

Study Links Teen-Age Substance Abuse and Paternal Ties

By IRVIN MOLOTSKY

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30 — Teen-agers who do not get along well with their fathers are more likely to smoke, drink and use drugs than youngsters in average two-parent families, according to a national study released today.

Further, the study found, even teen-agers from one-parent families, typically headed by mothers, are less at risk from tobacco, alcohol and drugs than those in two-parent families who have poor relationships with their fathers.

The study was done by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University and released by Joseph A. Califano Jr., the center's president, just as the new school year is starting.

Mr. Califano said at a news conference: "This should be a wake-up call for dads across America. Every father should look in a mirror and ask: 'How often do I eat meals with my children? Take them to religious

services? Help with their homework? Attend their games and extra-curricular activities? Join mom in monitoring my teen's conduct, praising and disciplining them?'"

According to the study, "a child living in a two-parent family, whose relationship with the father is poor, is 68 percent likelier to smoke, drink and use drugs than teens living in an average two-parent household."

It added that "a child in a two-parent family with a poor or fair relationship with the father is at more than 60 percent higher risk of substance abuse than a child growing up in a home headed by a single mother who has an excellent relationship with that mother."

Dr. Alan I. Leshner, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, said that this lesson might be drawn from that finding: "Bad parenting is bad. That sounds simplistic, but it is the case. Bad parenting is worse than no parenting."

The study was based on a survey

'A wake-up call for dads across America.'

of teen-agers and their parents. When asked whether they had ever smoked marijuana, 15 percent of the teen-agers said they had and 85 percent said they had not.

Of those who said they had not, 29 percent said that the person with the most influence over their decision was their mother and 13 percent said it was their father. The others included friends, siblings and other adults.

Mothers scored higher than fathers generally in influence over their children. When asked whose opinions they relied on most, 25 percent of the teen-agers said it was both their parents, but 27 percent said mostly their mothers and 9 per-

cent mostly their fathers.

When asked which parent was easier to talk to about drugs, 57 percent said it was the mother and 26 percent the father. The teen-agers reported over all that their relationship with their mothers was better than with their fathers.

The report issued by Mr. Califano, the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare in the Carter Administration, was the fifth done for the substance abuse center.

It was based on interviews conducted by telephone by the Luntz Research Companies from May 8 to June 23. The organization interviewed at random 2,000 teen-agers and 1,000 parents (including 555 interviews with parents and teen-agers from the same household).

It said the sampling error for the teen-agers was plus or minus 2.2 percentage points while that for the parents was plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

Dr. Robert L. DuPont, a psychiatrist who served as the first director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, said he did not know why youngsters would get along better with mothers than fathers.

"I would want to get both parents involved in stopping their use of drugs, tobacco and alcohol," Dr. DuPont said in an interview. "That may raise more conflicts than less, but I would consider that progress."

One finding in the study lent support to the recent survey by the Department of Health and Human Services that found that drug use by young people had declined from 1997 to 1998.

The Columbia study reported that 44 percent of the teen-agers said that they attended a drug-free school, compared with 31 percent in 1998. But they still found it easier to buy marijuana than beer. When asked which was easier for a teen-ager under 18 to buy, 41 percent said cigarettes, 4 percent said beer and 35 percent said marijuana.

The New York Times

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More firms seek Y2K credit protection

Companies want to be prepared in case of glitches

By Beth Bellon
USA TODAY

Banks are starting to see more companies ask for contingency lines of credit for the year 2000, the Federal Reserve said Monday.

It's the latest sign that businesses want to be ready for any disruptions caused by computers that haven't been programmed to read "00" as 2000

instead of 1900 when calendars roll over on Jan. 1.

Ten percent of nonfinancial firms and 20% of financial firms have asked their banks for a Y2K credit line, according to a quarterly Fed survey of senior loan officers.

While the percentages are small, they are double what they were three months ago and "in some cases, (the size of the requests are) substantial," the Fed says.

The most requests came from other banks, mutual funds and brokerages.

And as year's end approaches, there could be a huge jump

in the number of requests, says Keith Leggett, senior economist at the American Bankers Association (ABA).

The survey also says:

► All 60 domestic banks surveyed are willing to extend special credit. But two-thirds will do it only for existing customers. Banks don't want to give credit lines to companies if they aren't already comfortable with their Y2K readiness, Leggett says.

► 70% of banks surveyed say they would be willing to use a special credit line for Y2K problems that the Fed plans to open Oct. 1.

But 30% said they would rather borrow elsewhere and pay higher rates. Key reason: There is a longstanding perception that only troubled banks go to the Fed for money.

► Nearly 95% of the banks say fewer than 5% of their biggest customers were not making satisfactory progress toward Y2K preparedness.

Even if a business has shown it is ready for Y2K, it may pay more for lines of credit that extend into next year; 25% of domestic banks, up from 15% in May, are raising rates or fees for that.

Because of the uncertainties,

banks want a premium for lines of credit that may be tapped because of Y2K problems, says James Glassman, chief U.S. economist at Chase Manhattan Bank.

On another topic, the survey said a few banks have raised rates and fees slightly on commercial and industrial loans. But there's been little change in terms for households and small businesses.

The slight tightening of lending terms is tied to concerns about potential economic weakness, the Fed says.

The next survey is due in November.

Prize patrol You may be a winner — of a lawsuit

By Tom Lowry
USA TODAY

NEW YORK — More than 40 million consumers are receiving a surprisingly different mailing this week from sweepstakes firm Publishers Clearing House as part of a proposed settlement to a federal class action lawsuit filed in Illinois.

Screaming headlines proclaiming "you're a guaranteed winner" and promises that the "prize patrol" is coming to your front stoop are conspicuously absent.

Instead, the mailing — full of plenty of small type and legal lingo — makes another kind of guarantee. If a federal judge approves the settlement, consumers could be eligible to receive part of more than \$5.5 million in refunds for magazines and other goods they felt they were misled into buying between 1992 and June 30 of this year.

Consumer groups, state attorneys general and federal lawmakers have accused sweepstakes operators of misleading people, particularly the elderly, into believing they've won large cash prizes or that they must buy a product to play.

The Port Washington, N.Y.-based firm, which is being sued by Connecticut, Indiana, Washington and Wisconsin, is in settlement talks with 40 states over allegations it misleads consumers. Steven Katz, a Belleville, Ill., lawyer, who represents the class-action plaintiffs, says the settlement is historic because it is the first time a major sweepstakes firm has agreed to settle a class-action lawsuit.

Katz's firm also has lawsuits pending against sweepstakes firms American Family Publishers, Time and Reader's Digest.

Products offered by PCH can range from magazines to Princess Diana candles to hand-held sewing machines.

"We are prepared to proceed with this because we believe it's the right thing to do," says PCH spokesman Chris Irving.

As part of the proposed settlement, consumers who believe they were misled can mail in the purchases they made and possibly receive a full or partial refund as long as they include a "control number" that's been assigned to them.

If they no longer have the purchases or their subscriptions have expired, they will need to mail in a notarized letter requesting a refund.

Drugs tied to trouble with Dad

Teens with a single mom more likely to stay clean

By Aimee Phan
USA TODAY

Kids who live with both of their parents but don't get along with their fathers are more likely to use drugs than those growing up in single-mother families, says a survey out today.

The 1999 Teen/Parent Drug Survey finds that teen-agers who live in two-parent families and who have a fair or poor relationship with their dads are at a 60% higher risk of smoking, drinking and using drugs than teens from single-mother households.

It also shows that while 71% of teens reported having an excellent or very good relationship with their mothers, only 58% said they had such a relationship with their fathers, suggesting the need for dads to take a greater role in their children's lives for better drug prevention.

The fifth annual survey was financed by the private National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University and conducted by the Luntz Research Cos. The poll reached a representative sample of 2,000 kids ages 12 to 17 and 1,000 parents. The study sought to isolate the factors that influence the likelihood of teen drug use, with an emphasis on family relationships.

Joseph Califano Jr., former U.S. secretary of Health, Education and Welfare and current

president of CASA, says the statistics should be a "wake-up call for dads across America" to become more engaged with their children.

"We can't leave it up to Mom," he says. "She's doing a terrific job, but she can't do it alone."

Steve Dnistrian, executive vice president of Partnership for a Drug-Free America, says many men still delegate much of child rearing to their wives.

"They assume it's being taken care of," he says. "They don't think the voice of the father can add anything more."

Dnistrian says a frank discussion on substance abuse is important, but parents need the foundation of an open relationship with their children for their words to carry weight.

"A lot of parents only deal with the subject matter as a one-shot deal," he says. "Communication has to continue over time if it's going to have an impact."

The study estimates that 14 million teen-agers fall into the moderate- or high-risk category of substance abuse, with exposure through friends and at school. Other survey findings:

► More than twice as many teens found it easier to talk to their mothers than their fathers about drugs (57% vs. 26%).

► 36% said their parents have never had a serious discussion with them about illegal drugs, down from 43% last year.

► 60% do not expect to use a drug in the future, up from 51% last year.

The margin of error was 2.2 percentage points for the kids, 3.1 points for the parents.

Mothers take lead in teen drug fight

Fathers urged to take more active role

By Cheryl Wetzstein
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Mothers are locked and loaded in the war against teen drug use, but fathers are often absent without leave, a national study has concluded.

"Too many dads are AWOL in the battle against substance abuse and this greatly increases the risk that their children will use illegal drugs, smoke and drink," Joseph A. Califano Jr., president of the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA), said yesterday.

"Every father should look in the mirror and ask: How often do I eat meals with my children? Take them to religious services? Help them with their homework? Attend their games and extracurricular activities? Join Mom in monitoring my teen's conduct, praising and disciplining them when warranted?"

Teens who have two parents who do all these things, plus cultivate a loving family relationship, statistically have very low risk for substance abuse, said Mr. Califano, a former secretary of health, education and welfare.

The CASA study was praised by retired Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey, director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

The federal government has been running a media campaign encouraging parents "to play a more active role in helping their children stay drug free," said Mr. McCaffrey. A recent national study shows that more parents are talking to their children about drugs in a way that is both meaningful and influential, he added.

Overall youth drug use dropped 13 percent in 1998, the ONDCP said. For five years, CASA has been analyzing teen attitudes about drug use. The study released yesterday was CASA's first on how different family structures affect teen substance-abuse risk.

The survey, taken by Luntz Research and QEV Analytics and funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, included 2,000 teens aged 12-17 and 1,000 parents.

Parents are a potent influence to teens, even though a study found friends were the No. 1 reason many tried marijuana.

It concludes that some 14 million teens or 60 percent of children aged 12-17 are at moderate or high risk of substance abuse.

Teens who live with two parents and have an "excellent" relationship with both of them have the lowest risk for drug use, the study said.

Fathers matter a great deal, however: Teens who live in two-parent homes but have only a "fair or poor" relationship with their father are at the highest risk for substance abuse, the study said. This was true even when compared with families led by single mothers.

Mothers outscored fathers on several factors. Teens said they preferred their mothers when they wanted to talk about drugs or make important decisions. Mothers were also viewed as the most demanding regarding schoolwork and personal behavior.

The study further found that fathers were more likely than mothers to think that their teen would try illegal drugs, and less "disturbed" than mothers if teens actually used tobacco, alcohol or marijuana.

The CASA study reiterated the claim that parents are a potent influence to teens, even though it found that friends were the No. 1 reason teens tried marijuana.

Eating dinner as a family and weekly attendance at religious services are significant deterrents to substance use, the study said. Other important aspects of parenting are to be active participants in teens' lives, and know what they are doing school and on weekends.

gressional Democrats through repeatedly accusations of ethics violations and by the media, who covered the accusations.

"There were a different set of rules for Newt Gingrich," he said, "and I think in retrospect, it's because I was the person who led the charge to take control."

Mr. Gingrich is credited with leading Republicans back to control of the House in 1994 for the first time in 40 years. Two years later, he agreed to pay a \$300,000 fine and accept a House reprimand for failing to seek proper legal advice on using tax-exempt projects to advance his political goals and for allowing inaccurate statements to be provided to the House ethics committee.

Gingrich says he probably won't run again

yet to offer something comparable to the Contract (With America) and to talk about ideas at the right level to really make much sense."

The interview covers Mr. Gingrich's political career from his early years in the House as a backbench rabble-rouser through his successful campaign to oust Democrat Jim Wright of Texas from the speakership to his own four-year term in the speaker's chair.

cause I think there's a very big difference," he said. "One is a violation of the law ... the other is private life. And I think that's a very big difference."

Mr. Gingrich said he has no regrets about his resignation and he's purposely remained quiet to keep from interfering with his successor, Speaker J. Dennis Hastert of Illinois. He also wanted time for personal reflection and study, he said.

his relationship with Miss Bisek, Mr. Gingrich said no personal factors influenced his decision to resign from the House and give up his speakership after the GOP's poor showing in the 1998 elections.

He said the public has a right to know "about the lives of powerful people because you're loaning them power." But he said there should be a line drawn at inquiring into the private lives of public officials.

The interview was taped last month on the day Mr. Gingrich filed for divorce from his second wife, Marianne Gingrich. Since then, the Georgia Republican has been linked romantically through the divorce proceedings to Callista Bisek, 33, who worked for the House while he was speaker.

In the interview, Mr. Gingrich was asked only once about the divorce filing. He said his wife is "a wonderful person, and a very smart person, and we've had a very long and complex relationship."

ASSOCIATED PRESS
In his first lengthy interview since stepping down as speaker of the House last year, Newt Gingrich says he probably won't run for public office again, but hasn't ruled it out completely.

"I don't expect to," Mr. Gingrich said in the interview with C-SPAN, the public-affairs cable network that telecasts House and Senate proceedings. "I mean, I wouldn't rule it out, but I don't expect to. I think I've contributed to that part. I'd rather be an adviser to presidents and speakers and Senate majority leaders."

The interview, conducted by C-SPAN Chairman Brian Lamb, will air in three parts on consecutive nights beginning tonight. C-SPAN released a transcript yesterday.

The Washington Times

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1999

Drug Use Tied to Father's

Survey Finds Lack of Parental Involvement Is Risk Factor

By EDWARD WALSH
Washington Post Staff Writer

American teenagers generally have a better relationship with their mothers than their fathers—a relative lack of paternal involvement that is key in determining whether teenagers begin to use drugs, according to a new national survey that was released yesterday.

The survey, which was commissioned by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University, found that teenagers in two-parent households who have only a poor or fair relationship with their fathers are at about 60 percent more risk of abusing drugs than a teenager living with a single mother who has an excellent relationship with the youth.

According to the survey, 71 percent of teenagers described their relationship with their mothers as excellent or very good, but only 58 percent said they have such a relationship with their fathers. By large margins, they also said it was easier to talk to their mother than their father about drugs, and that they were more likely to rely solely on their mother than their father in making important decisions.

Forty-five percent of the teenagers said their mother was the more demanding parent when it came to school grades, homework and personal behavior, compared

with 39 percent who said the father was the more demanding, the survey found.

"Many dads are AWOL in the battle against substance abuse and this greatly increases the risk that their children will smoke, drink and use illegal drugs," said Joseph A. Califano Jr., president of CASA.

The survey, conducted by pollster Frank Luntz, was based on telephone interviews in May and June with 2,000 young people ages 12 to 17 and 1,000 parents. Each teenager was assigned a drug abuse risk factor based on their answers to such questions as whether they have friends who drink or use illegal drugs and how long it would take for them to buy marijuana. The risk factors were then correlated with other data in the survey such as relationships with parents.

"It is really stunning the extent to which we can predict the risk score if we know about the teen's home life," said Steven Wagner, president of QEV Analytics, a public opinion research firm that analyzed the data. "The quality of the relationship with both parents is very important to risk. We focused on fathers because a bad relationship with fathers is so much more common than with mothers. If mothers did the same thing it would be equally harmful, but it's much rarer for moms to be absent or distant."

At a news conference to an-

nounce the survey results, Califano, who was secretary of health, education and welfare in the Carter administration, said that teenagers in two-parent families who have good relationships with both parents are at the least risk of having drug abuse problems. But he said absent fathers or those who are not engaged in the lives of their teenage children "is a really serious problem and one that we can correct."

"We can't leave it up to mom," he added. "She's doing a terrific job, but she can't do it alone."

According to the survey, the risk of substance abuse by a student who attends a school where drugs are available is twice that of students who attend drug-free schools. Older teenagers are less likely than younger teenagers to report drug activity at their schools—82 percent of 12-year-olds said they would report a drug dealer to school officials, but only 37 percent of 17-year-olds said they would do the same.

The survey, the fifth conducted by CASA, detected some encouraging trends, Califano said. It showed that 60 percent of teenagers do not expect to use a drug in the future, compared with 51 percent last year; 44 percent said they attend a drug-free school, up from 31 percent in 1998, and 40 percent said the drug situation at their school is getting worse, compared with 55 percent in 1998.

NATION IN BRIEF

Not-Guilty Plea In Calif. Shooting

LOS ANGELES—A not-guilty plea was entered yesterday for Buford O. Furrow Jr., the white supremacist who allegedly confessed to shooting up a Jewish community center and killing a Filipino American letter carrier.

Stephen Hillman, the magistrate presiding over the federal arraignment, set a tentative trial date of Oct. 12.

Furrow, standing between his public defenders, Sean Kennedy and Marilyn Bednarski, quietly answered "yes" when asked if he understood his rights and had read the indictment against him.

When Kennedy said they did not plan to enter a plea, Hillman responded by saying the court would enter a not-guilty plea. That is not an unusual procedure.

Furrow's hands were handcuffed in front of him. He did not look at the audience, which included the sisters and a nephew of postal worker Joseph Iletto.

Iletto, 39, was shot to death on Aug. 10. Although the arraignment was for the killing only, the government could add hate crimes allegations that would include the wounding of five people, including three children, earlier the same day at a Jewish community center in suburban Granada Hills.

Furrow faces state charges of attempted murder in the Jewish center shooting.

Furrow turned himself in to the FBI in Las Vegas the day after the attacks and allegedly told authorities the shooting was "a wake-up call to America to kill Jews."

Judge Backs Marchers On Police Response

NEW YORK—Organizers of a Harlem march that ended last year in a brawl with police asked a federal judge to force the city to grant a permit for this year's rally.

The judge agreed with organizers that police may have overreacted to threats of violence at last year's Million Youth March. Organizers asked the judge to limit the city's police force so it does not again use helicopters and large numbers of riot-clad police to disperse the crowd afterward.

"Certainly, some of it seems excessive, helicopters swooping in at 4 o'clock," U.S. District Judge Denny Chin said as he discussed the way police moved in a year ago at the exact moment the four-hour rally was required to end.

The city last week refused to grant a permit after its organizers threatened to stage the rally with or without a permit.

Roger S. Wareham, a lawyer for the Million Youth March, told Chin that rally organizers were urging peace and could not be held accountable for everything every speaker said last year.

Last September, 28 people were injured, including 16 police officers, when a confrontation ensued between police and rally participants as it concluded. A federal appeals court allowed the rally to take place but limited its size and duration.

From news services

2 Killed, 4 Hurt In Shooting at Auto Parts Store In California

Associated Press

GARDEN GROVE, Calif., Aug. 30—A gunman sprayed an auto parts store with bullets, killing two people and wounding four others today.

It was unclear whether the victims were employees, customers or bystanders, Sgt. Todd Elgin said. Police said the motive was not known.

The gunman opened fire about 1 p.m. outside Robotek, which sells performance car accessories, then burst inside and resumed the attack.

Witnesses said that the young man fled from the store in a gray minivan and that another man may have fled with him.

Three people were in critical condition and undergoing surgery.

An 18-year-old man was shot in the back, a 17-year-old person was hit in the neck and grazed in the left hand, and a 48-year-old person had several gunshot wounds to the neck, cheek, arm, thigh and buttocks, said a hospital spokeswoman.

A 15-year-old boy was shot in the ankle and was in good condition.

Garden Grove is about 35 miles southeast of Los Angeles.