

Table 2.5

Teenagers' attitudes toward the most important problem facing people their age

United States, 1996^a

Question: "What is the most important problem facing people your age--that is, the thing which concerns you most?"

| Problem | Percent |
|---|---------|
| Drugs | 31% |
| Social pressures (popularity and "fitting-in") | 14 |
| Crime and violence in school | 8 |
| Sexual issues | 7 |
| Other crime and violence | 6 |
| Doing well in school | 5 |
| Getting along with parents/other problems at home | 2 |
| Jobs/opportunity | 2 |
| Getting into college | 2 |
| Other | 13 |
| Don't know/no response | 11 |

Note: These data are derived from telephone interviews of nationwide samples of teenagers, ages 12 to 17, and parents of teenagers. The survey was conducted by Luntz Research Companies for the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University. Randomly generated telephone numbers were pre-screened to determine if a teen in the appropriate age range resided there. Subsequent calls were made to conduct the actual interviews. In total, 1,200 teen interviews were completed, as well as 1,166 parent interviews. Households in which both a parent and teen were interviewed accounted for 819 parent and 819 teen interviews. Weighting was applied in the parent survey data to bring the sex of parent distribution in line with national population data.

^aPercents may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Source: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, *National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse II: Teens and Their Parents* (New York: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 1996), p. 48. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.