

# PARENTS, PARTIES and ADOLESCENT ALCOHOL USE

**Report by**

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*for*

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## Executive Summary

This report is the result of a survey of 388 Victorian parents of adolescents aged 14-16 years. The parents were recruited by a market research company and completed an online survey in April 2009. Parents were asked to refer to one adolescent aged 14-16 years within their family. There were equal proportions of 14, 15 and 16 year olds and 75% of these were male.

The majority of parents were female and aged between 35 and 54 years. Three-quarters of the parents lived in metropolitan Melbourne with the remainder in rural and regional Victoria. Eighty-three percent of parents were born in Australia with 4 parents identifying themselves as Aboriginal, Torres Strait or South Sea Islander. Fewer than 5% of parents indicated that they spoke a language other than English at home. Eleven percent of parents indicated that they never drink while 77% were categorised as 'low risk' drinkers, 10% as risky drinkers and 2% high-risk or hazardous drinkers (as measured by the AUDIT scale).

More than half of parents (53%) thought that it was somewhat/very likely or definite that their child's friends currently drink alcohol. However, only 30% of parents thought that it was somewhat/very likely or definite that their own child currently drinks alcohol. A further 40% of parents thought it very/somewhat unlikely that their child drinks alcohol and 30% of parents indicated that their child 'definitely' does not currently drink alcohol. Of those adolescents whose parents said they do drink, parents reported that 91% of these adolescents had consumed a full serve of alcohol before they were 16 years old. Parents were more likely to think that their adolescents' friends consume alcohol than their own adolescent.

Twenty-six percent of all parents had supplied their adolescent with *more than a sip* of alcohol in the last three months. While a comparable proportion thought that they would supply their adolescent with alcohol in the next six months only 9% of all parents thought it was definite or very likely.

The majority of parents reported that it was best if parents introduce their children to alcohol and that if parents don't allow their adolescent to try alcohol (73%), the adolescent will try it elsewhere (74%).

Parents reported that 40% of adolescents had attended at least one party, in the last three months, where alcohol was available. While parents were not asked to describe the type or nature of the party, it remains that 14-16 year old adolescents are frequently exposed to the use of alcohol at parties.

Half of the parents thought that if they did not supply alcohol to their adolescent going to a party, the adolescent will try to obtain alcohol elsewhere. Thirty-four percent of the parents whose adolescent had attended a party reported supplying alcohol to their child. Interestingly, 16% of parents reported that they didn't know if their adolescent had been supplied with alcohol for a party. The three most common suppliers of alcohol to adolescents at parties were reported as adolescents' friends, parents and other parents. The difference between friends and the other categories is significant, but the difference between the other categories is not statistically significant.

The majority (95%) of parents reported that they would discuss alcohol and safety with their adolescent prior to them attending a party. Similarly, more than half of parents indicated that they were more than likely to contact the parents who were hosting a party for an adolescent. However, when asked what they *actually did*, only 32% of parents, whose adolescent had attended a party, in fact did contact other parents when a party was being held.

A small proportion (6%) of parents reported hosting a party for their adolescent, where alcohol was available, in the last 12 months. While the numbers are small, it is encouraging that most (95%) of these parents did something to promote security at the party. Parents were most likely to maintain

one entry point (91%), maintain one exit point (78%), restrict the amount of alcohol brought to the party (74%), restrict areas of access within the home or venue (70%) and count RSVPs (65%) while they were least likely to check bags for alcohol (30%) or employ a security guard (9%). Of the seven parties where there were more than 40 attendees, 3 of the parties were registered with the police.

Ninety-two percent of parents reported that they were unlikely to or definitely would not host a party for their adolescent in the next 12 months. Those who did indicate that they will host a party reported that they would take some actions to maintain security at the party. Interestingly, parents reported that they would be more likely to contact the parents of child if the child was sick than if the child was 'drunk.'

When asked about how difficult parents thought it was for adolescents to access alcohol, parents believed that the easiest way for adolescents to get alcohol was to go to a party or ask a friend to buy alcohol.

The findings of this survey are consistent with previous reports of the attitudes towards and supply of alcohol by Australian parents. The use of alcohol in the family home and at parties is role modelled to young people on a regular basis and parents play a pivotal role in the supply to and use of alcohol by adolescents. While the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Australian Guidelines to Reduce Health Risks from Drinking Alcohol (2009) provide advice to parents in relation to the use of alcohol by their children, many parents are concerned that if they do not provide their children with alcohol, someone else will.

This report provides the results of the first Australian study to formally document parents' decision-making regarding the issue of adolescents and alcohol at parties. While a number of studies have examined young people's attitudes and behaviours in relation to the consumption of alcohol (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), 2008; White and Hayman, 2006) relatively few studies have explored the role parents play in shaping youth consumption patterns. Parents are legitimate and credible agents of harm prevention, reduction and minimisation in relation to teenagers and alcohol. In order to maximise this capacity an understanding of parents' attitudes, knowledge and needs with respect to adolescent drinking is needed.

Parents need advice and support with regard to alcohol use by their children. Nearly half of the adolescents discussed in this survey were the oldest child in their family child and so for these parents, this is somewhat 'unchartered territory' in terms of their parenting. There is a need for a broader social marketing campaign to support parents in using evidence-based strategies to reduce alcohol use by their children.

While this survey has provided insights into parental behaviours and adolescent parties, the numbers of parents who reported hosting parties where alcohol is available, is relatively small. There is a need for further research to explore parents' beliefs and behaviours and the subsequent use of alcohol by their adolescents in these settings.

## **1. Introduction**

For adolescents, the most accurate predictor of future alcohol use is current alcohol consumption patterns (Viner and Taylor, 2007). Young people who have commenced drinking regular serves of alcohol by the age of twelve are more likely to develop patterns of early binge drinking and social problems in adulthood (Englund, Egeland, Oliva and Collins, 2008; Poelen, Engels, Vorst, Scholte, and Vermulst, 2007; Warner and White, 2003). The misuse of alcohol in adolescence is linked with increased risk of alcohol dependence and other social and health inequalities in adulthood (Bonomo, Bowes, Coffey, Carlin, and Patton, 2004; Viner and Taylor, 2007).

### ***1.1 Initiation to use and use of alcohol by young Australians***

Ninety percent of Australians aged 14 years or more report having consumed alcohol at some time in their lives (AIHW, 2008). While 26% of young people aged 12-15 indicate that they have never consumed a full serve of alcohol (AIHW, 2008), several reports suggest that the average age of initiation to a full serve of alcohol, for young people aged 14-24 years, is between 14 and 15 years of age (AIHW, 2007; E. King, Ball, and Carroll, 2005; Premier's Drug Prevention Council, 2005; White and Hayman, 2006).

In 2007, 26% of young Australians aged 14-19 years consumed alcohol, at least once a month, at a level that put them at risk for alcohol related harm in the short term (AIHW, 2008). Nine percent reported drinking at levels that put them at risk or high risk of alcohol-related harm in the long term (AIHW, 2008).

### ***1.2 Parents' perceptions of alcohol-related harm***

Australians do not commonly associate alcohol with a 'drug problem' (AIHW, 2008) and so it is not surprising that 80% of Australian parents report that they are 'still in control' even when they have had a 'lot' to drink (Quantum Research, 2009). Most parents perceive that alcohol is less harmful than other psychoactive drugs and many indicate that they themselves do not perceive it to be a drug (Graham, Ward, Munro, Snow, and Ellis, 2006). As a result, some parents do not have insight into the long-term effects of alcohol use and are instead more concerned about the short-term harms such as road trauma, other accidents and risky behaviours (Graham, et al., 2006).

### ***1.3 Parental influences on adolescent alcohol use***

It is a misconception that parents have little influence on adolescent behaviour and subsequent substance use but some parents are concerned that they themselves are poor role models and, as a result, believe that they lack credibility in talking to their children about low-risk use of alcohol (Ward and Snow, 2008). Parents' own experiences of being parented often contribute to their underlying values, influence their own parenting style, so that parenting problems can cross generations (Centre for Community Child Health Royal Children's Hospital, 2004). While parents' own drinking does influence adolescents' attitudes towards and use of alcohol, these influences are mediated by broader social and environmental factors such as advertising, general parenting skills, peer influences and access to alcohol (Room, Babor, and Rehm, 2005; Dick, et al., 2007; McKee, Belcher, and Hervey, 2009).

### ***1.4 Parental supply of alcohol***

Children's consumption of alcohol in the family home is often sanctioned by parents who believe that it is a harmless practice or that it is beneficial in educating young people about alcohol (King et al. 2005; Kypri, Dean, and Stojanovski, 2007; Lundborg 2007; Ward et al. 2006). Forty-five percent

of Australian parents believe that they should teach their children to drink at home before they reach the age of 18 (Quantum Research, 2009) and this number is higher for older parents (45+) and those living in regional areas (Quantum Research, 2009).

The majority of young Australians who report drinking at home also report parents are the primary source of supply (White and Hayman 2006). In Australia, some parents supply alcohol to their adolescent children in the belief that this is the ‘norm’ and if they do not supply it, their adolescent will approach others to purchase alcohol for them (Ward, Snow, Munro, Graham, and Dickson-Swift, 2006). However, there is no evidence that adolescents increase consumption of other alcoholic beverages when parents are not willing to supply them (Lundborg, 2007). In addition, reports from children (aged 12-14 years) who, on their last drinking occasion, received alcohol from their parents or took it from home, indicate that these factors are strong predictors of increased alcohol use (Komro, Maldonado-Mollina, Tober, Bonds, and Muller, 2007).

### ***1.5 Current guidelines for alcohol use by children and adolescents***

The Australian Guidelines to Reduce Health Risks from Drinking Alcohol (NHMRC, 2009) provide a base for parents in their decision making regarding children’s drinking. Specifically, Guideline 3 states :

- For children and young people less than 18 years of age, not drinking alcohol is the safest option.
- Parents and carers should be advised that children under 15 years of age are at the greatest risk of harm from drinking and that for this age group, not drinking alcohol is especially important.
- For young people aged 15–17 years, the safest option is to delay the initiation of drinking for as long as possible (NHMRC, 2009, p4).

### ***1.6 Parties and alcohol***

Previous Australian research has shown that parents are likely to discuss alcohol with their adolescent prior to them attending a party (King, Taylor, and Carroll, 2005). Materials such as The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Factsheets for Parents (<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/aboutschool/childhealth/drugeducation.htm>) , ‘Celebrate Safely’ resources (<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/programs/drugeducation/tchlearnteach.htm#H2N10300>) individual school guidelines (Oliver and Jennings-Brown, 2007) and the Victorian Police ‘Partysafe Program’ (Victoria Police, 2008) are available to guide parents in evidence-informed decision making in relation to adolescents’ parties. However, these are not widely used and little is known about parents’ attitudes and behaviours in relation to hosting a party or allowing their adolescent to attend a party.

## **2. Aim of the study**

The aim of this study was to explore parents' behaviours with regard to alcohol use by adolescents aged 14-16 years at parties.

## **3. Methods**

Six hundred Victorian parents, of 14-16 year old adolescents, registered with a market research company (Newspoll) were invited to participate in a survey conducted over a five day period in April 2009.

### **3.1 The sample**

The term 'parent' was used to refer to both biological and non-biological parents and other significant carer(s). Gender quotas are not commonly used in research (King, et al., 2005; Smith, Rissel, Richters, Grulich, and de Visser, 2003) and so the recruited parent may have been the mother, father or step-parent. Parents were asked to focus on the behaviour of adolescents aged 14-16. In Australia and many other western countries, adolescents are able to legally purchase alcohol at the age of 18 years. Hence, the influence of parents and older siblings at this age is significantly altered. Parents of 17 year olds were excluded as previous Australian research suggested that the views of parents of 17 year old adolescents were very different to the views of parents of 13 to 16 year old adolescents (King, et al., 2005). Parents of 13 year olds were excluded because 13 year olds are less likely to consume alcohol than older adolescents (AIHW, 2008).

Where there was more than one child in the household, who was 14-16 years at the time of the survey, parents were asked to focus on their actions regarding the child with the next birthday. Where there were twins, parents were asked to focus on the first born twin. It is common practice that surveys refer to the person in category of interest who has had or is going to have the next birthday.

In the 2006 Australian Census, the population of Victoria was 4,932,422 (Australian Bureau of Statistics, (ABS) 2006). There were 805,520 Victorian families with children (ABS, 2009). Seventy-four percent (598,594) of these lived in Melbourne. There were 201,317 Victorian children aged 14-16 and of these, 69% (139,711) lived in Melbourne (ABS, 2006). To reflect the geographical distribution of parents and adolescents aged 14-16 across Victoria, a quota was set to ensure that one-third of parents lived in rural Victoria while two-thirds resided in metropolitan Melbourne.

### **3.2 Data collection**

School communities are frequently asked to participate in research and while parents, have historically, been commonly recruited for research projects via schools, (Andersen, Leroux, Bricker, Rajan, and Peterson, 2004; Carlson, et al., 2000; Kandel and Andrews, 1987; Mallick, Evans, and Stein, 1998; Roger and McCarthy, 1999; Spijkerman, Eijnden, Overbeek, and Engles, 2007; Werch, et al., 1991; Williams, McDermitt, Bertrand, and Davis, 2003) there are challenges associated with this setting and the subsequent low response rates are well documented (Ralph and Saunders, 2003; Spoth, Redmond, and Lepper, 1999). Privacy legislation in Victoria prevents researchers from having direct access to parents' contact details (Victorian Government, 2000) and combined with the absence of incentives or tangible benefits to the school the success of recruitment of participants via schools is limited (Pound, Riddell, Byrnes, and Kelly, 2000).

The internet is increasingly being used to recruit participants for research (Witte, 2009). However, internet users are a biased sample; they are more likely to be Caucasian, non-Indigenous, of higher socio-economic status, younger and better educated (Couper, 2000). In recent years, there has been an increased use of computer assisted self-administered interviewing (CASI) in which interview



questions appear on a screen and participants answer them privately (Testa, Livingston, and VanZile-Tamsen, 2005). There are several advantages to using CASI to collect data including the fact that it is relatively cheap in terms of time and money, it can contact large numbers of people easily and it allows for rapid data collection and collation. In addition, where internet access is adequate, there are no delays in data collection because of geographical isolation.

### ***3.3 The survey***

The survey tool was developed by the research team. Pre-existing validated measures were used, where possible. These included the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Alcohol Use Disorder Identification Test (AUDIT) to measure parents' alcohol consumption. The AUDIT scale is a very reliable way of detecting risky and high risk drinking patterns (Bush, Kivlahan, McDonell, Fihn, and Bradley, 1998). The full survey can be seen in Appendix 1.

### ***3.4 Ethics approval***

Prior to commencement of data collection, ethics approval was obtained from the Standing Committee on Ethics in Research Involving Humans (SCERH) at Monash University CF08/0638 – 2008000307. All parents involved in this study were provided with online information sheets that outlined the purpose of the study and what they would be asked to do should they agree to participate. Parents were informed that their participation was entirely voluntary and that they could withdraw at any time prior to submitting their survey answers. In the event that parents wanted more information, about young people and alcohol, the internet addresses for the Australian Drug Foundation and Parentline were provided. Parents were also offered a summary of the results of the survey.

Those parents who agreed to participate and completed this survey accrued 'points' with the market research company. These points could be used for online shopping or donated to charity. For this survey, points accrued were approximately equivalent to \$1.90. Those who were registered with the company and answered the screening questions were entered into a quarterly prize draw for a cash prize. The NHMRC (2007) National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research indicates that incentives can be used provided that they do not result in pressure on individuals to participate (NHMRC, 2007). The incentives provided in this survey were considered to be consistent with these guidelines.

## 4. Results

### 4.1 Characteristics of the adolescents

Parents were asked to refer to the adolescent in the household who last had a birthday. Amongst the 388 adolescents there were equal proportions of 14, 15 and 16 year olds and 74% of these were male. Eight percent of adolescents were 'only children', 40% came from 2 child families, 35% from 3 child families while 17% came from families with 4 or more children. Nearly half (44%) of the adolescents were the oldest (or only) child while 36% were the second child in their family. The other 20% were 3rd, 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> child in the family.

### 4.2 Perceptions about adolescent drinking

More than half of parents (53%) thought that it was somewhat/very likely or definite that their child's friends currently drink alcohol. The younger the age of the adolescent, the less likely parents were to think that their friends consumed alcohol.

However, only 30% of parents thought that it was somewhat/very likely or definite that *their own child* currently drinks alcohol. A further 40% of parents thought it very unlikely or somewhat unlikely that their child drinks alcohol. Thirty percent of parents indicated that their child 'definitely' does not currently drink alcohol.

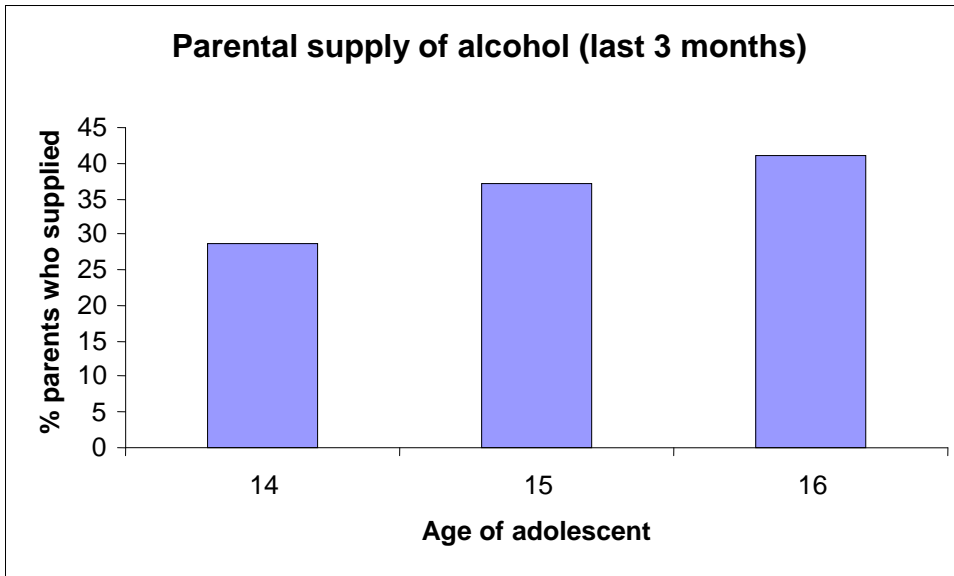
As might be expected, the older the child, the more likely parents were to think that they were drinking. Forty percent of parents thought that it was somewhat/very likely or definitely likely that their 16 year old adolescent drank alcohol.

### 4.3 Adolescents' initiation to alcohol

The 70% of parents who thought that their child had/might have consumed alcohol were asked how old their child was when they had their *first full serve of alcohol*. Eight percent of parents indicated that it was before their child turn 12 years of age. Twenty five percent of parents indicated that it was when their child was 12 or 13 years of age, 59% when their child was 14 or 15 years of age and 7% when their child was 16 years of age. One percent of parents reported that they 'can't say'.

### 4.4 Supply of alcohol to adolescents

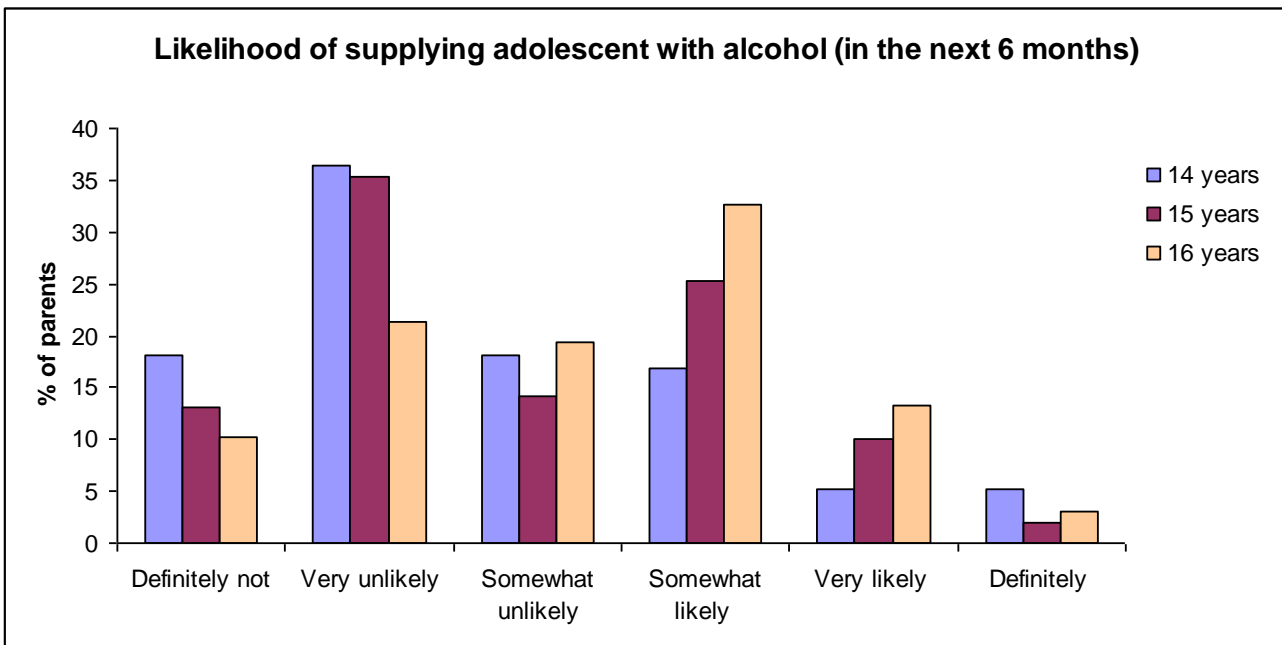
Twenty-six percent of *all* parents had supplied their adolescent with *more than a sip* of alcohol in the last three months. Of the 274 (70%) parents who thought their child consumed alcohol, 37% of parents had supplied their child with alcohol in the last 3 months (see Figure 1).



**Figure 1: Parental supply of alcohol (in the last three months) to adolescents by age**

When country of birth, language spoken at home, educational qualification, Indigenous status and religion were considered, there was no statistical difference between the parents who supplied alcohol and those who did not.

A comparable proportion of parents (39%) thought that it was definite or somewhat/very likely that they would supply their child with alcohol in the next six months. While parents thought that they were more likely to supply older adolescents with alcohol, most parents were not *definitively sure* if they would or would not supply their adolescent with alcohol in the next six months (see Figure 2).



**Figure 2: Parents' likelihood of supplying their adolescent with alcohol (in the next six months) by age**

Two percent of parents had supplied their children's friends with alcohol in the last three months and a similar number (3%) thought that they would do the same in the next six months.

#### 4.5 Beliefs about adolescent alcohol use

Parents were asked five questions regarding their beliefs about the initiation to and use of alcohol by adolescents. Possible responses to these questions were on a scale of 1 to 7, with 1 being 'strongly disagree' and 7 being 'strongly agree'. When the results were analysed by whether parents had supplied their child with alcohol, there was no significant difference.

The majority of parents thought that they were the best person to introduce alcohol to their child. Approximately three-quarters (73%) of parents scored 5 or more on this scale (see Figure 3).

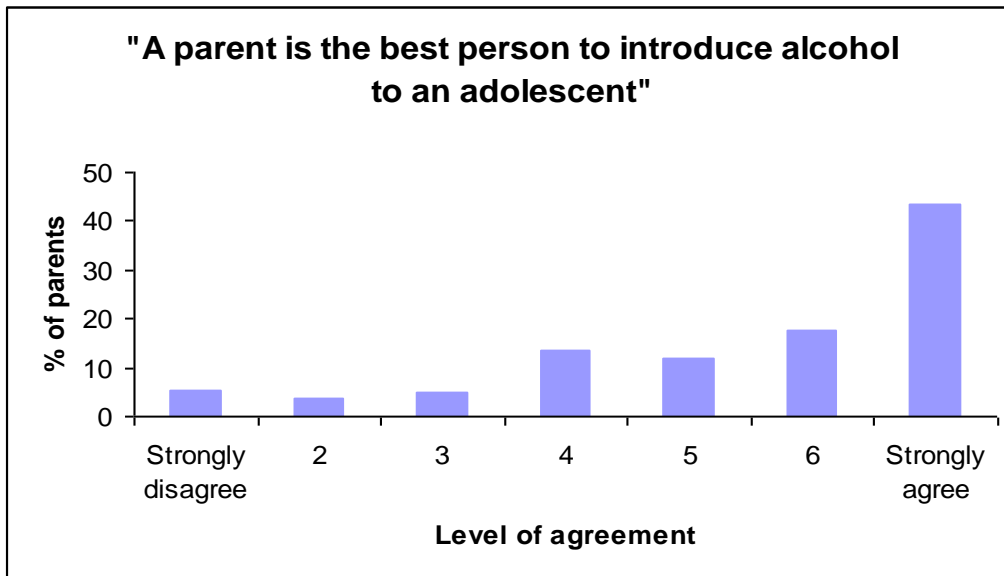


Figure 3: Parents' agreement with the statement that they are the best person to introduce alcohol to their adolescent

The majority of parents thought that if they do not allow their adolescent to try alcohol, s/he will try it elsewhere. Approximately three-quarters (74%) of parents scored 5 or more on this scale (see Figure 4).

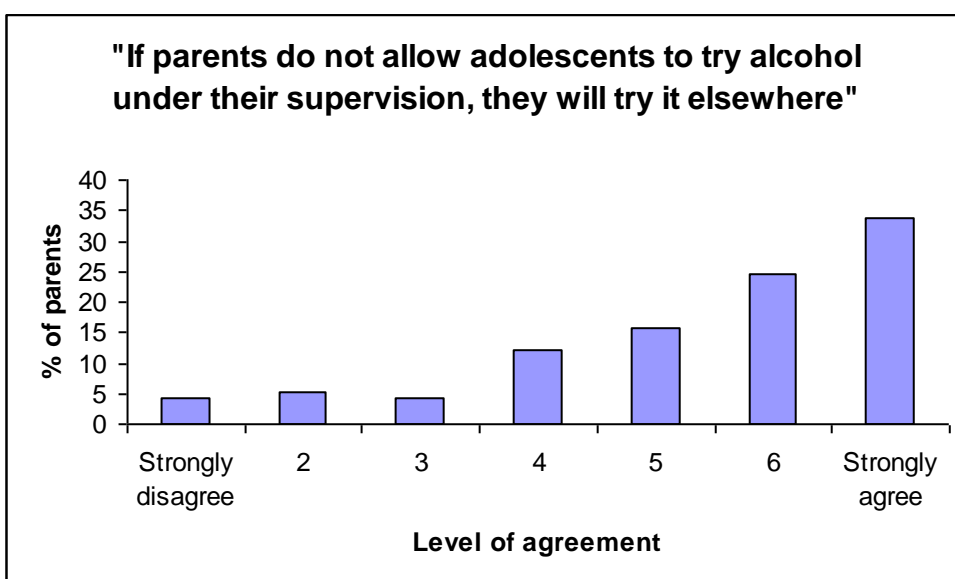
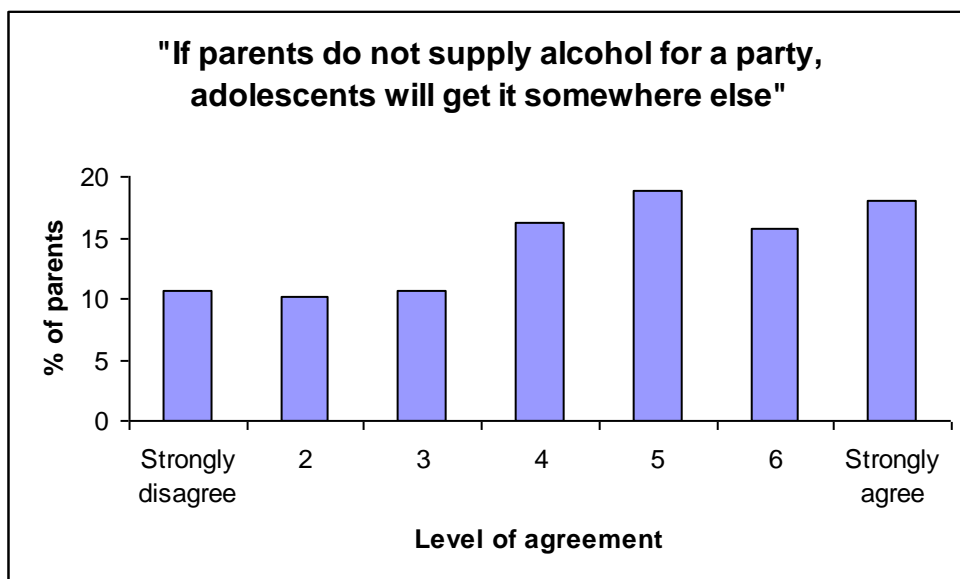


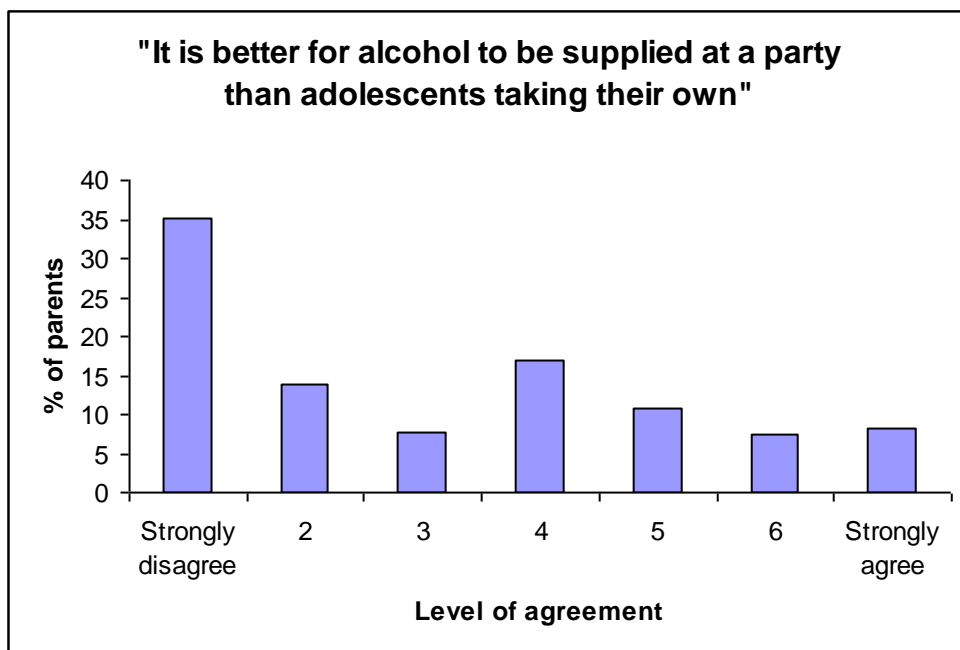
Figure 4: Parents' agreement with the statement that if they do not allow their adolescent to try alcohol under their supervision, s/he will try it elsewhere

Interestingly, significantly fewer parents believed that their adolescent would obtain alcohol elsewhere if parents did not supply alcohol for a party. Approximately half (52%) of parents scored 5 or more on this scale (see Figure 5).



**Figure 5: Parent's level of agreement with the statement that if parents do not supply alcohol for a party, adolescents will obtain it elsewhere**

The majority of parents *did not* believe that it is better to supply adolescents with alcohol rather than allowing them to take their own. Only one quarter (26%) of parents scored 5 or more on this scale (see Figure 6). This may be because parents believe that alcohol should not be available at adolescent parties.



**Figure 6: Parent's level of agreement with the statement that it is better for alcohol to be supplied at a party than adolescents taking their own**

Many parents disagreed with the statement that you cannot stop an adolescent from getting drunk at a party. However, a significant proportion of parents (23%) did agree with the statement and answered 5 or more on the scale (see Figure 7).



Figure 7: Parent's level of agreement with the statement that you cannot stop an adolescent from getting drunk at a party

#### 4.6 Adolescents attending parties

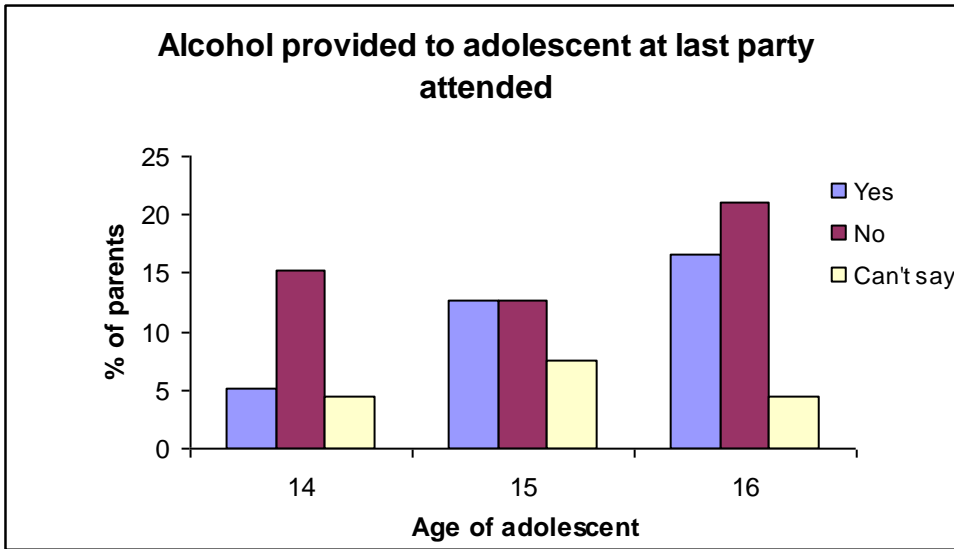
Parents were asked a range of questions in relation to the number of parties their adolescent had attended, the supply of alcohol at these parties and the likelihood of parents doing things to enhance the safety of their adolescent at the party.

##### 4.6.1 Attending a party where alcohol is available

Forty percent (157) of adolescents were reported by parents as having had attended at least one party where alcohol was available in the previous three months (February-April 2009). Of these, the number of parties attended ranged from 1 (31%) to 15 (<1%). The average number of parties attended by 14 year olds was 3, 15 year olds 2.3 and 16 year olds 3.5.

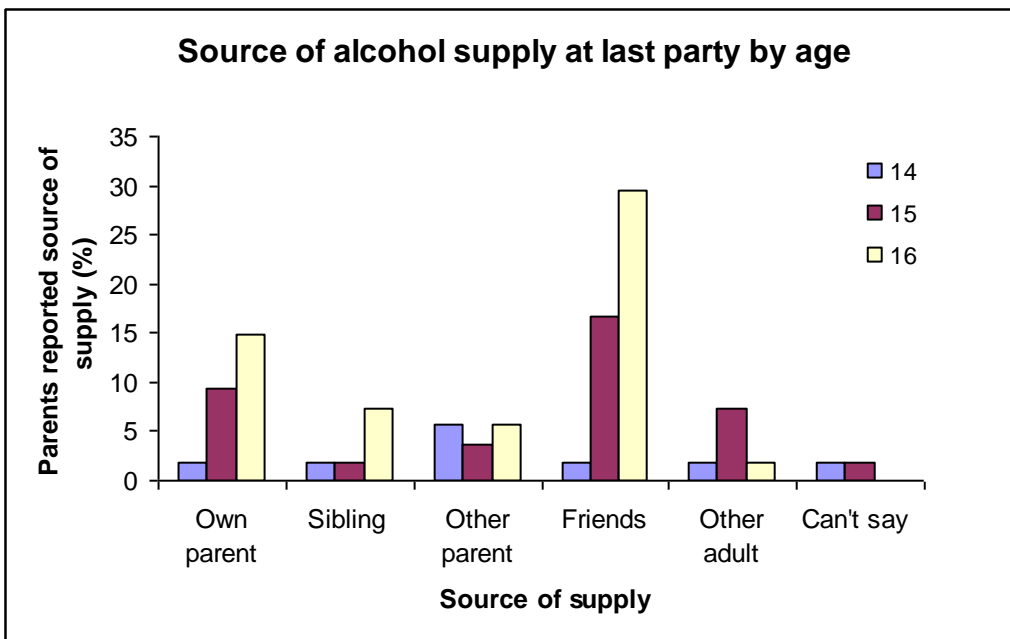
##### 4.6.2 Supply of alcohol to adolescents at parties

The 157 parents who indicated that their child had attended a party in the last three months were asked about the supply of alcohol to their child. Parents reported that at the last party attended by their adolescent, approximately half (49%) were *not* provided with alcohol. A further 34% of parents indicated that their adolescent was supplied with alcohol but 16% of parents reported that they could not say whether their adolescent was supplied with alcohol (see Figure 8). As might be expected, the supply of alcohol increases with age, but this is also due to the fact that more 16 year old adolescents had attended parties than had 14 year olds.



**Figure 8: Parents' reports of alcohol supplied to their adolescent at the last attended party**

Parents were asked to nominate who supplied alcohol to their adolescent at the last party that they attended. Parents identified several sources of supply. (There may have been more than one source of supply so percentages reflect the proportion of parents who indicated this as a source of supply). The most common supplier named by parents was their child's friends (48%) followed by parents (26%), other parents (15%), siblings (11%) and other adults (11%). Four percent of parents indicated that they 'can't say' who supplied their child with alcohol (see Figure 9). This data needs to be interpreted with caution as it only refers to the adolescents who were supplied with alcohol at the last party they attended and so the sample is relatively small (n=54).



**Figure 9: Parents' reports of source of alcohol supplied to their adolescent at the last attended party**

#### 4.6.3 Parents' reported behaviours and parties

Parents were asked four questions about the likelihood of their actions in relation to their adolescent attending a party. Possible responses to these questions were on a scale of 1 to 7 with 1 being not at all likely and 7 being very likely. When the results were analysed by whether parents had supplied their child with alcohol, there was no significant difference.

The majority (77%) of parents indicated that it was *very likely* that they would discuss alcohol and how to look after oneself with their adolescent prior to them attending a party where alcohol was available. Of the remaining 25% of parents, 79% scored either 5 or 6 on this scale when thinking about alcohol and 84% when thinking about safety.

On the same scale, nearly half (45%) of parents indicated that it was very likely that they would contact the parents who were hosting a party to discuss alcohol and safety arrangements at the party. Of the remaining 55% of parents, 77% scored 4, 5, or 6 on this scale. Interestingly, 13% of parents indicated that it was less than likely that they would contact the host parents to discuss the party.

#### *4.6.4 Parents' actual behaviours in relation to parties*

The 157 parents who reported that their adolescent had attended a party in the last three months were asked to indicate what they did, in terms of preparation, with their adolescent prior to attending the party. Seventy eight percent indicated that they discussed alcohol consumption, 75% indicated that they discussed safety at the party, 32% contacted the parents of the adolescent hosting the party and 13% reported that they did nothing.

The reports of parents' discussions with their adolescent prior to them attending a party are consistent with what parents had indicated earlier when they were asked about the likelihood of them doing these things. However, earlier on a scale of 1 to 7 where 1 is not at all likely and 7 is very likely, 46% of parents had reported that it was very likely (score of 7) that they would contact the parents hosting the party. Forty four percent of parents had indicated that it was very likely that they would contact the parents who were hosting a party to discuss alcohol and safety arrangements at the party. Of the remaining parents, 40% scored 4, 5, or 6 on this scale. However, when parents were asked about what they *actually did* in this situation, only 32% of parents of adolescents who went to a party contacted the other parents.

#### *4.7 Hosting a party for adolescents*

Parents were asked to indicate if, in the last twelve months, they had hosted a party for an adolescent, aged 14-16 years, where alcohol was available. Parents were asked to specifically report on parties that had been held in their own home or a public hall (not at licensed premises).

Six percent of parents (23) reported hosting a party in the last 12 months, for an adolescent where alcohol was available. While the numbers are small, it is of interest that 30% (7) of these adolescents were 14 years old, 17% (4) were 15 years old and 52% (12) were 16 years old. Alcohol was supplied by several sources including parents, siblings, other parents, child's friends and other adults. However, the numbers are too small to make meaningful interpretations.

Of the 23 parties, there were 7 with fewer than 20 people attending, 9 with 20-39 people in attendance and 7 parties with more than 40 people attending.

##### *4.7.1 Maintaining security at the party*

Parents were asked to indicate what measures they put in place to maintain security at the party. RSVPs were counted for 65% of parties, only one entry point was provided at 91% of parties, one exit point was provided at 78% of parties, the amount of alcohol that was brought in was restricted at 74% of parties, bags were checked for alcohol at 30% of parties, 39% of parties were registered with the police and 9% of parties had a security guard employed.

The parent/s that hosted the 7 parties, where there were more than 40 people, all indicated that they did something to maintain security at the party. At each of these seven parties there was one entry



point, 5 provided one exit point, 4 used adults at the entrance to check invitations before allowing entry, 5 restricted the amount of alcohol that was brought into the party, 3 were registered with the police, 3 restricted areas within the home or venue, 3 counted RSVPs to the party, one checked bags for alcohol and one employed a security guard.

#### 4.8 Hosting a party in the future

Parents were asked to indicate the likelihood of them hosting a party for a 14-16 year old, where alcohol was available, in the next twelve months. The majority of parents indicated that this was unlikely with 56% indicating definitely not, 28% indicating that it would be very unlikely and 8% indicating that it was somewhat unlikely. Of the remaining 8% (33) of parents who indicated that it was somewhat likely, very likely or definite, 8 were parents of 14 year old adolescents, 9 parents of 15 year old adolescents and 16 were parents of a 16 year old adolescent.

##### 4.8.1 Parents' reported behaviours in relation to hosting a party

Parents were asked to indicate the likelihood of them putting measures into place to maintain security at the party. (The 217 parents who indicated that they would definitely not hold a party were excluded from this analysis). Parents were asked on a scale of 1 to 7, with 1 being not at all likely and 7 being very likely, the likelihood of them doing the following: restricting the amount of alcohol that is brought to the party, checking bags for alcohol, contacting parents/guardians to tell them if their child is unwell, contacting parents/guardians to tell them if their child was drunk, contacting the police if an uncontrollable situation developed, or stopping someone who wasn't invited from attending the party. The majority (95%) of parents thought that they would take some action to maintain security at the party. Parents were least likely to check bags for alcohol and this is consistent with reports of what parents actually do at parties. Parents were more likely to contact other parents if they thought a child was unwell than if they thought the child was drunk (see Figure 10).

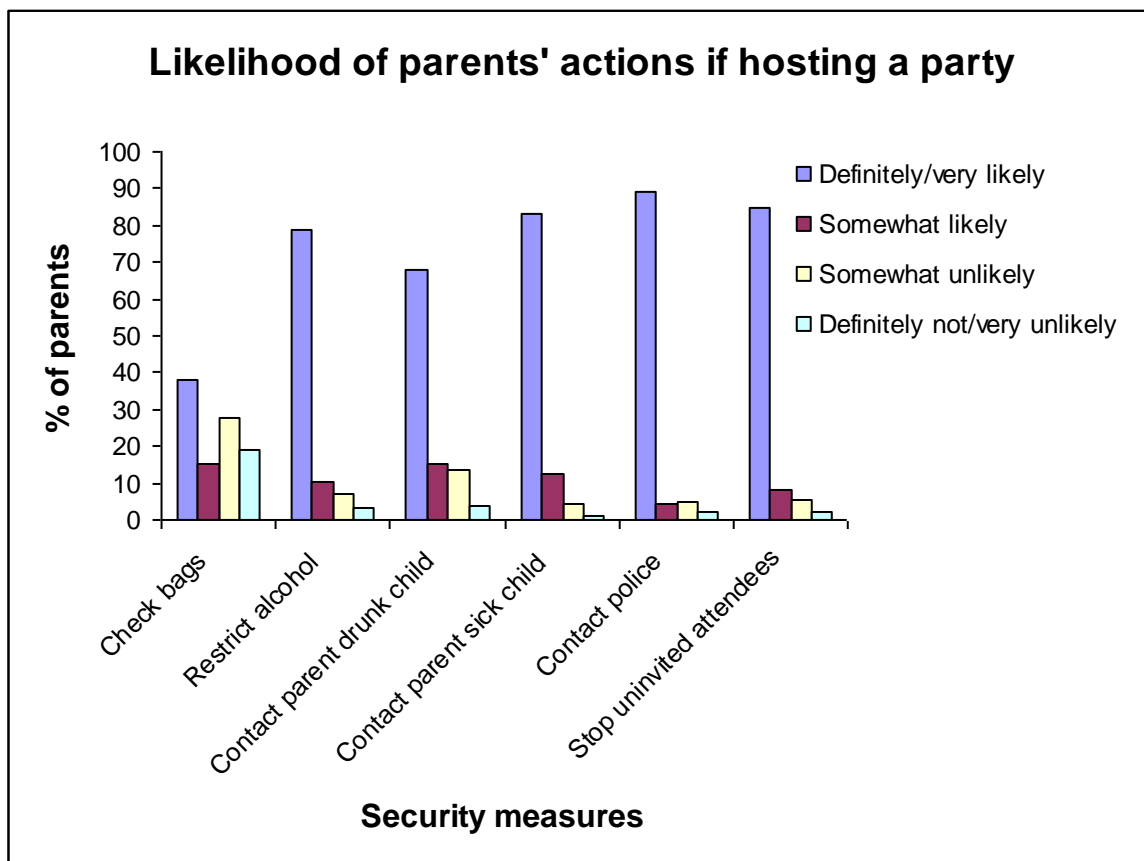


Figure 10: Parents' reports of the likelihood they would take a given action if they were to host a party for a 14-16 year old, where alcohol was available, in the next 12 months

#### ***4.9 Difficulty in adolescents accessing alcohol***

Parents were asked to indicate how difficult they thought it would be for adolescents, aged 14-16 years, to access alcohol from a variety of sources. Possible responses to these questions were on a scale of 1 to 7 with 1 being 'very difficult' and 7 'not at all difficult'. In general, parents believed that the easiest way for adolescents to access alcohol was to go to a party, ask a friend to buy alcohol or access it from another parent.

#### ***4.10 Characteristics of the parents***

Parents' age ranged between 30 and 66 with 90% of parents being aged between 35 and 54 years. Less than 5% of parents were aged 30-34 years while 4% of parents were aged over 55 years. Consistent with many other surveys involving parents, 78% of the parents were female (Carlson, et al., 2000; Hartos, Eitel, and Simons-Morton, 2004; King, et al., 2005; Kodl and Mermelstein, 2004; Surkan, Dejong, Herr-Zaya, Rodriguez-Howard, and Fay, 2003; Williams, et al., 2003). Seventy-three percent of parents lived in metropolitan Melbourne while the remaining 27% lived in other parts of Victoria.

The vast majority (83%) of parents were born in Australia while 17% were born overseas. In the 2006 Census, 70% of the Victorian population reported that they were born in Australia (ABS, 2006). Hence this survey population is less ethnically diverse than the Victorian population. This is consistent with the fact that internet users are more likely to be Caucasian (Couper, 2000). Only 4 parents identified themselves as Aboriginal, Torres Strait or South Sea Islander. Fewer than 5% (18) parents indicated that they spoke a language other than English at home.

Thirty-one percent of the parents identified themselves as Catholic, 20% as Anglican, 5% Uniting Church and 5% as Presbyterian. Twenty-four percent of parents indicated that they had no religion and the remaining parents were Islamic, Jewish, Greek Orthodox, Buddhist, Lutheran or other religions. These figures are similar to those of the 2006 Census where 28% of the Victorian population identified themselves as Catholic, 14% as Anglican and 6% identified themselves as Uniting Church (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006).

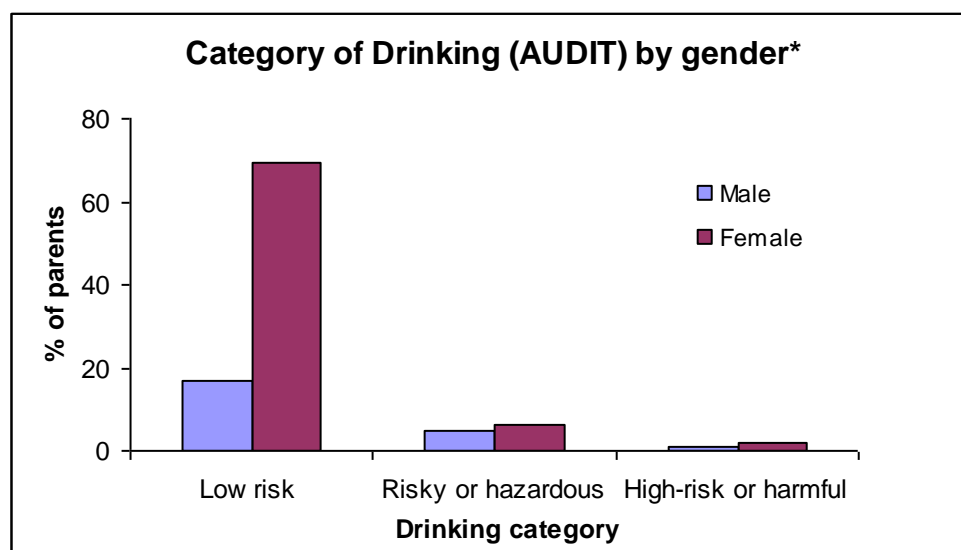
Parents were asked to identify their highest educational qualification. Thirty-three percent indicated that they had a trade, technical certificate or diploma, 27% as having an undergraduate, graduate or postgraduate qualification, 25% as having VCE/HSC/Year 12 or equivalent, while 14% indicated that they had Year 10 or less.

Socio-economic status was determined using the occupation of the respondent. This is based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classifications of Occupations (ANZSCO) (Trewin and Pink, 2006). Sixty-nine percent of parents were classified either as managers, professionals, technicians, trade workers or clerical and administrative workers while 31% were sales workers, machinery operators, drivers or labourers.

##### ***4.10.1 Parents' drinking patterns***

Eleven percent of parents reported that they never drink alcohol. This is consistent with the 2007 National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS) where 10% of Australians aged 14 years and over reported never having tried a full serve of alcohol (AIHW, 2008). Thirty-three percent of parents reported consuming alcohol monthly or less, 24%; 2-4 times per month, 18%; 2-3 times per week and 14%; 4 or more times per week. Using the AUDIT categories, this means that 77% were

'low risk' drinkers, 10% were 'risky drinkers' and 2% were 'high-risk or hazardous' drinkers (see Figure 12). When compared with the 2007 NDSHS these categories of drinkers are similar to the proportions of Australian drinkers at risk of harm in the long term (AIHW, 2008).



**Figure 21: Category of drinker by gender**

\* Eleven percent of parents did not report drinking status

## 5. Limitations

This study has a number of limitations. Parents were recruited via a market research company database and so there are inherent biases in this sample. The parents in this study were more likely to be Caucasian, internet users and have higher educational qualifications. This is consistent with reports from previous studies where existing database populations have been used to recruit participants. The majority of respondents were females and this too is consistent with many other surveys involving parents. The non-random recruitment of parents means that care need to be taken when extrapolating these results to the whole population of parents of 14-16 year olds.

A prevalence survey cannot determine the direction of cause and effect. While plausible correlations regarding parental characteristics and supply of alcohol to adolescents can be developed, longitudinal research involving both adolescents and their parents is needed to explore these hypotheses.

## 6. Conclusion

This report provides the results of the first Australian study to formally document parents' decision-making regarding the issue of adolescents and alcohol at parties. These results highlight that many parents are unsure of what to do in relation to alcohol use by their adolescent. Parents are legitimate and credible agents of harm prevention, reduction and minimisation in relation to teenagers and alcohol, and need further advice and support with regard to managing alcohol use by their children.

## 7. Acknowledgements

This report was part of Bernadette Ward's PhD thesis. The authors would like to thank the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development which provided funding for the data collection in this survey and the National Health and Medical Research Council which provided Bernadette with a scholarship during her candidature. We would also like to thank Amanda Burns from Newspoll who co-ordinated the data collection.

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## **Appendix 1:**

### **Parents, alcohol and adolescent parties survey**

#### **DEMOGRAPHICS** -      **PROG NOTE: ASK ALL RESPONDENTS**

3      Are you...? (*Select one answer*)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- SINGLE RESPONSE**

1	Male
2	Female

4      Are you the parent, step-parent or guardian of any young people aged 14 to 16 years living in your household? (*Select one answer*)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- SINGLE RESPONSE**

1	Yes
2	No

**SECTION A - PROG NOTE: ASK VIC PARENT \ GUARDIAN OF YOUNG PERSON AGE 14-16 IN VIC ONLY IE CODE 1 IN Q4 (DEMS). OTHERS TERMINATE**

A1 This survey is being conducted on behalf of Monash University.

MONASH University



**Explanatory Statement**

**Title: Parents, young people alcohol and parties**

My name is Bernadette Ward and I am conducting a research project with Dr Pamela Snow in the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences towards a PhD at Monash University. This means that I will be writing a thesis and several articles for publication. The aim of this study is to describe parents' knowledge, understandings and practices in relation to the use of alcohol by young people at parties.

You have been invited to complete the survey because you are a parent of a 14-16 year old. Being in this study is voluntary and you are under no obligation to agree to participate. If you do agree to participate, you may only withdraw prior to the completion of the survey.

The survey will take about 20 minutes to complete. The information you give will be confidential. Storage of the information will adhere to the University regulations and will be kept for 5 years. It will not be possible for you to be identified in the final thesis or in publications or conference presentations.

If after reading this information you agree to participate, please click on the button below.

If you have any questions about the study, you may contact myself, Bernadette or my supervisor, Doctor Pamela Snow:

Bernadette Ward  
0427 059 205  
[bernadette.ward@med.monash.edu.au](mailto:bernadette.ward@med.monash.edu.au)

Dr Pamela Snow  
[pamela.snow@med.monash.edu.au](mailto:pamela.snow@med.monash.edu.au)

If you have a complaint concerning the manner in which this research (CF08\0638 - 2008000307) is being conducted, please contact:

Human Ethics Officer  
Standing Committee on Ethics in Research Involving Humans (SCERH)  
Building 3e Room 111  
Research Office  
Monash University VIC 3800  
Tel: +61 3 9905 2052 Fax: +61 3 9905 1420 Email: [scerh@adm.monash.edu.au](mailto:scerh@adm.monash.edu.au)

**Further information about how parents can influence young people's alcohol use is provided via a link at the end of this survey**



**PROG NOTE:**  
**- SINGLE RESPONSE**

1	Yes \ agree to proceed with survey
2	No \ not agree to proceed with survey

**SECTION B-            **PROG NOTE: ASK IF AGREE IE CODE 1 IN A1. CODE 2 IN A1  
TERMINATE WITH THANKS****

B1     When answering the questions, we would like you to think about the teenager in your household aged 14-16 years who last had a birthday. In this survey, we refer to this young person as 'X'. (If there is more than one teenager aged 14-16 of the same age, choose the child born last i.e. the younger of the two).

**PROG NOTE: ASK IF AGREE IE CODE 1 IN A1**

B2     Is 'X'? (*Select one answer*)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- SINGLE RESPONSE**

1	Male
2	Female

B3(a) What is 'X's month and year of birth? (*Please select your answer from the boxes provided below*)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- SINGLE RESPONSE**  
**- DROP DOWN BOXES – MONTH**  
**- DROP DOWN BOXES – YEAR (1992 - 1995)**

B3(b) **PROG NOTE: PLEASE CALCULATE AGE OF CHILD**

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- SINGLE RESPONSE**

1	13
2	14
3	15
4	16

B4     Where does 'X' come in the order of children in your family? (*Please select your answer from the boxes provided below*)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- 2-DIGIT RESPONSE BOX**  
**- DROP DOWN BOXES RESPONSE IN BOX ONE MUST NOT EXCEED  
RESPONSE IN BOX 2 (1-6 OR MORE)**

\_\_\_of\_\_\_

B5     The questions in this survey are about the use of more than a sip of alcohol. How likely is it that 'X's **close friends** drink alcohol? (*Select one answer*)

**PROG NOTE:  
- SINGLE RESPONSE**

1	Definitely not
2	Very unlikely
3	Somewhat unlikely
4	Somewhat likely
5	Very likely
6	Definitely

B6 How likely is it that 'X' currently drinks alcohol? (*Select one answer*)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- SINGLE RESPONSE**

1	Definitely not
2	Very unlikely
3	Somewhat unlikely
4	Somewhat likely
5	Very likely
6	Definitely

**PROG NOTE: ASK IF VERY UNLIKELY, SOMEWHAT UNLIKELY, SOMEWHAT LIKELY, VERY LIKELY, DEFINITELY IE CODE 2-6 IN B6. CODE 1 GO TO B9(a)**

B7 To the best of your knowledge, how old was 'X' when (**PROG NOTE: IF CODE 1 IN B2 INSERT 'he', IF CODE 2 IN B2 INSERT 'she'**) \ had (**PROG NOTE: IF CODE 1 IN B2 INSERT 'his', IF CODE 2 IN B2 INSERT 'her'**) first drink (more than a sip or a taste) of alcohol? (*Select one answer*)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- SINGLE RESPONSE**  
**- ANSWER MUST BE LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO AGE IN B3(b)**

1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8
9	9
10	10
11	11
12	12
13	13
14	14
15	15
16	16
17	Can't say

B8(a) In the **last 3 months**, have you given 'X' more than a sip of alcohol? (*Select one answer*)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- SINGLE RESPONSE**

1	Yes
2	No

B8(b) In the **next 6** months, how likely is it that you will give 'X' more than a sip of alcohol?  
(*Select one answer*)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- SINGLE RESPONSE**

1	Definitely not
2	Very unlikely
3	Somewhat unlikely
4	Somewhat likely
5	Very likely
6	Definitely

**PROG NOTE: ASK ALL AGREE IE CODE 1 IN A1)**

B9(a) In the **last 3** months, have you given any of ‘**X**’s **friends** any amount of alcohol? (*Select one answer*)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- SINGLE RESPONSE**

1	Yes
2	No

B9(b) In the **next 6** months, how likely is it that you will give ‘**X**’s **friends** more than a sip of alcohol? (*Select one answer*)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- SINGLE RESPONSE**

1	Definitely not
2	Very unlikely
3	Somewhat unlikely
4	Somewhat likely
5	Very likely
6	Definitely

B10 Please tell us how strongly you agree or disagree with each statement, where 1 means you **strongly disagree** and 7 means you **strongly agree**. (*Select one answer per row*)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- SINGLE RESPONSE REQUIRED FOR EACH ROW**  
**- RANDOMISE A-E**

		Strongly disagree						Strongly agree
A	A parent \ guardian is the best person to introduce alcohol to a teenager	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
B	If parents don't allow teenagers to try alcohol under their supervision, they will try it elsewhere	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
C	If parents don't supply teenagers with alcohol for a party, they will just get it somewhere else	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
D	It's better for alcohol to be supplied at a party instead of teenagers taking their own	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
E	You can't stop a teenager from getting drunk at a party	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

B11 The following questions relate to ‘X’ being invited to a teenage party or gathering where alcohol will be consumed (this may be at a private party or gathering of people, in a home or public place, with or without adult supervision where the main people attending are teenagers).

Thinking of 'X' attending a teenage party where alcohol will be available and using a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 is **not at all likely** and 7 is **very likely**, please indicate how likely you might be to do each of the following... *(Select one answer per row)*

**PROG NOTE:**

- **SINGLE RESPONSE REQUIRED FOR EACH ROW**

- **RANDOMISE A-D**

		Not at all likely						Very likely
A	Discuss alcohol drinking with 'X' prior to <b>(PROG NOTE: IF CODE 1 IN B2 INSERT 'him', IF CODE 2 IN B2 INSERT 'her')</b> attending the party	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
B	Discuss with 'X' how <b>(PROG NOTE: IF CODE 1 IN B2 INSERT 'he', IF CODE 2 IN B2 INSERT 'she')</b> can look after <b>(PROG NOTE: IF CODE 1 IN B2 INSERT 'himself', IF CODE 2 IN B2 INSERT 'herself')</b> at the party	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
C	Contact parents who are hosting a party to discuss safety arrangements at the party	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
D	Contact parents who are hosting a party to discuss alcohol at the party	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

B12(a) Has 'X' attended a party or gathering where alcohol was available in the **last 3 months?**  
(*Select one answer*)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- SINGLE RESPONSE**

1	Yes
2	No

**PROG NOTE: ASK IF ATTENDED PARTY IE CODE 1 IN B12(a). CODE 2 GO TO B16**

B12(b) How many parties or gatherings like this has 'X' attended in the **last 3 months?** (*Please type your answer in the box provided below. Please use a 3 digit number eg 5 parties would be 0 0 5*)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- 3-DIGIT RESPONSE BOX**  
**- IF LESS THAN 2 DIGITS ARE ENTERED AND THE RESPONDENT TRIES TO CLICK FORWARD PLEASE SHOW MESSAGE** (*please type in number of parties or gatherings or if you are unsure please enter the digits 99*)  
**- ALLOW RANGE 001-999 ONLY**

— — —

B13(a) Thinking about the **last** party or gathering like this that 'X' attended. Were you the host of the party or not?

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- SINGLE RESPONSE**

1	Yes \ host
2	No \ not host

B13(b) As far as you know, was alcohol given to 'X' by anyone? (*Select one answer*)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- SINGLE RESPONSE**

1	Yes
2	No
3	Can't say

**PROG NOTE: ASK IF GIVEN ALCOHOL IE CODE 1 IN B13(b). CODE 2-3 GO TO B15**

B14 To the best of your knowledge, who supplied the alcohol? (*Select all that apply*)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- MULTIPLE RESPONSE ALLOWED**  
**- IF CODE 1-5 SELECTED THEN CANNOT SELECT CODE 6**



1	'X''s parent (you or mother \ father)
2	'X''s Sibling
3	Other parent
4	'X''s friend\s
5	Other adult
6	Can't say

**PROG NOTE: ASK IF ATTENDED PARTY IE CODE 1 IN B12(a)**

B15 Thinking about **that** last party they attended, please tell us if you did any of the following...?  
(Select one answer per row)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- SINGLE RESPONSE REQUIRED FOR EACH ROW**

		Yes	No
A	Discussed drinking with 'X' prior to them attending the party	1	2
B	Discussed with 'X' how they can look after themselves at the party	1	2
C	<b>(PROG NOTE: ASK IF NOT HOST OF PARTY IE CODE 2 IN B13(a) ONLY)</b> Contacted the parents of the teenager having the party prior to 'X' attending	1	2

**PROG NOTE: ASK ALL AGREE IE CODE 1 IN A1**

B16 Thinking now about hosting a party for a teenager where **alcohol is available**. In the **last twelve months**, have you hosted a party for **any** of your own teenage children aged 14-16 in your own home or venue e.g. a public hall (**not** a hotel or bar) where **alcohol was available**?  
(Select one answer)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- SINGLE RESPONSE**

1	Yes
2	No

**PROG NOTE: ASK IF HOSTED PARTY IE CODE 1 IN B16. CODE 2 GO TO B23**

B17 If you have hosted more than one party, please choose the most recent party. At the time of the party, how old was 'X'? (Please indicate their age in whole years)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- 2-DIGIT RESPONSE BOX**  
**- IF LESS THAN 2 DIGITS ARE ENTERED AND THE RESPONDENT TRIES TO CLICK FORWARD PLEASE SHOW MESSAGE (please type in 'X''s age)**  
**- ALLOW RANGE 13-16 ONLY**

— —

**PROG NOTE: THERE IS NO B18. GO TO B19**

B19 Who supplied the alcohol? (Select all that apply)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- MULTIPLE RESPONSE ALLOWED**

1	'X''s parent (you or mother \ father)
2	'X''s Sibling

3	Other parent
4	'X''s friend/s
5	Other adult

**PROG NOTE: ASK ALL HOSTED PARTY IE CODE 1 IN B16**

B20 Including any that did not attend, **approximately** how many people were **invited**? (*Please type your answer in the box provided below. Please use a 3 digit number eg 50 people would be 0 5 0*)

**PROG NOTE:**

**- 3-DIGIT RESPONSE BOX**

**- IF LESS THAN 3 DIGITS ARE ENTERED AND THE RESPONDENT TRIES TO CLICK FORWARD PLEASE SHOW MESSAGE** (*please type in number of people invited or if you are unsure please enter the digits 999*)

**- ALLOW RANGE 001-999 ONLY**

— — —

B21 Approximately, how many people **attended**? (Please type your answer in the box provided below. Please use a 3 digit number eg 50 people would be 0 5 0)

**PROG NOTE:**

- **3-DIGIT RESPONSE BOX**

- **IF LESS THAN 3DIGITS ARE ENTERED AND THE RESPONDENT TRIES TO CLICK FORWARD PLEASE SHOW MESSAGE** (please type in number of people attended or if you are unsure please enter the digits 999)

- **ALLOW RANGE 001-999 ONLY**

— — —

B22 The following questions apply to security at the party. Which of the following strategies did you use to maintain the safety of the party? (Select one answer per row)

**PROG NOTE:**

- **SINGLE RESPONSE REQUIRED FOR EACH ROW**

		Yes	No
A	Counted the RSVPs to the party	1	2
B	One entry point to the party	1	2
C	One exit point from the party	1	2
D	Used adults at the entrance to check invitations before allowing entry	1	2
E	Restricted the amount of alcohol that was brought to the party	1	2
F	Checked bags for alcohol	1	2
G	Registered the party with the police	1	2
H	Employed security guards	1	2
I	Restricted areas of access within the home or venue	1	2

**PROG NOTE: ASK ALL AGREE IE CODE 1 IN A1**

B23 In the **next 12** months, how likely are you to host a party for a teenager aged 14-16 where alcohol is available? (Select one answer)

**PROG NOTE:**

- **SINGLE RESPONSE**

1	Definitely not
2	Very unlikely
3	Somewhat unlikely
4	Somewhat likely
5	Very likely
6	Definitely

**PROG NOTE: ASK IF VERY UNLIKELY, SOMEWHAT UNLIKELY, SOMEWHAT LIKELY, VERY LIKELY, DEFINITELY IE CODES 2-6 IN B23. IF CODE 1 IN B23 GO TO B25**

B24 If you were to host a party for teenagers where alcohol was available, how **likely** or **unlikely** are you to do the following where 1 is **definitely not** and 6 is **definitely**. (Select one answer per row)

**PROG NOTE:**

- SINGLE RESPONSE REQUIRED FOR EACH ROW
- RANDOMISE A-F

		Definitely not	Very unlikely	Somewhat unlikely	Somewhat likely	Very likely	Definitely
A	Restrict the amount of alcohol that is brought to the party	1	2	3	4	5	6
B	Check bags for alcohol	1	2	3	4	5	6
C	Contact a parent \ guardian to tell them if their child is unwell	1	2	3	4	5	6
D	Contact a parent \ guardian to tell them if their child is drunk	1	2	3	4	5	6
E	Contact police if an uncontrollable situation developed	1	2	3	4	5	6
F	Stop someone who wasn't invited from joining the party	1	2	3	4	5	6

**PROG NOTE: ASK ALL AGREE IE CODE 1 IN A1**

B25 Please tell us how difficult you think it would be for X to get alcohol in each of the following ways, where 1 is **very difficult** and 7 is **not at all difficult**. (Select one answer per row)

**PROG NOTE:**

- SINGLE RESPONSE REQUIRED FOR EACH ROW
- RANDOMISE A-G

		Very difficult						Not at all difficult
A	Buy alcohol at a bottle shop \ liquor outlet	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
B	Ask a friend to buy alcohol	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
C	Ask a stranger to buy alcohol	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
D	Ask a friend's parent to buy alcohol	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
E	Be provided with alcohol by another parent	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
F	Take alcohol from home	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
G	Get to a party where they can access alcohol	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

B26 Can you tell me how often the following happens, on a scale of 1 to 7 where 1 means **never** and 7 means **always**? (Select one answer per row)

**PROG NOTE:**

- SINGLE RESPONSE REQUIRED FOR EACH ROW

		Never						Always
A	'X' tells me <b>who</b> (PROG NOTE: IF CODE 1 IN B2 INSERT 'he', IF CODE 2 IN B2 INSERT 'she') is going to be with before (PROG NOTE: IF CODE 1 IN B2 INSERT 'he', IF CODE 2 IN B2 INSERT 'she') goes out	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
B	When 'X' goes out at night, I know <b>where</b> (PROG NOTE: IF CODE 1 IN B2 INSERT 'he', IF CODE 2 IN B2 INSERT 'she') is	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
C	If 'X' is going to be home late, (PROG NOTE: IF CODE 1 IN B2 INSERT 'he', IF CODE 2 IN B2 INSERT 'she') calls to let me know	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
D	I know who 'X''s friends are	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
E	I know the parents of 'X''s friends	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
F	'X' talks with me about the plans (PROG NOTE: IF CODE 1 IN B2 INSERT 'he', IF CODE 2 IN B2 INSERT 'she') has with friends	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

B27 Now a question about **your** own drinking. How often do **you** have a drink containing alcohol? (Select one answer)

**PROG NOTE:**

- SINGLE RESPONSE

1	Never
2	Monthly or less often

3	2-4 times a month
4	2-3 times a week
5	4 or more times a week

**PROG NOTE: ASK IF MONTHLY OR LESS, 2-4 TIMES A MONTH, 2-3 TIMES A WEEK OR 4 OR MORE TIMES A WEEK IE CODE 2-5 IN B27. CODE 1 IN B27 GO TO NEXT SECT**

B28 How many drinks containing alcohol do you have on a typical day when you are drinking?  
(*Select one answer*)

**PROG NOTE:  
- SINGLE RESPONSE**

1	1 or 2
2	3 or 4
3	5 or 6
4	7 to 9
5	10 or more

B29 How often do you have 6 or more drinks on **one** occasion? (*Select one answer*)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- SINGLE RESPONSE**

1	Never
2	Less than monthly
3	Monthly
4	Weekly
5	Daily or almost daily

B30 How often during the **last six months** have you found you were **not** able to stop drinking once you had started? (*Select one answer*)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- SINGLE RESPONSE**

1	Never
2	Less than monthly
3	Monthly
4	Weekly
5	Daily or almost daily

B31 How often during the **last six months** have you failed to do what was normally expected of you because of drinking? (*Select one answer*)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- SINGLE RESPONSE**

1	Never
2	Less than monthly
3	Monthly
4	Weekly
5	Daily or almost daily

B32 How often during the **last six months** have you needed a first drink in the morning to get yourself going after a heavy drinking session? (*Select one answer*)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- SINGLE RESPONSE**

1	Never
2	Less than monthly
3	Monthly
4	Weekly
5	Daily or almost daily

B33 How often during the **last six months** have you had a feeling of guilt or remorse after drinking? (*Select one answer*)



**PROG NOTE:  
- SINGLE RESPONSE**

1	Never
2	Less than monthly
3	Monthly
4	Weekly
5	Daily or almost daily

B34 How often during the **last six months** have you been unable to remember what happened the night before because you had been drinking? (*Select one answer*)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- SINGLE RESPONSE**

1	Never
2	Less than monthly
3	Monthly
4	Weekly
5	Daily or almost daily

B35(a) Have you or someone else been injured as a result of your drinking alcohol? (*Select one answer*)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- SINGLE RESPONSE**

1	Yes
2	No

**PROG NOTE: ASK IF INJURED IE CODE 1 IN B35(a). CODE 2 GO TO B36(a)**

B35(b) Was this in the **last six months** or not? (*Select one answer*)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- SINGLE RESPONSE**

1	Yes, in the last six months
2	No, not in the last six months

**PROG NOTE: ASK IF MONTHLY OR LESS, 2-4 TIMES A MONTH, 2-3 TIMES A WEEK OR 4 OR MORE TIMES A WEEK IE CODE 2-5 IN B27**

B36(a) Has a relative, friend, doctor, or other health worker been concerned about your drinking or suggested that you should cut down? (*Select one answer*)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- SINGLE RESPONSE**

1	Yes
2	No

**PROG NOTE: ASK IF ASKED TO CUT DOWN IE CODE 1 IN B36(a). CODE 2 GO TO NEXT SECT**

B36(b) Was this in the **last six months** or not? (*Select one answer*)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- SINGLE RESPONSE**

1	Yes, in the last six months
2	No, not in the last six months

**DEMOGRAPHICS - SECTION Z - PROG NOTE: ASK ALL AGREE IE CODE 1 IN A1**

Z37 And finally a few more questions about yourself. In what year were you born? *(Please type in 4-digit year)*

**PROG NOTE:**

**- 4-DIGIT RESPONSE BOX**

**- IF LESS THAN 4 DIGITS ARE ENTERED AND THE RESPONDENT TRIES TO CLICK FORWARD PLEASE SHOW MESSAGE** *(please type in as a 4-digit year or if you are unsure please enter the digits 9999)*

**- ALLOW RANGE 1939-1979 ONLY**

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Z38 What is your highest educational qualification? *(Select one answer)*

**PROG NOTE:**

**- SINGLE RESPONSE**

1	Graduate \ Post graduate qualifications
2	Undergraduate qualification
3	A trade, technical certificate or diploma
4	VCE \ HSC \ Year Twelve or equivalent
5	Year Ten or equivalent
6	Year Nine or less (or its equivalent)

Z39 In which country were you born? *(Select one answer)*

**PROG NOTE:**

**- SINGLE RESPONSE**

**- CODE 2 IS AN 'OTHER' OPEN TEXT FIELD. USE 'AUTO CHECK OTHER'**

1	Australia
2	Other (SPECIFY)

Z40 Do you speak a language other than English at home? *(Select one answer)*

**PROG NOTE:**

**- SINGLE RESPONSE**

**- CODE 8 IS AN 'OTHER' OPEN TEXT FIELD. USE 'AUTO CHECK OTHER'**

1	No, English only
2	Other (SPECIFY)

Z41 Is there any particular cultural or ethnic group that you identify with? (e.g., Greek-Australian, Vietnamese-Australian) *(Please type your answer in the box provided below)*

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- ALLOW UP TO 256 CHARACTERS**

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Z42 Do you identify yourself as an Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or Australian South Sea Islander? (*Select one answer*)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- SINGLE RESPONSE**

1	Yes - Aboriginal
2	Yes – Torres Strait Islander
3	Yes – Australian South Sea Islander
4	No

Z43 What is your religious denomination, even if you are not currently practising? (*Select one answer*)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- SINGLE RESPONSE**

1	Catholic
2	Anglican (Church of England)
3	Uniting Church
4	Presbyterian
5	Baptist
6	Islam
7	Jewish
8	Greek Orthodox
9	Buddhism
10	Lutheran
11	Other ( <b>SPECIFY</b> )
12	No religion

Z44 Do you consider that you are actively practising your religion? (*Select one answer*)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- SINGLE RESPONSE**

1	Yes
2	No

Z45 What is your main occupation? (*Please type your answer in the box provided below*)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- ALLOW UP TO 256 CHARACTERS**

\_\_\_\_\_

Z46 What is the postcode where you live?  
(*Please type in 4-digit code. If unsure of postcode, please enter digits 9999*)

**PROG NOTE:**  
**- 4-DIGIT RESPONSE BOX**

- IF LESS THAN 4 DIGITS ARE ENTERED AND THE RESPONDENT TRIES TO CLICK FORWARD PLEASE SHOW MESSAGE (please type in as a 4-digit code or if you are unsure please enter the digits 9999)
- ALLOW RANGE 0001-7999 OR 9999 ONLY

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Z47 And finally, what is your **household's** total, before tax, **weekly** income (annual in brackets)?  
(Select one answer)

**PROG NOTE:**

- SINGLE RESPONSE

1	\$1-\$499 per week	(\$1-\$25,999 per year)
2	\$500-\$999 per week	(\$26,000-\$51,999 per year)
3	\$1,000-\$1,399 per week	(\$52,000-\$72,799 per year)
4	\$1,400-\$1,999 per week	(\$72,800-\$103,999 per year)
5	\$2,000 or more per week	(\$104,000 or more per year)
6	Refused	

**Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. If you would like to be notified of the results of the survey, please email Bernadette on [Bernadette.Ward@med.monash.edu.au](mailto:Bernadette.Ward@med.monash.edu.au)**

**Information about parenting or about how parents can influence teenagers' alcohol use is available from:**

**Parentline**

**[www.parentline.vic.gov.au](http://www.parentline.vic.gov.au)**

**or**

**The Australian Drug Foundation**

**[http://druginfo.adf.org.au/druginfo/drugs/browse\\_by\\_drug/alcohol1.html](http://druginfo.adf.org.au/druginfo/drugs/browse_by_drug/alcohol1.html)**