

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland at College Park

***Teens Believe Drugs, Lack of Parental Involvement, and Peer Pressure
Are to Blame for Youth Violence***

A recent national study surveyed public, private, and parochial school students, grades 7 through 12, about their views on violence and crime. When asked what factors deserve a lot of blame for the prevalence of youth violence, 61% cited drugs and more than half cited a lack of parental involvement (53%) and peer pressure (52%). The influence of music and television on violence--an argument given much attention lately--was largely dismissed by teenagers.

**Percentage of U.S. Teenagers Who Think Each Factor
Deserves a Lot of Blame for Youth Violence
(N=2,023)**

Factor	Percentage
Drugs	61%
Lack of parental involvement in teenagers' lives	53
Peer pressure	52
A lack of values	36
The criminal justice system	29
Not having enough money to live on	24
Young people's unhappiness about their futures	20
The music young people listen to	17
Television	16
Boredom	15

NOTE: This national poll was conducted by Louis Harris & Associates on behalf of the National Teens, Crime, and the Community Program, a program of the National Institute for Citizen Education in the Law and the National Crime Prevention Council.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from National Institute for Citizen Education in the Law and National Crime Prevention Council, *Between Hope and Fear: Teens Speak Out on Crime and the Community*, December 1995. For more information please contact Ms. Katya Goldberg of the National Institute for Citizen Education in the Law at 202-546-6644, extension 226.

WHAT DO MARYLANDERS THINK ABOUT SUBSTANCE ABUSE?

The views of Marylanders on such topics as the extent of drug use in Maryland and needle exchange programs are presented in "What Marylanders Think About Drugs: Results from the Spring 1995 Maryland Household Opinion Poll." To receive a complimentary copy, contact CESAR by phone (301-403-8329), fax (301-403-8342), or e-mail (cesar@cesar.umd.edu).

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