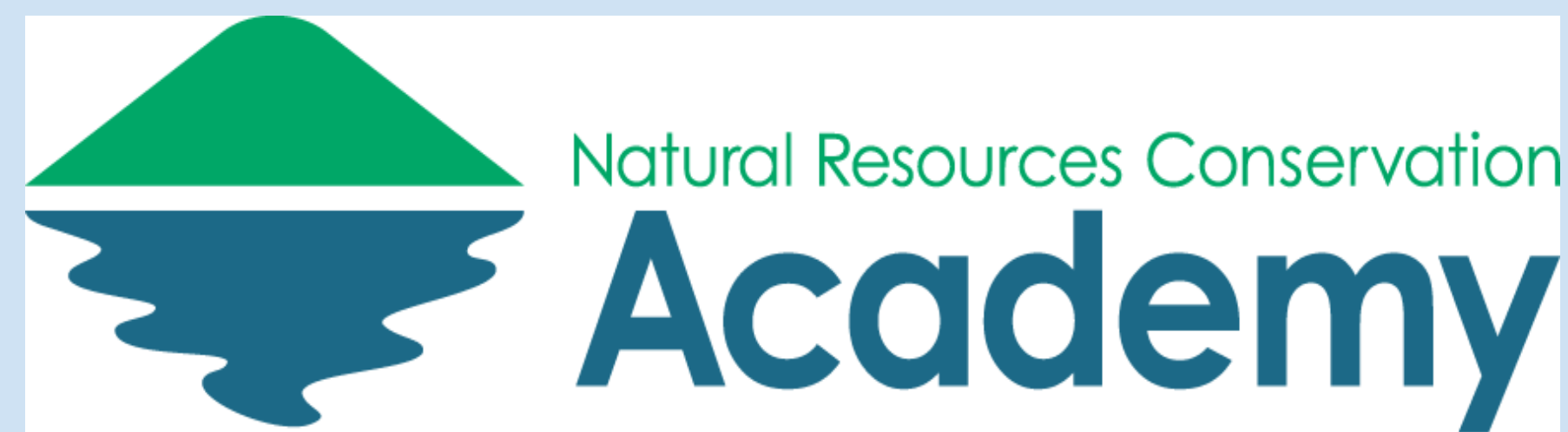


Water Conservation Habits: Teens and Adults



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Community Partner: Aimee Petras
Avon High School; Farmington River Valley Watershed Association



INTRODUCTION

The average American uses 170 gallons of water per day (1). Our country's per capita water use is significantly higher than other industrialized nations. For example, the average Australian uses 36 gallons of water per day (1). It is clear that water conservation should be an important conversation in the United States.

The objectives of this study were to gather information on the water use habits of teens and adults, and to achieve a greater understanding of the public's general approach to conserve water. Another objective of this project is to help people to think more about their water conservation habits and maybe even make a change in their daily life.

This study is important because it helps show the public's willingness to use conservation techniques and lower their water footprint.

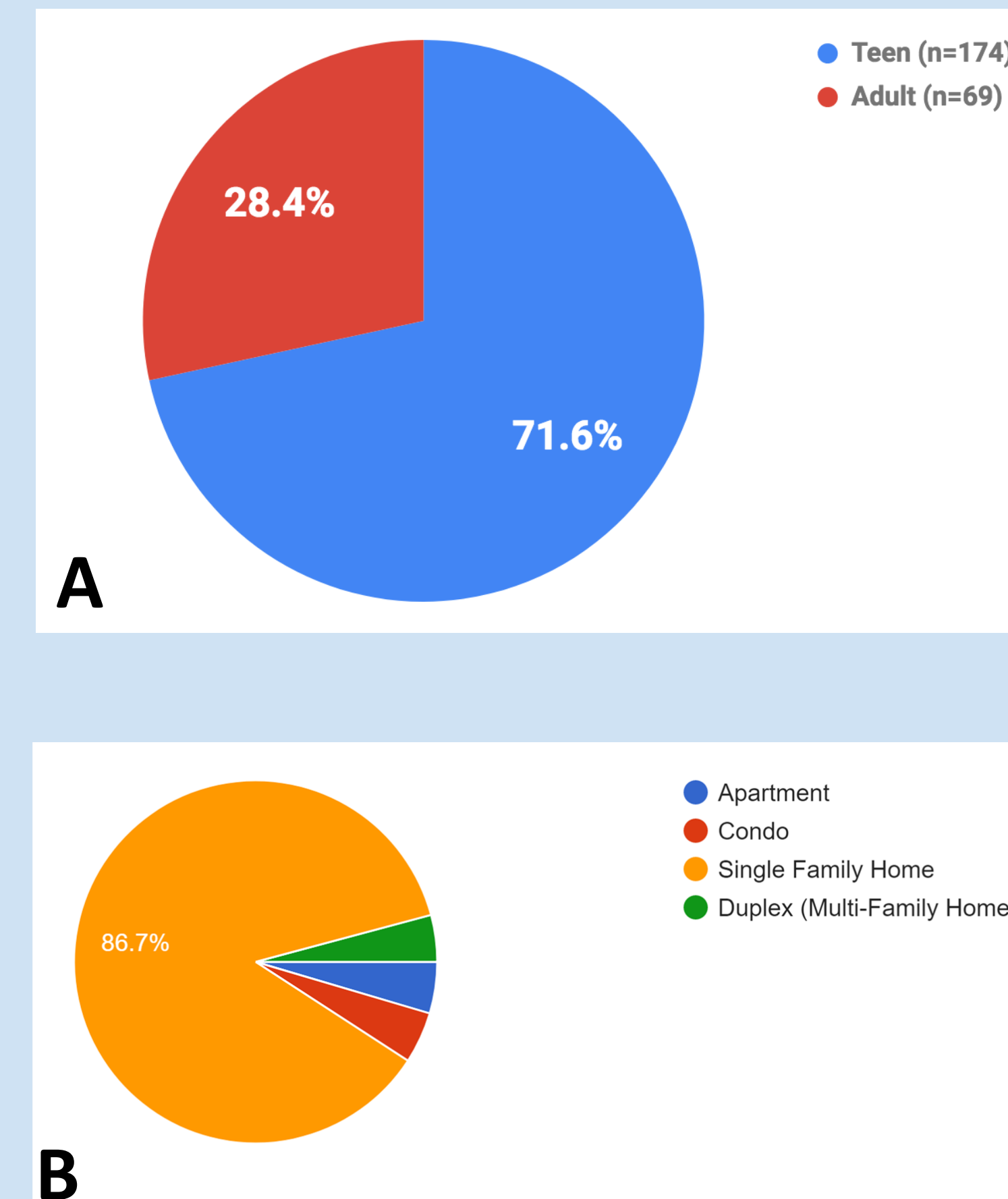


Figure 1. (A) The percentage of teens and adults who answered the survey; (B) The type of dwelling of the different respondents.

METHODS

❖ A Google Forms survey was constructed with simple questions about the water use and water conservation habits of the respondents

❖ This survey was distributed from January 30th to February 24th to both teens and adults through Avon High School as well as through personal connections.

❖ A total of 241 responses that were collected over this period of time.

Water Conservation Survey

The following is a survey that will be used as part of a project for UConn's Natural Resources Conservation Academy and the Conservation Ambassador program. All responses will be kept anonymous. If you have any questions, you can contact Haley Bertsch at haleyern12@gmail.com

Conservation Options *	YES	NO
Decrease Showering Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use a Low Flow Shower Head	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Only do Full Loads of Laundry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Purchase and Use a Water Efficient Washing Machine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Turn Off Faucet When Not in Use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use a Low Flow Toilet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Only do Full Loads of Dishes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Purchase and Use a Water Efficient Dishwasher	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Turn Off Faucet When Washing Dishes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plant Drought Tolerant Grass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water Garden/Yard in the Early	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Figure 2. Examples of what the Water Conservation Survey looked like and shows some of the questions asked.

RESULTS

- Adults are about 4.9% more likely to change their water conservation habits than Teens.
- Almost all respondents, regardless of age, are willing to reduce their water waste by making sure they turn off the faucet when not in use. This is also the case when people were asked if they would only serve full loads of laundry.
- The respondents, regardless of age, were less likely to use a low flow shower head or plant drought tolerant grass.
- It was also found that 20% of either group would not decrease their shower times in order to conserve water.
- In areas where people are less likely to make a change, education on water conservation might be employed, to hopefully change behaviors

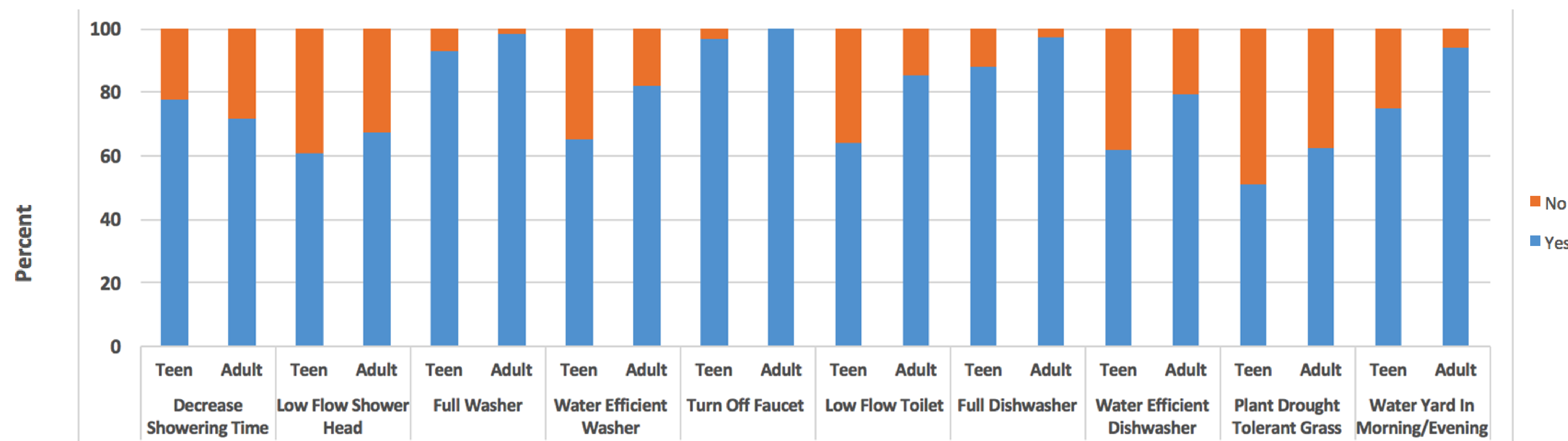


Figure 3: This graph shows the poll results of teens and adults on whether or not they would employ these water conservation techniques in their daily life.

CONCLUSIONS

- It was found that, on average, adults are more likely to change their water conservation habits as opposed to teens. This could be due to the fact that teens are not likely to make decisions to implement measures to help water conservation as they would not be, for example, buying new appliances.
- People are likely to change their water conservation habits once they are educated on how to do so.
- This study gives insight into what steps towards water conservation people are willing to take.
- With this Information, Avon High School should put up posters or something of that sort in order to remind the students and staff what they could be doing to better their habits regarding water conservation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to my community partner Aimee Petras who shared resources on water conservation. Another thank you to my Environmental Science teacher, Scott Tinker, who let me use his room for research after school. The last person to thank is Abby Beissinger, who continued to believe in and guide me through this project.

REFERENCES

1. American Rivers. 10 Ways to Save Water at Home. <https://goo.gl/RBaqBm>.