

CESAR FAX: September 4, 2006 (Vol. 15, Issue 35)

Parents Underestimate Teens' Concerns About Drugs

While drugs are the number one concern for teenagers, parents underestimate how important this issue is to teens, according to data from a national telephone survey conducted earlier this year. More than one-fourth of youths ages 12 to 17 reported that alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs were the most important problem facing people their age. Yet only 12% of parents of teenagers reported that drugs were the most important problem facing teenagers. In contrast, parents overestimated teens' concerns with social pressures—58% of parents said that social pressures were the number one concern of teens, compared to only 21% of teenagers. Previous research has found that parents also underestimate the level of alcohol and illicit drug use by youth (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 15, Issue 31).

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 XI: Teens and Parents*, August 2006. Available online at <http://www.casacolumbia.org/supportcasa/item.asp?CID=12&PID=148>.

CESAR FAX: September 11, 2006 (Vol. 15, Issue 36)

Nonmedical Use of Prescription Drugs More Prevalent in U.S. than Use of Most Illicit Drugs

U.S. household residents are more likely to report nonmedical use of prescription drugs† than the use of almost all illicit drugs, according to recently released data from the 2005 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). One in twenty persons age 12 or older reported using prescription pain relievers nonmedically in the past year—more than any illicit drug with the exception of marijuana. Furthermore, the nonmedical use of prescription tranquilizers (2.2%) and stimulants (1.1%) was outranked by only marijuana and cocaine. All other illicit drugs, including ecstasy, heroin, and PCP, were used by less than 1% of U.S. household residents.

†Nonmedical use refers to using a prescription pain reliever, tranquilizer, stimulant, or sedative without a personal prescription or only for the experience or feeling it causes.

*Methamphetamine is also included in the drug category stimulants.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), *Results from the 2005 National Household Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings*, 2006. Available online at <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/nsduh/2k5nsduh/2k5Results.pdf>.