

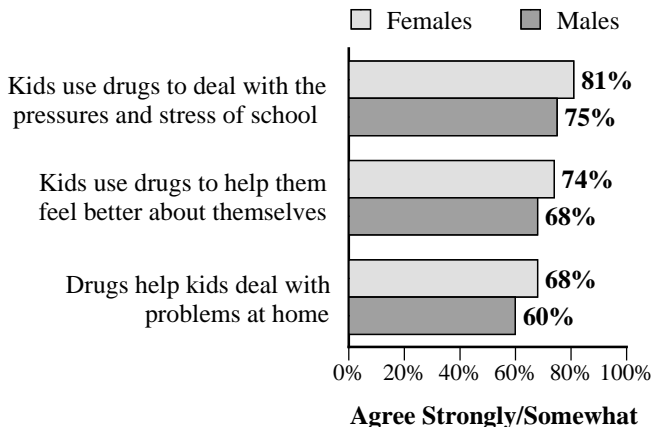
## A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

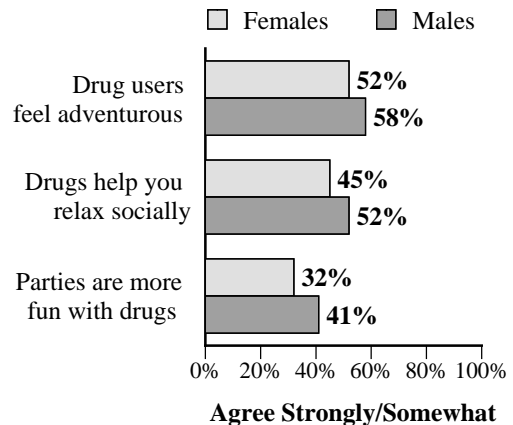
### *Female High School Students More Likely to Say Teens Use Drugs for Self-Medicating and Coping Benefits*

Female high school students are more likely than males to perceive self-medicating and coping reasons for teen drug use, according to a 2009 national survey of high school students conducted by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America. Female students were more likely to say that teens use drugs to deal with the pressures of school and problems at home and to help themselves feel better about themselves. In contrast, male students were more likely to cite having fun and relaxing as reasons for use (see figure below). According to the Partnership President, “parents can help prevent alcohol and drug abuse by recognizing and addressing their daughters’ worries and stresses, by supporting her positive decisions and by taking immediate action if they suspect or know she has been experimenting with drug and alcohol” (Press Release, p. 1).

#### **While Female High School Students Are More Likely to Say Teens Use Drugs to Self-Medicate and Cope . . .**



#### **. . . Male High School Students Are More Likely to Cite Having Fun and Relaxing as Reasons for Use**



NOTES: 2009 data are from a nationally projectable sample of 3,287 students in grades nine through twelve, conducted by the Roper Public Affairs Division of GfK Custom Research North America from March to June 2009. The margin of error is +/- 2.3 percent. All differences between females and males are significant at the 0.05 level.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, “Teenage Girls: Increasingly Vulnerable to Alcohol and Drug Use,” *Research Brief*, 2010; and Partnership, “National Study: New Data Show Teen Girls More Likely to See Benefits in Drug and Alcohol Use,” *Press Release*, 6/29/10. Available online at [http://www.drugfree.org/Portal/About/NewsReleases/New\\_Data](http://www.drugfree.org/Portal/About/NewsReleases/New_Data).