

# Current Status of Underage Drinking in Alaska

From the Perspective of Alaska  
Youth

REPORT TO AFN/FAI ELDERS AND YOUTH 2005

*Underage drinking is statewide and impacts families, communities, social, health, medical, justice, law enforcement, education and economic bodies.*

# Purpose

- Previous studies show the percentage of underage drinking throughout all Alaska; however this is the only survey which reveals the perception of the severity of underage drinking in rural Alaska from the perspective of Alaska youth.



# Results

- Demographics
- Survey Location
- Access to Alcohol
- Why, when and where youth drink
- Perception of Underage Drinking Problem

# Results

- Who is drinking and what are the consequences
- Problems Caused by Underage Drinking
- What Works: Youth Perspective
- Youth Perspective on Prevention and Interventions

# Results

- Cultural Activities as Protective Factors
- Who to Ask for Help
- Conclusions



# Demographics

Participants: Urban/Rural and Cultural Groups	Number	Percent of total
Athabascan	74	15%
Yupik	112	23%
Inupiat	73	15%
Aleut	87	18%
Haida	7	1.5%
Cu'pik	7	1.5%
Tlingit	15	3%
Tsimpshian	3	.5%
Eskimo	115	23.5%

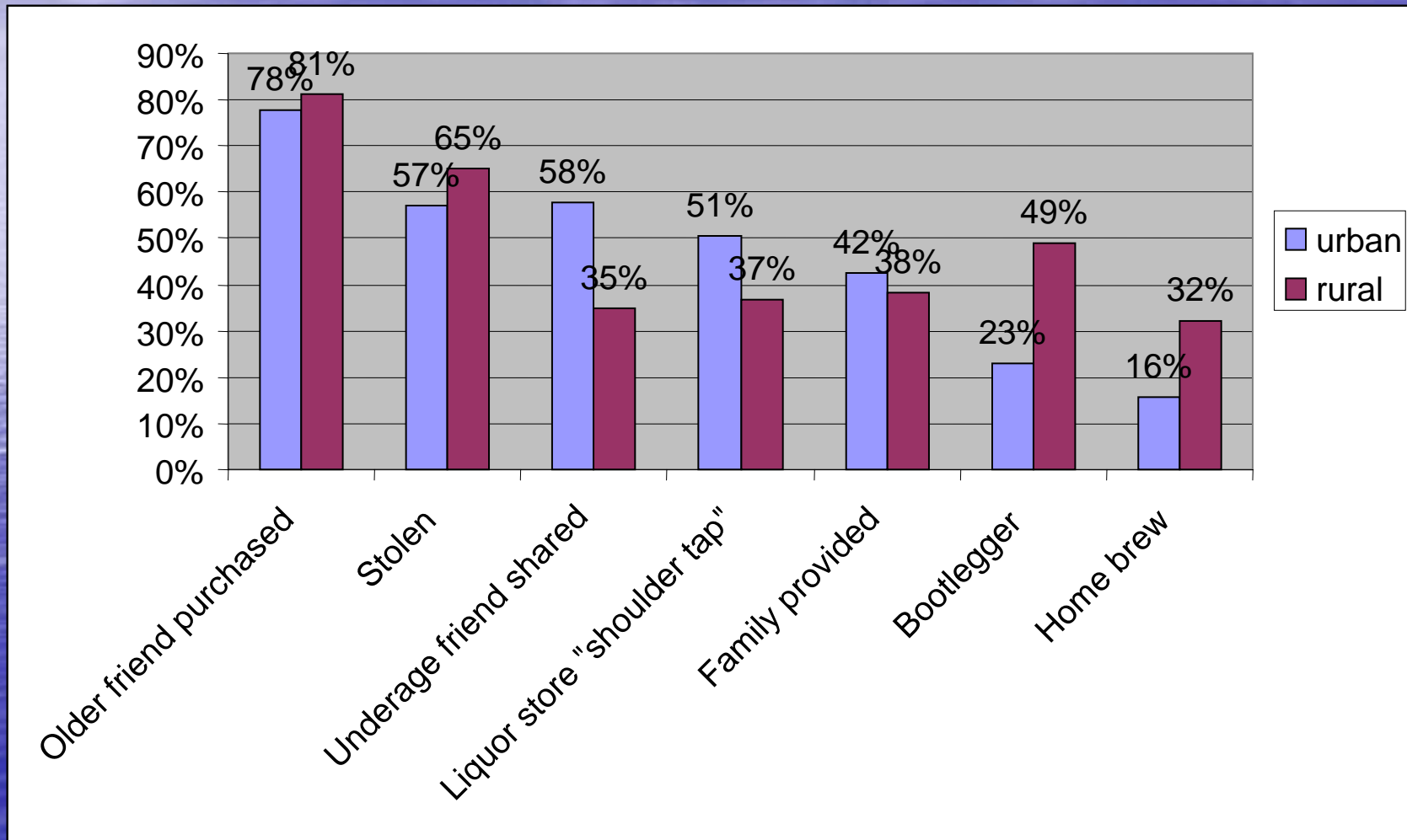
# Survey Location and Gender

Male	Female
259	311

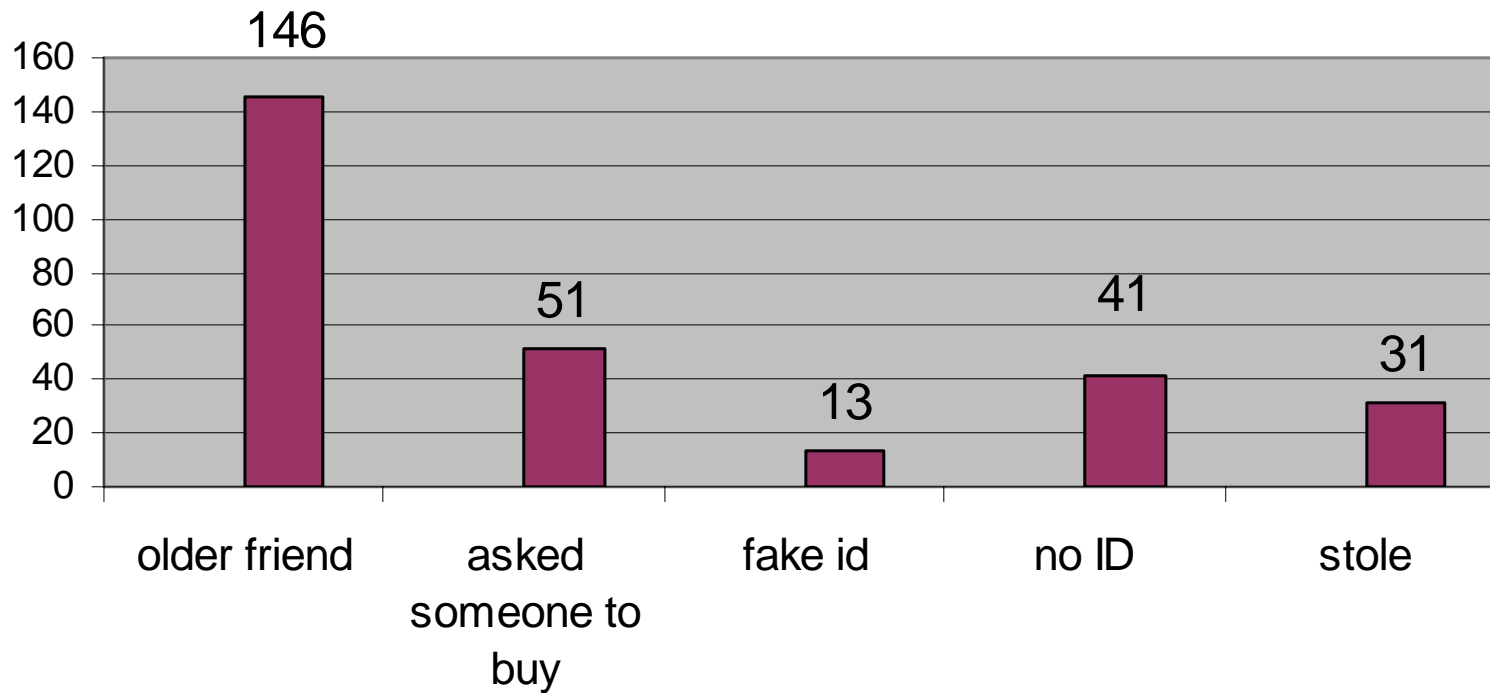
UAA	McLaughlin	AFN
93	112	365



# Access to Alcohol



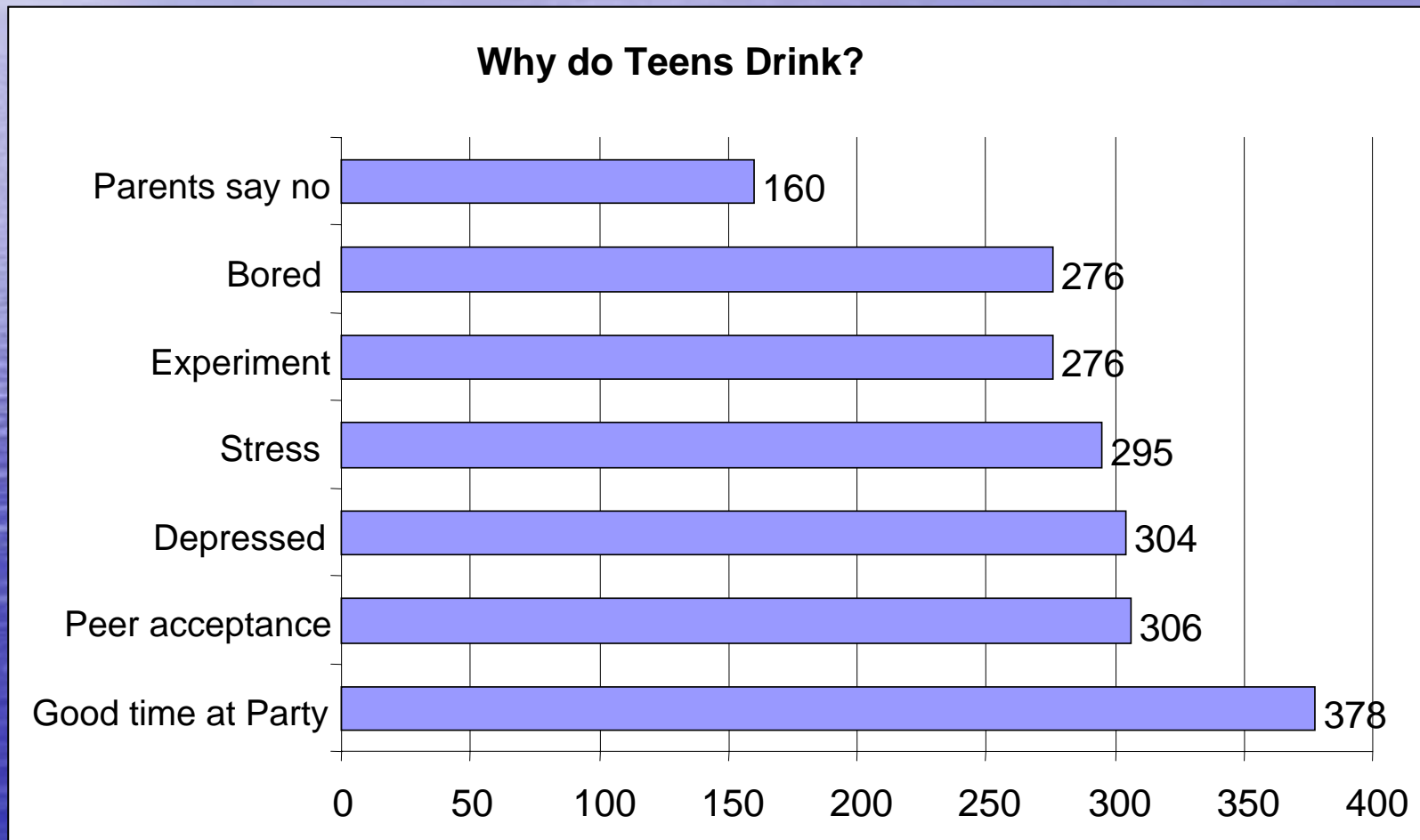
### Access to Alcohol in Anchorage



91% of UAA students report having an older friend provide alcohol.

# Why youth drink

*"Alcohol costs a lot, and so if money is spent on it then they are really broke, and that makes them want to drink more."*





# When youth drink

- Summer is best because then you can drink outside and not get caught.
- It is easier to drink in the summer because you don't worry about being at school the next day. You won't get in trouble.
- Having a hangover at school is really bad.
- More likely to get caught if they were drinking on school days. The school personnel would catch them.

# When Youth Drink, Cont'd.

- If they had a job then they wouldn't be out drinking so much they would worry about being there the next day.
- If you drink during school teachers might catch on, some parents don't care because they drink too.
- Parents don't know how to confront their children and tell them to quit – not putting consequences on them. Getting caught and facing consequences is more likely to happen at school



# Where youth drink

- Most common places to drink:
  - at a friend's house,
  - an older friend's house,
  - or one where there either isn't supervision or no adults are at home.

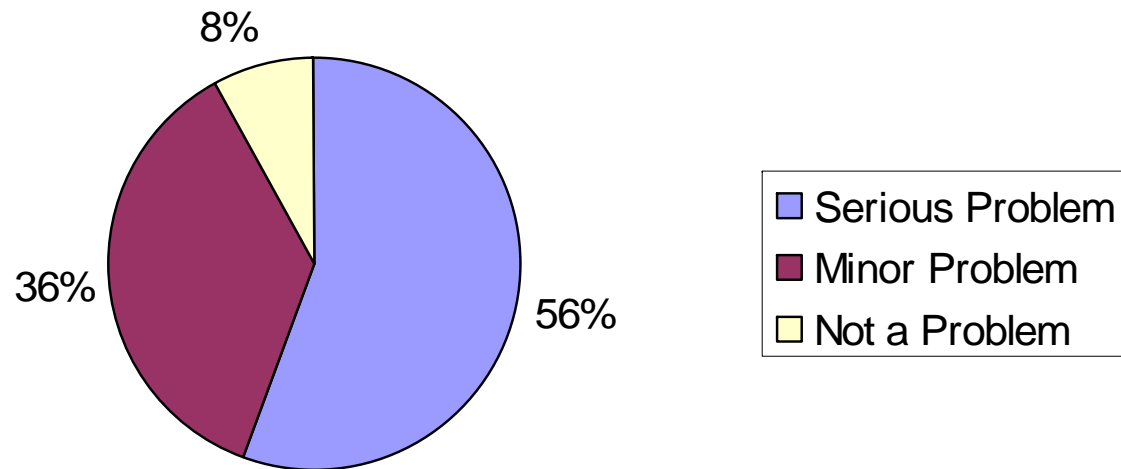


# Where Youth Drink, Cont'd.

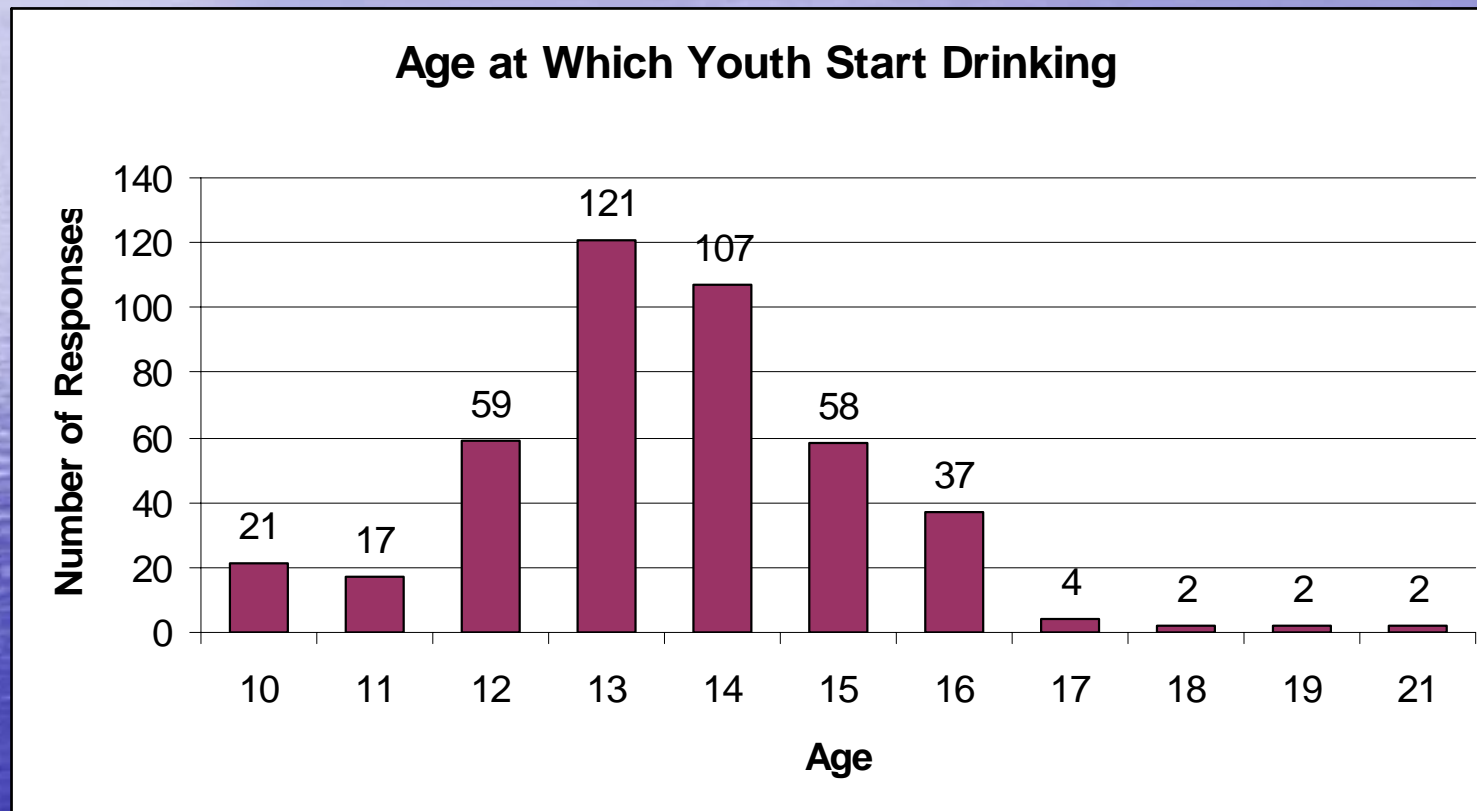
- Isolated places:
  - the beach,
  - the woods,
  - the park,
  - abandoned houses and buildings, other assorted hiding places
- **Anywhere alcoholics are,**
- **Anywhere older people aren't.**

# Perception of the Underage Drinking Problem

Severity of Under-Age Drinking Problem as Perceived by All Youth



# When do Youth Start Drinking





# College Students

- 89% report having had alcohol
- Age of first drink reported 15-18
- 72% report binge drinking
- 30% have thought about quitting

How often do you drink alcohol?

	Percent
Daily	4
Once a week	24
Once a month	25
< once a month	34
Don't drink anymore	14

# What are the Consequences

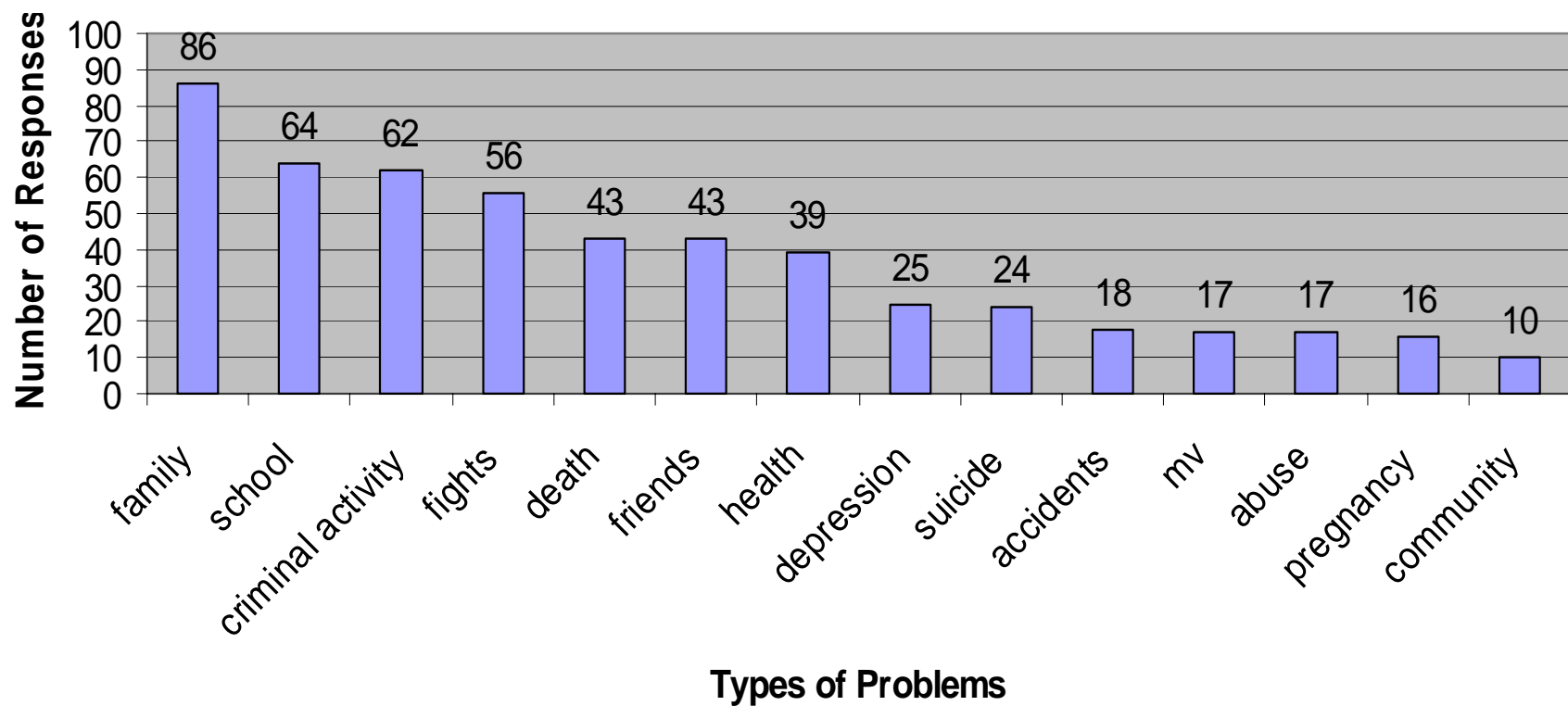
- Getting Grounded
- Yelling
- Eliminating contact with Friends

- Absent from School
- Doing poorly in School
- Arrested

- MCA
- Kicked off Campus
- DWI

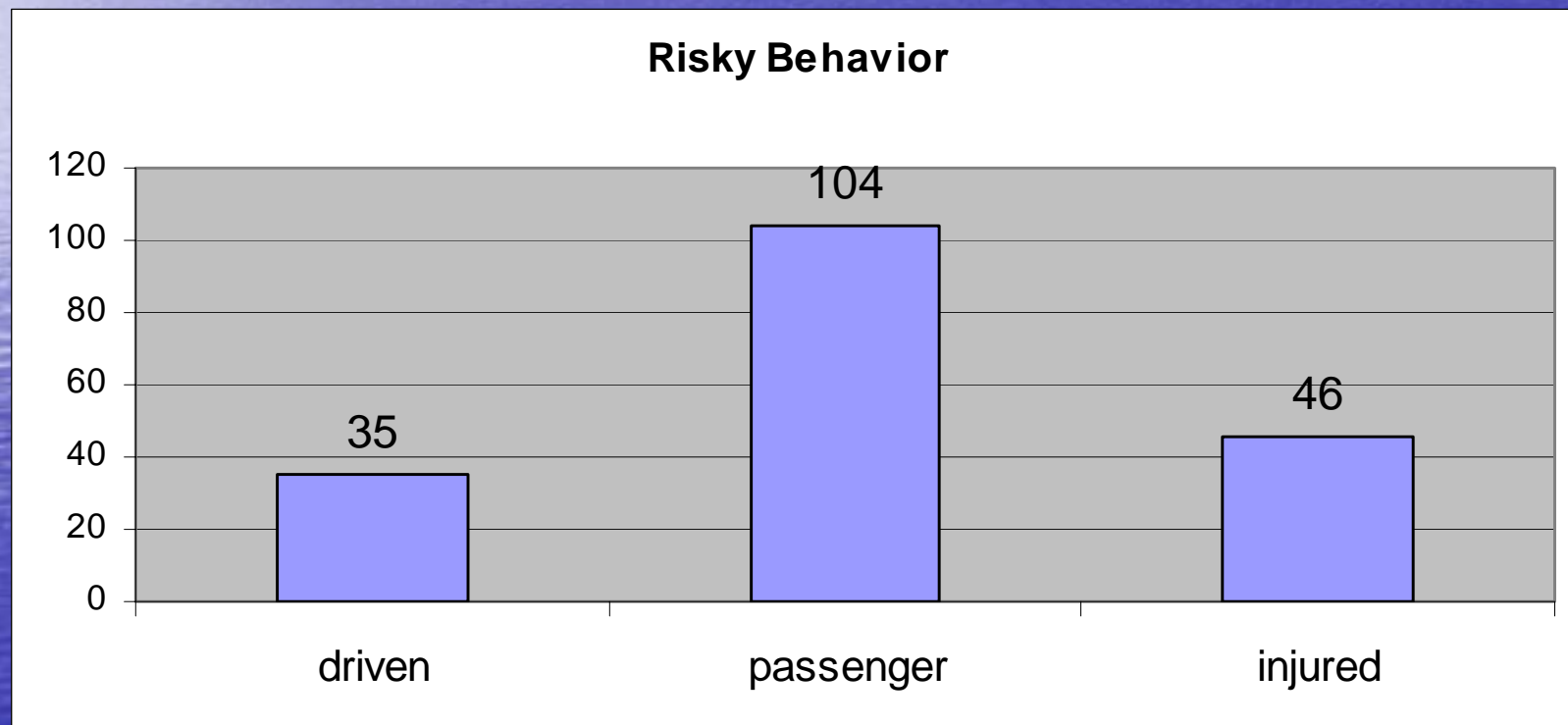
# Problems Caused by Underage Drinking

## Youth Perception of Problems Caused by Underaged Drinking

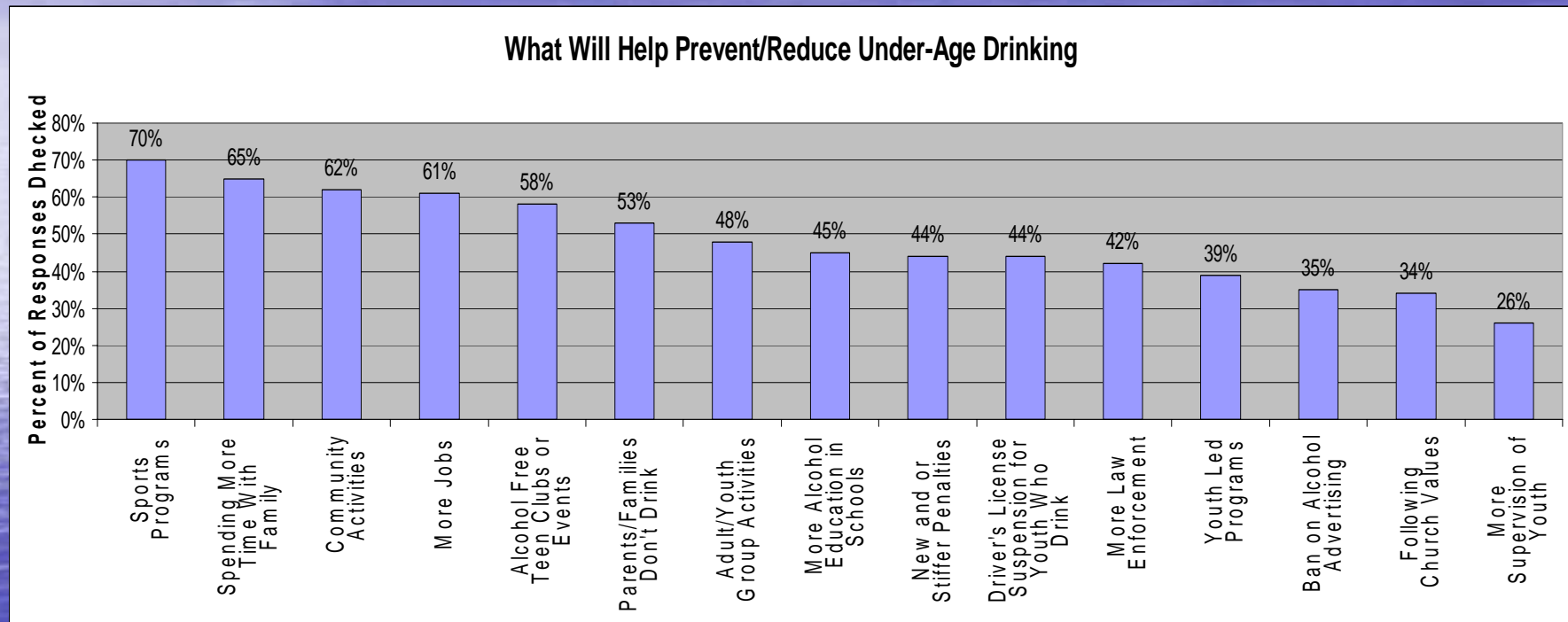




# Drunk Driving



# What Works: Youth Perspective

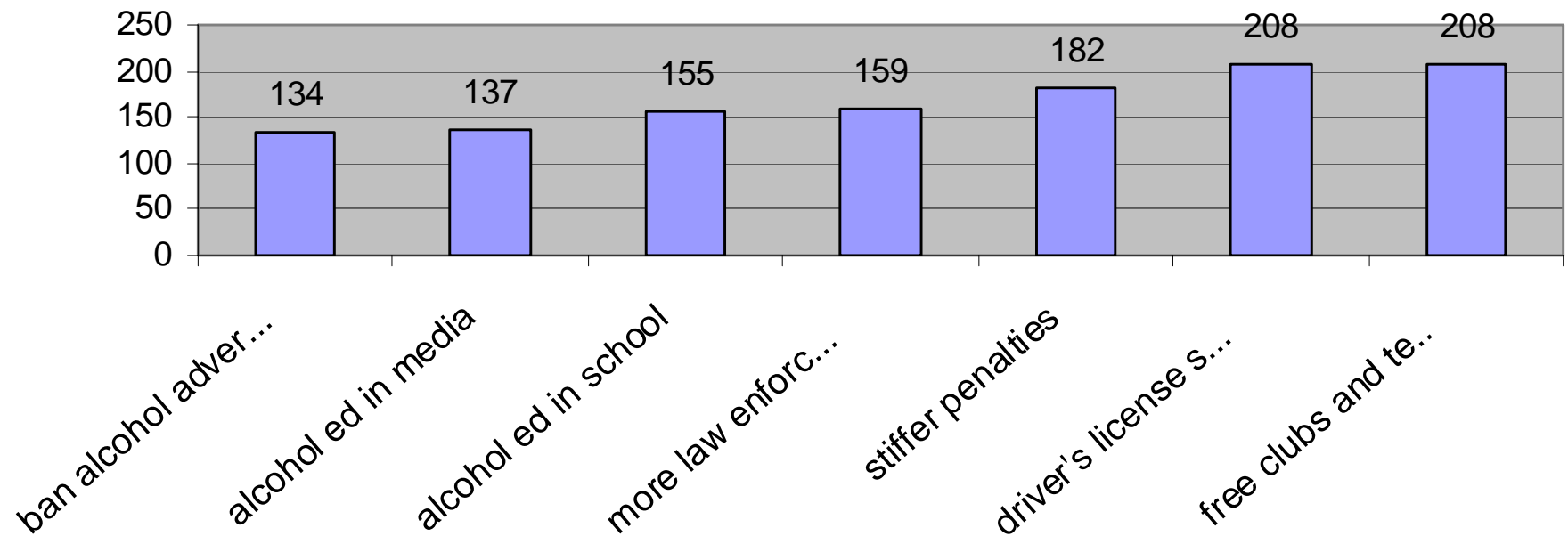


UAA Students Top 3 answers were tied

- Spend More Time with Families
- More Community Activities
- Parents/Families Who Don't Drink

# Anchorage Youth Solutions

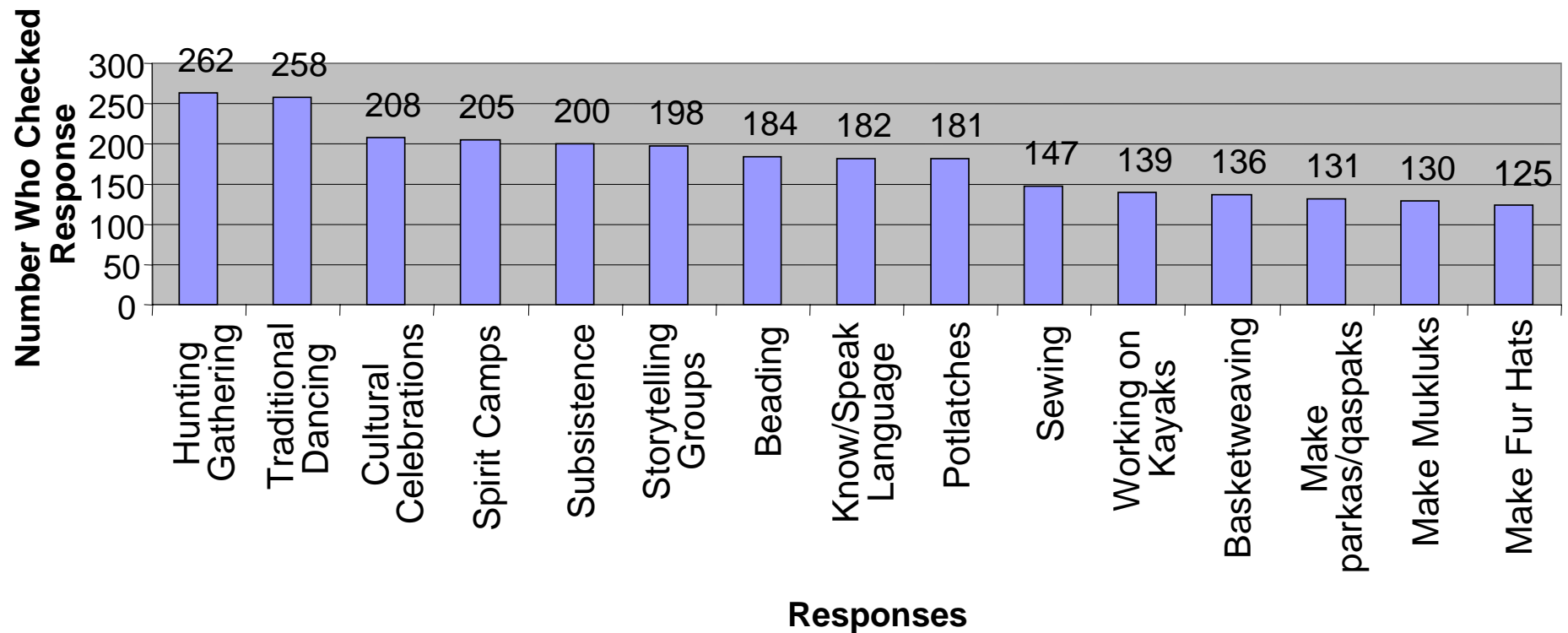
What approaches will reduce teen drinking?



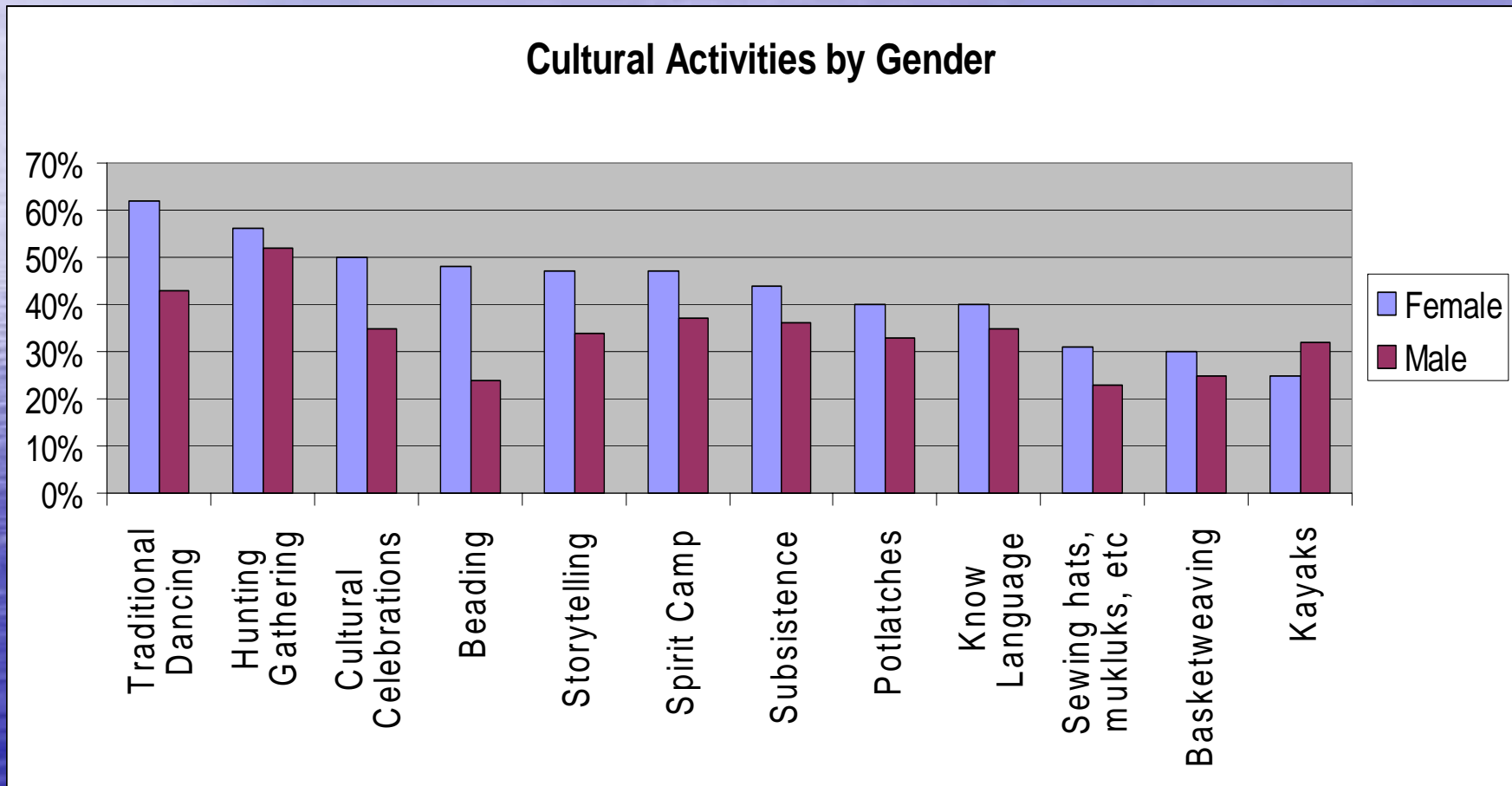


# Prevention and Interventions

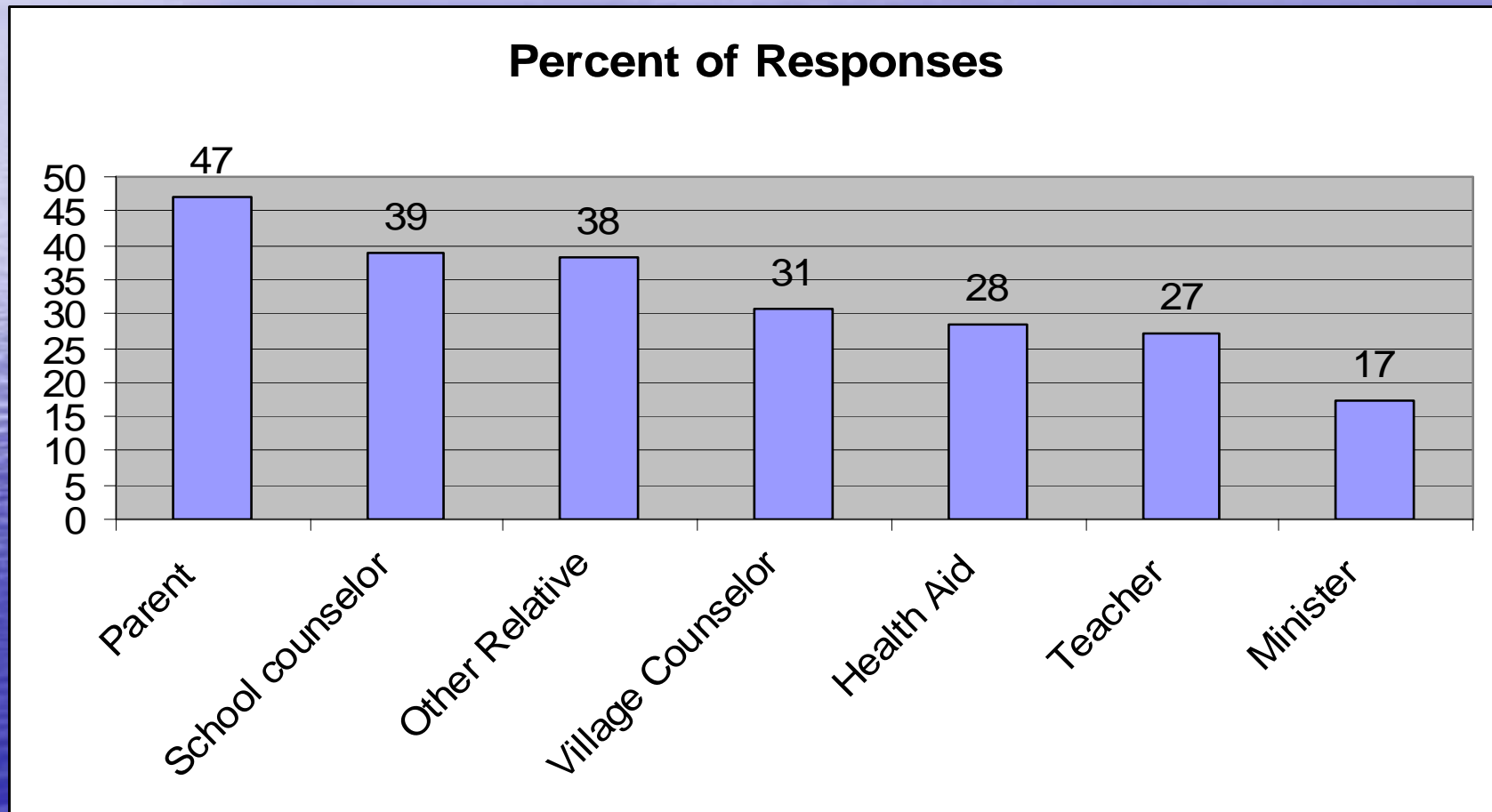
## Which Cultural Activities Keep Youth From Drinking



# Cultural Activities - Protective



# Who to Ask for Help





# Conclusions

- Youth perceive that underage drinking is a problem
- There are multiple ideas for solutions
- Listen to youth and use adult knowledge

# Recommendations

- Change the perceived norm
- Listen and Act
- Insure that help is available
- Advocate for funding of prevention programs