

Table 2.3

Teenagers' attitudes toward the most important problem facing people their ageUnited States, selected years 1999-2004^a

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

Problem	1999	2000	2002	2003	2004
Drugs	23%	21%	24%	19%	23%
Social pressures, fitting in	18	14	18	20	22
Crime and violence in school	13	5	2	2	4
Doing well in school	6	10	16	14	11
Other crime and violence	5	2	2	1	1
Sexual issues	3	3	4	4	4
Getting into college	2	4	4	5	4
Alcohol	NA	3	2	3	4
Tobacco	NA	2	3	1	2
Jobs/economic opportunity	1	1	1	1	1
Getting along with parents/ other problems at home	1	2	3	3	3
Lack of money	1	1	1	1	1
General lack of quality education	1	1	1	1	1
Declining moral standards/ immorality	1	1	2	3	2
Having a say/communications	NA	NA	1	1	2
Other	11	9	4	10	5
Don't know/refused	16	20	16	12	11

Note: These data are from telephone interviews of nationwide samples of teenagers, ages 12 to 17. The surveys were conducted 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. For the 1999 survey, 2,000 teens were interviewed during May and June. For the 2000 survey, 1,000 teens were interviewed during October and November. For the 2002 survey, 1,000 teens were interviewed between December 2001 and February 2002. For the 2003 survey, 1,987 teens were interviewed between April and July. For the 2004 survey, 1,000 teens were interviewed in April and May.

^aPercents may not add to 100 because of multiple responses.

Source: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, *Back to School 1999 - The CASA National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse V: Teens and Their Parents* [Online], p. 30. Available: http://www.casacolumbia.org/usr_doc/17635.pdf [Dec. 9, 1999]; National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, *The CASA National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse VI: Teens* [Online], pp. 25, 26. Available: http://www.casacolumbia.org/usr_doc/52809.pdf [Mar. 30, 2001]; National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, *National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse VII: Teens, Parents and Siblings* [Online], pp. 29, 30. Available: http://www.casacolumbia.org/usr_doc/TeenSurvey2002.pdf [Jan. 15, 2003]; National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, *National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse VIII: Teens and Parents* [Online], pp. 39, 40. Available: http://www.casacolumbia.org/pdshopp/roffiles/2003_Teen_Survey_8_19_03.pdf [Mar. 1, 2004]; and National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, *National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse IX: Teen Dating Practices and Sexual Activity* [Online], pp. 38, 39. Available: http://www.casacolumbia.org/pdshopp/roffiles/august_2004_casa_teen_survey.pdf [Aug. 31, 2004]. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.