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USE OF SPECIFIC DRUGS AMONG YOUTH

	Ever Used Percent					Use Now Percent						
	GEN16-17	18-22	23-30	COLLEGE STUDENT	POP17	18-22	23-30	COLLEGE STUDENT	POP17	18-22	23-30	COLLEGE STUDENT
Any recreational drug	28	25	41	45	43	4	5	7	6	6		
Marijuana	23	23	38	43	41	3	4	6	5	4		
Cocaine	8	5	15	18	17	1	-	1	2	1		
Crack	1	-	2	*	1	-	-	-	-	-		
Heroin	3	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	*	-		
LSD	6	3	8	8	8	*	1	1	1	1		
Amphetamines	11	4	10	14	12	*	1	1	1	*		
For medical reasons	5	*	1	4	2	*	1	-	*	-		
Not for medical reasons	5	3	8	10	10	*	1	*	*	*		
Sedatives/Tranquilizers	29	11	17	19	16	4	2	1	2	1		
For medical reasons	27	8	14	16	14	3	1	*	2	*		
Not for medical reasons	2	3	2	2	*	*	1	*	-	*		
Amyl or Butyl Nitrate	3	1	2	4	3	1	-	-	*	-		
Marijuana and Cocaine						*	-	1	1	*		
Marijuana and some other drug						1	1	1	1	1		
Some drug besides Marijuana						1	1	2	1	2		
Marijuana only						2	3	4	4	3		

MULTIPLE DRUG USE-YOUTH

	Gen Pop	16-17	18-22	23-30	COLLEGE STUDENTS
None	96	96	93	94	94
Any	4	5	7	6	6
Only one	3	4	6	5	5
Two	1	1	1	1	1
Three	*	-	*	*	-
Four or more	*	-	-	*	-

AWARENESS OF AND KNOWLEDGE OF CRACK (Qs. 42,43)

	All	16-30	16-17	H S Students	College Students
Heard Or Read Anything Recently About Something Called "Crack?"	83	80	73	70	88
And Think It's:					
Type Of Cocaine	59	64	54	65	50
Drug	9	6	7	8	3
Dangerous/Illegal Drug	3	1	3	3	1
Dangerous Substance	1	*	1	1	-
Other	4	3	2	2	2
Don't Know What Crack Is	7	5	7	7	4
No, Have Not Heard Of Crack	17	20	27	30	13

SALES AND AVAILABILITY OF CRACK/MARIJUANA/COCAINE

	All	16-30	16-17	H S Students	College Students
Have Personally Observed Someone Selling What You Thought Was Crack (Q. 44)	4	6	5	6	6
How Easy To Buy Crack In Local Area					
Very Easy	17	14	12	11	18
Fairly Easy (Q. 45)	28	29	24	24	37
How Easy To Buy Marijuana In Local Area					
Very Easy	47	49	53	51	58
Fairly Easy (Q. 46)	27	28	29	29	23
How Easy To Buy Cocaine In Your Area					
Very Easy	25	24	15	15	27
Fairly Easy (Q. 47)	30	32	28	28	39

HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU FIRST TRIED MARIJUANA OR COCAINE  
(Q. 48B)

MARIJUANA

	All Adults	18-30	16-17	H S Students	College Students
% Of Group Who Have Ever Used Marijuana	23	41	23	24	41
Age When First Tried (Percentages are of whole group, not just users)					
Younger Than 15	4	9	8	9	7
15 - 17	9	21	15	15	18
18 - 20	6	9	-	-	15
21 - 23	2	1	-	-	1
24 - 30	1	*	-	-	-
Over 30	1	-	-	-	-

COCAINE

	All Adults	18-30	16-17	H S Students	College Students
% Of Group Who Have Ever Used Cocaine	8	18	5	7	17
Age When First Tried (Percentages are of whole group, not just users)					
Younger Than 15	*	1	*	1	*
15 - 17	2	4	4	6	5
18 - 20	3	8	-	-	6
21 - 23	1	2	-	-	3
24 - 30	1	3	-	-	2
Over 30	1	-	-	-	-

QUESTIONS RELATING TO ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION  
(From May 1985 ABC News/Washington Post Poll)

	All
Ever Drink Alcohol	66
Ever Been Drunk	69 of current and past drinkers (or 55 of all Americans)
	Current Drinkers
Have Two Drinks Or More	
Every day	4
Almost every day	2
3 or 4 times a week	9
Once or twice a week	28
Once or twice a month	26
Less than once a month	19
Never have 2 or more drinks	11
Compared with five years ago, drinking:	
More	13
About the same	41
Less	45
Plan to cut down or quit drinking within the next year, or not?	
Cut down	19
Quit	9
Don't plan to change	70

SEPT 23, 1985 ABC NEWS SURVEY ON SMOKING/RESULTS

Is Smoking?

A) A normal pleasure of life	7
B) A normal but risky activity	12
C) Dangerous and unhealthy to the smoker	10
D) Dangerous and unhealthy to the smoker and others, or	25
E) A major public health hazard to the smoker and others	42

Favor ban cigarette ads	48
Smoking/lung cancer are linked	81

Ever smoked cigarettes	63
------------------------	----

Currently smoke cigarettes	48
Smoke cigarettes every day	93
Ever tried to quit	69
Would like to quit	62

# cigarettes smoked daily:

Less than half a pack	*
Less than one pack	29
About one pack	37
More than a pack/ less than two	20
About two packs	11
More than two packs	3
Three packs or more	*

## METHODOLOGY/ LEVELS OF DRUG USAGE

This is the second time ABC has polled on the subject of drugs, and many of the same questions asked in our first survey in May of 1985 were repeated in the current survey which was completed Aug. 26 and involved interviews with 1,531 people age 16 through 30 and 787 interviews with those 31 and older. The total number of interviews was 2,318.

Because our first survey showed, as other surveys have, too, that drug abuse is more common among youth, we structured the 16-to-30 sample so that we could break out three age subgroups: 16-17, 18-22 and 23-30. Each of those groups were allocated 500 interviews. When merged, each group was weighted into its correct proportion within the larger 16-to-30 sample. When it came time to look at the adult population, the 16 and 17 year olds were dropped from the sample and the 18-30 years weighted down to their correct proportion within the general population.

Generally speaking, the margins of error for the age groups in our poll are:

General Population	3
16-30	3
16-17	5
18-22	5
23-30	5

The 1985 survey of 1,500 adults also included a section on alcohol use which was not repeated this year, but there is no reason to think the results would have been any different this time. The results on drug usage in the current survey are virtually identical to those on the 1985 survey, giving us further confidence that the alcohol results from 1985 remain valid.

In addition to its own survey, the polling unit has drawn upon a number of other studies and reports in preparing its own material for presentation. A major resource drawn upon is a National Institute on Drug Abuse survey entitled "Drug Use Among American High School Students, College Students and Other Young Adults." This is an study of 17,000 high school seniors and young adults done annually for NIDA by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research. This study is considered to be the best available on drug use and attitudes among high school students. The study's director, Dr. Lloyd Johnston, will be serving as a consultant to ABC News for its drug project.

The polling unit also gathered information from a variety of government and private agencies which have studied the effect of substance abuse on American society. The list of such agencies includes: The National Institute of Justice, National Safety Council, National Council on Alcoholism, National Institute of Mental Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Mother's Against Drunk Driving, Handgun Control, Inc., American Association of Suicidal Analysis, Drug Abuse Warning Network, the Gallup Poll and the Pentagon.

Any survey on public opinion has certain methodological difficulties, and the results are always subject to statistical and practical error. The ABC poll on drugs was an especially difficult project from the methodological point of view because many of the questions were about the use of illegal drugs. We suspect that the lifetime and current drug usage figures understate the actual usage numbers. We think there is less understatement of the lifetime usage in the poll results, than in current usage. Here's why:

We compared our results for young people with results from a larger University of Michigan study done for the National Institute on Drug Abuse and found that

the Michigan study showed roughly one-third higher levels of lifetime drug use than does the current ABC study. Current usage figures in the Michigan study were proportionately even higher, though the questions about current usage were considerably different in the two studies.

In talking over the differences between the two studies with Dr. Lloyd Johnston, director of the Michigan project, we must conclude that differences occur because ABC used random telephone interviewing and Michigan used in person interviewing with a secret ballot.

This does not mean the ABC figures are totally wrong or that the Michigan study's are totally right, because no study of an illegal activity - given currently available techniques - could ever be totally accurate. We have no evidence of wholesale lying about about lifetime drug use to ABC interviewers, but the ABC figures clearly represent the minimum scope of the problem. The Michigan figures are closer to the maximum scope of the problem and are probably closer to the actual usage figures than are ABC's.

The ABC figures are more than adequate for studying which groups have the highest drug usage, for comparing change in drug usage from one year to the next and for examining which drugs are used more than others. When ABC's figures are compared to Michigan's on these measures, the results from both send precisely the same messages (eg: Marijuana use is higher than cocaine; drug usage is not increasing). And since the Michigan study focused only on young people, especially high school seniors, the ABC study is only up-to-date study from which to examine drug use in society as a whole. And when it comes to measuring attitudes toward the drug problem among all age groups, the ABC study is totally accurate within the sample's margin of error.

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## SECTION FOUR: Other Studies, Facts and Figures

By KELLY HANLEY  
ABC Research Analyst

### <PART ONE: AVOIDABLE DEATH

Thousands of Americans die each year because of things they voluntarily do to themselves. These are America's "avoidable" deaths, and they come from smoking cigarettes, drinking alcohol and "doing" drugs.

The cost America pays in dollars (health care, criminal justice work, lost productivity) for the consequences of these habits are in the billions of dollars annually. The cost in human anguish is, of course, incalculable.

The biggest killer comes 20 to the package and we've been addicted to it ever since we learned how to use it from the Indians.

TOBACCO - Cigarette smoking is the nation's leading preventable cause of disease and death. And most smokers hooked on the habit know it's dangerous. An ABC News/Washington Post Poll in September of 1985 found a good majority (62 percent) of the 51 million people in the United States who smoked tobacco acknowledged that smoking was harmful to their health and said they would like to quit.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) reports that 340,000 people die prematurely each year of smoking-related illnesses. The government also estimates that 30 percent of all cancers - involving 138,000 Americans - are caused by smoking and that 85 percent of all lung cancer is due to cigarette smoking. Given current smoking habits, one in 10 Americans could die prematurely of heart disease caused by smoking.

HHS estimates that tobacco smoking costs society \$42 billion a year - \$26 billion in lost productivity (reduced productivity, loss of employees, loss of training investments) and \$16 billion in related medical costs, almost half of which are paid by employers.

ALCOHOL - The National Council on Alcoholism estimates 98,000 Americans die each year from alcohol use. (That includes an approximate 23,000 deaths from alcohol related motor vehicle accidents.) The Council estimated there are 18.3 million heavy drinkers (14 or more drinks per week or only an average of two a day). HHS says it estimates 12 million of those heavy drinkers could be classified as addicts.

Alcohol abuse costs society \$120 billion dollars in 1984. Businesses shouldered 60 percent of that cost through reduced productivity and lost employment. The remaining costs included hospital and other medical treatment and criminal justice work.

DRUGS - The annual death rates and costs to society for illegal drug use are significantly lower than for smoking or alcoholism. In 1985, a survey of emergency room and medical examiner data for 25 metropolitan areas (excluding NYC) conducted by the National Institute on Drug Abuse found 3,562 Americans died from the use of drugs such as cocaine, heroin, PCP, LSD, barbituates and amphetamines. Over a third of the deaths (1,288) also involved alcohol.

Cocaine in combination with another drug caused 643 deaths (18 percent). Another 1,315 deaths (37 percent) involved heroin in combination with other drugs. Cocaine use by itself caused 143 (four percent) of the deaths. The use of heroin by itself was responsible for 297 (eight percent) of the deaths.

Antidepressants were responsible for 695 deaths (20 percent), amphetamines for 147 (4 percent) and hallucinogens (LSD or PCP), 197 (6 percent).

In 1983, drug abuse cost us \$2 billion in health care and \$44.9 billion in lost productivity. Total cost: \$46.9 billion. These are the latest available figures. (Source: Natl Institute of Mental Health)

DEATH RATES/ COSTS TOBACCO, ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Costs</u>
Drug abuse*	3,562	\$46.9 billion (1983)
Alcohol abuse**	98,000	\$120 billion
Tobacco***	340,000	\$42 billion

Sources: \*NIDA/25 Metro areas (deaths) Natl Institute of Mental Health (cost); \*\*Natl Council on Alcoholism; \*\*\*U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services; Death rates for tobacco, alcohol and drug abuse in 1985; costs of tobacco and alcohol in 1984; costs of drugs in 1983.

OTHER AVOIDABLE DEATHS - Accidental death is the leading killer of young people, and they are a significant portion of the deaths - like those from smoking, drinking and "doping" - that don't have to happen each year. Here's a quick look at the numbers:

ACCIDENTAL DEATHS

	<u>1985</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1983</u>
Motor vehicle accidents*	45,700	46,200	NA
Drunk driving**	22,360	23,500	25,000
Teenage drunk driving**	4,964	NA	NA
Seat belts not worn*	16,000	NA	NA
Accidents in the home*	20,000	21,000	NA
Accidents at work*	11,600	11,700	NA
Firearms - accidental***	NA	900	1,200
Murders	8,092	NA	NA
Suicides	NA	14,000	NA
Suicides****	NA	29,060#	NA

Sources: \*Natl Safety Council; \*\*Mother's Against Drunk Driving; \*\*\*Handgun Control, Inc.; \*\*\*\*Amer. Assoc. of Suicidal Analysis; #preliminary; NA=not available

## <PART TWO: DRUGS AND CRIME

Criminals are more likely to use drugs than the rest of us, and crime and drugs are underworld handmaidens.

But the question of whether drug use frequently leads to crime or whether high drug use is just another salient anti-social feature of criminality is yet-to-be fully answered.

The National Institute of Justice reports that drug abusers are a significant and highly active segment of the criminal population. (And the reverse is true: criminals are also a significant segment of the drug using population.)

Users of heroin and other high dollar maintenance drugs commit hundreds of robberies and burglaries each year. According to the institute's figures, these users commit four to six times as much crime when they are using drugs than when they are drug-free.

The 1979 Survey of Inmates of State Correctional Facilities found almost one-third of all state prisoners were under the influence of an illegal drug when they committed the crimes they went to jail for. More than half had taken drugs in the month prior to their crimes. More than three-fourths had used drugs some time during their lives. The survey conducted personal interviews with 12,000 randomly selected inmates in prisons across the country.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics published the findings in March 1983 and presented these percentages of drug use:

	Ever used	Recent use	Under influence when crime committed
Any drug	78%	56%	33%
Heroin	30	2	9
Cocaine	37	13	5
Marijuana	75	48	17
Amphetamines	37	10	5
Barbituates	35	10	6
Hallucinogens	30	6	4
Methadone	9	2	1
No drug	22	44	67

Three-fifths of the inmates under the influence of drugs when committing their crimes also had been drinking, including 12 percent who were drinking heavily.

A 1982 Rand report for the National Institute of Justice found a majority of violent crime (homicides, robberies, arson) offenders who were imprisoned in three state jails had histories of heroin use, frequently in combination with alcohol and other drugs. The study concluded that a history of drug abuse was one of the best predictors of serious career criminality. (But if conclusion is valid, then the reverse, again, is also valid: one of the best predictors of drug use is criminality.)

The National Institute of Justice released its latest study of drug use and crime last June. In 1984, researchers in Washington, D.C. and New York City found 56 percent of all the men and women arrested for various serious crimes in each city tested positive for illegal drugs. In Washington, 10 percent of those not showing signs of drug use said they used drugs at times - meaning

at least two-thirds (66 percent) of the people arrested in that city were drug users. This was twice the number predicted before the study began.

The most used drug in Washington was PCP. Cocaine was most frequently used in New York. Tests were not made for marijuana or alcohol.

The breakdown for drug use in both cities:

	D.C.	N.Y.
Multiple drugs	28%	41%
Cocaine	11	36
PCP	39	11
Heroin	13	9
Other	9	3

In both cities, substantial percentages of people arrested for non-drug offenses were using drugs. The breakdown in New York was:

Possession of stolen property	61%
Forgery	60
Burglary	59
Murder/manslaughter	56
Larceny	56
Robbery	54
Weapons charges	53
Stolen credit cards	52
Sexual assault	41
Fraud	30

Washington has continued to test for drugs every month since the project began in 1984. Each month, one-half of those arrested have tested positively. Last April, 67 percent were positive. The results are given to the courts for setting pretrial release conditions because of indications that drug users are repeat offenders.

None of the crime studies have found out whether drug users commit crime in order to support their habits, but clearly they have established that criminals are more likely than most people to use drugs.

(The number of persons imprisoned in all state and local jails in January 1986: 485,321.)

### <PART 3: HEALTH EFFECTS OF DRUG USE

Here are some common terms used by the experts when talking about the effects of drug use:

**DRUG PROGRESSION** - Studies by the National Institute of Drug Abuse find distinct and progressive stages of drug use. Involvement with one drug increases the chances of using others. The most common progression observed is: beer or wine to cigarettes or hard liquor to marijuana smoking and then onto other illicit drugs, such as cocaine. Not everyone, of course, starts or completes such a progression.

**ADDICTION** - Addiction is a physical and/or psychological dependence on a drug produced by its repeated consumption. Addiction is characterized by compulsive drug use and a tendency to increase the dosage, despite bad physical or mental health consequences. In many cases, the user becomes tolerant to the drug's "positive" effects and needs larger doses to be satisfied.

Physical dependence is characterized by specific withdrawal symptoms when the users stops taking the drug. Symptoms may include sweating, vomiting and tremors, reversed by further doses. Physically addictive drugs include alcohol (ethanol), nicotine, heroin and possibly cocaine.

Psychological dependence occurs when the repeated use of a drug induces reliance on it for a state of well being and contentment, but there are no physical withdrawal symptoms if the use ends. Substances that may induce a psychological dependence include cocaine, nicotine in tobacco, cannabis in marijuana and such drugs as barbituates and amphetamines.

The amount of time and dosage required to become physically or psychologically addicted varies depending on the drug, and the age, size and physical and mental health of the abuser.

Researchers at NIDA do not differentiate between physically and psychologically addictive drugs - they find all drugs create some degree of physical and psychological dependence. There is disagreement among the medical community whether a drug is always both physically and psychologically addictive.

Here are some drugs commonly used in America and here's what they can do to you:

**TOBACCO** - NIDA research indicates tobacco smoking is the most widespread example of drug dependence in this country. In fact, nicotine, the chemical responsible, may be the most addictive drug used.

Tobacco smokers exhibit most of the characteristics associated with severe drug dependence: introduction through peer pressure, continued use despite adverse effects, tolerance and dependence and relapse or withdrawal upon cessation of use.

Most researchers term nicotine addiction a psychological dependence. The drug effects the autonomic and central nervous systems and increases the heart rate and blood pressure of regular smokers. Nicotine impairs the appetite and may also be slightly mood altering.

Abstinence from cigarette smoking may cause mild physical changes including increased heart rate, hand tremor and heightened skin temperature. Irritability and sleeplessness may occur. Preliminary findings reported by the Journal of Behavioral Medicine suggest the absence of nicotine is

responsible for these withdrawal effects.

**ALCOHOL** - Excessive intake of alcohol impairs intellectual functions, physical skills, memory and judgment. Respiratory and heart rates are depressed.

Usually several years of heavy drinking are needed for addiction to develop. The addiction (alcoholism) is a chronic, progressive condition of increased tolerance and physical dependence on alcohol. An alcoholic may suffer from anorexia, diarrhea, weight loss, and personality changes. Severe health problems include organ damage (liver, kidneys, heart, lungs), brain dysfunction and cardiovascular disease.

When an alcoholic suddenly stops drinking the withdrawal is severe. The symptoms are tremors, anxiety, hallucinations and delirium.

**COCAINE** - Cocaine is a strong central nervous system stimulant. Medically, it is used as an anesthetic. It comes in a powdery form extracted from the leaves of the coca bush. When abused, the drug is usually sniffed or "snorted" in doses of 10-40 mg and absorbed through the mucous membrane of the nose.

The latest ABC News poll indicates at least 14 million Americans 18 and older have tried cocaine. The National Institute on Drug Abuse estimates between 20 and 24 million Americans have tried the drug. NIDA findings also show the largest number of cocaine users indulge occasionally, usually in a social setting. At least 10 percent of all such recreational users, says NIDA, will go onto heavy use of the drug.

In 1985, NIDA found 9,946 emergency room mentions of cocaine use in 26 metropolitan areas (includes NYC), making cocaine the major drug abuse problem in those cities. That number was three times the number of cases reported in 1981, but that could simply be a case of improved reporting procedures since other studies indicate cocaine use has not dramatically increased in recent years.

The immediate effect of cocaine use is a feeling of euphoria. Cocaine users also report heightened alertness, loss of an appetite for food, insomnia, restlessness, irritability and anxiety. High doses or chronic use of the drug can also lead to paranoia. A chronic user will often become tolerant to the euphoric effects of the drug and experience depression. Paranoia will increase. Eventually the high may be absent but the hope for that high perpetuates the craving, perpetuates the use.

Severe mood swings have caused serious problems for personal/family relationships and the ability to perform well at work. And, according to Dr. Dorynne Czechowicz at NIDA, the intense depression caused by cocaine use has led to suicidal tendencies in some cases.

Tolerance to cocaine's euphoric effects and the resulting desire to alleviate depression through heavier use is judged a psychological addiction. When withdrawal occurs, the user experiences depression, sleepiness and hunger but no physical tremors or other physical signs. But, according to Sidney Cohen of the UCLA School of Medicine, many physicians who have observed users coming down or "crashing" from the drug are convinced that a stimulant withdrawal occurs, making a physical dependence a real possibility.

For dependency to occur, the drug must be taken in moderate or high doses over a period of time, usually one to four years, before compulsive drug-seeking occurs. The desire to repeat the euphoric experience is usually more urgent when the drug is smoked or injected and addiction may take place within one or two days to two weeks.

According to Cohen, recreational users of cocaine - "weekend users" - will experience physical health problems but no addiction. Most do not build a tolerance to the drug.

Physical health problems - Occasional cocaine use may produce nasal congestion and a runny nose. Chronic cocaine snorters may suffer from ulcerations of the mucous membrane of the nose. The nasal septum may become damaged to the point of collapse.

Initially, the drug enhances sexual drive but intense cocaine use can bring about a disinterest in sex (users say cocaine becomes the sexual partner) and possible impotence or frigidity.

Cocaine causes the heart to beat faster or irregularly while constricting blood vessels. The drug also interferes with a chemical in the brain involved in the transmission of nerve impulses, which can mean interference with the signals sent to the heart and lungs.

Chronic users may suffer from hypertension. Cocaine overdose deaths are due to physiological seizures followed by respiratory arrest and coma, or sometimes by cardiac arrest.

Professionals - Athletes, executives and other such professionals who turn to cocaine say it helps them overcome doubts about their abilities to perform well, to think fast and to feel energetic. After continued use, they report they are easily distracted and have difficulty concentrating. These problems lead to poor performance and absenteeism.

FREEBASED COCAINE- Emergency rooms report to NIDA that an increasing number of cocaine related cases involve the smoking of the drug. (14.5 percent in the 1st Q 1986, 10.1 percent in 1st Q 1985, 4.2 percent 1st Q 1984) The smokable form of cocaine is called freebase. When freebased, the drug is converted into a base state by using a volatile chemical, generally ether, which removes the hydrochloride salt and many of the "cutting" agents in the drug. (Cocaine in powder form is rarely sold pure but is cut with an agent such as sugar to increase the volume and the profit.)

Freebasing is usually done by the consumer. The end product can be smoked and it reaches the brain within seconds (compared to several minutes when the drug is snorted) and results in a sudden, intense high. The high from freebase lasts for about four to six minutes, compared with 30 to 40 minutes when snorted. The desire to get high once one comes down results in a higher volume of cocaine use when smoked than when the user snorts the drug. NIDA observations of cocaine users in treatment find smoking cocaine reduces the time from first use to dependency from a few years to several weeks.

Freebasing was first introduced in the United States in the late 1970s.

The number of cocaine smokers mentioned by metropolitan hospitals in the first quarter of 1986 was particularly high in Los Angeles, Miami, Detroit and New York.

CRACK - NIDA attributes the growing number of users who smoke cocaine to the growing availability of a preprocessed form of freebase called crack. Crack is being mass produced on the streets for the first time, eliminating the need for users to freebase cocaine themselves. It is processed from cocaine hydrochloride by using baking soda, a less dangerous method than using a volatile chemical. Its onset of action takes only 4 to 6 seconds, and there are cases in which users have become addicted within 48 hours.

Crack is cheap - one or two doses from \$5 to \$10 compared to \$50 for cocaine. Because it is cheap and the high short-lived, the user will return again and again - creating the possibility of the two day addiction. NIDA is concerned about the increased purity of crack, the severity of the withdrawal, increased reports of violent episodes caused by the high, and the emergence of a younger group of cocaine users.

Evidence of crack was found by NIDA in 14 cities in the first quarter of 1986.

MARIJUANA - NIDA finds marijuana is the most frequently used of the illicit drugs in the United States. In 1985, NIDA estimated 18 million persons reported using marijuana in the past month, and an estimated 29 million reported using it in the past year. According to the latest ABC News poll, at least 40 million adult Americans have tried the drug at least once in their lives.

Extracted from the leaves and flowering tops of the hemp plant, marijuana is rolled into cigarettes and smoked. Hundreds of chemical entities have been found in marijuana. The major psychoactive component is a cannabis - THC. The potency of marijuana sold on the streets has grown from 0.5 percent THC to an average of 4 percent, with some recent samples exceeding 10 percent. Research is limited on the more potent marijuana, and NIDA points out that the research on hand may underestimate adverse reactions to the drug.

The marijuana smoker experiences feelings of relaxation, peacefulness, enhanced sensitivity, floating sensations, self-confidence, and subjective feelings of heightened mental power. In a five to six year follow up survey of regular marijuana users, NIDA found continued use of the drug decreased these pleasurable effects. The loss in enjoyment, however, did not necessarily cause the user to stop smoking. NIDA states that the continuance of a well-established habit without the pleasurable rewards is found with many drugs like tobacco and heroin.

The average dose of marijuana will impair memory, perception, judgement and fine motor skills. One marijuana cigarette will impair driving skills for at least four to six hours. Driving skills will become even more erratic when marijuana is used in combination with alcohol.

The most regularly observed physical effects are a substantial increase in heart rate and, for some people, increased blood pressure - a threat to people with abnormal heart and circulatory conditions. Smokers also exhibit bloodshot eyes.

As stated above, tolerance to the pleasurable effects occurs in regular users. A mild physical withdrawal has been documented. (Research by Forrest Tennant, UCLA School of Public Health)

NIDA cites clinical studies that describe the changes seen in marijuana users as "amotivational." These changes include apathy, loss of ambition, diminished ability to carry out long-term plans, difficulty in concentrating and a decline in school and work performance.

Smoking marijuana also has been found to have noxious effects on the lungs, perhaps greater than tobacco smoking.

Some studies indicate a possible breakdown in the body's immune system with regular marijuana use.

Marijuana consumption by laboratory animals has been shown to impair their production of reproduction hormones. That condition goes away when marijuana

is no longer consumed.

Other studies have shown smoking marijuana during pregnancy may have serious health implications for the fetus.

**HEROIN** - Heroin is a refined form of opium and is inhaled or administered intravenously. It is a highly addictive drug, both physically and psychologically. The user experiences an initially ecstatic reaction before drifting into a drowsy euphoria. Withdrawal is severe but may be postponed by repeated doses. Addicts exhibit compulsive drug-seeking behavior (trying to obtain the drug by any means) and often increase the amount of dosage.

Signs of heroin use are euphoria, drowsiness, respiratory depression, constricted pupils and nausea.

Withdrawal symptoms are watery eyes, runny nose, yawning, loss of appetite, tremors, panic, chills, sweating, nausea, muscle cramps and insomnia. Blood pressure, breathing rate and body temperature increase as withdrawal occurs.

A heroin overdose produces shallow breathing, clammy skin, convulsions and coma. Death may occur.

A person will not become addicted on the first shot of heroin, although some tolerance occurs to make the second shot less effective. After one week of daily use (15 mg four times a day) there is clear evidence of tolerance and the user will experience mild withdrawal symptoms.

Experts disagree on whether recreational use of heroin leads to addiction. Dr. Cohen of UCLA believes every recreational heroin user becomes addicted. Other physicians say for some recreational users that may never happen.

Many of the health problems associated with heroin are caused by uncertain dosage levels (purity of heroin fluctuates), the use of unsterile needles, contamination of heroin by cutting agents and the use of heroin with other drugs such as alcohol or cocaine.

Heroin use alone can depress the body's immune system and the use of unsterile needles by numerous persons means the risk of contracting hepatitis and/or AIDS.

According to NIDA figures, intravenous drug users account for approximately 25 percent of all reported AIDS cases. Their proportion of the AIDS population may be increasing. In the first half of 1985, NIDA reported intravenous drug users accounted for 33 percent of all new AIDS cases.

Heroin use during pregnancy can cause still births and sudden infant death. The infant is likely to show symptoms of withdrawal and to be below the normal birth weight.

In 1985, over 60 percent of the emergency room mentions documented by NIDA that involved heroin occurred among people 30 or older. Fifty-three percent were black, 30 percent white and 13 percent Hispanic. Seventy percent were male. Almost 41 percent of the heroin-related cases involved other drugs. Eighty-five percent of heroin-related deaths involved other drugs. The use of heroin and alcohol accounted for 50 percent of those cases.

**SEDATIVES** - Sedatives are prescribed to relieve anxiety and insomnia. The prescriptions of barbituates as sedative agents has significantly decreased in the past two decades. The use of another class of sedatives (including Valium and Librium) increased through the 1970s, but since that time their use has

also declined. Tranquilizers are still prescribed regularly and are rated among the safest drugs when used legitimately to control anxiety.

Sedatives are very dangerous when abused. Users become enamored with the tension-relieving action, and they take them continually, developing a degree of intoxication similar to alcohol intoxication. The desired effect is the drunken state to relieve tension and the resulting sleepiness to make it through the night. Physical and psychological dependence develops and withdrawal is severe. Both accidental and purposeful overdoses occur.

Withdrawal is similar to alcohol withdrawal - delirium, tremors, seizures, a rapid heart beat, sweating and nausea. Uncontrollable seizures may lead to death.

#### Contacts - Drug Information

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SECTION ONE: Attitudes on Illegal Drugs

There's little question that the recent media attention paid to the drug crack coupled with increased public discussion of the overall illegal drug problem by Congress and the Reagan administration, have riveted the public's attention on drugs. Polling organizations, including the one at ABC, are all reporting dramatic increases in public concern about the problem.

ABC asked its sample to name the most important problem facing the country. No categories were suggested. The result: 15 percent named drugs, the same number that mentioned the threat of nuclear war. No other problems were even close including unemployment which was mentioned by nine percent. Prior to this survey, the drug problem was nothing but an asterisk on any ABC poll since the start of its polling operation in 1981. No topic has ever zoomed to the top of the list so quickly.

FIRST AND SECOND BIGGEST - We also asked people to name the second most important problem facing the nation, and the drug problem again topped the list of specific mentions at 14 percent, with unemployment second at 11 percent. When first and second mentions are combined, "drugs," "the threat of war" and "unemployment" emerge as the top three problems people mentioned as the top one or two problems in the country. Here's a partial, rank-ordered list of the problems people called the most important ones facing the country:

	<u>Most Important</u>	<u>Most or Second Most Important</u>	<u>Most Important (Jan. '86)</u>
Drugs	15	24	*
Nuclear War/Threat Of War	15	24	11
Unemployment	9	20	13
Federal Budget Deficit	9	14	12
International Problems	5	12	16
Poverty/Hunger	5	11	na
Taxes	4	6	2
Inflation	3	5	4
Crime	3	8	3

When we took all the specific answers and grouped them into broader categories, we found that roughly a third of the public mentioned economic concerns, more than double the 15 percent that mentioned the drug problem. Concern about foreign affairs (including the threat of war) accounted for 21 percent of the responses, six percentage points higher than drugs. Still, the sudden appearance of drugs so high on the list means the public is clearly aroused about the problem.

A CRISIS SOMEWHERE ELSE - Our polling trend indicates that the public has been led by its government leaders and the media to decide only recently that this country has a major and growing drug crisis.

Eight out of 10 Americans say there is a national drug crisis, and 76 percent think it's a bigger crisis today than it was five years ago, exactly the time when most experts feel the illegal use of drug peaked and began to decline somewhat. And there's very little generation gapping on the question. Young and old agree - seven out of 10 people aged 16 through 30 say there's a national drug crisis and half think it's worse than five years ago.

But for nearly two-thirds of the general public, it's a crisis that exists somewhere else and not where they live. One demographic group is a major

exception: about half of blacks say there's a drug crisis in their own community.

But only a third of the general public feel there's a drug crisis in their own community. And even fewer think there are drug problems at their place of work - only 13 percent of people with jobs report such a problem where they work.

If most of the people in the country think there is no drug crisis where they live, are their feelings about the rest of the country's crisis meaningful? As a measure of concern, yes; as a measure of the extent of the problem, no. On the latter, it's their answers about their experiences in their own communities that reveal more. Some examples:

Six in 10 say alcohol is the bigger killer than drugs where they live, and a plurality people rate alcohol as bigger problem in their hometown than drugs. A majority of young people pick alcohol as the bigger of the two in their community.

	<u>All</u>	<u>16-30</u>	<u>All (May '85)</u>
Alcohol bigger problem	44	56	38
Drugs bigger problem	39	31	36
Both Equal	12	12	15

**FAMILY TROUBLES** - And their answers about troubles in their own families from either drugs or alcohol, clearly show it's alcohol that's by far the larger cause of misery in most places.

Sixteen percent of Americans say alcohol has caused a great deal of trouble in their families, 10 percent say it has caused a fair amount and seven percent claim it has caused just a little trouble. All told, 33 percent say their family life has been negatively affected by drink. Drugs, on the other hand, have caused family problems for only 15 percent of the public, with only five percent saying it has caused a great deal of trouble, three times less than the number saying that about alcohol.

Eight percent of the sample said there's an alcohol problem in their family right now, while only two percent said that about drugs. Put another way, that's 14.6 million families with an alcohol problem and 3.4 million with a drug problem.

TRoubles Caused by Alcohol Compared to Illegal Drugs

	ALCOHOL %		RECREATIONAL DRUGS %	
	1985 May	1986 Aug	1985 Aug	1985 May
	13	26	13	
Ever used more than should	50	10	8	
Currently using more than should	4	*	1	
Ever had problem	8	4	3	
Currently have problem	1	*	*	
Used to have problem	7	4	3	
Ever treated for problem	1	1	1	

TROUBLES CAUSED BY ALCOHOL COMPARED TO ILLEGAL DRUGS (CONT)

	ALCOHOL %	RECREATIONAL DRUGS %	
	1985 May 13	1986 Aug 26	1985 May 13
Caused trouble in family	33	14	9
Great deal of trouble	16	5	4
Have family trouble now	8	2	2

Yet, asked which substance causes "the most trouble" in society in general, the largest number (41 percent) name cocaine. Alcohol comes in second at 21 percent, followed by crack at 17.

WHICH CAUSES MOST TROUBLE IN SOCIETY?

	<u>All</u>	<u>16-30</u>	<u>16-17</u>
Cocaine	41	42	37
Alcohol	21	24	20
Crack	17	15	19
Heroin	8	8	5
Marijuana	6	7	13
LSD	3	3	5
Sleeping pills	*	*	1
Amphetamines	*	*	-

And it's clear the public thinks illegal drugs are more dangerous for a person to use regularly than are legal ones:

HOW DANGEROUS TO USE REGULARLY?	Very Dangerous	Somewhat Dangerous
Heroin	97	2
Cocaine	92	7
Crack	92	3
LSD	92	6
Amphetamines	57	35
Alcohol	47	45
Marijuana	46	43
Sleeping Pills	36	51

Many people rate the national drug problem ahead of the threat of nuclear war when specifically asked to compare the two. Half see drugs as a bigger problem than the budget deficit and a bare majority rate it a bigger than unemployment.

	Drugs Are A Bigger Problem Than...
AIDS	37
The Threat Of Nuclear War	38
Nation's Murder Rate	40
Hunger and Malnutrition	48
Federal Deficit	50
Unemployment	51

Eight in 10 Americans say that illegal drug use has become a central part of American society and only four in 10 think current fears about the crisis are bigger than the crisis itself. On this question, however, there appear one of the few difference by age. Nearly half of high school students think current fears about drugs are overblown, and six in 10 college students feel the same way.

But there are very few people - even among the younger age groups - who espouse a libertarian view of drug use:

Percent Who	All Aug. '86	16-30 Aug. '86
Think drug use a bad thing	96	92
Oppose legalizing all drugs	96	96
Oppose legalizing cocaine	95	94
Oppose legalizing marijuana	74	68
Think people should be able to take any drug they want if no one's hurt	15	20

DRUGS CAUSES OTHER PROBLEMS - From other answers, it became apparent that the public feels that drugs are responsible for a great many ills in society, from trouble in the schools to the high crime rate.

WHAT'S THE BIGGEST PROBLEM FOR YOUR LOCAL PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL

	All	Age 16-17	All (Sept. '81)
DRUG USE	51	49	26
Lack of financial support	7	4	9
Lack of discipline/violence	6	7	17
Poor curriculum/poor standards	4	2	3
Students' lack of interest	2	4	4
Difficulty getting good teachers	2	2	3
Size of school/classes	2	2	2
Alcohol use	2	4	1
Teenage pregnancy	2	2	na
Integration/Busing	1	1	3
Parents' lack of interest	1	-	3
Truancy/absenteeism	1	2	2
School board policies	1	1	1
Difficulty eliminating bad teachers *	1	1	1

And when we asked high school and college students whether they thought there was a drug problem at their schools, 41 percent of the high schoolers said yes, but only 22 percent of the college student did.

CRIME AND DRUGS - Back in 1982, ABC asked the public to name what they thought was the biggest cause of crime in American Society. For most - 58 percent - the answer was poverty and unemployment. Though poverty still ranks high on the list, it has been replaced in our latest survey, by drugs:

WHAT'S MOST RESPONSIBLE FOR COUNTRY'S HIGH CRIME RATE?

	All	16-30	All (Dec. '82)
DRUGS	25	18	18
Unemployment, poverty	23	27	58
Breakdown of family, society	14	11	15
Courts too lenient	9	7	13
Punishments not severe enough	3	4	6
Violence on TV/ movies	3	3	5
Lack of opportunity/education	3	5	na
Not enough police/police not effective	2	2	2
Availability of guns/weapons	1	2	na
Racial problems	*	*	1
Alcohol	*	1	na

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE? - So much of the public blames illegal drugs for trouble in our schools and for the nation's high crime rate and, because of those feelings, over six in 10 say they want government to spend more on the drug problem and virtually no one thinks spending should be decreased:

GOVERNMENT SPENDING ON DRUG PROBLEM

Should Be Increased	63
Kept About The Same	30
Should Be Decreased	5

But what does the public want the extra money spent on? What measures would be effective in the public's view? Their answers show the public leans toward increased police measures, especially a better effort at blocking drugs from entering the country and more arrests of drug dealers. Smaller numbers favor a big push to educate the public about the dangers of drug use, the technique that most experts in the field say would be the most effective.

We asked the sample about four general actions the government could take in the battle against drugs and asked people how effective they thought a big government push in each area would be. More went for cutting off the supply, then went for reducing the demand. The results:

HOW EFFECTIVE WOULD A BIG GOVERNMENT PUSH TO ....

	Very Effective	Somewhat Effective	Not very Effective
Stop drug imports	61	28	10
Arrest dealers here	56	32	11
Educate Americans	45	42	12
Arrest users	33	35	30

We then asked people to tell which one of the four would be the most effective is dealing with drugs. Stopping the flow of drugs came out on top, but educating Americans did a little better, nosing out a push to arrest dealers.

MOST EFFECTIVE OF FOUR:

Stop drug imports	46
Educate Americans	25
Arrest dealers here	24
Arrest users	4

WILL IT EVER BE STOPPED? - The fact that education scored so poorly relative to stopping the flow shows that most Americans may feel the drug problem is so central a part of society that no amount of education will be very effective in reducing drug use. Many feel the only solution is to stop easy access to drugs. Eight in 10 Americans feel that drug abuse will never be stopped because a large number of Americans want drugs and will pay lots of money for them. This is one reason so few people think arresting users would be effective in dealing with drugs.

There is no sentiment in the country for locking up users - 85 percent say the best place for users is in a drug treatment program and not jail. They feel quite differently about drug dealers - one third of the sample feel convicted heroin dealers should get the death penalty. That may seem low, but since less than 70 percent of the public believes in the death penalty for convicted murderers, the number favoring death for heroin dealers represents nearly half of all people who believe in capital punishment to begin with.

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS - There's potential in all this anger and concern about drugs for public tolerance of sweeping, draconian measures that raise serious constitutional questions. The public says it is willing to give up some of the "freedoms we have in this country" if that would "greatly reduce the amount of illegal drug use." Sixty percent of the general population says it would be willing to give up some freedoms for that purpose. Two-thirds of 16 and 17-year-olds say they would.

The public obviously is focusing on the drug problem and not the serious constitutional questions raised by recent proposals aimed at reducing drug use. They support by big margins proposals to use the armed forces to combat the drug problem (74 percent favor it) and widespread drug screening programs for a variety of groups in society (74 percent think such programs would be effective, including two-thirds of people 16-to-30).

Very few Americans say they would mind working for an employer who required mandatory drug tests as a condition of employment, and many of those who would mind would go along with it anyhow. The irony is that very few say there is a drug problem where they work, but a majority of those that do, say mandatory drug tests would reduce that problem.

#### EMPLOYED PEOPLE/DRUGS IN WORKPLACE

Have drug problem at work	13
Mandatory drug testing would help solve that problem	58
Would not mind working for employer who required testing	77
Would mind working for employer who required regular drug tests	23
Would agree to be tested any way if refusal meant firing	57

DRUGS IN THE HIGH SCHOOLS - Only one group reports a high level a drug problems in their workplace and the workplace in this case is school. High school students we interviewed - most of them seniors - were much more likely

to report a drug problem in their school than workers were in their work place. College students were less likely to report a drug problem at their school than were the high schoolers, but collegians were still more likely to report such problems than were workers. Again, nearly half of both high school and college students who felt there was a drug problem at their school, said drug testing would help reduce that problem.

	<u>High School Students</u>	<u>College Students</u>
Have drug problem at school	41	22
Mandatory drug testing would help solve that problem	49	47

TEST EVERYBODY? - Large majorities feel mandatory drug testing is a good idea for a variety of different groups in society - groups they feel have high enough drug use within them to present a serious problem to the rest of society. Over one third of Americans think everybody should be tested regularly.

FOLLOWING GROUPS SHOULD BE TESTED REGULARLY FOR DRUGS

Airline Pilots	89
Fed employes involved in national security.	88
Police Officers	86
Professional Athletes	74
High School Students	57
All Americans	37

DRUGS AND POLITICS - It's hard to think of a reason a politician would decide to come out for illegal drugs unless he wanted to commit political suicide. One would think, however, there would be a few national leaders who would be urging caution amidst the plethora of proposals to deal with drugs and the sudden bevy of calls from all political quarters for a "War on Drugs."

It is a political year and both camps are trying to out "Drug War" each other. So far, Ronald Reagan seems to be doing just fine when it comes to public attitudes on his handling of the drug problem. Two-thirds say they approve of what he has been doing lately about drugs, though about half feel he has not done enough. Naturally, there's a political tinge to how people view Reagan on these questions:

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>REPUBLICANS</u>	<u>DEMOCRATS</u>	<u>INDEPENDENTS</u>
Approve Reagan's handling of illegal drug problem	67	79	58	67
Reagan Drug Control Actions				
Too much	4	3	5	6
About the right amount	42	52	37	41
Too little	50	42	55	52

A bare majority of Americans feel Reagan has been paying more attention to the drug problem recently mainly because he's want to do something about the problem and not because he's playing politics. Two-thirds of Republicans and half of Independents believe Reagan's sincere, but a 55 percent majority of Democrats think Reagan's recent statements and actions are mainly politics.

NO POLITICAL PUNCH - Our polling shows that the drug problem probably will not pack much political punch in the fall elections. It's a motherhood issue, and

every Democrat and Republican is for motherhood and against drugs. The public itself says other issues will be more important in deciding whom to vote for.

ALL    REPUBLICANS    DEMOCRATS    INDEPENDENTS

Would vote for/against house candidate mainly because of their views on drug abuse	17	20	15	17
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This does not mean that the drug abuse problem lacks political significance, but it is a back-handed significance. We have already seen that the public now thinks that drugs are our most important single problem, equal in mentions (15 percent) only to the threat of nuclear war. Only nine percent name unemployment as the biggest problem, down four points from January. Only nine percent name the budget deficit, down three points from January.

Though 33 percent mention economic concerns in general, that's still down 11 points from January. Twenty-one percent mention foreign concerns in general, down another 11 percent from January.

**SUBLIMATION OF CONCERNS** - The effect of the increased concern about drugs, then, is to cause some people to sublimate their other concerns. The illegal drug "crisis" may well serve as a mask for other issues that politicians on both sides of the fence don't want to talk about - the budget deficit being a leading candidate.

Most candidates for Congress would love to be able to stand firm against drugs, take what credit they can for reforming the tax system and talk about little else. And it's doubtful that President Reagan will make nicotine a target in his war on drugs with all those close congressional races amidst the tobacco leaves of North Carolina.

SECTION TWO: Illegal Drug Usage

The ABC poll establishes clearly that the public thinks there is a national drug crisis, but the poll also shows that the national drug problem may not be as large as much of the public apparently thinks it is.

MISREPORTING - Telephone polling on whether people use illegal drugs has certain methodological limitations because some users will undoubtedly not admit illegal drug use to a stranger on the phone. (SEE LONGER METHODOLOGICAL STATEMENT BELOW). At the same time we have no reason to believe that there was wholesale lying on self-reported, lifetime drug usage. There is evidence there was more underreporting when it came to questions about current use. The questions that undoubtedly produce the least misrepresentation were those aimed at determining whether friends of the respondent used drugs. Because of the misreporting, ABC's results on drug usage should be viewed as a reflection of the minimum scope of the problem, especially when it comes to current usage.

One of the real values of the ABC study is that it is a repeat study and therefore has trend. There is absolutely no reason to believe that there was more underreporting in one survey than the other, thus the trends revealed by the two surveys are real within the margins or error of both surveys.

NO CHANGE IN USAGE - Having said that, however, the only trend we noted was that there is no trend. When it came to the extent of drug usage, both surveys - the first in the Spring of 1985 and the second in late August 1986 - are nearly identical. The only change was a slight one for lifetime use of marijuana which was down five points from the first time. The results indicate that illegal drug use is a relatively uncommon activity for Americans and regular use is even rarer still.

Most people say they have never used an illegal drug, and among the minority who say they have, most claim they aren't using them now. The following chart, which compares illegal drug use with the use of alcohol, illustrates:

USE OF ALCOHOL AND SPECIFIC DRUGS-GENERAL POPULATION

	Ever Used %		Use Now %	
	1986	1985	1986	1985
	Aug	May	Aug	May
	26	13	26	13
Alcohol	na	80	na	66
Any recreational drug	28	28	4	4
Marijuana	23	28	3	4
Cocaine	8	9	1	1
Crack	1	na	-	na
Heroin	3	1	1	*
LSD	6	5	*	*
Amphetamines	11	10	*	1
For medical reasons	5	na	*	*
Not for medical reasons	5	na	*	*
Sedatives/Tranquilizers	29	28	4	3
For medical reasons	27	na	3	3
Not for medical reasons	2	na	*	*
Amyl or Butyl Nitrate	3	na	1	na

Here's another chart which shows that seven out of 10 Americans say they have never even experimented with illegal drugs, and that 96 percent say they are not using drugs now.

#### USE OF ANY RECREATIONAL DRUGS-GENERAL POPULATION

	1986	1985
	Aug	May
	26	13
Use now	4	4
Don't use now	96	96
Never used	71	71
Used in past	25	25
Ever used	28	28

50 MILLION CUSTOMERS - A percentage figure sometimes has a way of masking the size of an activity, especially if it is a minority percentage such as the 28 percent who say they have ever tried an illegal drug. Twenty-eight percent of the about 178 million adult Americans represents nearly 50 million people. That may not be as big as the market for beer, wine and alcohol - nearly 120 million adults - but it's enough people to fuel a multi-billion dollar illegal industry. Even four percent - the number admitting current drug use - is a fairly large crowd: over seven million.

MOST POPULAR DRUGS - Marijuana is by far the most popular illegal substance in use today, and our data indicates that, while current usage is about the same as in 1985, lifetime usage may have dropped slightly, suggesting slightly fewer are trying it for the first time than in 1985.

Twelve percent of all the people who ever tried drugs say they have tried marijuana and nothing else. That's 43 percent of all illegal drug users. Among those who would admit they currently use drugs, half said they smoke marijuana only.

Only three percent of those interviewed admitted they were using marijuana now. That represents a little more than 5 million people versus the projected 40 million adults who have tried it.

COCAINE USE - Cocaine comes in as the second most tried drug; eight percent say they've snorted some, but only one percent admit using it currently. Those figures, which project to over 14 million triers and nearly two million current users, are no different statistically then in 1985.

The public - young and old alike - rates cocaine as a much more dangerous drug to use regularly than marijuana. Ninety-two percent of the public says cocaine is "very dangerous" to use regularly, while only 46 percent say that about pot.

CRACK - The word is out about crack: 92 percent say it's very dangerous to use and knowledge about it is very high despite its relatively recent appearance. Eight in 10 are aware of it, most can give an accurate description of it and nearly one in five think it's the drug that causes the most trouble in society right now.

Drug experts say that when word gets out on the street that a drug is dangerous, it's use usually begins to fall except possibly among a tiny subculture who, in deadly machismo, purposely take dangerous drugs such as

heroin especially because of their dangerous reputation. But the evidence is that most drug experimenters want no part of a drug that has a bad reputation for hooking or injuring people on the first or second use. Since the poll shows that crack's reputation on that count is now universally bad, it's possible that a self-correcting process may already be under way on the streets when it comes to crack.

The ABC poll, first to attempt to measure the extent of crack usage, shows that only one percent of the public admits to ever trying it. That small percentage, however, translates into nearly two million triers in the adult population.

The poll results also indicate that crack use is more common among college age youths than it is among 16 and 17-year-olds. In fact not a single 16 or 17-year-olds we interviewed admitted ever trying crack, while two percent of the 18 to 22-year-olds and one percent of college students did.

Within the adult population, there were twice as many crack triers in the 31-to-44 year age group (2%), as there were in the 18-to-30 group (1%). The figures - based on a small number of interviews - indicate that crack, like cocaine, is used more by adults than kids under 18.

**CURRENT CRACK USE LEVELS** - No one we interviewed in the poll admitted they were currently using crack. These results should not be interpreted to mean the crack problem has suddenly disappeared, but there is a suggestion from the results that it's use is extremely uncommon, especially compared to other drugs such as marijuana and cocaine. Three percent of the adult population report having friends who use crack, while a slightly larger six percent of young people 16 through 30 have such friends. But nearly a third of 16-to-30 year olds have friends who use cocaine and 60 percent have friends who use either marijuana or cocaine.

OPINIONS AND KNOWLEDGE OF CRACK

	All	16-30	16-17	H S Students	College Students
Heard/ Read About Crack	83	80	73	70	88
Observed crack sale	4	6	5	6	6
<u>Very Easy To Buy locally:</u>					
Crack	17	14	12	11	18
Cocaine	25	24	15	15	27
Marijuana	47	49	53	51	58

**WHO MOST LIKELY TO USE DRUGS?** - Males, blacks, city-dwellers and young people are more likely than average to say they currently use or have used illegal drugs, but no region of the country or type of community shows up as a drug free zone. There some illegal drug use no matter where you look.

**GENDER** - Men are three times as likely as women to say they are currently using drugs, but only 1.5 times as likely to report having tried. The conclusion: women are much more likely to try drugs and then not use them regularly than are men.

	CURRENTLY USE RECREATIONAL DRUGS		EVER USED RECREATIONAL DRUGS		HAVE FRIENDS USE: MARIJUANA OR COCAINE		FRIENDS USE COCAINE
	1986	1985	1986	1985	1986	1985	1986
	Aug 26	May 13	Aug 26	May 13	Aug 26	May 13	Aug 26
Men	6	6	34	32	40	44	24
Women	2	3	23	23	27	33	14

RACE - Thirteen percent of blacks in our latest survey say they are currently using an illegal drug. That is three times the rate of admitted current drug use among whites. It is also three times higher than in our last survey. There is no evidence to suggest that black drug usage has taken a three-fold increase in little more than year. The samples of blacks in both survey are small and chances are good that first results fall on the low side of the margin of error for the subgroup and that the second set of results fall on the high side.

By merging the two data sets together to form one larger black sample, we come up with nine percent current use among blacks. That puts current black drug use at about double that for whites. The differences between the two samples on black drug usage is the only major inconsistency we have noticed in the data in the two surveys.

When it comes to lifetime usage of illegal drugs, blacks and whites report about equal exposure, and the black lifetime usage figure (28 percent) is nearly identical to that in the first survey (27 percent). Blacks are more likely to say they have friends who use drugs than are whites, perhaps indicating that drugs are more openly used in black society.

	CURRENTLY USE RECREATIONAL DRUGS		EVER USED RECREATIONAL DRUGS		HAVE FRIENDS USE: MARIJUANA OR COCAINE		FRIENDS USE COCAINE
	1986	1985	1986	1985	1986	1985	1986
	Aug 26	May 13	Aug 26	May 13	Aug 26	May 13	Aug 26
White	3	4	29	27	31	35	17
Black	13	4	28	27	42	50	25

URBAN VS RURAL - Urbanites are four times more likely to report current drug use than people from rural areas. One reason for this may be the high concentration of blacks in urban areas. (As noted in the previous section, by merging our data from 1985 and 1985, we show black current usage as higher than average.) But the urban areas certainly are not the only place where illegal drugs are used. Suburban areas, conspicuous for the lack of blacks, report a drug usage rate that's only 30 percent less than the cities. And lifetime usage figures are about quite similar whether you are in a big city or down on the farm.

	CURRENTLY USE RECREATIONAL DRUGS		EVER USED RECREATIONAL DRUGS		HAVE FRIENDS USE: MARIJUANA OR COCAINE		FRIENDS USE COCAINE
	1986	1985	1986	1985	1986	1985	1986
Large Cities	8		34		40		42
Suburbs	5		30		37		35
Small Towns	3		26		31		29
Rural Areas	2		25		25		23

YOUTH - The illegal drug problem is rooted among the youth of this country, those 30 years old and below. Fully 60 percent of current drug users in the general population are between 18 and 30, and 51 percent of those who have tried drugs are 18 to 30.

But there is some hope in those figures because they indicate that drug use tapers off the older you get. But within the general age group 16 through 30 the reverse is true - lifetime drug experience increases the older you get. Current or regular usage seems to peak between 18 and 22, then level off before declining in the 30's. There is, of course, no guarantee that today's 20 year olds will report less drug use in their 30's and 40's, but there every reason to think they will.

	CURRENTLY USE RECREATIONAL DRUGS	EVER USED RECREATIONAL DRUGS	HAVE FRIENDS USE: MARIJUANA OR COCAINE	FRIENDS USE COCAINE
16 - 30	6	41	60	32
16 - 17	5	25	62	26
18 - 22	7	41	65	38
23 - 30	6	45	56	31
31 - 44	6	39	43	23
45 - 60	1	13	10	6
61 and over	1	8	3	1

USE OF RECREATIONAL DRUGS AMONG YOUTH

	GEN POP	16-17	18-22	23-30	COLLEGE STUDENTS
Use now	4	5	7	6	6
Don't use now	96	96	93	94	94
Never used	71	76	58	54	55
Used in past	25	20	35	40	39
Ever used	28	25	41	45	43

The kind of drugs commonly experimented with also seems to vary with age among young people. The 16 and 17 year olds report less experience with cocaine than older groups. They are three times less likely to report ever having used cocaine as are the 18 to 22 year olds, but only one and half times less likely to report having smoked pot.

Overall, 39 percent of the 16-to-30 age group report having tried pot, but only 23 percent of 16 and 17 year olds report that, while 43 percent of the 23-29 year old do. Only five percent of the 16 and 17 year olds say they've tried cocaine, while 18 percent of the 23-to-29s have.

USE OF SPECIFIC DRUGS AMONG YOUTH

	Ever Used					Use Now				
	GEN POP	16 17	18 22	23 30	COLL- EGE	GEN POP	16 17	18 22	23 30	COLL- EGE
Marijuana	23	23	38	43	41	3	4	6	5	4
Cocaine	8	5	15	18	17	1	-	1	2	1
Crack	1	-	2	*	1	-	-	-	-	-
Heroin	3	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	*	-
LSD	6	3	8	8	8	*	1	1	1	1
Amphetamines	11	4	10	14	12	*	1	1	1	*
Medical use	5	*	1	4	2	*	1	-	*	-
Non-medical use	5	3	8	10	10	*	1	*	*	*
Sedatives/ Tranquilizers	29	11	17	19	16	4	2	1	2	1
Medical use	27	8	14	16	14	3	1	*	2	*
Non-medical use	2	3	2	2	*	*	1	*	-	*
Amyl/Butyl Nitrates	3	1	2	4	3	1	-	-	*	-

TRENDS IN DRUG USE - ABC News has done just two studies on drug usage, one this year and one last. The two surveys, as noted, show little change in overall drug usage. But other studies, including one of 17,000 high school seniors by the University of Michigan, show that overall drug usage among young people peaked around the start of this decade.

U OF MICH STUDY - The Michigan study, which shows higher current and lifetime usage among youth than does the ABC survey, began in 1975. In their report on its 1985 data, the social scientists who did the in-person, secret ballot study said they felt the data indicated that the decline in drug use that began early in the decade has stalled at mid-decade. There had been no increase, but, as they said:

"...The rather steady decline of the past four years in overall illicit drug use among high school seniors appears to have halted. The proportions of seniors using any illicit drug in their lifetime, the past year, and the past month remained virtually unchanged in 1985, compared to 1984 ... Concurrent with this halt ... came the equally disturbing finding that cocaine use increased among (high school) seniors in 1985."

Dr. Lloyd Johnston, director of the study, says the increase in cocaine is small but statistically significant, but aside from that increase, his figures on drug use among high school seniors remain lower than they were in 1979-83. And the 1985 figures also showed a continuation of the decline in pot use.

GALLUP FINDINGS - The level of lifetime usage for marijuana among 16 and 17 year olds in the ABC study is 23 percent, slightly lower than the national average. Gallup found almost exactly the same lifetime usage figure in its May 1986 survey of teens aged 13 through 18. Gallup has been surveying teens on pot use for nine years, and this year's results showed that 24 percent of teens admitted to using pot at least once. Gallup's trend shows that current pot use levels are dramatically lower than they were back in the late 1970's and '80's. A chart:

TRENDS IN ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF MARIJUANA  
GALLUP ANNUAL TEEN SURVEY

	<u>1986</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1979</u>
Ever used marijuana	24	23	19	37	41
Used in past month	6	8	8	13	27

AGE OF START - ABC's poll has some further goods news: There's no evidence that drug use is starting at younger and younger ages. Today's 16 and 17 year olds with drug experience seem to have started using drugs no earlier or later than people currently in the age groups immediately above them. A chart on marijuana and cocaine will illustrate:

HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU FIRST TRIED

MARIJUANA

	All Adults	18-30	16-17	H S Students	College Students
Younger Than 15	4	9	8	9	7
15 - 17	9	21	15	15	18
18 - 20	6	9	-	-	15
21 - 23	2	1	-	-	1
24 - 30	1	*	-	-	-
Over 30	1	-	-	-	-

COCAINE

	All Adults	18-30	16-17	H S Students	College Students
Younger Than 15	*	1	*	1	*
15 - 17	2	4	4	6	5
18 - 20	3	8	-	-	6
21 - 23	1	2	-	-	3
24 - 30	1	3	-	-	2
Over 30	1	-	-	-	-

SECTION THREE: Alcohol and Tobacco, Legal Drugs

ALCOHOL USE AND ABUSE - If you don't count tobacco, the most commonly abused drug in American society is alcohol. Two-thirds of Americans (66 percent) drink alcoholic beverages, our survey in May 1985 showed, and there is no reason to think that number has changed in the year since. Men, the survey showed, are more likely to drink than women, the young more likely than the old, the rich more likely than the poor and whites more likely than blacks.

Fifty percent of all Americans say that at some point they have drunk more than they should have. While in many causes that may represent a once-a-year binge on New Year's Eve, there are significant numbers of people who drink heavily throughout the week. Six percent of the public say they have two or more drinks every day or almost every day. (Two-drinks a day is the maximum recommended recently by the AMA in order to avoid negative health consequences). Another 24 percent have two or more drinks from one to four times a week. About three-quarters of these heavy drinkers are men.

Drinking and alcohol abuse are an intrinsic part of American culture. Two-thirds of Americans say many of their friends drink, and two-thirds say they know at least one person who drinks too much.

All this drinking has led to trouble for large numbers of people. Eight percent of the public - presenting some 14 million Americans - say that at some point in their lives they have had a drinking problem for which one percent - or nearly two million Americans - have received treatment. Our May 1985 survey indicated that of the between one and two percent of the adult population - or over 3 million people - who admit to a drinking problem right now are still drinking.

And whether they admit to a "drinking problem" or not, four percent of the population say they currently drink more than they should. Two out of three of these people are men, and three out of four are younger than 45.

The results from our 1985 survey showed the public was ready to enact some tough laws related to alcohol abuse, but only a handful called for total prohibition:

OPINIONS AND PROPOSALS CONCERNING ALCOHOL

Favor National Law Raising Legal Drinking Age In All States To 21?	79
Taking Away Licenses Of First-time Drunken Drivers	56
Favor Police Stopping Motorists At Random For Breath And Coordination Tests To Discourage Drunk Driving	51
Favor Making Bartenders And Bar Owners Liable If Someone Leaves Their Bar Drunk And Then Kills Or Injures Someone In A Driving Accident	33

OPINIONS AND PROPOSALS CONCERNING ALCOHOL (CONT)

Favor Making Homeowners Liable  
If Someone Gets Drunk At  
Their House And Then Kills  
Or Injures Someone In A  
Driving Accident 31

Favor Total Prohibition Of  
All Alcoholic Beverages 17

TOBACCO AND SMOKING - The last time ABC News and the Washington Post polled on smoking related issues was September 1985. Most of those interviewed in that survey (81 percent) were convinced of the link between between smoking and lung cancer. But they were divided on what to do about it.

Only half the public (48 percent) favored a complete ban on all cigarette advertising, though a total of 62 percent backed some type of limitation of cigarette ads above and beyond current restrictions.

Still, a majority (56 percent) of Americans agreed that it is not government's role to try to reduce smoking. And just a fraction (3 percent) mentioned cigarette smoking specifically as the nation's greatest health problem. But 4-in-10 named two diseases that are allegedly linked to smoking: cancer (32 percent) and heart disease (7 percent.)

Only three percent mentioned drug abuse (including alcoholism) as the nation's biggest health problem at that time.

Some salient results:

BIGGEST USA HEALTH PROBLEM?

Cancer	32
AIDS	31
Heart Disease	7
*Cigarette smoking*	3
*Drug addiction/Alcoholism*	3
Pollution/Toxic waste	3
Poverty/Hunger/Starvation	3
Health care costs	3
Obesity/Overweight	1
Problems of Elderly/Geriatric	1
Health/Fitness/Nutrition	1
Medicare/Medicaid	*
Other	5

OTHER ABC SMOKING/RESULTS

Is Smoking?	
A) A normal pleasure of life	7
B) A normal but risky activity	12
C) Dangerous and unhealthy to the smoker	10
D) Dangerous and unhealthy to the smoker and others, or	25
E) A major public health hazard to the smoker and others	42

ABC SMOKING/RESULTS (CONT)

Favor ban cigarette ads	48
Smoking/lung cancer are linked	81
Ever smoked cigarettes	63
Currently smoke cigarettes	48
Smoke cigarettes every day	93
Ever tried to quit	69
Would like to quit	62

Number Cigarettes Smoked Daily:

Less than half a pack	*
Less than one pack	29
About one pack	37
More than a pack/ less than two	20
About two packs	11
More than two packs	3
Three packs or more	*

ABC NEWS POLL SHOWS MOST AMERICANS  
SUDDENLY FOCUSED ON DRUG PROBLEM;  
THEY SEE A "CRISIS" THAT'S  
EVERYWHERE BUT THEIR HOMETOWN

By JEFFREY D. ALDERMAN  
ABC NEWS Polling Director

Americans have suddenly discovered they have a drug problem.

They're up in arms about it because a large majority have recently come to believe that illegal drug use is a central part of American life that is rapidly growing beyond the crisis stage.

In fact, the public is so concerned about illegal drugs that large numbers say they would be willing to "give up some of the freedoms" we have in this country if that would "greatly reduce" drug abuse. A just-completed ABC News poll (Aug. 26) shows that a majority of Americans now favor mandatory drug testing for a wide variety of groups in society - over a third even favor such tests for all of us.

Eighty percent of Americans say illegal drug use is a crisis nation-wide, but, in a key finding of the poll, nearly as many - 62 percent- say there is no drug crisis in their own hometown and no drug problem at their place of work or school. Despite that, 71 percent of that last group think that the rest of nation does have a drug crisis. Most Americans seem to be saying: "We've got a national crisis in America, all right, but not not where I live."

And ABC's polling and other research show that this "everywhere-but-here" drug abuse problem ...

[ ] Is hardly new to mankind or America

[ ] Is not growing and is smaller than it was at the start of this decade

[ ] Causes serious problems for relatively few people, especially compared to legal substances such as alcohol and cigarettes.

SCOPE OF POLL - Those are some of the main findings of a major public opinion survey and other research by ABC News on the subject of illegal drugs. The poll, which sampled the opinions of 16 and 17-year olds as well as all adult Americans, was designed to explore American attitudes toward the illegal drug problem and quantify, within the methodological limits of telephone polling, the size of the problem in American society, especially among youths.

In addition to its own survey of over 2,300 people, the polling unit drew upon a number of other studies and reports in preparing its own material for presentation. A major resource drawn upon is a National Institute on Drug Abuse survey entitled "Drug Use Among American High School Students, College Students and Other Young Adults." The polling unit also gathered information

from a variety of government and private agencies which have studied the effect of substance abuse on American society.

WHAT IS A DANGEROUS DRUG ? - In the process of our polling and research we have learned that one person's dangerous drug is another person's relaxing wine spritzer. Even defining what a drug is and what it does to the user is fraught with difficulty. Some experts will say that the major difference between heroin and alcohol is that one is legal. Others will say that the most dangerous thing about marijuana is its smoke which can cause cancer. Some drugs are highly physically addictive (nicotine, alcohol, heroin, barbituates) and once you are hooked, you get physically ill if you stop using them. Others are highly "dependence producing" (cocaine, crack, and possibly marijuana) and they make you feel so good you want more. Most drugs have both physically addictive and mental dependence producing qualities. Some can hook you quickly (cigarettes, crack); some can take years (alcohol, cocaine). And despite the "highly addictive" reputation of some drugs (heroin), not everybody who uses them regularly gets hooked.

So America's drug problem is not one problem, it's a skein of problems involving both legal and illegal substances, each with very different properties which affect mind and body in different, often dangerous ways that are not always immediately apparent to the user.

BIGGEST KILLERS - But the agency reports and our own ABC polling clearly show that it's legal drugs that account for most of America's drug problems. A few examples that help put the illegal drug problem into relative perspective:

[ ] One highly addictive drug causes more death and disease than any other on the legal or illegal market: nicotine. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources reports that 340,000 people died prematurely each year of smoking-related illnesses.

[ ] The National Council on Alcoholism latest estimates show nearly 100,000 deaths a year from alcohol abuse. The Mother's Against Drunk Driving estimate there were over 22,000 deaths caused by drunk drivers in 1985.

[ ] Only 3,500 Americans died from all illegal drug-related abuse in 1985 in the 25 metropolitan areas from which the National Institute of Drug Abuse was able to collect data. Roughly a third of those drug deaths came from the use of a deadly combination: alcohol and drugs.

Right now though, the public, which tends to view alcohol and tobacco as merely everyday vices and not powerfully addicting drugs, is more concerned about illegal drug use. Because of their very illegality and because of a recent barrage of publicity about a powerful new street drug called crack, illegal drugs are boiling on the front burner of public concern.

SUMMARY OF ATTITUDES - Evidence of this sudden concern about illicit drugs is all over ABC's current poll on the subject:

[ ] Illegal drug use now tops the list of what the public thinks is the country's most important problem. As recently as January, virtually no one interviewed in ABC polling mentioned drugs as the biggest problem.

[ ] Three-quarters of the public feel drugs are a bigger problem today than they were five years ago, but all available statistical evidence, including the NIDA high school study, shows that the

problem is slightly smaller today.

[ ] There are virtually no differences between the attitudes of most young people - even 16 and 17 year olds - and the older age groups when it comes to the problem of illegal drugs - large majorities condemn their use and call the situation a crisis.

[ ] The recent focus of concern about drugs in the media and among political leaders has led to widespread public desire for mandatory drug testing for a wide range of groups in society and little concern among most about being tested themselves.

[ ] The public is quite willing to use the U.S. military to combat the drug problem.

[ ] More people think a push to stem the flow of drugs into the country would be effective in reducing drug use than think educating the public to drug dangers would be.

[ ] When asked which substance causes the most problems in American society, two-thirds either pick cocaine (41 percent) or the new, smokable form of cocaine, crack (17 percent). Yet when asked which is the bigger problem in their own community, 44 percent pick alcohol over illegal drugs (39 percent), and six in 10 say booze causes more deaths where they live than do drugs.

SUMMARY OF DRUG USAGE - The poll's major findings on drug availability and usage:

[ ] The use of illegal drugs today is at the same level ABC News observed more than a year ago in its first study on the subject in May 1985. There are no statistical differences in the lifetime usage levels for of any of the illegal drugs we asked about except for marijuana, which is down a statistically significant five percentage points over a year ago.

[ ] Of the 28 percent of Americans who say they have tried an illegal drug, 12 percent have tried marijuana and nothing else.

[ ] Overall, the most frequently tried illegal drugs are: marijuana (23%), cocaine (8%), LSD (6%), non-prescription amphetamines (5%), heroin (3%), amyl or butyl nitrites (3%), non-prescription sedatives/tranquilizers (2%) and crack (1%)

[ ] Only three percent saying they use pot regularly; one percent, cocaine. Reported current usage of other illegal drugs is so low as to be virtually unmeasurable by the poll.

[ ] The ABC poll is the first major study to examine crack availability and usage. The poll shows that public awareness of the crack form of cocaine is high despite its newness on the streets. But the ABC poll shows that only one percent of the public admits to ever having tried crack, and no one we interviewed said they were using it now.

[ ] Four percent of the public believe they have observed someone selling something they believed to be crack, and 17 percent believe it would "very easy" to buy crack in their area. But 47 percent say marijuana would be easy to obtain, and 25 percent say that about cocaine.

[\*] Eighty percent say they have used alcohol at one time in their lives, while 28 percent say they have used illegal drugs. Two-thirds of the general public drink alcohol on a regular basis, but only four percent admit to using illegal drugs regularly. A third say their family life has been negatively affected by a member's alcohol problem. Fifteen percent say that about illegal drugs.

[] Drug usage is highest among those under 30 years old, though it is not their exclusive preserve. Generally speaking, the youngest members of the 16 to 30-year-old age group report the least experience with drugs.

[] Drug use often begins before age 15 (less than 10 percent of all first use), but that the drug tried first is usually pot. Cocaine experimentation is more likely to begin in the late teens and frequency increases steadily through the mid-20's. There is no evidence the drug use is starting at increasingly earlier ages.

SECTION ONE: Attitudes on Illegal Drugs

There's little question that the recent media attention paid to the drug crack coupled with increased public discussion of the overall illegal drug problem by Congress and the Reagan administration, have riveted the public's attention on drugs. Polling organizations, including the one at ABC, are all reporting dramatic increases in public concern about the problem.

ABC asked its sample to name the most important problem facing the country. No categories were suggested. The result: 15 percent named drugs, the same number that mentioned the threat of nuclear war. No other problems were even close including unemployment which was mentioned by nine percent. Prior to this survey, the drug problem was nothing but an asterisk on any ABC poll since the start of its polling operation in 1981. No topic has ever zoomed to the top of the list so quickly.

FIRST AND SECOND BIGGEST - We also asked people to name the second most important problem facing the nation, and the drug problem again topped the list of specific mentions at 14 percent, with unemployment second at 11 percent. When first and second mentions are combined, "drugs," "the threat of war" and "unemployment" emerge as the top three problems people mentioned as the top one or two problems in the country. Here's a partial, rank-ordered list of the problems people called the most important ones facing the country:

	<u>Most Important</u>	<u>Most or Second Most Important</u>	<u>Most Important (Jan. '86)</u>
Drugs	15	24	*
Nuclear War/Threat Of War	15	24	11
Unemployment	9	20	13
Federal Budget Deficit	9	14	12
International Problems	5	12	16
Poverty/Hunger	5	11	na
Taxes	4	6	2
Inflation	3	5	4
Crime	3	8	3

When we took all the specific answers and grouped them into broader categories, we found that roughly a third of the public mentioned economic concerns, more than double the 15 percent that mentioned the drug problem. Concern about foreign affairs (including the threat of war) accounted for 21 percent of the responses, six percentage points higher than drugs. Still, the sudden appearance of drugs so high on the list means the public is clearly aroused about the problem.

A CRISIS SOMEWHERE ELSE - Our polling trend indicates that the public has been led by its government leaders and the media to decide only recently that this country has a major and growing drug crisis.

Eight out of 10 Americans say there is a national drug crisis, and 76 percent think it's a bigger crisis today than it was five years ago, exactly the time when most experts feel the illegal use of drug peaked and began to decline somewhat. And there's very little generation gapping on the question. Young and old agree - seven out of 10 people aged 16 through 30 say there's a national drug crisis and half think it's worse than five years ago.

But for nearly two-thirds of the general public, it's a crisis that exists somewhere else and not where they live. One demographic group is a major