	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
77. Stuttering, stammering, or other speech problems	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
78. Asthma	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
79. Diabetes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
80. Tourette's Syndrome	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
81. Epilepsy or seizure disorder	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
82. Hearing problems	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
83. Vision problems that cannot be corrected with glasses or contact lenses	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
84. A brain injury or concussion	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
85. Cardiologic or heart problems	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
86. Cancer	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
87. An immune system disorder	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
88. Problems with his/her teeth	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
89. Any other significant health condition If YES, please list: _____	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes

**SECTION 5: COMMUNITY AND INDIVIDUAL FACTORS**

Please check off any of the following assets you feel your teenager has:	
90. My teenager can go to my family members for advice and support and have frequent in-depth conversations with them.	<input type="checkbox"/>
91. My teenager knows non-parent adults and/or friends to go to for advice and support.	<input type="checkbox"/>
92. There are adults in my neighborhood who encourage my teenager to do his/her best.	<input type="checkbox"/>
93. My teenager feels involved in the community.	<input type="checkbox"/>
94. As parents, we set standards for appropriate conduct and monitor my teenagers' whereabouts.	<input type="checkbox"/>
95. My teenager spends 3 hours or more each week in school or community clubs, sports, and/or extracurricular activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>
96. My teenager wants to do well in school and does an hour or more of homework each school day.	<input type="checkbox"/>
97. There is at least one adult at my teenager's school who cares about and knows him/her well.	<input type="checkbox"/>
98. My teenager can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations.	<input type="checkbox"/>
99. My teenager thinks life has purpose and is optimistic.	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>These questions ask your opinions about your neighborhood. Please answer how much each item describes what your neighborhood is like.</b>					
	<b>Very Likely</b>	<b>Likely</b>	<b>Neither Likely nor Unlikely</b>	<b>Unlikely</b>	<b>Very Unlikely</b>
100. 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
101. 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
102. 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
103. 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
104. 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



SECTION 6: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Now we would like to ask you some general background questions. Please remember that all information is strictly confidential.

105. How old is the teen you answered questions about earlier in the survey? \_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_ months
106. What is this child's sex?  Male  Female
107. How many children live in your home? \_\_\_\_\_
108. What is your child's ethnic background? (circle as many as apply)  
 Caucasian  Hispanic  Native American  
 African American  Asian American  Middle Eastern  Other (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)
109. What is your relationship to the child?  
 Mother  Father  Step-mother  Step-father  Other (Specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
110. How old are you? \_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_ months
111. What is your marital status?  
 Married  Separated  Single (live alone with child/ren)  
 Divorced  Remarried  Single (live with significant other)
107. How many adults live in your home? \_\_\_\_\_
108. Are you currently employed?  
 Yes, full time  No, homemaker  No, retired  
 Yes, part time  No, student  No, unemployed  No, disabled
109. (IF MARRIED/LIVING TOGETHER) Is your spouse/partner currently employed?  
 Yes, full time  No, homemaker  No, retired  
 Yes, part time  No, student  No, unemployed  No, disabled
110. What was the last grade you completed in school?  
 Less than 12<sup>th</sup> grade  Associate's degree  Advanced graduate degree (e.g., MD, MBA, PhD, JD)  
 Graduated high school  Bachelor's degree  
 Some college  Master's degree
111. (IF MARRIED/LIVING TOGETHER) What was the last grade your spouse/partner completed in school?  
 Less than 12<sup>th</sup> grade  Associate's degree  Advanced graduate degree (e.g., MD, MBA, PhD, JD)  
 Graduated high school  Bachelor's degree  
 Some college  Master's degree
112. What is your total household income?  
 Under 7,999  15,000-24,999  35,000-49,999  75,000-99,999  
 8,000-14,999  25,000-34,999  50,000-74,999  100,000+
113. Is your child/children covered by health insurance or Medicaid?  
 Yes  No  Don't know
114. How long have you lived in Wood County?  
 0-6 months  1-5 years  10-15 years  Over 20 years  
 7-12 months  6-10 years  16-20 years
115. Do you have a working telephone/cell phone?  Yes  No
116. Do you have internet access in your home?  Yes  No
117. Does your child have an immediate family member (parent or sibling) who has served in the military (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Guard, or Reserves) in the past 5 years?  
 No  Yes, currently serving  Yes, served within the last 5 years

