

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

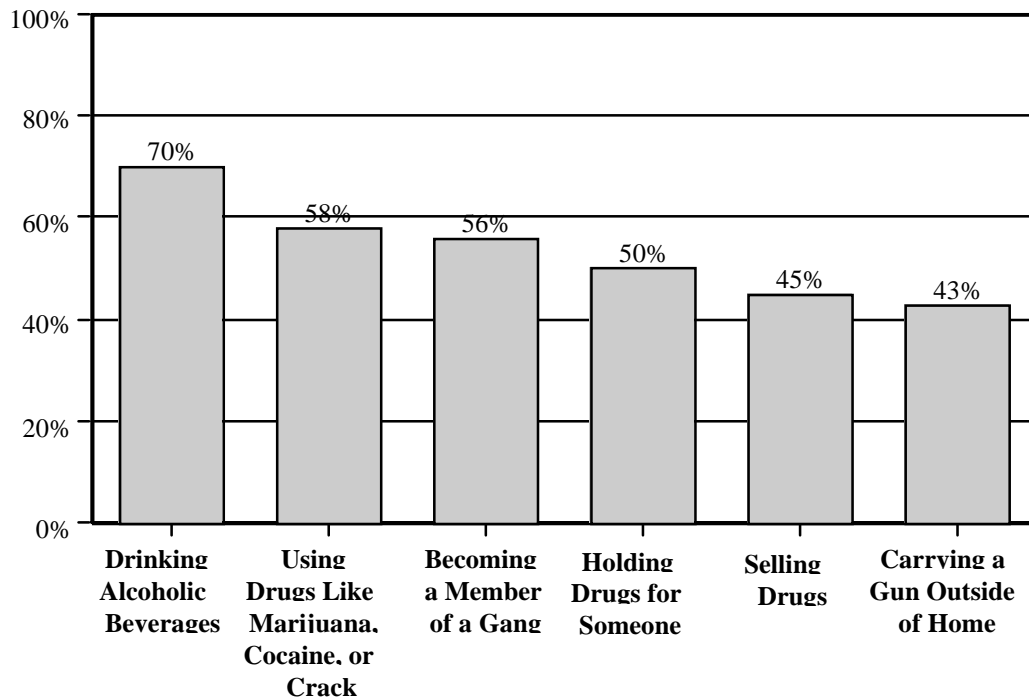
University of Maryland at College Park

***Peer Pressure Influences Teen Involvement with Drugs, Gangs, and Guns***

According to the results of a recent national survey of students in grades 7 through 12, teens believe that peer pressure has a considerable influence on their involvement with drugs, gangs, and guns. A majority of students reported that pressure from friends would influence them to drink, use drugs, or become a member of a gang. A slightly lower percentage reported that peer pressure would influence them to hold drugs for someone, sell drugs, or carry a gun. These findings suggest the need for programs that teach teenagers how to handle peer pressure.

**Percentage of U.S. Teenagers Who Think Peer Pressure  
Would Have an Influence on Selected Activities**

(N=2,023)



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.

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