

2015 Community Survey Report

New London, Connecticut

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SUMMARY

Surveys of adults in New London have been conducted five times by the New London Campus & Community Coalition (NLCCC), beginning in 2008. In summer of 2015 – as in 2014, 2013 and 2012 – young people were dispatched to various locations in the community to ask adults to respond to a two-page questionnaire. A total of 195 responses were recorded in 2015 (Table 1), compared with 534 in 2014, 415 in 2013, and 595 in 2012. Results of the community surveys may be viewed on the NLCCC web site [1,2].

The demography of the 2015 survey sample is displayed in Table 1. Tables of substance-related data are organized by reporting results for all respondents, and by dividing them into groups according to their demography, whether the respondent is: (1) aware of NLCCC, (2) a resident of New London, (3) a parent of child under 21, and by the (4) age-range and (5) gender of respondent, and (6) whether the household income is above or below \$35,000, the approximate median from prior surveys.

Questions on the community surveys have varied somewhat over the years, depending on what information has been important for evaluation of coalition efforts and the public's main sources of information. Several questions have been included in all NLCCC community surveys, and trends are summarized in Figures 1-4.

Considerable research has been conducted and publicized regarding the damaging effects of alcohol on neurological development in the adolescent. Awareness of these effects has increased among New London adults since 2008, and about 75% indicate they are familiar with this information (Figure 1, Tables 8,9) About the same percentage are also aware of the damaging effects of marijuana use. Awareness is somewhat greater among adults who are familiar with NLCCC and its messages (Table 8).

Some parents express a belief that some use of alcohol by their older children is acceptable, so the child learns to drink responsibly, and is thus protected from excessive consumption as a young adult, especially in college. This idea has increased from about 5% of adults in 2008 to 15% since 2012 (Figure 1, Tables 8,9). There is less acceptance of this idea among parents than non-parents (Table 8), and among adults of age 21-44 (Table 9).

The perception of risk of harm from regular use of a substance is highly correlated with the likelihood that it will be used. Risk of harm is therefore a federally-mandated “core measure” in youth surveys, and has also been included in community surveys. Most New London adults express a belief that regular use of cigarettes, alcohol, or prescription drugs carries a great risk of harm for a teen. Perception of great risk from marijuana, however, decreased from more than 80% in past years to less than 60% in 2015 (Figure 2, Tables 2,3). Perception of risk of harm from marijuana is also low and decreasing among youth (Figure 3), probably at least in part a reflection of the opinions of parents and other adults in the community. Clearly, continuing the efforts to educate both youth and adults in New London about marijuana is necessary.

The accessibility of alcohol, marijuana, and prescription drugs (without one’s own prescription) has increased in New London since 2012, according to the community survey (Figure 4, Tables 6,7). NLCCC youth surveys since 2006 agree with this perception, that easy access to cigarettes, alcohol, and marijuana has been increasing [3].

REFERENCES

1. Swindell, AC, October 15, 2012. 2012 Community Survey Report, New London, CT. <http://www.mynlccc.org/CommunitySurveyReport101512.pdf>
2. Swindell, AC, September 18, 2013. Summaries of 2013 Coalition & Community Surveys, New London Community & Campus Coalition (NLCCC). . <http://www.mynlccc.org/SurveysSummary092313.pdf>
3. Swindell, AC, September 10, 2014. 2014 Youth Survey Report, New London, CT.

Figure 1. Perceptions About the Regular Use of Alcohol

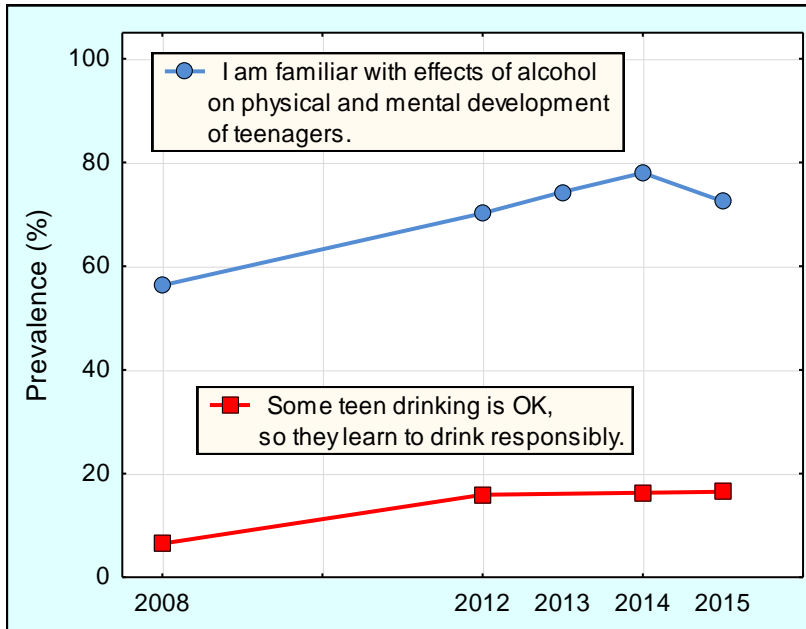


Figure 2. Perceived Risk of Great Harm

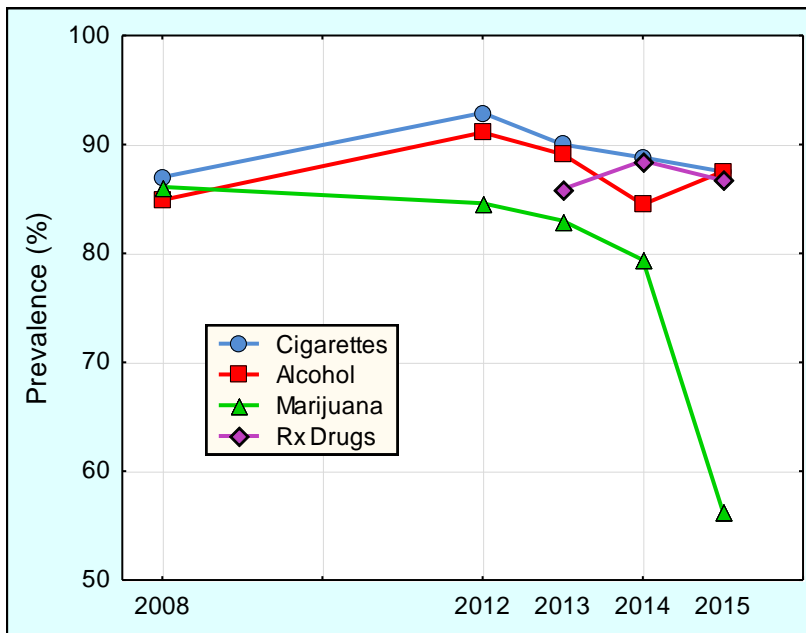


Figure 3. NLCCC Youth Surveys: Perceived Great Risk of Harm

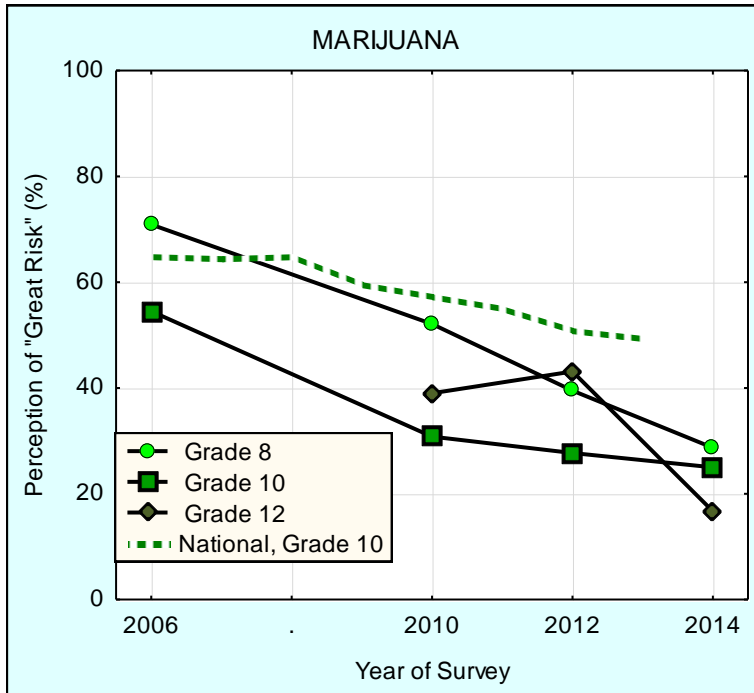


Figure 4. Access: "Very Easy" to Obtain

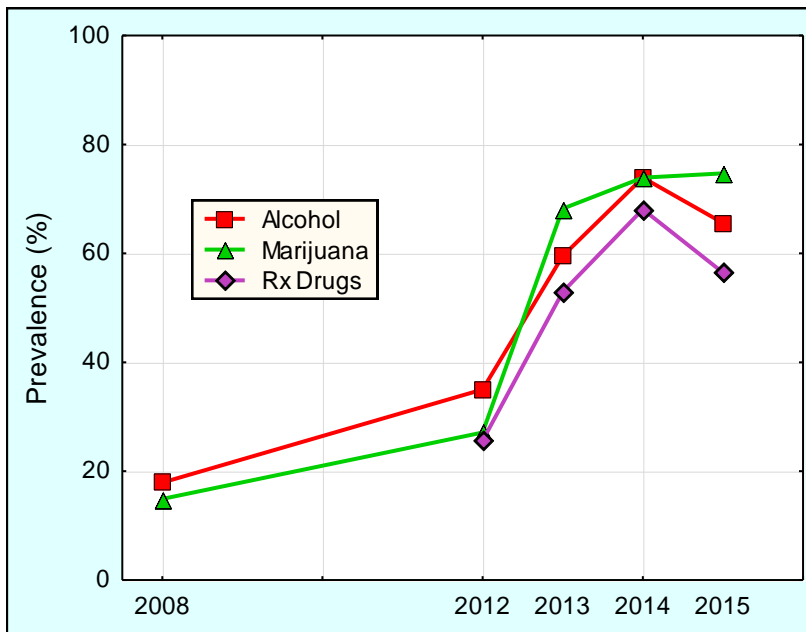


Table 1. Demography

Question / Response	count	%
Aware of NLCCC?		
No	117	60.0
Yes	77	39.5
Missing	1	0.5
Resident of New London?		
No	72	36.9
Yes	117	60.0
Missing	6	3.1
Parent of child under 21?		
No	113	57.9
Yes	74	37.9
Missing	8	4.1
Respondent's age		
17 or less	11	5.6
18-20	4	2.1
21-24	10	9.2
25-44	76	39.0
45-64	61	31.3
65 or more	16	8.2
Missing	9	4.6
Respondent's gender		
Female	95	48.7
Male	94	48.2
Missing	6	3.1
Total household income		
Under \$35,000	69	35.4
\$35,000 or more	98	50.3
Missing	28	14.4

Table 2. Perception of Harm

Question/Response	Aware of NLCCC		Parent		Gender		ALL
	No	Yes	No	Yes	Female	Male	
<u>I think teens risk harming themselves if they:</u>							
Smoke cigarettes							
Yes	76.1	76.3	77.9	79.5	75.5	80.9	78.2
Maybe	15.4	18.4	19.5	9.6	17.0	13.8	15.4
No	5.1	3.9	1.8	6.8	6.4	1.1	3.7
Don't know	3.4	1.3	0.9	4.1	1.1	4.3	2.7
Drink alcohol							
Yes	72.4	73.3	74.1	75.0	81.7	66.7	74.2
Maybe	25.9	17.3	22.3	19.4	18.3	24.7	21.5
No	1.7	8.0	3.6	5.6	0.0	8.6	4.3
Don't know	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Use marijuana							
Yes	62.1	57.5	56.3	67.1	65.9	57.0	61.4
Maybe	20.7	24.7	24.1	21.4	18.7	26.9	22.8
No	12.9	11.0	11.6	10.0	7.7	12.9	10.3
Don't know	4.3	6.8	8.0	1.4	7.7	3.2	5.4
Use Rx drugs without own Rx							
Yes	83.5	72.0	75.9	85.9	83.0	78.0	80.5
Maybe	11.3	17.3	16.1	8.5	11.7	13.2	12.4
No	3.5	8.0	4.5	5.6	5.3	4.4	4.9
Don't know	1.7	2.7	3.6	0.0	0.0	4.4	2.2

Table 3. Perception of Harm

Question/Response	New London Resident		Income vs. Median		Age of Respondent					
	No	Yes	Below	Above	<18	18-20	21-24	25-44	45-64	65+
<u>I think teens risk harming themselves if they:</u>										
Smoke cigarettes										
Yes	74.6	80.3	72.1	77.6	81.8	50.0	55.6	72.4	90.0	87.5
Maybe	15.5	15.4	20.6	15.3	18.2	50.0	27.8	21.1	3.3	12.5
No	4.2	3.4	5.9	3.1	0.0	0.0	11.1	2.6	5.0	0.0
Don't know	5.6	0.9	1.5	4.1	0.0	0.0	5.6	3.9	1.7	0.0
Drink alcohol										
Yes	73.9	73.5	70.6	71.1	54.5	50.0	55.6	77.3	74.6	87.5
Maybe	21.7	22.2	25.0	23.7	45.5	50.0	38.9	22.7	13.6	12.5
No	4.3	4.3	4.4	5.2	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.0	11.9	0.0
Don't know	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Use marijuana										
Yes	65.2	58.3	62.1	57.7	18.2	25.0	44.4	64.0	71.9	56.3
Maybe	21.7	23.5	24.2	25.8	36.4	50.0	50.0	25.3	10.5	12.5
No	11.6	10.4	9.1	13.4	27.3	25.0	5.6	6.7	15.8	6.3
Don't know	1.4	7.8	4.5	3.1	18.2	0.0	0.0	4.0	1.8	25.0
Use Rx drugs without own Rx										
Yes	84.1	77.6	77.9	80.2	63.6	25.0	50.0	86.7	84.7	86.7
Maybe	11.6	13.8	14.7	13.5	27.3	50.0	38.9	9.3	8.5	0.0
No	2.9	6.0	4.4	4.2	9.1	25.0	0.0	1.3	6.8	13.3
Don't know	1.4	2.6	2.9	2.1	0.0	0.0	11.1	2.7	0.0	0.0

Table 4. Change in Perception of Harm

Question/Response	Aware of NLCCC		Parent		Gender		ALL
	No	Yes	No	Yes	Female	Male	
<u>Has your perception of risk of harm changed in the past year about:</u>							
Smoking cigarettes							
Increase	45.7	56.0	45.5	54.2	45.2	52.7	48.9
No change	44.8	37.3	47.3	36.1	50.5	35.5	43.0
Decrease	9.5	6.7	7.1	9.7	4.3	11.8	8.1
Drinking alcohol							
Increase	56.5	61.3	52.2	64.3	55.4	59.1	57.3
No change	39.1	37.3	43.4	34.3	43.5	35.5	39.5
Decrease	4.3	1.3	4.4	1.4	1.1	5.4	3.2
Using marijuana							
Increase	50.4	64.8	49.1	65.7	55.6	56.0	55.8
No change	40.0	32.4	42.9	29.9	37.8	37.4	37.6
Decrease	9.6	2.8	8.0	4.5	6.7	6.6	6.6
Using Rx drugs without own Rx							
Increase	53.0	62.7	53.6	60.6	58.5	53.8	56.2
No change	41.7	30.7	41.1	33.8	38.3	38.5	38.4
Decrease	5.2	6.7	5.4	5.6	3.2	7.7	5.4

Table 5. Change in Perception of Harm

Question/Response	New London Resident		Income vs. Median		Age of Respondent					
	No	Yes	Below	Above	<18	18-20	21-24	25-44	45-64	65+
<u>Has your perception of risk of harm changed in the past year about:</u>										
Smoking cigarettes										
Increase	47.1	50.9	55.9	43.8	63.6	25.0	44.4	45.9	60.0	25.0
No change	44.3	41.4	39.7	44.8	18.2	75.0	33.3	50.0	31.7	68.8
Decrease	8.6	7.8	4.4	11.5	18.2	0.0	22.2	4.1	8.3	6.3
Drinking alcohol										
Increase	50.7	61.2	58.2	54.6	54.5	50.0	55.6	50.7	69.5	46.7
No change	44.9	36.2	40.3	40.2	36.4	50.0	27.8	48.0	28.8	53.3
Decrease	4.3	2.6	1.5	5.2	9.1	0.0	16.7	1.3	1.7	0.0
Using marijuana										
Increase	44.1	62.8	66.2	45.3	54.5	50.0	55.6	52.7	66.1	33.3
No change	47.1	31.9	30.8	45.3	27.3	25.0	33.3	41.9	32.1	53.3
Decrease	8.8	5.3	3.1	9.5	18.2	25.0	11.1	5.4	1.8	13.3
Using Rx drugs without own Rx										
Increase	56.5	56.9	64.7	49.0	45.5	50.0	61.1	54.7	59.3	66.7
No change	37.7	37.9	30.9	44.8	45.5	50.0	16.7	40.0	40.7	26.7
Decrease	5.8	5.2	4.4	6.3	9.1	0.0	22.2	5.3	0.0	6.7

Table 6. Ease of Access to Substances

Question/Response	Aware of NLCCC		Parent		Gender		ALL
	No	Yes	No	Yes	Female	Male	
<u>Do you think it would be easy for a teen to get:78.2</u>							
Cigarettes							
Yes	73.5	65.3	64.6	78.4	75.5	64.9	70.2
Maybe	12.4	13.3	15.0	9.5	6.4	19.1	12.8
No	12.4	17.3	16.8	10.8	14.9	13.8	14.4
Don't know	1.8	4.0	3.5	1.4	3.2	2.1	2.7
Alcohol							
Yes	70.5	58.1	61.1	70.8	72.0	59.1	65.6
Maybe	16.1	23.0	20.4	18.1	8.6	29.0	18.8
No	11.6	17.6	16.8	9.7	16.1	11.8	14.0
Don't know	1.8	1.4	1.8	1.4	3.2	0.0	1.6
Marijuana							
Yes	76.8	71.6	71.7	79.2	77.2	72.3	74.7
Maybe	12.5	10.8	13.3	9.7	6.5	17.0	11.8
No	8.0	16.2	12.4	9.7	12.0	10.6	11.3
Don't know	2.7	1.4	2.7	1.4	4.3	0.0	2.2
Rx drugs without own Rx							
Yes	60.0	51.4	56.3	54.9	62.4	50.5	56.5
Maybe	23.6	17.6	20.5	22.5	15.1	26.4	20.7
No	12.7	24.3	17.0	19.7	16.1	19.8	17.9
Don't know	3.6	6.8	6.3	2.8	6.5	3.3	4.9

Table 7. Ease of Access to Substances

Question/Response	New London Resident		Income vs. Median		Age of Respondent					
	No	Yes	Below	Above	<18	18-20	21-24	25-44	45-64	65+
<u>Do you think it would be easy for a teen to get:</u>										
Cigarettes										
Yes	70.8	70.1	64.7	74.5	81.8	75.0	50.0	77.6	67.2	62.5
Maybe	8.3	15.4	14.7	11.2	9.1	25.0	22.2	14.5	9.8	0.0
No	19.4	11.1	17.6	12.2	9.1	0.0	27.8	5.3	19.7	31.3
Don't know	1.4	3.4	2.9	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.6	3.3	6.3
Alcohol										
Yes	65.7	65.0	55.2	70.4	63.6	50.0	44.4	69.7	65.0	73.3
Maybe	20.0	18.8	23.9	17.3	18.2	50.0	38.9	18.4	15.0	6.7
No	14.3	13.7	19.4	10.2	18.2	0.0	16.7	9.2	18.3	20.0
Don't know	0.0	2.6	1.5	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.6	1.7	0.0
Marijuana										
Yes	69.0	78.4	67.2	78.6	90.9	75.0	55.6	81.6	69.5	68.8
Maybe	12.7	11.2	11.9	12.2	9.1	25.0	27.8	10.5	8.5	12.5
No	18.3	6.9	17.9	7.1	0.0	0.0	16.7	5.3	18.6	18.8
Don't know	0.0	3.4	3.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.6	3.4	0.0
Rx drugs without own Rx										
Yes	53.5	57.9	51.5	55.2	63.6	50.0	44.4	56.6	59.6	50.0
Maybe	26.8	17.5	19.1	26.0	9.1	25.0	27.8	26.3	14.0	25.0
No	18.3	17.5	26.5	13.5	9.1	25.0	11.1	14.5	24.6	25.0
Don't know	1.4	7.0	2.9	5.2	18.2	0.0	16.7	2.6	1.8	0.0

Table 8. Knowledge About Substances

Question/Response	Aware of NLCCC		Parent		Gender		ALL
	No	Yes	No	Yes	Female	Male	
<u>I know a lot about physical/mental affects on teens of:</u>							
Alcohol							
Yes	69.6	77.0	71.8	74.0	76.1	68.8	72.4
Maybe	23.5	16.2	20.0	20.5	20.7	20.4	20.5
No	7.0	6.8	8.2	5.5	3.3	10.8	7.0
Marijuana							
Yes	70.4	79.7	73.6	77.9	76.1	72.8	74.4
Maybe	17.4	15.9	16.4	16.2	15.9	17.4	16.7
No	12.2	4.3	10.0	5.9	8.0	9.8	8.9
<u>I think teens should be allowed to drink, to learn responsibility</u>							
No	85.5	81.3	82.1	86.5	84.0	83.0	83.5
Yes	14.5	18.7	17.9	13.5	16.0	17.0	16.5
<u>What do you think the legal age for drinking should be?</u>							
No limit	1.8	2.8	1.8	2.7	2.2	2.2	2.2
16 or younger	4.5	0.0	3.6	1.4	3.3	1.1	2.2
18 years old	23.4	23.6	32.7	9.6	22.2	24.7	23.5
21 years old	53.2	51.4	50.9	54.8	50.0	55.9	53.0
Older than 21	17.1	22.2	10.9	31.5	22.2	16.1	19.1

Table 9. Knowledge About Substances

Question/Response	New London Resident		Income vs. Median		Age of Respondent					
	No	Yes	Below	Above	<18	18-20	21-24	25-44	45-64	65+
I know a lot about physical/mental affects on teens of:										
Alcohol										
Yes	74.6	71.1	69.2	73.5	70.0	25.0	52.9	72.0	81.7	75.0
Maybe	18.3	21.9	26.2	19.4	20.0	75.0	41.2	18.7	13.3	25.0
No	7.0	7.0	4.6	7.1	10.0	0.0	5.9	9.3	5.0	0.0
Marijuana										
Yes	76.5	74.1	69.8	76.3	81.8	50.0	52.9	78.1	78.9	73.3
Maybe	14.7	17.9	22.2	14.4	9.1	50.0	41.2	12.3	15.8	13.3
No	8.8	8.0	7.9	9.3	9.1	0.0	5.9	9.6	5.3	13.3
I think teens should be allowed to drink, to learn responsibility										
No	87.5	81.0	79.7	85.6	72.7	0.0	88.9	89.3	82.0	81.3
Yes	12.5	19.0	20.3	14.4	27.3	100.0	11.1	10.7	18.0	18.8
What do you think the legal age for drinking should be?										
No limit	2.8	1.8	1.5	2.1	0.0	0.0	5.6	3.9	0.0	0.0
16 or younger	2.8	2.7	1.5	4.2	11.1	0.0	0.0	2.6	3.4	0.0
18 years old	26.8	21.2	21.5	21.9	44.4	50.0	33.3	19.7	13.8	50.0
21 years old	52.1	53.1	53.8	55.2	44.4	50.0	44.4	52.6	56.9	43.8
Older than 21	15.5	21.2	21.5	16.7	0.0	0.0	16.7	21.1	25.9	6.3

Table 10. Coalition Awareness

Question/Response	Aware of NLCCC		Parent		Gender		ALL
	No	Yes	No	Yes	Female	Male	
Are you aware of the New London Community & Campus Coalition (NLCCC)?							
No	100.0	0.0	60.3	60.2	60.3	60.2	59.6
Yes	0.0	100.0	39.7	39.8	39.7	39.8	40.4
Have you noticed NLCCC messages on any of the following?							
Bus signs	11.1	20.8	14.9	14.2	16.2	15.0	14.8
Posters	6.0	26.0	13.9	15.0	12.2	13.9	13.8
Banners	5.1	11.7	7.7	8.8	6.8	8.0	7.4
Newspaper	6.0	18.2	10.8	12.4	8.1	10.7	10.1
Special Events	0.9	16.9	7.2	8.8	4.1	7.0	6.9
Personal items	5.1	23.4	12.4	15.0	9.5	12.8	12.2

Table 11. Coalition Awareness

Question/Response	NL Resident		Income vs. Median		Age of Respondent					
	No	Yes	Below	Above	<18	18-20	21-24	25-44	45-64	65+
Are you aware of the New London Community & Campus Coalition (NLCCC)?										
No	77.8	49.1	51.5	66.3	36.4	33.3	61.1	67.1	55.7	68.8
Yes	22.2	50.9	48.5	33.7	63.6	66.7	38.9	32.9	44.3	31.3
Have you noticed NLCCC messages on any of the following?										
Bus signs	75.0	41.0	50.7	56.1	0.0	75.0	55.6	59.2	49.2	75.0
Posters	13.9	16.2	17.4	12.2	18.2	0.0	11.1	19.7	14.8	0.0
Banners	2.8	20.5	20.3	11.2	45.5	25.0	5.6	14.5	13.1	0.0
Newspaper	4.2	10.3	8.7	9.2	27.3	0.0	11.1	10.5	3.3	0.0
Special Events	4.2	14.5	13.0	8.2	27.3	0.0	11.1	7.9	9.8	18.8
Personal items	1.4	10.3	13.0	4.1	27.3	0.0	5.6	9.2	3.3	0.0