

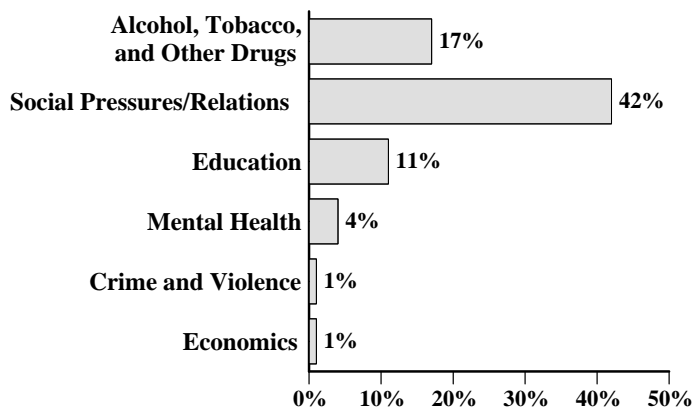
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

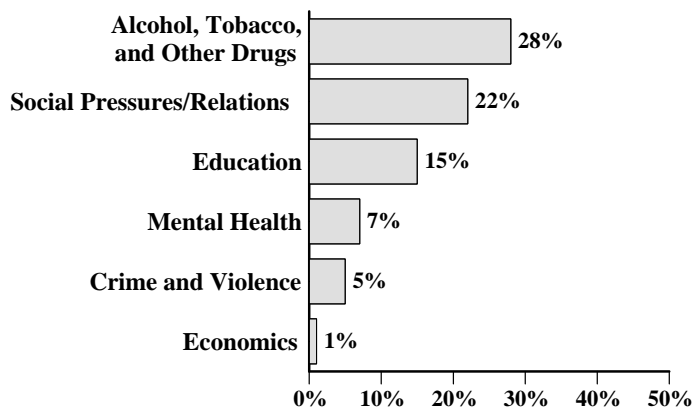
Parents Think Social Pressures Are Main Concern of Teens While Their Teens Say They Are More Concerned with Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs

Parents of teenagers overestimate how important social pressures are for teenagers, according to data from a national telephone survey conducted earlier this year. Forty-two percent of parents of teenagers reported that social pressures and relationships, such as fitting in, peer pressure, and sexual issues, were the top concern of teenagers, compared to only 22% of teens. In contrast, parents underestimated the importance of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs in the lives of teenagers. More than one-fourth (28%) of teens reported that drugs are the number one problem facing people their age, compared to only 17% of parents. These findings are similar to those found by the same survey two years ago (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 15, Issue 35).

While More Than 40% of Parents Think Social Pressures Are the Top Concern of Teens . . .



Their Teens Are More Likely to Say Drugs Are Their Number One Concern



*Teen respondents were asked, "What is the most important problem facing people your age—that is, the thing which concerns you the most?" Parent respondents were asked "And from the point of view of teenagers like your own, what do you think he or she would say is the most important problem someone their age faces?" Both questions were open-ended.

NOTES: Data are from a random sample of households in the 48 continental states who had a youth ages 12 to 17 living in the household. Telephone interviews were conducted between April 3 and May 13, 2008 with 1,002 teens and between April 17 and June 3, 2008 with 312 parents of interviewed teens. The margin of error is +/-3.1 percent for the teen survey and +/-5.5 percent for the parent survey.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA), *National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse XIII: Teens and Parents*, August 2008. Available online at <http://www.casacolumbia.org/articlefiles/380-2008%20Teen%20Survey%20Report.pdf>.