

FOR RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2001, 8:30 A.M.

74% Say Drug War Being Lost
INTERDICTION AND INCARCERATION STILL TOP REMEDIES

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Andrew Kohut, Director
Carroll Doherty, Editor
Kimberly Parker, Research Director
Michael Dimock, Survey Director
Nilanthi Samaranayake, Project Director
Pew Research Center for The People & The Press
202/293-3126
<http://www.people-press.org>

74% Say Drug War Being Lost

INTERDICTION AND INCARCERATION STILL TOP REMEDIES

The nation's drug war is viewed as a failure by most Americans, and there is scant hope it will ever succeed. Nearly three-quarters of Americans say we are losing the drug war, and just as many say that insatiable demand will perpetuate the nation's drug habit. Yet this deep sense of futility has not generated more momentum for alternative anti-drug strategies, like establishing more treatment programs for drug users or decriminalizing the use of some drugs. The public still gives higher priority to traditional get-tough approaches, such as interdicting drugs at the border and arresting dealers in this country, although declining numbers regard those tactics as effective.

Despite a renewed focus by the news media and entertainment industry on the nation's drug problem, reflected in the attention drawn by the Oscar-nominated film "Traffic," public opinion on anti-drug strategies has not changed markedly since the late 1980s. While some states have moved to roll back so-called mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent drug offenders, nearly as many people say this is a bad idea (45%) as think it is a good idea (47%). Interdiction continues to be seen as the most effective anti-drug policy, although like other such strategies, it is viewed as less fruitful than a decade ago.

Public Sees Drug War as Losing Cause ...			
	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
	%	%	%
We are losing the drug war	74	20	6=100
Demand is so high we will never stop drug use	74	24	2=100
Latin America will never control drugs	68	27	5=100

But the public is more compassionate than condemnatory when it comes to the *users* of illegal drugs, as opposed to those who profit from the drug trade. A majority of Americans (52%) believe that drug use should be treated as a disease, compared to 35% who favor treating it as a crime.

Although drug abuse is given less priority than in the early 1990s when the Bush administration declared a "war on drugs," it still is seen as a significant danger by most Americans — particularly African-Americans and those with lower incomes and less education. Nearly three-quarters of blacks (74%) say they are very worried about having a family member develop a drug problem, compared to just 39% of whites. And increasingly, drugs are hitting home in rural areas; people in those areas cite drugs as the top community problem.

... Yet Still Takes the Hard Line		
	<u>1988</u>	<u>2001</u>
	%	%
<i>Government should emphasize ...</i>		
Stopping drug importation	66	52
Arresting drug dealers	59	49
Providing drug treatment	--	36
Educating about drugs	51	35
Arresting drug users	37	30

While interdiction is regarded as the most effective anti-drug strategy, the public is divided over the current U.S. policy of providing large-scale assistance to Colombia and other drug-producing nations. Slightly over one-quarter (28%) favor cutting military aid to these nations, while a plurality (37%) is satisfied with current aid levels and 23% back increased military assistance. The public is far more opposed to providing financial aid to these countries, however.

Some black leaders have criticized mandatory minimums, but blacks and whites see eye-to-eye on this issue and several other drug policy issues. The gender gap on these issues is more significant, as both white and black women take a more punitive approach to drug sentencing questions than their male counterparts. For instance, more men than women in both races say that too many people are in jail for drug possession (53%-41%). And black women, in particular, are much more opposed to taking even modest steps toward decriminalizing marijuana than are black men or whites of either gender.

<i>Treat small amounts of pot as a crime?</i>	<u>Yes</u> %	<u>No</u> %	<u>DK/Ref</u> %
White Men	43	53	4=100
White Women	54	40	6=100
Black Men	34	57	9=100
Black Women	65	32	3=100

<i>Too many in jail just for possession</i>	<u>Agree</u> %	<u>Disagree</u> %	<u>DK/Ref</u> %
White Men	51	43	6=100
White Women	39	55	6=100
Black Men	54	40	6=100
Black Women	41	55	4=100

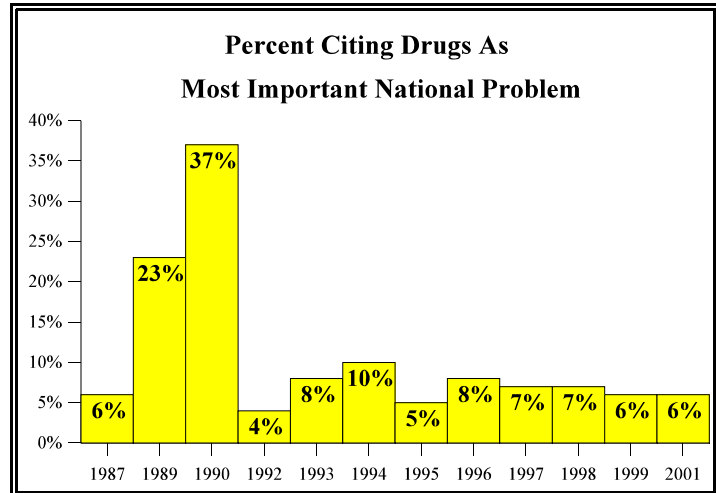
There is a consensus on one aspect of the struggle to curb drug abuse: Most blame peer pressure and bad parents for drug use among teenagers. Approximately eight-in-ten point to these factors, which fall well outside of the realm of public policy. Still, nearly three-quarters pin the blame on the ease with which teens can get drugs, which helps explain the continuing, if diminished, public support for interdiction.

Legalization of drugs remains a divisive issue — 49% favor retaining criminal penalties for possessing small amounts of marijuana, about the same as felt that way in 1985. But by better than a three-to-one margin (73%-21%), the public supports permitting doctors to prescribe marijuana for their patients.

The Pew Research Center’s survey of attitudes on illegal drugs and drug policies, conducted Feb. 14-19 among more than 1,500 adults, including an oversample of African-Americans, finds a striking contrast in long-term trends on attitudes toward crime and drugs. In the mid-1990s, Americans were just as pessimistic about crime as drugs, if not more so. In March 1994, 77% said the nation was losing ground against crime, while 62% said the same about drugs. But today, the number who are pessimistic about the struggle against crime has fallen to 38%, while far more (54%) say the nation is losing ground on drugs.

Less of a Crisis

The problem of illegal drug use has receded somewhat from the national consciousness since the late 1980s and early 1990s, when there was massive media attention on the rise of crack cocaine and drug-related violence. Concern over drugs reached a peak in 1990 when 37% of the public cited it as the top national problem.



Today, morality and the quality of education top the list of most important problems facing the nation (12% and 11% respectively), while roughly six percent of Americans volunteer drugs and alcohol. That is in keeping with the trend of the past decade, when drugs have consistently been cited by between four and ten percent of Americans as the most important problem facing the nation.

Still, the public continues to rank drugs among the major problems facing both the nation and local communities, and concern about drug abuse potentially affecting a family member remains high. No less than 90% say drug abuse is a serious problem in the nation, with over a quarter calling it a national crisis. Concern is particularly evident in the African-American community; more than four-in-ten blacks (43%) rate drug abuse as a national crisis, compared to 26% of whites.

Rural Residents Worried

Drug abuse looms as a more serious problem on the local level. One-in-nine Americans (11%) list drugs and alcohol as the most important problem in their local community, placing it behind only education (14%) and crime and violence (12%).

Among rural residents, drug abuse is the leading community problem, with 16% citing it as their top concern. Drugs are the second-rated community concern among urban residents (at 13%). By comparison, the issue of drugs and alcohol doesn't make the top tier of problems cited by suburban respondents, who are more concerned with education, crime, and growth and traffic.

Younger people are more concerned about the drug problem at the local level than are their elders. Nearly one-in-four of those under age 30 cite drugs and alcohol as the most important problem in their area, compared to just 10% of those age 30 to 64, and 5% of those 65 and older.

Most Important Community Problem			
Rankings			
<u>Large City</u>	<u>Suburb</u>	<u>Sm.City/Town</u>	<u>Rural Area</u>
1. Crime	1. Education	1. Education	1. Drugs
2. Drugs	2. Crime	2. Unemploy.	2. Unemploy.
3. Education	3. Sprawl	3. Crime	3. Education
4. Probs. w/kids	4. Taxes	4. Drugs	4. Taxes
5. Infrastructure	5. Drugs	5. Sprawl	5. Infrastructure

The drug problem at the community level is also most immediate for those with less education and lower incomes. One-fifth of respondents with less than a high school degree rate drugs as the biggest problem in their community, while nearly as many of those in households earning less than \$20,000 annually agree. By comparison, just 8% of college graduates cite drugs as their largest local concern, as do 10% of those earning \$50,000 or more.

Little Progress Nationally

Not surprisingly, given the public’s harsh assessment of the drug war, more than four times as many people say the nation is losing ground on drugs (54%) as say it is making progress (13%). The only other issues that come close to eliciting this level of pessimism are the way the health care system is working (13% making progress, 53% losing ground) and education (23% making progress, 53% losing ground).

Interestingly, this bleak progress report actually represents a modest improvement from the late 1980s. In 1989 more than two-thirds thought we were losing ground on drugs, a figure which has eased down to the current 54%. But there has been no increase since then in the relatively small percentage who cites progress on drugs.

Few See National Progress on Drugs				
	<u>Making Progress</u>	<u>Losing Ground</u>	<u>About the Same</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
	%	%	%	%
Drugs	13	54	29	4=100
Health Care	13	53	29	5=100
Education	23	53	20	4=100
Crime	29	38	31	2=100
Jobs	33	36	26	5=100
Sprawl	31	32	28	9=100
Racial Conflict	29	29	38	4=100

Compared to the drug problem, the public is somewhat more optimistic about avoiding racial conflict and addressing problems related to planning and managing growth around cities. And despite the downturn in the economy, many Americans remain optimistic about the availability of good-paying jobs; one-in-three feel the nation is making progress on jobs, the highest percentage in the eight years since the question was first asked.

Communities Doing Better

Views on the drug problem are a bit more optimistic at the local level, though more people believe their communities are losing ground (37%) than making progress (23%). But the public is significantly more optimistic about progress on drugs in their community than was the case in 1994, when half (51%) thought their community was losing ground on drugs, and just 16% saw progress being made.

More Optimism at Community Level				
	<u>Making Progress</u>	<u>Losing Ground</u>	<u>About the Same</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
	%	%	%	%
Drugs	23	37	33	7=100
Jobs	24	35	35	6=100
Education	34	31	30	5=100
Sprawl	36	28	31	5=100
Crime	32	23	42	3=100
Racial Conflict	33	15	47	5=100

Along the same lines, just 9% say drug abuse is a "crisis" in their neighborhood, including the local schools, compared to 27% who say this about the nation.

The concern residents of rural areas express about drugs — seen in the number who identify it as the most important problem in their community — is rooted in their sense that drug problems are getting worse and might strike closer to home. Fully 45% of rural residents feel their community is losing ground on the issue of drugs, while only 18% see it making progress. Moreover, 61% of rural residents are concerned about family members becoming involved with drugs. Residents of large cities are also concerned with drugs in their communities, but are slightly more optimistic that they are making progress on the problem.

	Large		Sm.City Rural	
	<u>City</u>	<u>Suburb</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Area</u>
<i>Community is ...</i>	%	%	%	%
Making progress	25	15	28	18
Losing ground	39	35	33	45
About the same	28	41	33	33
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100	100

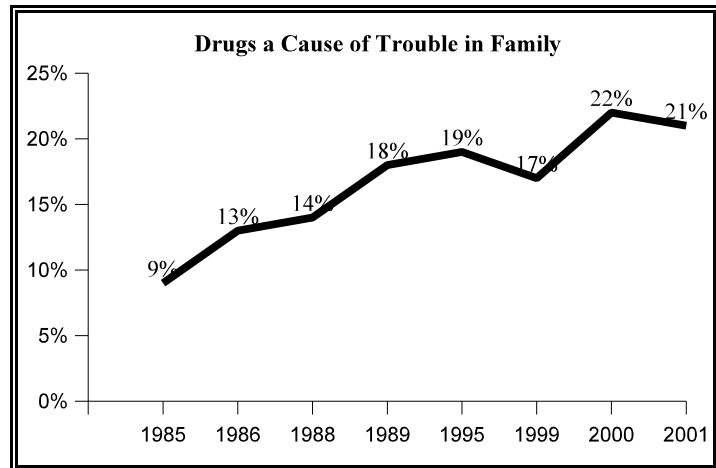
As is the case nationally, many believe their community has made strides on the issue of crime. Roughly one-third of respondents (32%) think their local community is making progress on crime, while 23% think their community is losing ground. In 1994, just 14% said their community was gaining on crime, and 56% thought they were losing ground.

The public is also more optimistic about education at the local level than in the past, with 34% seeing local gains and 31% losses. In 1994 less than a quarter (23%) saw local gains on education, and 44% thought their community was losing ground.

Drugs Hit Home

One-in-five Americans say drug abuse has been a cause of trouble in their family and more than half are concerned about the possibility. The proportion of Americans who say drugs have caused problems in their family has gradually increased since the 1980s. In May 1985, just 9% of respondents said drugs had been a cause of trouble in their families. Today, 21% say drug use has been a problem in their family.

People in urban and suburban areas are somewhat more likely than their rural and small town counterparts to have faced drug problems in their families. Those who have tried marijuana at some point in their lives are twice as likely to have faced drug problems in their family than those who have not (32% to 15%). Not surprisingly, there is a generational component to this issue. Nearly a quarter of those under 65 have seen drugs cause problems at home, compared to just 10% of retirees.



In addition to being a top national concern, drug abuse is also a significant personal worry, and concern about drugs affecting a family member has, if anything, increased since the 1980s. More than half of Americans say they are concerned about drugs causing problems in their family. Fully 44% say they are very concerned about this, compared to 36% in 1988. The possibility of a family member developing a drug problem is a concern for more Americans than is the threat of alcohol abuse.

	<i>How concerned about ...</i>		
	<u>Very/ Somewhat</u> %	<u>Not too/ Not at all</u> %	<u>Doesn't Apply/DK</u> %
Enough for retirement	79	19	2=100
Afford health care	78	20	2=100
Victim of crime	65	35	*=100
Drug problem in family	57	42	1=100
Alcohol problem in family	51	47	2=100
Losing job/Pay cut	48	42	10=100

African-Americans are far more likely to worry about the potentially negative effects of drugs on their family than are whites. Concern about drugs is also higher among the less educated, and those who have had drug problems within their family in the past. In addition, 64% of parents with teenagers are concerned about the threat of drug problems in their family, compared to 54% of those with no kids at home.

But overall, individuals are less concerned about how drugs might affect their lives than they are about their personal finances and securing adequate health care. More than three-quarters of Americans (79%) are at least somewhat concerned over saving enough for retirement. Similarly, 78% worry about affording necessary health care when a family member gets sick. Concern over retirement and health care is also greater among minority respondents, and respondents with less education and lower incomes.

	Where Drug Concerns Loom Large		
	<i>How concerned about drugs in family</i>		
	<u>Very/ Somewhat</u>	<u>Not too/ Not at all</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
Total	57	42	1=100
White	54	45	1=100
Black	81	19	*=100
College Grad	46	53	1=100
Some College	54	44	2=100
H.S. Grad	60	39	1=100
Less than H.S.	70	28	2=100
Over \$50,000	49	51	*=100
\$30-\$50,000	59	39	2=100
\$20-\$30,000	61	39	*=100
Under \$20,000	67	31	2=100

Disease vs. Crime

While Americans still mostly look to law enforcement to curb illegal drug use, a slim majority says that, in general, drug abuse should be treated as a disease rather than as a crime. This may be the strongest evidence showing that Americans are open to alternative anti-drug strategies, although those strategies themselves have yet to win much support.

Perhaps not surprisingly, this issue divides Americans along political, generational and even religious lines. By a two-to-one margin (61%-30%), Democrats think of drug use as a disease rather than a crime. Republicans, on the other hand, are more likely to see drug use as a criminal behavior than a health problem (48% to 38%).

Partisan Split On Jail, Treatment				
<i>Treat drug use as a ...</i>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep.</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%	%
Crime	35	48	30	32
Disease	52	38	61	54
Other/DK	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>14</u>
	100	100	100	100

Younger people are far more liberal in their view of drug use than their elders — 58% of those under 30 say drug use is a disease, not a crime. By comparison, just 41% of seniors (age 65 and older) think of drug use as a disease.

There is also a significant religious divide on the moral implications of drug use. Evangelical Protestants are about twice as likely to think of drug use a criminal act than are mainline Protestants (48% to 25%), while nearly two-thirds of the latter (64%) say drug use is a disease.

Split Over Mandatory Sentences

Clearly, the public is conflicted on many aspects of the drug war. While most think of drug use as a disease, there is relatively little support for drug treatment programs; just over a third think drug treatment would be a very effective means of reducing drug addiction.

These divisions carry over to how the public wants its criminal justice system to function with respect to drugs. Just as many Americans agree (47%) as disagree (47%) with the idea that too many people are put in jail just for possessing drugs. And Americans are evenly divided over whether moving away from mandatory sentencing for drug offenses is a good (47%) or a bad (45%) thing.

	Total	Men	Women
<i>Too many are put in jail just for drugs ...</i>	%	%	%
Agree	47	53	40
Disagree	47	41	53
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Eliminating mandatory sentences ...</i>			
Good thing	47	52	42
Bad thing	45	40	50
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100

Interestingly, women are significantly more punitive when it comes to drug sentencing than are men. Women are less likely to say that too many people are in jail for drugs than men (40% to 53%), and more likely to say that moving away from mandatory sentencing is a bad idea (50% to 40%). This gap exists despite the fact that women are about as likely as men to consider drug use to be a disease rather than a crime.

Those who have experienced drug problems in their family are among the most sympathetic to reducing drug sentencing. More than half (54%) of people who have had family members face drug problems say too many are put in jail just for drug possession, compared to 44% of those who have not had drug problems in their families.

There is also a significant partisan divide with respect to drug sentencing. Half of Democrats say there are too many people in jail just for possessing drugs, compared to 38% of Republicans, and Democrats are slightly more favorable toward reducing mandatory sentencing.

And as with their views on whether drug use is a crime or a disease, respondents from different religious traditions divide on how best to deal with drug possession in the justice system. More than six-in-ten evangelical Protestants say it is a bad idea for states to move away from mandatory prison sentences for non-violent drug offenders, while just half as many mainline Protestants agree.

Education plays a major role in attitudes toward mandatory sentencing. While 57% of college graduates think that moving away from mandatory drug sentences is a good thing, support drops among those with some college (49%) or a high-school degree (42%) and is lowest among those who did not finish high school (34%).

There are no significant differences between the races with respect to sentence-related issues. African-American respondents are no more likely than whites to say that too many people are put in jail just for possessing drugs, and blacks' views on moving away from mandatory prison sentences for non-violent drug offenders are no different from those of whites. But as with whites, black women are more conservative when it comes to the question of punishment than are black men.

All Approaches Lose Favor

The intractability of the drug problem in the public's mind can be seen in declining faith in standard approaches to fighting the drug war. Although the public continues to favor the anti-drug strategies developed in the 1980s, support for all of these approaches has declined.

Interdiction remains the top drug-fighting strategy, but the percentage rating it as very effective has fallen from 66% in 1988 to 52%. Similarly, there has been a 10-point drop in those who cite the effectiveness of arresting drug dealers in this country.

But while the public is less supportive of these traditional strategies, it is not sold on the alternatives. Just over a third (36%) think a government push to provide drug treatment programs for drug users would be very effective, while slightly fewer say drug education would be very effective. In fact, while confidence in all approaches to fighting drugs has declined, faith in educating about the dangers of drug use has declined particularly sharply. In 1988, more than half felt a government push on drug education would be very effective; today just over a third (35%) agree.

Arresting drug users rates as the least effective approach in the public's eye. Just 30% think this would be a very effective action in controlling the use of drugs, and 34% say it wouldn't be effective at all.

More Blacks Favor Education

Though the public thinks highly of both interdiction and arresting dealers, when forced to choose, stopping drugs before they reach this country wins out as the most effective approach. Nearly half (48%) choose interdiction as the *single* most effective government action in the war on drugs, while just 19% cite arresting drug dealers, 15% say drug education, and 10% say drug treatment. Arresting drug users is cited as the most effective approach to controlling drug use by only 4% of Americans.

These attitudes about approaches to the drug war are fairly consistent across all demographic groups with two exceptions — minorities and younger people — who are more optimistic about the effectiveness of drug education.

Roughly half of African-American respondents rate drug education as a very effective government action in reducing drug use, and 23% rate it as the most effective action the government could take. By comparison, just a third of whites rate education as very effective, and 14% rate it as the most effective approach. Whites, on the other hand, have more faith in the relative effectiveness of arresting drug dealers than do African-Americans. This debate aside, nearly half of both black and white respondents agree that drug interdiction would work better than any other approach.

	<i>Percent "most effective"</i>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Black</u>
	%	%	%
Stop importation	48	48	47
Arrest drug dealers	19	21	13
Drug education	15	14	23
Provide treatment	10	9	11
Arrest drug users	4	4	2
None effective	2	2	3
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100

Younger Americans are also more optimistic about the effectiveness of drug education. Nearly one-in-five (17%) of those under 50 cite educating people about the dangers of using drugs as the most effective action the government could take, compared to just 9% of those 50 and older. Young people are the least convinced of the effectiveness of interdiction. While a plurality (41%) of those under 30 rate stopping importation as the most effective approach to the drug war, this compares to 47% of those 30-49, and 52% of those 50 and older.

Religion also plays a role in how people view the drug war. Evangelical Protestants tend to be less optimistic about drug education programs than mainline Protestants, and evangelicals are more supportive of a government emphasis on interdiction. Seculars are the most likely to believe drug education would be the most effective approach to solving the drug problem.

Doubts About Foreign Anti-Drug Aid

Although the public favors government action to stop drugs from entering the country, it is highly skeptical toward providing financial assistance to drug-producing countries. By nearly four-to-one (42% to 11%) Americans would like to see the U.S. provide less, not more financial assistance to countries like Columbia and Peru, to assist them in stopping drug production.

	Financial Assistance	Military Assistance
<i>Aid drug-producing countries ...</i>	%	%
More	11	23
Less	42	28
Same as now	36	37
Don't know	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
	100	100

The public is split over the question of providing *military* assistance to countries to help them fight drug trafficking. Roughly equal proportions would like to see the U.S. provide more (23%) and less (28%) military assistance to drug-producing countries, with a plurality saying we are providing about the right amount of assistance now.

Medical Marijuana Favored

Legalizing marijuana remains a controversial proposal, with 46% saying they favor removing criminal punishments for the possession of small amounts of marijuana and 49% saying it should remain a criminal offense. Support for removing the penalties for minor possession has remained steady since the 1980s, and is down slightly from the 1970s.

But the public is far less divided when it comes to the question of medical-marijuana. Nearly three-quarters support allowing doctors to prescribe marijuana for medical purposes to treat their patients.

Once again, women tend to be more conservative when it comes to legalization issues. While 53% of men favor the removal of criminal punishments for small amounts of marijuana, just 39% of women agree. Some of this difference can be attributed to the fact that men are far more likely to have tried marijuana than women. Nearly half (46%) of men report having tried marijuana, compared to just 30% of women. In general, those who have tried marijuana are far more supportive of its legalization in small amounts than those who have not (65% to 33%). But even when this difference in exposure is accounted for, men are more likely to favor legalization than women. This gender gap is especially evident among blacks.

Opposition to relaxing drug penalties is strongest among senior citizens, and residents of rural areas. Also, almost two-thirds (65%) of white evangelical Protestants oppose allowing the possession of small amounts of marijuana, while 54% of white mainline Protestants support legalization, along with two-thirds (65%) of seculars.

Two arguments, one for and one against the legalization of marijuana, were tested on the survey, and neither garnered much support from the public. Six-in-ten (59%) disagreed with the argument that legalizing marijuana would make it easier for law enforcement to control more serious drugs, while 36% agreed. Yet half the public disagreed with the anti-legalization argument that legalization would make it harder to control serious drugs.

Parents Seen as Key

Preventing teens from trying illegal drugs starts with friends and family, according to most Americans. Broad societal factors — such as living in poverty, the type of neighborhood a teen lives in or how much education about drugs the teen has — rank low among factors Americans think determine whether a teenager tries illegal drugs. Peer pressure, parental supervision and how easy or difficult it is for the teen to get access to drugs are considered far and away the most important factors in teen drug use.

More than eight-in-ten (82%) think peer pressure is a major factor in whether teens try drugs, and nearly as many (79%) say a lack of parental supervision is important. The ready availability of drugs is also cited by three-quarters (74%) as a major factor. Parents who have children at home are somewhat more conscious of these three factors.

The public's emphasis on parental supervision is emblematic of the increased willingness of Americans to blame the problems of teens on their parents. In a report by the Center last year, a plurality identified poor parenting as the primary cause for school shootings (see “A Year After Columbine,” April 19, 2000). In the case of drugs, Americans are especially critical of parents who have used drugs themselves. Six-in-ten (59%) say parents who used drugs in their youth don't do enough to help their kids stay away from drugs. Even a majority (51%) of parents who admit to trying marijuana themselves express this self-critical viewpoint.

	Major Factor	Minor Factor	Not A Factor	DK/ Ref
	%	%	%	%
Peer pressure	82	14	2	2=100
Lack parental supervision	79	15	4	2=100
Ease of access	74	17	5	4=100
Drug portrayal in movies/TV	55	32	10	3=100
Parents drink/smoke	52	32	13	3=100
Living in poverty	45	33	18	4=100
Lack of information	44	35	19	2=100
Boredom	42	38	16	4=100
Raised in city/suburbs/country	25	30	42	3=100

Many also feel that a child's home environment is a significant cause of drug use. Though less important than parental supervision, more than half (52%) think that whether a teen's parents drink or smoke can be a major factor in whether the teen tries illegal drugs. Just under half (45%) say that the parent's economic status — whether they live in poverty or not — can be a very important issue in shaping a teen's behavior.

Again, education about the dangers of drug use is not seen as significant, at least when compared to other factors. While a plurality (44%) say a lack of information about such dangers is a major factor in whether a teen tries drugs, another 35% say it is only a minor factor, with nearly one-in-five saying it doesn't matter at all. But solid majorities of black (61%) and Hispanic (60%) respondents say teens who lack information about the dangers of drugs are at significantly higher risk, compared to just 41% of white respondents.

There is a broad consensus that where a child is raised plays little role in shaping their behavior regarding drugs. Just one-in-four say whether a teenager is raised in the city, suburbs or country is a major factor in whether they try drugs, and 42% say it isn't an issue at all. And this view is pretty much the same regardless of the size of the community a respondent lives in.

Republicans and Democrats have somewhat different views about the causes of teen drug use. Republicans are slightly more likely to cite a lack of parental supervision as a very important factor in what a teen does. On the other hand, a majority of Democrats believe living in poverty and a lack of information about the dangers of drugs are very important factors in teenage drug use, while just slightly over a third of Republicans agree.

Blaming Hollywood

While the entertainment industry's portrayal of drug use is not cited as one of the leading factors in determining whether a teen tries drugs, the public levels harsh criticism at Hollywood. More than two-thirds of Americans (68%) say the television and motion picture industries fail to accurately portray the dangers of drug abuse.

Though majorities of all major demographic groups are dissatisfied with the way drug use is portrayed in the movies and on TV, political conservatives are the most critical. Fully 75% of conservatives say television and movies fail to show the dangers of drug use, compared to fewer than six-in-ten liberals.

<i>Industry fails to show dangers ...</i>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Conserv.</u>	<u>Moder.</u>	<u>Liberal</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Agree	68	75	65	59
Disagree	28	22	30	35
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100	100

Younger respondents are the least critical of the entertainment industry. While a majority (61%) of those under 30 think movies and television fail to adequately portray the dangers of drugs, just 41% list this as a major factor in what teens do. By comparison, seven-in-ten of those 30 and older criticize the industry's message, and a strong majority feels this has a major effect on whether teens try drugs. Parents are slightly more critical of the way drugs are portrayed by movies and television, but are no more likely to say this affects their kids than non-parents.

CONCERNS ABOUT DRUG ABUSE

	----- National -----				----- Your Neighborhood -----			
	<u>Crisis</u>	<u>Serious Problem</u>	<u>Minor/Not A Problem</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Crisis</u>	<u>Serious Problem</u>	<u>Minor/Not A Problem</u>	<u>DK</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	27	63	8	2=100	9	37	47	7=100
Sex								
Male	24	62	12	2	9	36	49	6
Female	31	63	5	1	8	38	46	8
Race								
White	26	64	8	2	8	34	52	6
Non-white	33	58	8	1	15	46	29	10
Black	43	52	5	*	14	45	33	8
Race and Sex								
White Men	24	63	12	1	8	31	55	6
White Women	28	65	5	2	8	36	49	7
Age								
Under 30	20	61	18	1	16	38	42	4
30-49	26	64	10	*	6	34	52	8
50-64	28	68	3	1	9	45	41	5
65+	32	58	2	8	4	34	53	9
Sex and Age								
Men under 50	18	63	18	1	10	31	51	8
Women under 50 30	62		7	1	9	40	45	6
Men 50+	32	60	3	5	8	43	45	4
Women 50+	28	66	3	3	6	38	46	10
Education								
College Grad.	19	72	8	1	5	38	48	9
Some College	26	64	9	1	6	43	45	6
High School Grad.	31	57	9	3	9	34	52	5
<H.S. Grad.	33	59	6	2	19	34	39	8
Family Income								
\$75,000+	21	69	9	1	3	38	53	6
\$50,000-\$74,999	22	69	9	0	5	43	48	4
\$30,000-\$49,999	30	63	6	1	10	39	45	6
\$20,000-\$29,999	28	63	9	*	9	35	52	4
<\$20,000	38	48	11	3	10	36	46	8

Question: How would you describe the problem of drug abuse (FORM 1: across the country/FORM 2: in your neighborhood, including the local schools)? Would you say it is a crisis, a serious problem, a minor problem, or not a problem?

Continued ...

CONCERNS ABOUT DRUG ABUSE (cont)

	----- National -----				----- Your Neighborhood -----			
	<u>Crisis</u>	<u>Serious Problem</u>	<u>Minor/Not A Problem</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Crisis</u>	<u>Serious Problem</u>	<u>Minor/Not A Problem</u>	<u>DK</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	27	63	8	2=100	9	37	47	7=100
Region								
East	31	57	10	2	6	40	46	8
Midwest	27	64	7	2	9	35	52	4
South	27	64	8	1	9	38	46	7
West	23	66	8	3	10	38	44	8
Religious Affiliation								
Total White Protestant	28	64	6	2	6	38	50	6
White Protestant Evangelical	34	59	4	3	7	41	49	3
White Prot. Non-Evangelical	19	71	9	1	6	35	52	7
White Catholic	20	69	10	1	6	30	57	7
Community Size								
Large City	29	60	9	2	14	40	39	7
Suburb	23	68	8	1	9	37	45	9
Small City/Town	28	61	10	1	6	35	53	6
Rural Area	30	64	4	2	6	40	48	6
Party ID								
Republican	22	70	6	2	7	35	54	4
Democrat	32	60	7	1	12	40	41	7
Independent	27	61	10	2	7	39	46	8
Party and Ideology								
Conservative Republican	25	70	2	3	3	39	54	4
Moderate/Liberal Republican	21	68	11	0	9	32	56	3
Conservative/Moderate Dem.	34	62	4	0	11	45	38	6
Liberal Democrat	24	62	11	3	17	29	43	11
2000 Presidential Vote								
Bush	25	69	5	1	6	36	55	3
Gore	26	66	7	1	9	42	41	8
Marital Status								
Married	27	67	5	1	7	40	47	6
Unmarried	29	57	12	2	10	34	48	8
Parental Status								
Parent	26	69	5	*	11	34	49	6
Non-Parent	28	60	10	2	7	39	46	8
Tried Marijuana								
Yes	22	63	14	1	10	35	49	6
No	31	62	4	3	8	38	47	7
Drug Abuse in Family								
Yes	33	60	6	1	17	44	33	6
No	26	63	9	2	7	35	51	7

DRUGS — A CRIME OR A DISEASE

*Too many people are put in jail
just for possessing drugs*

*Treat drug use more like a
crime or more like a disease*

	<i>Too many people are put in jail just for possessing drugs</i>			<i>Treat drug use more like a crime or more like a disease</i>			
	<u>Agree</u> %	<u>Disagree</u> %	<u>DK</u> %	<u>Crime</u> %	<u>Disease</u> %	<u>Both</u> %	<u>Neither/DK</u> %
Total	47	47	6=100	35	52	9	4=100
Sex							
Male	53	41	6	36	53	8	3
Female	40	53	7	35	51	10	4
Race							
White	45	49	6	35	52	9	4
Non-white	53	41	6	35	55	8	2
Black	47	48	5	37	49	11	3
Hispanic*	60	36	4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Race and Sex							
White Men	51	43	6	39	49	8	4
White Women	39	55	6	31	55	10	4
Black Men	54	40	6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Black Women	41	55	4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Age							
Under 30	50	47	3	35	58	1	6
30-49	48	48	4	32	54	12	2
50-64	45	48	7	35	50	12	3
65+	41	48	11	44	41	8	7
Sex and Age							
Men under 50	55	41	4	30	60	7	3
Women under 50	55	4	36	51	10	3	
Men 50+	49	43	8	49	38	9	4
Women 50+	39	51	10	30	53	11	6
Education							
College Grad.	50	41	9	29	56	12	3
Some College	46	51	3	33	57	5	5
High School Grad.	41	52	7	39	48	9	4
<H.S. Grad.	53	43	4	42	47	7	4
Family Income							
\$75,000+	50	46	4	41	50	6	3
\$50,000-\$74,999	49	47	4	30	54	14	2
\$30,000-\$49,999	44	51	5	31	59	8	2
\$20,000-\$29,999	46	50	4	35	50	10	5
<\$20,000	50	44	6	38	49	8	5

* The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

Question: Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements... Too many people are put in jail just for possessing drugs.
All in all, should drug use be treated more like a crime or more like a disease?

Continued ...

DRUGS — A CRIME OR A DISEASE (cont)

	<i>Too many people are put in jail just for possessing drugs</i>			<i>Treat drug use more like a crime or more like a disease</i>			
	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Crime</u>	<u>Disease</u>	<u>Both</u>	<u>Neither/DK</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	47	47	6=100	35	52	9	4=100
Region							
East	48	46	6	41	45	7	7
Midwest	40	54	6	32	57	8	3
South	46	48	6	33	53	10	4
West	54	40	6	37	50	11	2
Religious Affiliation							
Total White Protestant	39	55	6	36	53	8	3
White Protestant Evangelical	34	61	5	48	40	9	3
White Prot. Non-Evangelical	45	49	6	25	64	8	3
White Catholic	44	49	7	36	44	13	7
Secular	67	29	4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Community Size							
Large City	50	42	8	30	54	11	5
Suburb	50	43	7	37	51	8	4
Small City/Town	48	48	4	34	56	7	3
Rural Area	36	58	6	41	43	13	3
Party ID							
Republican	38	57	5	48	38	10	4
Democrat	50	44	6	30	61	7	2
Independent	54	42	4	32	54	9	5
Party and Ideology							
Conservative Republican	34	59	7	47	39	10	4
Moderate/Liberal Republican	42	56	2	47	40	11	2
Conservative/Moderate Dem.	47	48	5	33	60	5	2
Liberal Democrat	61	32	7	18	71	9	2
2000 Presidential Vote							
Bush	40	56	4	44	45	8	3
Gore	53	40	7	31	60	7	2
Marital Status							
Married	44	51	5	42	46	9	3
Unmarried	50	44	6	29	58	8	5
Parental Status							
Parent	43	52	5	41	45	12	2
Non-Parent	48	45	7	32	56	7	5
Tried Marijuana							
Yes	57	38	5	23	66	9	2
No	40	54	6	44	43	9	4
Drug Abuse in Family							
Yes	54	44	2	31	57	11	1
No	44	49	7	36	51	8	5

'MOST EFFECTIVE' APPROACHES TO CONTROL DRUG USE

	<u>Stopping Illegal Drugs Imports</u>	<u>Arresting Drug Sellers</u>	<u>Educating Americans</u>	<u>Providing Treatment</u>	<u>Arresting Drug Users</u>	<u>None/ DK</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	48	19	15	10	4	4=100
Sex						
Male	47	19	16	9	4	5
Female	49	20	13	10	4	4
Race						
White	48	21	14	9	4	4
Non-white	43	14	20	14	3	6
Black	47	13	23	11	2	4
Hispanic*	51	20	10	12	1	6
Race and Sex						
White Men	47	20	16	8	5	4
White Women	50	21	12	9	4	4
Black Men	51	9	25	10	2	3
Black Women	43	16	23	12	1	5
Age						
Under 30	41	20	17	13	7	2
30-49	47	20	17	8	4	4
50-64	51	20	10	11	4	4
65+	54	18	9	6	2	11
Sex and Age						
Men under 50	45	19	18	9	5	4
Women under 50 46	22	15	10	5	2	
Men 50+	52	20	11	8	3	6
Women 50+	53	18	7	11	4	7
Education						
College Grad.	47	19	17	10	3	4
Some College	48	17	15	13	3	4
High School Grad.	49	19	15	8	4	5
<H.S. Grad.	45	25	11	7	5	7
Family Income						
\$75,000+	46	23	14	9	4	4
\$50,000-\$74,999	46	17	18	12	4	3
\$30,000-\$49,999	49	20	14	9	5	3
\$20,000-\$29,999	43	26	19	4	5	3
<\$20,000	52	14	12	12	4	6

* The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

Question: Of the actions you think are (very/somewhat) effective, which ONE do you think would be the MOST effective... Stopping the illegal importation of drugs from other countries, arresting people who sell illegal drugs in this country, arresting drug users in this country, educating Americans about the dangers of using illegal drugs, or providing drug treatment programs for drug users?

Continued ...

'MOST EFFECTIVE' APPROACHES TO CONTROL DRUG USE (cont)

	<u>Stopping Illegal Drugs Imports</u>	<u>Arresting Drug Sellers</u>	<u>Educating Americans</u>	<u>Providing Treatment</u>	<u>Arresting Drug Users</u>	<u>None/ DK</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	48	19	15	10	4	4=100
Region						
East	51	17	14	12	1	5
Midwest	51	21	13	5	7	3
South	45	21	17	8	3	6
West	46	18	14	14	4	4
Religious Affiliation						
Total White Protestant	51	20	12	8	5	4
White Protestant Evangelical	56	20	9	6	6	3
White Prot. Non-Evangelical	46	19	16	10	4	5
White Catholic	47	24	16	6	4	3
Secular	42	21	25	6	2	4
Community Size						
Large City	45	16	20	11	3	5
Suburb	47	20	16	9	4	4
Small City/Town	50	20	13	9	4	4
Rural Area	48	22	13	10	5	2
Party ID						
Republican	49	21	13	6	6	5
Democrat	47	17	18	12	2	4
Independent	46	23	14	10	4	3
Party and Ideology						
Conservative Republican	50	21	13	5	7	4
Moderate/Liberal Republican	51	20	14	7	5	3
Conservative/Moderate Dem.	48	16	18	13	2	3
Liberal Democrat	44	16	21	13	3	3
2000 Presidential Vote						
Bush	50	24	13	5	4	4
Gore	49	16	18	11	3	3
Marital Status						
Married	49	20	16	8	4	3
Unmarried	46	19	14	11	4	6
Parental Status						
Parent	49	20	15	7	5	4
Non-Parent	47	19	14	11	4	5
Tried Marijuana						
Yes	47	18	16	12	3	4
No	49	20	13	8	5	5
Drug Abuse in Family						
Yes	44	22	12	15	4	3
No	48	19	16	8	4	5

VIEWS ABOUT MARIJUANA

Treat small amounts of marijuana as a criminal offense *Doctors should be allowed to prescribe marijuana*

	<i>Treat small amounts of marijuana as a criminal offense</i>			<i>Doctors should be allowed to prescribe marijuana</i>		
	<u>Yes</u> %	<u>No</u> %	<u>DK</u> %	<u>Yes</u> %	<u>No</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
Total	49	46	5=100	73	21	6=100
Sex						
Male	43	53	4	75	19	6
Female	55	39	6	70	24	6
Race						
White	49	46	5	74	20	6
Non-white	52	44	4	69	28	3
Black	52	43	5	66	30	4
Hispanic*	51	48	1	67	32	1
Race and Sex						
White Men	43	53	4	75	19	6
White Women	54	40	6	73	21	6
Black Men	34	57	9	67	29	4
Black Women	66	32	2	64	32	4
Age						
Under 30	49	47	4	77	20	3
30-49	49	48	3	76	21	3
50-64	46	48	6	73	21	6
65+	56	37	7	61	25	14
Sex and Age						
Men under 50	41	56	3	78	18	4
Women under 50 57	39	4	75	23	2	
Men 50+	47	46	7	70	22	8
Women 50+	52	40	8	66	24	10
Education						
College Grad.	39	55	6	79	16	5
Some College	49	48	3	75	21	4
High School Grad.	54	39	7	71	23	6
<H.S. Grad.	53	42	5	64	28	8
Family Income						
\$75,000+	38	59	3	83	13	4
\$50,000-\$74,999	48	47	5	78	18	4
\$30,000-\$49,999	48	47	5	73	23	4
\$20,000-\$29,999	62	36	2	69	24	7
<\$20,000	55	39	6	66	28	6

* The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

Question: Do you think the possession of small amounts of marijuana should or should not be treated as a criminal offense?
Regardless of what you think about the personal non-medical use of marijuana, do you think doctors should or should not be allowed to prescribe marijuana for medical purposes to treat their patients?

Continued ...

VIEWS ABOUT MARIJUANA (cont)

Treat small amounts of marijuana as a criminal offense *Doctors should be allowed to prescribe marijuana*

	<i>Treat small amounts of marijuana as a criminal offense</i>			<i>Doctors should be allowed to prescribe marijuana</i>		
	<u>Yes</u> %	<u>No</u> %	<u>DK</u> %	<u>Yes</u> %	<u>No</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
Total	49	46	5=100	73	21	6=100
Region						
East	53	43	4	73	22	5
Midwest	51	42	7	72	23	5
South	52	43	5	72	22	6
West	40	56	4	75	18	7
Religious Affiliation						
Total White Protestant	53	41	6	70	24	6
White Protestant Evangelical	65	29	6	62	32	6
White Prot. Non-Evangelical	41	54	5	78	17	5
White Catholic	49	45	6	76	18	6
Secular	34	65	1	84	10	6
Community Size						
Large City	46	49	5	74	21	5
Suburb	44	52	4	77	16	7
Small City/Town	48	46	6	73	22	5
Rural Area	62	33	5	66	29	5
Party ID						
Republican	55	40	5	67	26	7
Democrat	48	48	4	75	20	5
Independent	44	51	5	79	17	4
Party and Ideology						
Conservative Republican	58	39	3	64	29	7
Moderate/Liberal Republican	49	44	7	74	21	5
Conservative/Moderate Democrat	53	44	3	74	22	4
Liberal Democrat	30	65	5	79	15	6
2000 Presidential Vote						
Bush	54	42	4	69	25	6
Gore	46	50	4	78	17	5
Marital Status						
Married	53	42	5	71	23	6
Unmarried	45	49	6	74	20	6
Parental Status						
Parent	54	42	4	71	25	4
Non-Parent	47	47	6	73	20	7
Tried Marijuana						
Yes	32	65	3	86	11	3
No	61	33	6	64	29	7
Drug Abuse in Family						
Yes	44	51	5	75	20	5
No	50	44	6	72	22	6

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Results for the survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates among a nationwide sample of 1,513 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period February 14-19, 2001. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results based on either Form 1 (N=728) or Form 2 (N=785), the sampling error is plus or minus 4.5 percentage points.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY IN DETAIL

The sample for this survey was designed to generalize to the U.S. adult population in telephone households, and to allow separate analyses of responses by African-Americans and younger respondents. To achieve these objectives in a cost effective manner, the design uses standard *list-assisted random digit dialing* (RDD) methodology, but telephone numbers are drawn disproportionately from telephone exchanges with higher than average density of African-American households. Weighting adjustments are made in the analysis to ensure the overall representativeness of the sample.

Using RDD methods, every *active block* of telephone numbers (area code + exchange + two-digit block number) that contains one or more residential directory listings is proportionally likely to be selected; after selection two more digits are added randomly to complete the number. This method guarantees coverage of every assigned phone number regardless of whether that number is directory listed, purposely unlisted, or too new to be listed. After selection, the numbers are compared against business directories and matching numbers are purged.

The sample was released for interviewing in replicates. Using replicates to control the release of sample to the field ensures that the complete call procedures are followed for the entire sample. The use of replicates also insures that the regional distribution of numbers called is appropriate. Again, this works to increase the representativeness of the sample.

At least 10 attempts were made to complete an interview at every sampled telephone number. The calls were staggered over times of day and days of the week to maximize the chances of making a contact with a potential respondent. All interview breakoffs and refusals were re-contacted at least once in order to attempt to convert them to completed interviews. In each contacted household, interviewers asked to speak with the "youngest male 18 or older who is at home." If there is no eligible man at home, interviewers asked to speak with "the oldest woman 18 or older who is at home." This systematic respondent selection technique has been shown empirically to produce samples that closely mirror the population in terms of age and gender.

Non-response in telephone interview surveys produces some known biases in survey-derived estimates because participation tends to vary for different subgroups of the population, and these subgroups are likely to vary also on questions of substantive interest. In order to compensate for these known biases, the sample data are weighted in analysis.

The demographic weighting parameters are derived from a special analysis of the most recently available Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (March 2000). This analysis produced population parameters for the demographic characteristics of households with adults 18 or older, which are then compared with the sample characteristics to construct sample weights. The analysis only included households in the continental United States that contain a telephone.

The weights are derived using an iterative technique that simultaneously balances the distributions of all weighting parameters.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESS
FEBRUARY 2001 NEWS INTEREST INDEX
FINAL TOPLINE
February 14-19, 2001
N = 1,513

ASK ALL:

On another subject...

Q.4F1 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>	
February, 2001	46	43	11=100	(N=728)
January, 2001	55	41	4=100	
September, 2000	51	41	8=100	
June, 2000	47	45	8=100	
April, 2000	48	43	9=100	
August, 1999	56	39	5=100	
January, 1999	53	41	6=100	
November, 1998	46	44	10=100	
Early September, 1998	54	42	4=100	
Late August, 1998	55	41	4=100	
Early August, 1998	50	44	6=100	
February, 1998	59	37	4=100	
January, 1998	46	50	4=100	
September, 1997	45	49	6=100	
August, 1997	49	46	5=100	
January, 1997	38	58	4=100	
July, 1996	29	67	4=100	
March, 1996	28	70	2=100	
October, 1995	23	73	4=100	
June, 1995	25	73	2=100	
April, 1995	23	74	3=100	
July, 1994	24	73	3=100	
March, 1994	24	71	5=100	
October, 1993	22	73	5=100	
September, 1993	20	75	4=100	
May, 1993	22	71	7=100	
January, 1993	39	50	11=100	
January, 1992	28	68	4=100	
November, 1991	34	61	5=100	
<i>Late February, 1991 (Gallup)</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>3=100</i>	
August, 1990	47	48	5=100	
May, 1990	41	54	5=100	
January, 1989	45	50	5=100	
September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5=100	
May, 1988	41	54	5=100	
January, 1988	39	55	6=100	

Q.4F2 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in your local community today?

	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>	
February, 2001	73	22	5=100	(N=785)
March, 1994	68	27	5=100	

Q.5F1 What do you think is the most important problem facing the country today? [RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. PROBE FOR CLARITY – DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD ALL IN ORDER OF MENTION]

		Aug 1999	June 1999	May 1998	Nov 1997	July 1996	June 1995	Mar 1994	Dec 1993	June 1993	Jan 1992	May 1990	Feb 1989	April 1987
12	Morality/Ethics/Family values	13	11	10	9	13	12	10	6	7	3	5	2	3
11	Education	8	7	9	5	6	6	5	5	5	2	4	4	0
8	Crime/Gangs/Justice system	12	11	13	12	19	22	31	25	7	3	7	8	3
7	Economy (general)	2	3	4	4	4	5	4	6	17	43	5	4	7
6	Unemployment/Lack of jobs 3	4	6	6	7	10	12	15	19	22	7	9	13	
6	Drugs/Alcohol	6	5	7	7	8	5	10	8	5	4	37	23	6
6	Health care/Cost/ availability of health care	6	3	4	5	4	7	14	14	11	3	3	1	*
4	Energy crisis/rising gas/heating prices	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
4	Dissatisfaction with govt/politics	3	3	5	4	8	6	5	2	5	2	2	1	0
3	Other social issues	4	4	3	--	2	0	*	3	*	*	*	*	*
3	Poverty	4	3	3	3	3	4	2	3	3	1	3	4	6
3	Taxes	3	2	4	3	3	3	3	2	4	1	3	2	0
3	Inflation/Difference between wages/costs	1	*	2	1	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	3
2	Other International issues	2	4	3	--	*	4	1	2	3	4	6	10	22
2	Youth/Teenage kids not acting responsible	2	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2	Racism	2	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	2	1	2	0	0
2	Homelessness	2	4	2	3	2	4	3	5	5	6	8	10	*
2	Immigration	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2	Recession/slowing of the economy	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2	Issues related to elderly	1	3	3	1	2	*	1	1	2	1	2	2	0
1	Other defense issues	--	--	1	*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Deficit/National debt/Balanced budget	3	1	6	5	7	9	5	6	13	4	11	19	12
1	Social Security	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Welfare abuse	2	1	3	1	7	5	2	*	*	*	*	*	*
1	Scandal/Corruption in govt	3	2	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Teen violence in school	6	7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Too much foreign aid/ Spend money at home	2	4	2	1	5	2	2	1	2	1	3	1	0
1	Other economic issues	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Environment/Pollution	*	*	2	1	1	1	2	1	*	1	8	2	0
1	Too many guns/Gun control	4	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Medicare	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Uneven distribution of wealth	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Other health care mentions	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Other domestic issues	4	1	1	--	2	5	1	3	2	10	11	10	21

Q.5F1 CONTINUED ...

	Aug 1999	June 1999	May 1998	Nov 1997	July 1996	June 1995	Mar 1994	Dec 1993	June 1993	Jan 1992	May 1990	Feb 1989	April 1987
* Terrorism	*	*	*	*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
* AIDS	--	*	--	--	1	1	2	*	*	*	*	*	*
* HMO Reform	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
5 Other	1	6	5	6	2	2	2	*	4	1	5	9	1
2 None	*	1	*	1	*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
7 Don't know/No answer	11	11	12	7	6	3	4	6	2	3	1	3	3
26 ECONOMIC (NET)	15	8	16	18	18	28	26	33	53	76	26	28	35
10 HEALTHCARE (NET)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
5 DEFENSE/INTER- NATIONAL (NET)	7	11	5	10	1	9	2	*	*	*	*	*	*
5 POVERTY/HOMELESS (NET)	6	6	6	6	5	8	6	*	*	*	*	*	*

Q.5F2 What do you think is the most important problem facing your local community today? **[RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. PROBE FOR CLARITY – DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD ALL IN ORDER OF MENTION]**

	<u>March 1994</u>
14 Education	11
12 Crime/Gangs/Justice system/Violence	29
11 Drugs/Alcohol	9
9 Unemployment/Lack of jobs	12
7 Development/Growth/Overcrowding/Traffic	4
6 Roads/Sewers/Infrastructure/Transportation	5
6 Taxes	8
4 Dissatisfaction with government/politics	2
4 Power crisis/Costs of gas/Power	--
4 Problems with children/Delinquency	4
2 Inflation/Differences between wages and costs	1
2 Morality/Ethics/Family values	2
1 Environment/Pollution	3
1 Health care (cost/accessibility)	2
1 Racism	1
1 Funding availability for local services	4
1 Poverty/Homeless	2
* Costs/Fees for local services	*
9 Other	3
5 No problem	4
10 Don't know	11
18 ECONOMIC/FINANCIAL (NET)	25

Q.19F1/F2

Next, as I read you some problem areas, please tell me how you think each is affecting **[FORM 1: "this country" FORM 2: "your local community"]** today. (First,) do you think the problem of... **[INSERT ITEM. ROTATE.]** is ABOUT THE SAME as it has been, that (the country/your community) is MAKING PROGRESS in this area, or that (the country/your community) is LOSING GROUND?

ITEMS A - E BASED ON FORM 1 [N=728] AND FORM 2 [N=785]; ITEMS F AND G BASED ON FORM 1 ONLY; ITEM H BASED ON FORM 2 ONLY.

		<u>Making Progress</u>	<u>About The Same</u>	<u>Losing Ground</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
a.	Crime				
	<i>National</i>	29	31	38	2=100
	November, 1997	24	30	44	2=100
	December, 1996	15	23	61	1=100
	April, 1995	9	13	77	1=100
	March, 1994	7	15	77	1=100
	March, 1989	15	19	64	2=100
	<i>Community</i>	32	42	23	3=100
	March, 1994	14	29	56	1=100
b.	Drugs				
	<i>National</i>	13	29	54	4=100
	November, 1997	15	25	58	2=100
	December, 1996	13	21	64	2=100
	April, 1995	10	22	66	2=100
	March, 1994	13	22	62	3=100
	March, 1989	17	12	69	2=100
	<i>Community</i>	23	33	37	7=100
	March, 1994	16	28	51	5=100
c.	The quality of public education				
	<i>National</i>	23	20	53	4=100
	November, 1997	26	26	46	2=100
	December, 1996	24	22	52	2=100
	April, 1995	18	20	60	2=100
	March, 1994	17	19	61	3=100
	<i>Community</i>	34	30	31	5=100
	March, 1994	23	28	44	5=100
d.	Conflict among racial, religious or ethnic groups				
	<i>National</i>	29	38	29	4=100
	November, 1997	31	39	27	3=100
	December, 1996 ¹	27	31	39	3=100
	April, 1995	27	36	35	2=100
	March, 1994	21	32	41	3=100
	<i>Community</i>	33	47	15	5=100
	March, 1994	19	46	30	5=100

¹

This month the question was asked "Conflict among racial groups."

Q.19F1/F2 CONTINUED ...

	<u>Making Progress</u>	<u>About The Same</u>	<u>Losing Ground</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
e. The availability of good-paying jobs				
<i>National</i>	33	26	36	5=100
November, 1997	31	28	37	4=100
December, 1996	19	26	51	4=100
April, 1995	17	24	55	4=100
March, 1994	10	23	63	4=100
<i>Community</i>	24	35	35	6=100
March, 1994	14	31	49	6=100
f. Planning and managing growth in and around our cities				
<i>National</i>	31	28	32	9=100
g. The way the health care system is working				
<i>National</i>	13	29	53	5=100
November, 1997	16	26	54	4=100
December, 1996	20	25	52	3=100
April, 1995	14	30	53	3=100
March, 1994	16	31	49	4=100
h. Planning and managing growth in and around your local area				
<i>Community</i>	36	31	28	5=100

ASK ALL:

Q.26 Now I'd like you to think about some concerns that people may have. How concerned are you, if at all, about...
[INSERT ITEM; ROTATE.]? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned about this? What about **[NEXT ITEM]**...?²

SPLIT FORM: FORM 1 [N=728]; FORM 2 [N=785]:

	<u>Very Concerned</u>	<u>Somewhat Concerned</u>	<u>Not too Concerned</u>	<u>Does Not Not at all Concerned</u>	<u>Apply (VOL)</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
a. Having a family member become involved with drugs?						
March, 1994	44	13	17	25	*	1=100
May, 1988	43	15	16	25	1	*=100
	36	22	23	15	2	2=100
b. Having a family member develop an alcohol problem?						
March, 1994	37	14	18	29	1	1=100
May, 1988	36	14	19	29	2	*=100
	32	23	25	16	2	2=100

²

In March 1994 the question was asked: "Now I'd like you to think about the future. As I read some different things that might affect your personal future, please tell me how concerned you are about each one happening to you. First, how concerned are you about..."

Q.26 CONTINUED ...

		SPLIT FORM: FORM 1 [N=728]; FORM 2 [N=785]:				Apply	Don't Know
		Very Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Not too Concerned	Does Not Not at all Concerned		
c.F1	Being unable to afford necessary health care when a family member gets sick?	60	18	9	11	1	1=100
	September, 2000 (RVs)	63	19	8	8	2	*=100
	October, 1999	60	19	13	7	1	*=100
	May, 1997	50	20	16	13	1	*=100
	October, 1996 (RVs)	61	18	12	7	1	1=100
	March, 1996	68	16	10	6	*	*=100
	October, 1995	66	17	9	7	1	*=100
d.F2	Becoming a victim of a crime?	38	27	23	12	0	*=100
	October, 1999	39	32	22	7	*	*=100
	May, 1997	38	29	22	10	0	1=100
	October, 1995	51	30	15	4	*	*=100
	May, 1988	36	36	21	5	*	2=100
e.F1	Not having enough money for your retirement?	55	24	10	9	1	1=100
	September, 2000 (RVs)	55	24	11	8	1	1=100
	October, 1999	51	27	13	8	1	*=100
	May, 1997	42	26	15	13	3	1=100
	October, 1996 (RVs)	56	24	11	7	1	1=100
	March, 1996	59	23	9	7	2	*=100
	October, 1995	48	29	10	8	4	1=100
	May, 1988	34	35	15	8	4	4=100
f.F2	Losing your job or taking a cut in pay?	34	14	15	27	9	1=100
	May, 1997	30	15	19	20	16	*=100
	March, 1996	47	16	14	15	8	*=100
	October, 1995	34	17	16	17	16	*=100
	March, 1994	28	16	14	21	21	*=100

Next I have some questions about the problem of drugs and drug abuse.

Q.27 How would you describe the problem of drug abuse [FORM 1: "across the country" FORM 2: "in your neighborhood, including the local schools"]? Would you say it is a crisis, a serious problem, a minor problem, or not a problem?

				----- Gallup/CNN/USA Today -----			
		September 1999		September 1995			
<u>Country</u>	<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Neighborhood</u>
27	9	30	9	31	10		
63	37	60	38	63	44		
7	37	8	38	5	37		
1	10	1	12	*	6		
<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>		
100	100	100	100	100	100		
(N=728)	(N=785)						

Q.28 I'm going to mention some actions the government could take to control the use of drugs. I'd like you to rate the effectiveness of each. First, would a big government push to [INSERT ITEM; ROTATE] be very effective in controlling drugs, only somewhat effective, or not very effective at all? ... How about a big push to [NEXT ITEM]?

		<u>Very Effective</u>	<u>Somewhat Effective</u>	<u>Not Very Effective</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
a.	Stop the illegal importation of drugs from other countries	52	27	19	2=100
	<i>ABC News: September, 1989</i>	42	42	14	2=100
	<i>ABC News: September, 1988</i>	66	22	12	0=100
	<i>ABC News: August, 1986</i>	61	28	10	1=100
b.	Arrest people who sell illegal drugs in this country	49	33	17	1=100
	<i>ABC News: September, 1989</i>	52	38	10	0=100
	<i>ABC News: September, 1988</i>	59	27	13	1=100
	<i>ABC News: August, 1986</i>	56	32	11	1=100
c.	Arrest drug users in this country	30	34	34	2=100
	<i>ABC News: September, 1989</i>	42	37	20	1=100
	<i>ABC News: September, 1988</i>	37	33	30	*=100
	<i>ABC News: August, 1986</i>	34	36	30	*=100
d.	Educate Americans about the dangers of using illegal drugs	35	41	22	2=100
	<i>ABC News: September, 1989</i>	44	43	13	0=100
	<i>ABC News: September, 1988</i>	51	37	12	0=100
	<i>ABC News: August, 1986</i>	46	41	13	*=100
e.	Provide drug treatment programs for drug users	36	43	19	2=100

ASK OF RESPONDENTS WHO RATED MORE THAN ONE "EFFECTIVE" IN Q.28:

Q.29 Of the actions you think are (very/somewhat) effective, which ONE do you think would be the MOST effective? [READ OPTIONS (BELOW) WHICH WERE CODED "1" IN Q.28A-E. IF NONE CODED "1" READ OPTIONS (BELOW) WHICH WERE CODED "2" IN Q.28A-E]

BASED ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS:

48	Stopping the illegal importation of drugs from other countries
19	Arresting people who sell illegal drugs in this country
4	Arresting drug users in this country
15	Educating Americans about the dangers of using illegal drugs
10	Providing drug treatment programs for drug users
2	All five actions rated "not very effective"
<u>2</u>	Don't Know/Refused
100	

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=728]:

Q.30F1 As you may know, the United States provides substantial financial assistance to countries like Columbia and Peru every year in order to help these countries fight drug trafficking. In your opinion, should the U.S. be providing more financial assistance to these countries, less financial assistance, or are we providing about the right amount of assistance now?

11 More
 42 Less
 36 About the right amount now
11 Don't know/Refused
 100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=785]:

Q.31F2 As you may know, the United States provides substantial military assistance to countries like Columbia and Peru every year in order to help these countries fight drug trafficking. In your opinion, should the U.S. be providing more military assistance to these countries, less military assistance, or are we providing about the right amount of assistance now?

23 More
 28 Less
 37 About the right amount now
12 Don't know/Refused
 100

ASK ALL:

Q.32 Do you think the possession of small amounts of marijuana should or should not be treated as a criminal offense?

		----- Gallup -----			
		<u>Aug</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>April</u>
		<u>2000</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1977</u>
49	Yes, treated as a criminal offense	51	50	43	41
46	No, not treated as a criminal offense	47	46	52	53
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100	100	100

Q.33 Regardless of what you think about the personal non-medical use of marijuana, do you think doctors should or should not be allowed to prescribe marijuana for medical purposes to treat their patients?

		<u>ABC</u>
		<u>May 1997</u>
73	Should be allowed	70
21	Should not be allowed	27
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>
100		100

Q.34 Has drug abuse ever been a cause of trouble in your family?

		----- Gallup -----			----- ABC -----			ABC/W.Post
		Aug	Sept	Sept	Sept	Sept	Aug	May
		<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1985</u>
21	Yes	22	17	19	18	14	13	9
79	No	78	83	81	82	86	87	91
*	Don't Know/Refused	*	*	*	0	0	0	0
<u>100</u>		<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

[NO Q.35 OR Q.36]

Q.37 How big a factor do you think the following things are in determining whether a teenager tries illegal drugs or not? Would you say [INSERT ITEM; ROTATE] is a major factor in whether a teenager tries illegal drugs, a minor factor, or not a factor at all.

		Major	Minor	Not A	
		<u>Factor</u>	<u>Factor</u>	<u>Factor</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Peer pressure	82	14	2	2=100
b.	Whether the teen's parents drink or smoke	52	32	13	3=100
c.	The portrayal of drug use in movies, music and TV	55	32	10	3=100
d.	Boredom	42	38	16	4=100
e.	A lack of information about the dangers of drugs	44	35	19	2=100
g.	Living in poverty	45	33	18	4=100
h.	Whether the teenager is raised in the city, suburbs or country	25	30	42	3=100
i.	How easy or difficult it is for the teen to get access to drugs	74	17	5	4=100
j.	Lack of parental supervision	79	15	4	2=100

Q.38 Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. **[READ AND ROTATE ITEMS a THRU j.**

SPLIT FORM: FORM 1 [N=728]; FORM 2 [N=785]:		<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a.F1	Legalizing marijuana would make it easier for law enforcement to control more serious drugs.	36	59	5=100
b.	Too many people are put in jail just for possessing drugs.	47	47	6=100
c.	We are losing the drug war.	74	20	6=100
NO ITEM d				
e.	Parents who used drugs in their youth don't do enough to help their kids stay away from drugs.	59	30	11=100
f.F1	Latin American governments will never be able to control the problem of drug trafficking.	68	27	5=100
g.F2	We will never be able to stop drugs from coming into this country because the demand for drugs is so high in the U.S.	74	24	2=100
h.	People should be allowed to take any drug they want so long as they don't hurt someone else.	12	86	2=100
	<i>ABC News: September, 1988</i>	15	84	1=100
	<i>ABC News: August, 1986</i>	15	85	*=100
i.	The television and motion picture industries fail to accurately portray the dangers of drug abuse.	68	28	4=100
j.F2	If marijuana were legalized, it would be harder to control the use of more serious drugs such as heroin and cocaine.	44	50	6=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=728]:

Q.39F1 Some states are moving AWAY from the idea of mandatory prison sentences for non-violent drug offenders. Do you think this is a good thing or a bad thing?

47	Good thing
45	Bad thing
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=785]:

Q.40F2 All in all, should drug use be treated more like a crime or more like a disease?

35	A crime
52	A disease
9	Both (VOL)
1	Neither (VOL)
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK ALL:

Q.41 Keeping in mind that all of your answers in this survey are confidential, have you, yourself, ever happened to try marijuana?

		----- Gallup -----					
		Sept	May	April	Jan	Mar	Oct
		<u>1999</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1969</u>
38	Yes	34	33	24	12	11	4
60	No	66	67	76	88	89	94
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>*</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100