



March 15, 2005

Update on efforts to save Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities

*Data from Pride Surveys indicate the effectiveness
of school-based violence and drug prevention efforts.*

SAFETY

Fewer students carry guns to school.

In the past decade there has been an 18% decrease in the number of students who reported that they carried a gun to school.

Students are nearly four times more likely to carry a gun when outside of school.

Less than 4 percent of students carried a gun to school, while 13.3% answered that they carried a gun outside of school "for protection or as a weapon."

Gang membership is a less attractive option.

The number of students reporting that they have joined a gang has fallen by 10% since the mid-90s.

Threats, bullying on the decline.

Students responding that they have made physical threats against other students have decreased by 13%.

Schools perceived as safer.

Asked if they were afraid at school, 8% fewer students responded yes in the past school year.

DRUGS

The link between drugs and violence is strong. Among students who carried a gun to school last year, 45% self-reported cocaine use. Among the rest of the student population, just 3% reported cocaine use.

There has been a 25% decrease in student drug use.

In the 1996-97 school year, 30.1% of students in grades 6 to 12 reported annual use of an illicit drug. In 2003-04, just 22.5% reported annual drug use. That's an impressive 25% decrease in drug use.

Teachers are as likely as parents to warn students about drug use.

Among students, 81% said their parents talk to them about the problems of drug use – the same percentage who said that their teachers talk to them about drugs.

Parents see SDFSC programs as effective.

Parents were asked about the effectiveness of "school-based education about the harmful effects of drug and alcohol use." An impressive 84% of parents said this strategy was somewhat to very effective." Only 6% of parents said the program was not effective.

What you can do

If you are a public school employee, you are allowed to express your opinion on this issue if you do so on your own time and using your own personal computer.

- Go to the Community Anti-Drug Coalition's [web site](#) to send a message to your Congressional delegation.
- Ask your Senator to sign the "Dear Colleague" [letter](#) being circulated by Senators DeWine (OH) and Murray (WA).
- Check to see if your Senator or Representative is a member of the [subcommittee](#) that will determine the fate of Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities.
- Download CADCA's brochure on SDFSCA. CADCA and the Discovery Health Connection have collaborated to produce a four-color brochure that makes the case for SDFSC funding. You can [download](#) it here.