

St. Augustine Focus Group

Monday January 19, 2008

GROUP 1

Facilitator: Daniel Morales
Note Taker: Walt Gray

Demographics: 7th and 8th Graders
Gender: 2 Boys & 10 Girls
Ethnicity: 9 Latinos and 3 Caucasians

- **Is teenage drinking a problem?**
 - Youth hear teenage drinking is a problem
 - they hear it on the news, especially drinking and driving
 - a lot of youth are drinking and driving
 - they do it because of peer pressure

- **What do you think about underage drinking?**
 - 2 youth admitted to drinking
 - most think it's weird because your hurting yourself

- **How common is it for youth to drink?**
 - There is more underage drinking

- **Why drink underage?**
 - To be cool
 - They have problems (family problems)
 - See parents drinking and think it's ok
 - Youth are depressed

- **Are you expected to drink by older youth or adults?**
 - they don't want to feel left out
 - they want to make friends and fit in

- **What messages does the community give young people?**
 - Don't drink and drive
 - Stiff penalties for drinking and driving
 - Advertising stands out in stores

- **What should the community do about youth who drink?**
 - House arrest
 - short term juvenile hall
 - put in jail
 - put on probation
 - give community service
 - inform parents
 - counsel parents to talk to kids
 - Kids do it just fit in and show off
 - Take offenders to rehab places for counseling

- **What are the consequences of underage drinking?**
 - Don't breath well
 - Could stop heart
 - They will throw up
 - Get violent
 - Commit crimes
 - Make bad decisions
 - Do things that are crazy
 - Talk a lot of stuff

- **How do youth get alcohol?**
 - Steal money
 - get drugs without money
 - use allowance
 - steal from parents

- **Where does underage drinking occur?**
 - at house parties
 - at their own house
 - at school
 - at family member's house
 - drink at Quince's, Christmas, birthday, valentines day
 - at clubs

- **When is it common for youth to drink?**
 - At night (they usually knock out)
 - Parties that are at night
 - Kids that can sneak out at night
 - Parents are asleep
 - Early in the morning
 - Drink a lot to get sent home from school

- ***YOUTH ASKED WHY DRINKING MAKES YOU HUNGRY? – facilitators were not able to answer***

- ***YOUTH ASKED DO ENERGY DRINKS HAVE ALCOHOL? – facilitator responded: “some mix alcohol with energy drinks. Some have alcohol in drinks”***

- **Do you think parents allow youth to drink?**
 - Yes, but not a lot
 - Allow a sip and then allow more
 - This happens more than you think

- **When do youth start drinking?**
 - When they start driving
 - some start at 12 because of peer pressure
 - when you’re young (4 or 5) because parents think it’s funny
 - most kids agree they start around middle school age

- **Do businesses sell to minor?**
 - Clubs sell to underage youth
 - Can get alcohol underage, it happens a lot
 - Not hard to give money to adults (relative) and get alcohol
 - Adults keep the change

- **Will alcohol lead to other drugs?**
 - Illegal drugs come first
 - Marijuana, crack cocaine, crystal come before alcohol

- **Where does drug use take place?**
 - Sex parties
 - School
 - April 20th – 4/20 at school

- **Reasons to use drugs?**
 - Depression
 - Showing off
 - Follow others (peer pressure)

- **What to do with those who use drugs?**
 - Ground them
 - Have to talk to those who use drugs, addicted
 - Kids listen 1 out of 4 times when parents show kids effects drugs
 - More visuals than talking helps
 - One youth stated they know how to make crystal ice

- **QUESTIONS FROM YOUTH**
 - **Who has drank?**
 - *Facilitator would not allow as we did not want to identify youth*

 - **Is caffeine bad?**
 - *Too much of anything is not good for you*
 - *In Colombia very young children drink coffee (5 or 6 years old)*
 - *Some have drank coffee all their lives*
 - *Facilitator suggested to talk to their doctor*

 - **Facilitator asked: How to communicate with youth?**
 - *Less talking*
 - *Use methods not common to kids*
 - *Say something over and over*

 - **What are penalties for alcohol?**
 - *Tent City, 10 days in jail*
 - *Not sure how teenagers are penalized*
 - *Youth stated: boyfriend was sent to juvenile hall then to house arrest*
 - *Youth stated: uncle had ankle bracelet*
 - *Youth stated: innocent people are also hurt in DUI's*
 - *Facilitator confirmed this happens often*

- **Does alcohol kill brain cells?**
- *Yes, especially if alcohol is abused*

GROUP 2

Facilitator: Gina Silva

Note Taker: Graciela Mera

Grade(s): 9th

Gender: 8 Girls & 1 Boy

- **Is teenage drinking a problem?**
 - Yes
 - Partying with friends
 - Young adults buying alcohol for high schools
 - Drinking and driving
 - Peer pressure, wanting to be cool
 - Types of friends that you hang out with
 - Party crews (they are like gangs)
- **What do you think about underage drinking?**
 - Messing up their lives
 - If you're working you can lose your job
 - People at work know what you're doing
 - 1 drink is ok if you know how to control it
- **How common is for youth to drink?**
 - Every day
 - Every week
 - Every 3 days
- **Why drink underage?**
 - Peer pressure
 - Curious
 - Maybe violence
 - In home or school
 - Stress
 - Friends
 - Together

- **Are you expected to drink by older youth or adults?**
 - Yes
 - Mature
 - Cool
 - Grown Up
- **What messages does the community give young people?**
 - Commercials
 - Beer commercials
 - Young adults
- **What should the community do about youth who drink?**
 - Get help for kids, even if they don't want it
 - Grown ups give you beer
 - Police to help parents and not punish parents
- **What are the consequences of underage drinking?**
 - Accident
 - Pregnancy
 - AIDS
 - Date rape
- **Where does underage drinking occur?**
 - Parties
 - Home
 - Parks
 - Everywhere
 - Not really public
- **When is it common for youth to drink?**
 - When youth are sad
 - When around certain people
 - Depending on the occasion: New Years, Quince's, graduations, holidays
- **Do you think parents allow youth to drink?**
 - Parents drink alcohol
 - Destroy dreams regardless of the age

- They drink to feel ok
 - Impress the girls
 - No other option
- **When do youth start drinking?**
 - Between 10 and 12 years old
 - take from older brothers, friends and home
- **Do businesses sell to minor?**
 - Yes, some Circle K's and bars
- **Will alcohol lead to other drugs?**
 - Yes, drinking makes you happy
 - You get more curious about drugs
 - Alcohol is the beginning of doing something else
 - You begin to wonder
 - Weed, cocaine, crystal meth, special K, LSD, Extasy, cleaning products, white out, permanent marker, regular medication (extra strength)
- **What to do with those who use drugs?**
 - Make a group
 - Show consequences
 - Put more advertisement at school
 - Checks schools to put special programs
- **What messages does the community give young people?**
 - Bad messages but people listen to them
 - Light Corona commercials are funny
 - The advertisements "make" you want to try beer
- **What should the community do about youth who drink?**
 - Nothing, just let them drink
 - If not, they are going to do stupid things, depending on the person

GROUP 3

Facilitator: Jeff Welch

Note Taker: Leyda Quinones

Grade: 10th Grade

- **Is teenage drinking a problem?**
 - Yes, everybody agrees drinking is a problem in Phoenix
 - Everybody thinks it's the cool thing to do
 - They think its common
 - I see my cousins drink
 - Ultimately, you choose what to drink
 - Some said its like water
 - Its at house parties
 - If everybody does it, then why don't we
- **What do you think about underage drinking?**
 - They drink if they want to, its not peer pressure
- **How common is for youth to drink?**
 - Youth drink on festive days like Cinco de mayo, Christmas, etc.
- **Why drink underage?**
 - Stress
 - Depression
 - Anti-depressive
 - Friends do it
 - To have fun
 - I don't do it but others do
 - We are leaders
- **Are you expected to drink by older youth or adults?**
 - Not really expect
 - they don't insist
 - everyone has their own mentality

- **What are the consequences of underage drinking?**
 - A lot of accidents
 - If they drink they wouldn't be able to drive
 - Kill brain cells
 - pregnancy

- **Where does underage drinking occur?**
 - At school, in front of teachers (teachers aren't smart)
 - At home
 - Parks
 - Parties
 - 5 de Mayo
 - end of the year
 - Christmas
 - Holidays
 - Weekends

- **When is it common for youth to drink?**
 - Adults feel its ok for youth to drink
 - Holidays (x-mas, 5 de mayo, etc.)
 - Weekends

- **Do you think parents allow youth to drink?**
 - Friends
 - Family
 - Cultural things during holidays
 - Have been in the car with someone drinking
 - *Follow up: they didn't know if it was smart to be in the car but the father was drunk*

- **When do youth start drinking?**
 - Depends on the person

- **Will alcohol lead to other drugs?**
 - Drugs, marijuana, extasy, meth, alcohol, cocaine, weed
 - More people do coke and meth

- **What to do with those who use drugs?**
 - The are using in the middle schools
 - Some smell
 - They use in the bedrooms
 - People go crazy and its dangerous
 - Alcohol is not a drug

- **What messages does the community give young people?**
 - Parents drink alcohol
 - Some give alcohol to youth at family activities
 - Parents don't let kids drink and drive
 - Holidays
 - They sell alcohol at Q-Ts and Circle K (67th Ave and Camelback)
 - One youth stated they went to Q-T to buy alcohol for uncle and they didn't ask for ID
 - Youth start drinking at age 12
 - More youth are drinking because want attention
 - Some drink because of peer pressure
 - They want to be leaders

GROUP 4

Facilitators: Adonis Deniz Jr. and Laura Alvarez

Gender: 5 Girls and 5 Boys

Grade: 11th and 12th

- **Is teenage drinking a problem?**
 - Yes, big time
 - One youth stated, some areas are down
 - Other youth stated that in their area everyone they know is drinking

- **What do you think about underage drinking?**
 - Parents have easy access
 - People think its cool
 - Theres easy availability
 - Everyone is doing it
 - Youth only think of the short term effects and not long term effects
 - Media has effect on youth
 - There is nothing to do

- They think its their only option (it's relaxing, a stress reliever)
- **How common is for youth to drink?**
 - Slight difference with underage drinking vs. of age drinking
 - They're idiots
 - Depends on maturity level
 - They would rather have someone underage and mature drinking than someone who is immature and of age drinking
 - Drinking has bad affects of the body and leads to future problems
 - Its dumb because kids can go to Mexico to drink
- **Why drink underage?**
 - Most youth have tried drinking at some point not all
 - Most youth say that 75%-100% of the people they know drink
- **Are you expected to drink by older youth or adults?**
 - Peers
 - Easy Access
 - Peer Pressure
 - Uneducated
 - Always around
 - Curiosity
 - Stress Relief
 - Party Crews
 - Mexican its cultural – Blacks not as much alcohol, but more weed
 - Yes its expected
 - Stereotypes make a difference for guys
 - It's bothersome if people you don't know stereotype you of drinking
 - Females are bothered that adults stereotype drinking
- **What are the consequences of underage drinking?**
 - DUI commercials
 - Meth
 - Start younger than teens
 - Start 7th or 8th grade
 - Myspace start educating at 10 or 11
 - Start at age of sex education

- **Where does underage drinking occur?**
 - Drugs and drinking on school grounds and homes is common
- **ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS FROM YOUTH:**
 - There's not much you can do
 - more laws on drinking and driving
 - More enforcement
 - Unify solutions
 - Random drug tests – 2nd hand smoke
 - Security guards at schools sell
- **SOLUTIONS**
 - More enforcement
 - More role models
 - Celebrities are 2 faced
 - Start educating at a younger age – a lot or most of participants said start younger
 - Be yourself
 - Positive things and attitudes in commercials
 - More activities and recreation centers
 - Music highly influences youth, mainly negatively
 - Make access more difficult
 - Role models – big brothers
 - Family influence