

# Queen Anne's County Six Pillars Personal Inventory: 2005

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## Executive Summary

The Six Pillars Personal Inventory is a measurement tool used by Character Counts! to identify the need for and response to education about the Six Pillars of Character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship. Character Counts! is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, nonsectarian coalition of schools, communities and nonprofit organizations founded by the Josephson Institute of Ethics ([www.charactercounts.org](http://www.charactercounts.org)). The Six Pillars Personal Inventory was first distributed in Queen Anne's County in January-February 2003 and returned by 1,346 youth and adults. The inventory was again distributed in the spring of 2005 and returned by 2,631 youth and adults. Students comprised about half of the respondents in 2003 and two-thirds of the respondents in 2005. Highlights of the findings include:

1. Honoring another's property was practiced by more than three-fourths of respondents in both years. Acceptance and tolerance of racial, ethnic, religious and ability differences was the second most practiced quality;
2. Telling the truth, self-control, self-discipline, and volunteering in the community were the least practiced qualities, practiced by fewer than one-third of the respondents in both 2003 and 2005, although self-control increased between the two surveys;
3. Overall the qualities represented by the pillar of respectfulness were most frequently practiced in both years, and those represented by citizenship the least practiced;
4. Practice in five pillars of character did not change significantly between 2003 and 2005, and the practice of the sixth pillar, trustworthiness, declined over the two years, but only among adults;
5. Trustworthiness remained steady among youth between 2003 and 2005. This narrowed the difference between youth and adults, although youth in both years practiced trustworthiness less frequently than did adults;
6. Females report more frequent practice of character qualities than males in all six areas in both years;
7. Marriage and full-time employment are associated with higher frequencies of practicing character qualities;
8. Character Counts! participants reported more frequent practice of all six pillars of character than nonparticipants in 2005, up from three of the pillars in 2003.