
GREATER KANSAS CITY'S TEENS MORE WORRIED ABOUT THEIR MORTALITY, BEING BULLIED AND BECOMING CRIME VICTIMS

The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and Partnership for Children release the 2004 Voices of Youth Kauffman Teen Survey

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A new survey of Greater Kansas City's teenagers finds that youth today are more concerned about dying young, being bullied at school and becoming robbery or rape victims. These are among the findings of the 2004 *Voices of Youth* Kauffman Teen Survey, released today at the Kauffman Foundation. "It is apparent that societal pressures, such as terrorism, war and crime are having an impact on our teens," said Janice Ellis, President of Partnership for Children. "As a community, we need to do more to help our youth deal with these issues."

For almost 20 years, the Kauffman Foundation has conducted its survey of teenagers in metropolitan Kansas City. The Teen Survey grew out of Mr. Kauffman's interest and concern about youth behaviors, especially those behaviors that limit teens' future prospects. This year, Partnership for Children has taken over the operation of the survey. The 2004 survey asked approximately 6,000 8th, 10th and 12th graders to share everything from their future aspirations to their use of illegal drugs. Greater Kansas City teenagers have responded to the annual survey with surprising candor. The reports have given the Greater Kansas City community unparalleled information about the thoughts and behaviors of its young people.

Among the key findings in the 2004 *Voices of Youth* survey:

- Nine out of 10 teens think they'll accomplish something important during their lives, believe success depends on hard work and say it's important to be prepared for the future.
- Ninety-five percent of teens say they'll finish high school and go on to college.

(more)

- Fifty percent worry about dying in the next ten years.
- The long-term trend shows alcohol consumption declining among 8th, 10th and 12th graders, although use of alcohol among 8th graders rose slightly in the 2004 survey.
- The trend of declining cigarette use among 8th, 10th and 12th graders continues, with historic lows in smoking among 10th and 12th graders in the 2004 survey.

Although the increase in some categories of substance abuse is of concern, there is still plenty to celebrate in the 2004 survey. “We should be encouraged by the number of our teens who, despite what’s going on in the world, still embrace the American Dream, want to further their education and want to make a contribution to society,” said Dr. Ellis.

More than one hundred people attended the release of the *Voices of Youth* Kauffman Teen Survey today. Among those speaking at the event were Kansas Third District Representative Dennis Moore and Dr. Eleanor Lisbon, Assistant Professor of Family Medicine at Kansas University Medical Center.

The Kauffman Foundation works with partners to encourage entrepreneurship across America and to improve the education of children and youth. Established in the mid-1960s by the late entrepreneur and philanthropist Ewing Marion Kauffman, the Kauffman Foundation works toward a vision of a society of economically independent individuals who are engaged citizens, contributing to the improvement of their communities.

Partnership for Children (PFC) is dedicated to the long-term goal of making Greater Kansas City a great place to raise children. The organization continues to work toward that objective by bringing the metropolitan area together to accomplish the 2010 community goals for children and youth, which are outlined in PFC’s annual *Report Card*. Through work in its core business areas, and through the use of valuable tools such as the educational Standards Guides, the *Report Card*, the 5 Promises and advocacy and public policy work for children and youth, PFC is creating agents of change who will lead this community toward achieving these high expectations.

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