

# High Schoolers View the Future

## A Survey of Teens and Parents in the Washington Region

THE WASHINGTON POST/HENRY J. KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION/HARVARD UNIVERSITY

*The 2005 survey of high school age students and their parents was conducted among 800 pairs of parents and teenagers in the Washington region. Teenagers were defined as those between 14 and 18 years of age. Interviews were conducted by telephone between April 26 and May 29, 2005. Both teen and parent data was weighted using Census data to reflect the best estimate of the parent and teen populations of the region. The margin of sampling error for teen and parent samples is plus or minus four percentage points. Fieldwork was conducted by ICR/International Communications Research of Media, Pa.*

K1. Do you think things in this country (are generally going in the right direction) or do you feel things (have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track)?

TEEN	PARENT	
39%	27%	Right direction
57	66	Wrong track
4	6	(Don't know)
1	1	(Refused)

K5. When you think about the future of the United States, do you feel (confident that the country's best years are still ahead of us), or do you feel (concerned that America's best years might already be behind us)?

TEEN	PARENT	
58	51	Best years are still ahead of us
38	41	Best years already behind us
3	7	(Don't know)
--	1	(Refused)

K6. Over the next 20 years, do you think the United States will grow (stronger) or will grow (weaker) in terms of its overall power and influence in the world, or do you think it will stay about the same?

TEEN	PARENT	
30	25	Stronger
16	27	Weaker
52	45	Stay the same
1	3	(Don't know)
--	1	(Refused)

### **Trust in Institutions**

K7. I'm going to mention the names of some institutions in American society. Would you tell me how much confidence you, yourself, have in each one-- a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little. How about (INSERT ITEM)? Do you have a lot of confidence, some confidence, only a little confidence, or no confidence at all?

		A lot	Some	Only a little	No confidence	(Don't know)	(Refused)	
<b>a</b>	The military	TEEN	56	27	12	5	--	--
		PARENT	47	39	11	3	1	*
<b>b</b>	Public schools	TEEN	28	38	27	6	*	--
		PARENT	19	44	27	10	*	--
<b>c</b>	Churches and other religious institutions	TEEN	42	33	17	7	1	*
		PARENT	36	41	15	5	1	1
<b>d</b>	The United States government	TEEN	22	46	25	8	*	--
		PARENT	16	53	21	9	1	1
<b>e</b>	The media	TEEN	16	37	35	11	1	--
		PARENT	13	38	32	16	*	*

## Values

K8. I'm going to read you a list of some things that different people value in their lives. Some people say these things are very important to them. Other people say they are not so important. Please tell me how important each thing is to you personally. How about (INSERT)? Is that very important, fairly important, not too important, or not important at all?

		Very Important	Fairly Important	Not too Important	Not at all	(Don't know)	
<b>a</b>	Being successful in a career						
		TEEN	75	20	5	*	*
		PARENT	46	41	11	2	*
<b>b</b>	Having enough free time to do things you want to do						
		TEEN	62	31	7	*	--
		PARENT	61	34	4	*	*
<b>c</b>	Having a family of your own						
		TEEN	65	25	8	2	1
		PARENT	89	9	1	1	--
<b>d</b>	Having lots of close friends						
		TEEN	65	26	9	1	--
		PARENT	42	35	19	4	*
<b>e</b>	Living a religious life						
		TEEN	39	29	20	12	--
		PARENT	51	25	16	9	*
<b>f</b>	Being wealthy						
		TEEN	18	36	37	10	*
		PARENT	11	33	46	11	--
<b>g</b>	Making a difference in the world						
		TEEN	64	29	6	1	--
		PARENT	67	26	5	1	*

## **Ranked by "very important"**

### Teens

Career 75%  
 Family 65  
 Friends 65  
 Make a difference 64  
 Free time 62  
 Religion 39  
 Wealth 18

### Parents

Family 89%  
 Make a difference 67  
 Free time 61  
 Religion 51  
 Career 46  
 Friends 42  
 Wealth 11

Asked if respondent named more than one thing as most important:

K9. And which of these would you say is the single most important thing to you personally?  
Is it (READ LIST)?

**K8/K9 Most Important Summary**

TEEN	PARENT	
20	4	Being successful in a career
8	5	Having enough free time to do things you want to do
20	48	Having a family of your own
15	3	Having lots of close friends
14	19	Living a religious life
1	1	Being wealthy
20	16	Making a difference in the world
*	1	(Don't know)
--	1	(Refused)
2	1	None of these are most important

**Looking Ahead/Comparisons with Parents**

K10. Generally speaking, do you think NOW is a (good) time or a (bad) time to be growing up?

TEEN	PARENT	
69	52	Good time
26	41	Bad time
3	6	(Neither)
1	1	(Don't know)
*	*	(Refused)

N=800    N=800

K11. Considering everything, do you think children have a (harder) time or an (easier) time growing up today than their parents did?

TEEN	PARENT	
54	69	Harder
42	24	Easier
2	6	(Mixed /both)
1	*	(Don't know)
*	*	(Refused)

K12. Compared to your parents, do you think it will be easier or harder for you to (INSERT ITEM)?

		Easier	Harder	(Same)	(Don't Know)	(Refused)	
<b>a</b>	Find a good job	TEEN	<b>43%</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	--
		PARENT	<b>36</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	*
<b>b</b>	Buy a house	TEEN	<b>23</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	*
		PARENT	<b>19</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	--
<b>c</b>	Raise a family	TEEN	<b>36</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	*
		PARENT	<b>19</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	*

K13. Generally speaking do you think your race will help you or hurt you when it comes to getting ahead in life, or will it make no difference?

TEEN	
<b>23</b>	Help
<b>13</b>	Hurt
<b>62</b>	Make no difference
<b>2</b>	(Don't know)
<b>*</b>	(Refused)

K14. Generally speaking do you think your gender will help you or hurt you when it comes to getting ahead in life, or will it make no difference?

TEEN	
<b>21</b>	Help
<b>12</b>	Hurt
<b>67</b>	Make no difference
<b>*</b>	(Don't know)
<b>*</b>	(Refused)

K15. How likely is it that you will be rich someday? Is it very likely, fairly likely, not too likely, or not likely at all?

TEEN	
68	Likely (NET)
15	Very likely
53	Fairly likely
30	Not Likely (NET)
26	Not too likely
4	Not likely at all
2	(Don't know)
--	(Refused)

K16. How likely is it that you will be famous someday? Is it very likely, fairly likely, not too likely, or not likely at all?

TEEN	
31	Likely (NET)
10	Very likely
21	Fairly likely
69	Not Likely (NET)
50	Not too likely
19	Not likely at all
*	(Don't know)
*	(Refused)

### **Marriage/Children**

K17. How likely is it that you will get married someday? Is it very likely, fairly likely, not too likely, or not likely at all?

TEEN	
63	Very likely
31	Fairly likely
4	Not too likely
2	Not likely at all
*	(Don't know/Refused)

Asked if said "very", "fairly", or "not too likely" in K17:

K18. What do you think is the ideal age to get married? Before you're 20, in your early twenties, in your late twenties, in your early thirties, in your late thirties, or after age 40?

K17/K18 Combo Table

TEEN	
<b>98</b>	Likely to get married (NET)
<b>1</b>	Before I'm 20
<b>32</b>	In my early twenties
<b>52</b>	In my late twenties
<b>11</b>	In my early thirties
<b>1</b>	In my late thirties
--	After age 40
--	Never
<b>2</b>	Not at all likely to get married
*	(Don't know)
--	(Refused)

Asked if said "very", "fairly", or "not too likely" in K17:

K19. And if you do get married, how likely is it that you will remain married to the same person for your whole life? Is it very likely, fairly likely, not too likely, or not likely at all?

K17/K19 Combo Table

TEEN	
<b>98</b>	Likely to get married (NET)
<b>60</b>	Very likely to remain married
<b>33</b>	Fairly likely to remain married
<b>3</b>	Not too likely to remain married
<b>1</b>	Not likely at all to remain married
<b>2</b>	Not at all likely to marry
*	(Don't know)
--	(Refused)

K20. Would you like to have children someday, or not?

TEEN	
<b>89</b>	Yes, would like to have children
<b>9</b>	No, would not like to have children
*	(Already have kids)
<b>1</b>	(Don't know)
--	(Refused)

K21. What do you think is the ideal age at which to have your first child? Before you're 20, in your early twenties, in your late twenties, in your early thirties, in your late thirties, or after age 40?

Based on Total Teens who would like to have children

TEEN	
*	Before I'm 20
<b>15</b>	In my early twenties
<b>50</b>	In my late twenties
<b>30</b>	In my early thirties
<b>4</b>	In my late thirties
--	After age 40
*	(Don't know)
*	(Refused)

N=716

K20/K21 Combo Table:

TEEN	
<b>89</b>	Would like to have children (NET)
*	Before I'm 20
<b>14</b>	In my early twenties
<b>44</b>	In my late twenties
<b>27</b>	In my early thirties
<b>4</b>	In my late thirties
--	After age 40
<b>9</b>	Would not like to have children
*	Already have kids
<b>1</b>	(Don't know)
--	(Refused)

K22. Considering everything, do you think it is better for the child if his or her parents are married, or doesn't it make much difference?

TEEN	
<b>81</b>	Better if parents are married
<b>17</b>	Doesn't make much difference if they are married
*	(Better if parent are not married)
<b>1</b>	(Don't know)
*	(Refused)

K23. Do you think it is better for the child if one of the parents stays home full-time, or doesn't it make much difference?

.....TEEN

<b>45</b>	Parent stays home full-time
<b>53</b>	Doesn't make much difference if parent stays home
<b>1</b>	(Better if both parents work)
<b>*</b>	(Don't know)
<b>--</b>	(Refused)

K24. Considering everything, do you think it's better for people to marry someone of their own race, better to marry someone of a different race, or doesn't it make any difference?

.....TEEN    PARENT

<b>9</b>	<b>20</b>	Own race
<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	Different race
<b>90</b>	<b>78</b>	Doesn't make any difference
<b>--</b>	<b>1</b>	(Don't know)
<b>*</b>	<b>1</b>	(Refused)

K25. Would you consider marrying someone of a different race, or is that something you personally would never consider doing?

.....TEEN

<b>80</b>	Would consider it
<b>17</b>	Would never consider it
<b>*</b>	(Don't want/plan to get married)
<b>2</b>	(Don't know)
<b>*</b>	(Refused)

## Expectations

INTERVIEWER READ: Now I'd like you to think ahead to when you are your parent's age. Just your best guess, by the time you are your parents' age, do you think...

K26a. This country's political leaders will be more trustworthy or less trustworthy than they are now?

.....TEEN.....  
45 More trustworthy  
49 Less trustworthy  
5 (Same)  
2 (Don't know)  
\* (Refused)

K26b. Americans will be more moral or less moral than they are now?

.....TEEN.....  
42 More moral  
54 Less moral  
2 (Same)  
2 (Don't know)  
\* (Refused)

K26c. Americans of different races will get along better or get along worse than they do now?

.....TEEN.....  
83 Better  
13 Worse  
2 (Same)  
1 (Don't know)  
-- (Refused)

K26d. Americans will be more accepting or less accepting of people with non-traditional lifestyles than they are now

TEEN

75 More accepting  
 23 Less accepting  
 2 (Same)  
 \* (Don't know)  
 -- (Refused)

K26e. The government will have expanded or the government will have limited American liberties such as free speech and freedom of religion

TEEN

56 Expanded liberties  
 40 Limited liberties  
 4 (Same)  
 1 (Don't know)  
 -- (Refused)

K27. Still thinking about when you are your parents' age... Do you think each of the following will be a bigger problem, a smaller problem, or about the same as it is now? What about (INSERT)?  
 INTERVIEWER REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Will this be a bigger or a smaller problem when you are your parents' age, or about the same as it is now?

		Bigger Problem	Smaller Problem	About the same	(Not a problem)	(Don't Know)	Refused
<b>a</b>	Crime	46%	17	36	1	*	--
<b>b</b>	Drug abuse	54	13	33	--	--	*
<b>c</b>	Poverty	43	23	34	--	1	--
<b>d</b>	Divorce	52	14	33	--	*	--
<b>e</b>	HIV/AIDS	54	25	21	*	*	--
<b>f</b>	Pollution	70	16	14	--	*	--
<b>h</b>	Terrorism	39	28	32	*	*	*
<b>j</b>	The cost of college education	75	9	15	*	*	--

K28. Do you think there will or will not be another terrorist attack as big as the one on Sept. 11, 2001 in your lifetime?

.....TEEN.....

<b>57</b>	Yes, will have attack
<b>39</b>	No, no attack
<b>3</b>	(Don't know)
<b>1</b>	(Refused)

K29. Do you think that there will or will not be a nuclear war in your lifetime?

.....TEEN.....

<b>23</b>	Yes, nuclear war
<b>74</b>	No, no war
<b>3</b>	(Don't know)
<b>*</b>	(Refused)

K28/K29 Combo Table

.....TEEN.....

<b>65</b>	Will have an Attack (NET)
<b>57</b>	Terrorist Attack
<b>23</b>	Nuclear Attack
<b>35</b>	Will not have an attack/Don't Know/Refused

## **Politics**

K30. Do you think it should be made (easier) or (harder) for a woman to obtain a legal abortion?

.....  
TEEN

<b>51</b>	Easier
<b>46</b>	Harder
<b>2</b>	(Same as now)
<b>1</b>	(Don't know)
<b>*</b>	(Refused)

K31. Do you (favor) or (oppose) the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?

.....  
TEEN

<b>46</b>	Favor
<b>49</b>	Oppose
<b>4</b>	(Don't know)
<b>1</b>	(Refused)

K32. Do you think it should be (legal) or (illegal) for gay and lesbian couples to get married?

.....  
TEEN

<b>59</b>	Legal
<b>39</b>	Illegal
<b>1</b>	(Don't know)
<b>1</b>	(Refused)

## Experiences

K33. Have you, personally, had any of the following experiences?  
Have you ever (INSERT), or not?

		Yes	No	(Don't Know)	(Refused)	
<b>a</b>	Visited or lived in a foreign country	TEEN	<b>58%</b>	<b>42</b>	--	--
		PARENT	<b>42</b>	<b>58</b>	--	--
<b>b</b>	Had a friend of a different race	TEEN	<b>97</b>	<b>3</b>	--	--
		PARENT	<b>78</b>	<b>22</b>	*	--
<b>c</b>	Taken an Advanced Placement class in school	TEEN	<b>65</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1</b>	*
		PARENT	<b>42</b>	<b>58</b>	*	--
<b>d</b>	Had a friend who was killed or injured by gun violence	TEEN	<b>21</b>	<b>79</b>	--	--
		PARENT	<b>19</b>	<b>81</b>	--	--
<b>e</b>	Had a friend who dropped out of school	TEEN	<b>53</b>	<b>47</b>	--	--
		PARENT	<b>45</b>	<b>55</b>	--	--
<b>f</b>	Known someone who was in a gang	TEEN	<b>48</b>	<b>52</b>	*	--
		PARENT	<b>14</b>	<b>85</b>	*	--
<b>g</b>	Dated someone of a different race	TEEN	<b>45</b>	<b>55</b>	--	*
		PARENT	<b>25</b>	<b>74</b>	*	--
<b>h</b>	Had a friend who became pregnant	TEEN	<b>47</b>	<b>53</b>	--	--
		PARENT	<b>44</b>	<b>56</b>	*	--
<b>i</b>	Had a friend who was openly gay or lesbian	TEEN	<b>57</b>	<b>43</b>	*	--
		PARENT	<b>20</b>	<b>80</b>	*	--
<b>j</b>	Personally been a victim of crime or violence	TEEN	<b>19</b>	<b>81</b>	*	--
		PARENT	<b>24</b>	<b>76</b>	--	--

## **The Internet**

K34. How often do you go online to access the Internet or to check email? Would you say you usually go online several times a day, about once a day, a few times a week, or less than that?

.....TEEN.....

<b>36</b>	Several times a day
<b>32</b>	About once a day
<b>19</b>	A few times a week
<b>12</b>	Less than that
<b>1</b>	(Never go online)
--	(Don't know)
--	(Refused)

K35. How much do you trust information from the Internet? Do you trust it completely, quite a lot, just a little, or not at all?

.....TEEN.....

<b>2</b>	Completely
<b>39</b>	Quite a lot
<b>53</b>	Just a little
<b>6</b>	Not at all
--	(Don't know)
--	(Refused)

K36. How important is the Internet, including email and instant messaging, when it comes to doing your schoolwork? Is it very important, fairly important, not too important, or not important at all?

.....TEEN.....

<b>80</b>	Important (NET)
<b>43</b>	Very Important
<b>37</b>	Fairly Important
<b>20</b>	Not Important (NET)
<b>14</b>	Not too important
<b>6</b>	Not important at all
--	(Don't know)
--	(Refused)

K37. And how important is the Internet, including email and instant messaging, when it comes to your personal life? Is it very important, fairly important, not too important, or not important at all?

TEEN	
<b>68</b>	Important (NET)
<b>31</b>	Very Important
<b>38</b>	Fairly Important
<b>32</b>	Not Important (NET)
<b>22</b>	Not too important
<b>9</b>	Not important at all
--	(Don't know)
--	(Refused)

## **Demographics**

Now we have just a few more questions to help classify your answers.

K39. Are you currently in school?

TEEN	
<b>98</b>	Yes
<b>2</b>	No
--	(Don't know)
--	(Refused)

K40. What grade are you in?

Based on Total Teens who are in school

TEEN	
--	5
--	6
<b>1</b>	7
<b>13</b>	8
<b>21</b>	9
<b>22</b>	10
<b>21</b>	11
<b>19</b>	12
<b>3</b>	College or technical school
--	(Don't know)
*	(Refused)

N=786

Asked of teens not in school:

K41. Did you graduate from high school, or did you drop out?

\* *Sample size too small to report*

K42. Do you currently have a job?

.....TEEN.....  
**31** Yes  
**69** No  
-- (Don't know)  
-- (Refused)

K43. Do you work full-time, or part-time?

Based on Total Teens who currently have a job

.....TEEN.....  
**12** Full-time  
**88** Part-time  
-- (Don't know)  
-- (Refused)

N=239

K42/K43 Combination Table

.....TEEN.....  
**31** Currently have job (NET)  
    **4** Full-time  
    **27** Part-time  
**69** Do not have a job  
-- (Don't know)  
-- (Refused)

K44. In general, how often do you experience stress in your daily life -- never, rarely, sometimes, or frequently?

.....TEEN..... PARENT.....  
**6**      **4**      Never  
**18**     **8**      Rarely  
**41**     **38**     Sometimes  
**35**     **49**     Frequently  
--      \*      (Don't know)  
--      --      (Refused)

K45. How much (do/does) (INSERT) contribute to that stress: a lot, a little, or not at all?

a. school

Based on Total Teens who are in school

TEEN	
<b>88</b>	A lot/A little (NET)
<b>63</b>	A lot
<b>25</b>	A little
<b>6</b>	Not at all
--	(Don't know)
--	(Refused)
<b>6</b>	Do not experience stress

N=786

b. family issues

Based on Total Teens

TEEN	
<b>73</b>	A lot/A little (NET)
<b>25</b>	A lot
<b>48</b>	A little
<b>21</b>	Not at all
*	(Don't know)
*	(Refused)
<b>6</b>	Do not experience stress

c. your friends or people you're dating

Based on Total Teens

TEEN	
<b>70</b>	A lot/A little (NET)
<b>23</b>	A lot
<b>48</b>	A little
<b>24</b>	Not at all
--	(Don't know)
--	(Refused)
<b>6</b>	Do not experience stress

d. work

Based on Total Teens who work

TEEN	
<b>65</b>	A lot/A little (NET)
<b>14</b>	A lot
<b>51</b>	A little
<b>32</b>	Not at all
--	(Don't know)
--	(Refused)
<b>3</b>	Do not experience stress

N=239

e. activities you do outside of school

Based on Total Teens who are in school

TEEN	
<b>64</b>	A lot/A little (NET)
<b>18</b>	A lot
<b>46</b>	A little
<b>30</b>	Not at all
--	(Don't know)
--	(Refused)
<b>6</b>	Do not experience stress

N=786

f. concerns about the future

Based on Total Teens

TEEN	
<b>77</b>	A lot/A little (NET)
<b>31</b>	A lot
<b>46</b>	A little
<b>17</b>	Not at all
--	(Don't know)
*	(Refused)
<b>6</b>	Do not experience stress

Asked of teens who experience stress:  
 K45B. What is the biggest source of stress in your daily life?

K44/45B Combination Table

.....TEEN.....	
<b>94</b>	Experience stress (NET)
<b>56</b>	Biggest stress is school
<b>11</b>	Biggest stress is family Issues
<b>7</b>	Biggest stress is friends or people you're dating
<b>3</b>	Biggest stress is work
<b>2</b>	Biggest stress is activities you do outside of school
<b>6</b>	Biggest stress is concerns about the future
<b>2</b>	Biggest stress is life itself/getting through the day
<b>1</b>	Biggest stress is time management
<b>2</b>	Other
<b>4</b>	Don't know/Can't choose just one
<b>6</b>	No stress
--	(Don't know)
--	(Refused)

K46. What grades do you usually get in school?

Based on Total Teens who are currently in school

.....TEEN.....	
<b>35</b>	Mostly A's
<b>47</b>	Mostly B's
<b>15</b>	Mostly C's
<b>2</b>	Mostly D's
<b>1</b>	Mostly F's
--	(School doesn't use grades)
*	(Don't know)
--	(Refused)

N=786

K49. When you were in elementary school, did your mother stay at home, or did she have a paid job?

.....TEEN.....	
<b>37</b>	Stay at home
<b>62</b>	Had a paid job
<b>1</b>	(Don't know)
*	(Refused)

K50. Did she work full-time, or part-time, or aren't you sure?

Based on Total Teens whose mother worked when they were in elementary school

TEEN	
72	Full-time
18	Part-time
10	Don't know/Not sure
--	(Refused)

N=503

K49/50 Combination Table

TEEN	
62	Mother worked at a paid job while child was in elementary school
44	Full time
11	Part time
7	Not sure
37	Mother stayed home
1	Don't know/Not sure
*	(Refused)

K51. Do you plan to go on to college or technical school after you graduate from high school, or not?

Based on Total Teens who are not in college

TEEN	
97	Yes
2	No
*	Already in college/tech school
1	(Don't know)
*	(Refused)

N=765

K52. For the upcoming fall semester, are you enrolled in a four-year college, a two-year college, a technical school, or are you not enrolled in a school yet?

Based on Total Teens who are in their senior in high school and plan to go to college or technical school

TEEN	
<b>89</b>	Enrolled (NET)
<b>69</b>	Four-year college
<b>17</b>	Two Year college
<b>3</b>	Tech school
<b>11</b>	Not enrolled yet
--	(Don't know)
--	(Refused)
N=142	

K54. When you are an adult, do you expect to vote regularly in every election, or will you only vote if the candidates or issues particularly interest you?

TEEN	
<b>77</b>	Every election
<b>22</b>	Only if candidate or issue interest
<b>2</b>	(Won't vote)
*	(Don't know)
*	(Refused)

K55. Right now, do you feel closer to the Republican Party or the Democratic Party, or what?

TEEN	PARENT	
<b>31</b>	<b>29</b>	Republican
<b>50</b>	<b>48</b>	Democrat
<b>9</b>	<b>19</b>	(Neither)
<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	(Some other party)
<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	(Don't know)
*	<b>1</b>	(Refused)

K56. How important is religion in your everyday life? Is it...the most important thing in your life, very important, but not the most important thing, somewhat important, or not too important?

TEEN	PARENT	
72	83	Important (NET)
13	22	Most important
32	37	Very important
27	24	Somewhat important
28	17	Not too important
--	*	(Don't know)
--	--	(Refused)

K57. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or other Latin American background?

K58. Do you consider yourself to be white, black or African-American, Asian-American, or some other race?

#### Race Summary Table

TEEN	PARENT		
55	57	White	
25	26	Black or African-American	
5	6	Asian-American	
3	1	Some other race	
11	9	Hispanic (NET)	
	7	5	White Hispanic
	2	2	Black Hispanic
	1	1	Hispanic (Unspecified)
--	--	(Don't know)	
*	1	(Refused)	

#### About The Survey

The survey of local high school-age students and their parents was conducted among 800 randomly selected pairs of teenagers and parents or guardians living in the Washington region: 102 pairs in the District, 391 in Maryland and 307 in Virginia. High school-age teenagers were defined as those 14 to 18 years old. Teenagers were interviewed with their parents' permission. Interviews were conducted by telephone from April 26 to May 29. Hispanic and Asian teenagers were represented in the sample in proportion to their percentage in the local population. However, the resulting subsamples of each group were too small to draw statistically valid characterizations.

The national survey was conducted by telephone August 3 to August 8 among a nationally representative sample of 570 respondents in the same age group. The margin of sampling error for results based on national teens, local teens or local parents is plus or minus four percentage points. The fieldwork for both surveys was conducted by ICR/International Communications Research of Media, Pa.

This project was conducted jointly by The Washington Post, the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and Harvard University as part of an ongoing collaboration. The three sponsors worked together to develop the survey questionnaire and analyze the results but are publishing independent summaries of the

findings. Each organization bears sole responsibility for the work that appears under its name. The Post and the Kaiser Family Foundation-- a nonprofit organization that conducts research on health care and other public policy issues -- paid for the surveys and related expenses. The project team members from KFF included Drew E. Altman, president; Mollyann Brodie, vice president for public opinion research; and Elizabeth Hamel, associate director for public opinion research. Harvard project team members included Robert J. Blendon, a professor at the School of Public Health and John F. Kennedy School of Government, and John Benson, managing director of the Harvard Opinion Research Program.