



## Safety Survey

LS CARES surveyed parents, students, and various community members to address the community's youth violence issues. The survey asked questions about experience with youth violence, who would be the first resource, contributions to youth violence, factors to deter and prevent youth violence and who is most responsible for prevention.

**Rediscover, Department of Quality Improvement  
12/1/2011**

# INTRODUCTION

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Lee's Summit CARES, an organization dedicated to safety and healthy lifestyles among our young people, conducted its safety survey during the Fall 2011. The survey was distributed to Lee's Summit R-7 School District middle-school and high-school students with a total of 851 responding. The survey was also distributed to parents at R-7 parent/teacher conferences with 320 parents responding. Although this survey was not truly random and cannot be considered completely statistically valid, Lee's Summit CARES believes it accurately reflects opinion trends in the community. A summary of the results follows.

# METHODS

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Students were asked to complete the survey online via SurveyMonkey.com. Questions included previous experience, thoughts about resources, contributors, deterrence, prevention, and responsibility regarding youth violence in Lee's Summit. Students were also asked demographic questions like sex, age, race, and grade level. Parents were administered the survey during parent/teacher conferences. Questions were similar to the students questions, however, the demographic questions were altered to include highest education completed and having children under 21. All participation was voluntary.

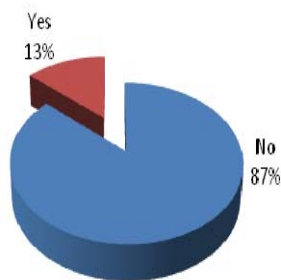
# RESULTS

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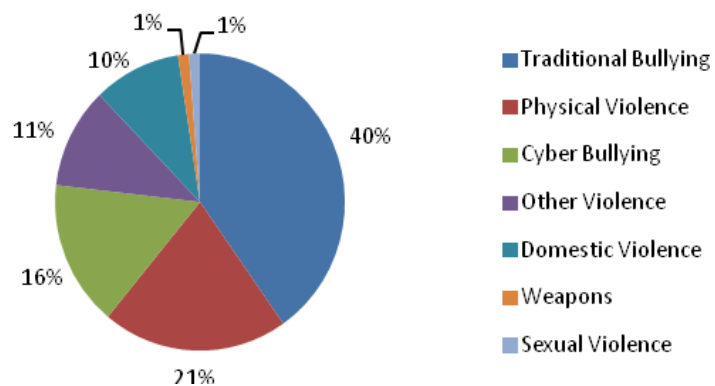
## PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

Youth violence was experienced by 13% of parents and 32% of students. Both parents and students stated that traditional bullying (p=40%, s=29%) was the most experienced.

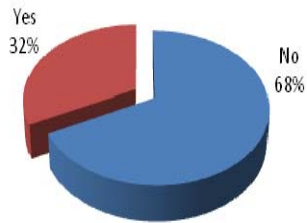
Parents who experienced youth violence.



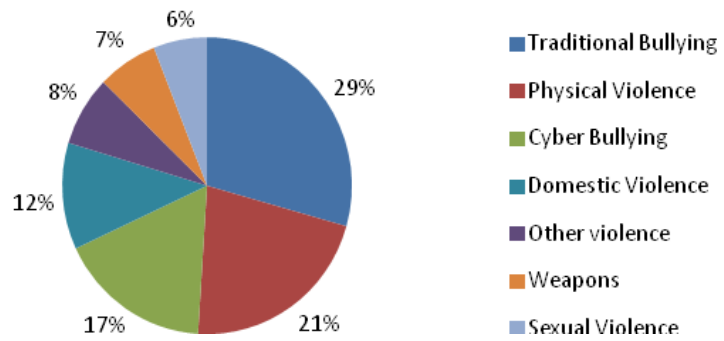
Type of youth violence experienced by parents.



Students who experienced youth violence.



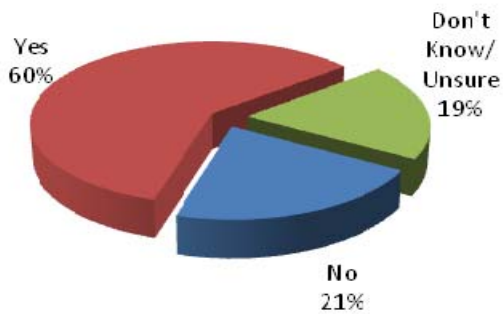
Type of youth violence experienced by students.



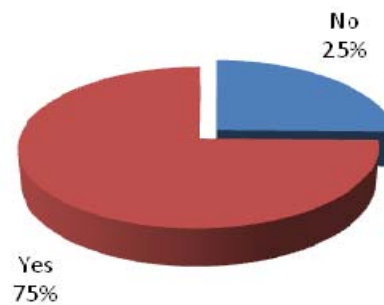
**ADEQUATE RESOURCES**

According to 60% of parents and 75% of students, there are enough resources in Lee’s Summit to deal with youth violence.

Parents: Are there enough resources in Lee's Summit?

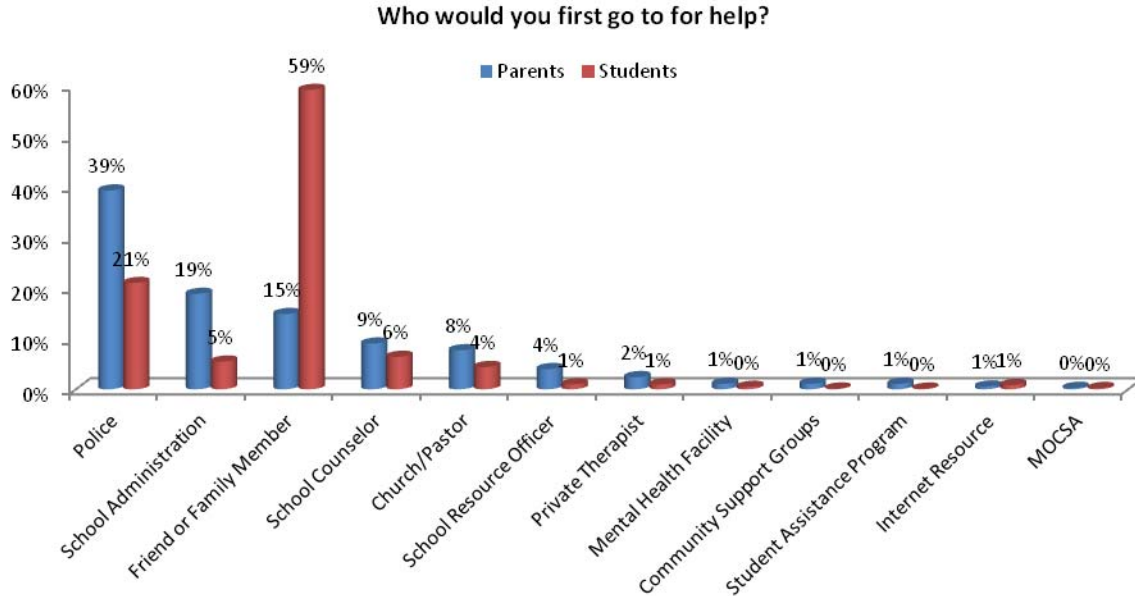


Students: Are there enough resources in Lee's Summit?



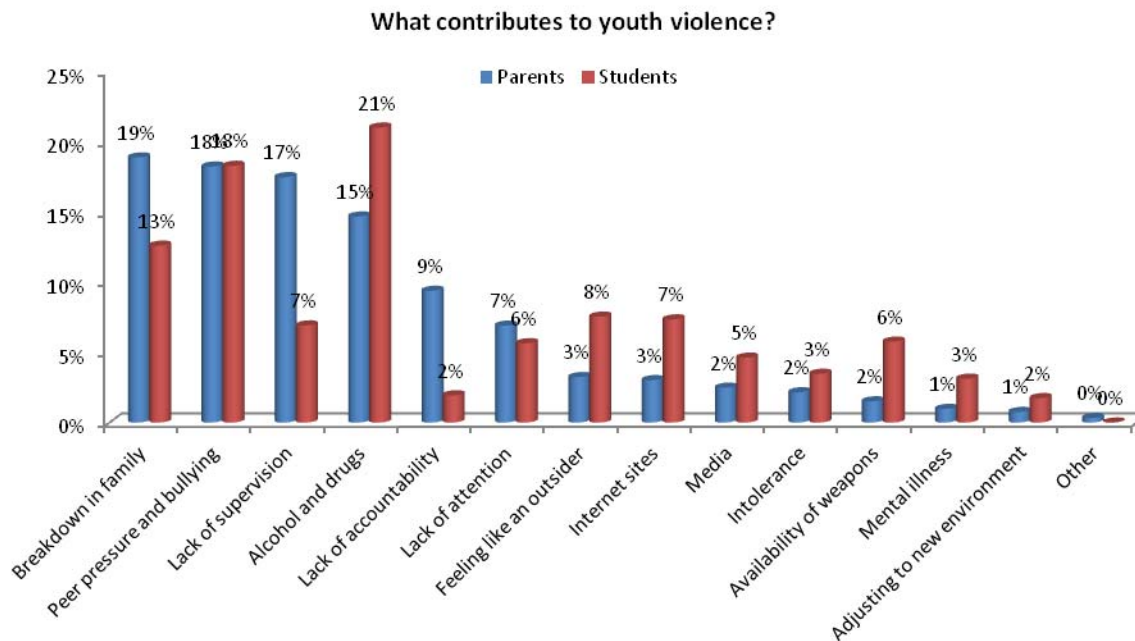
## HELP FOR YOUTH VIOLENCE

Most parents (39%) said that they would first contact the police for help while most students (59%) said that they would first contact a friend or family member.



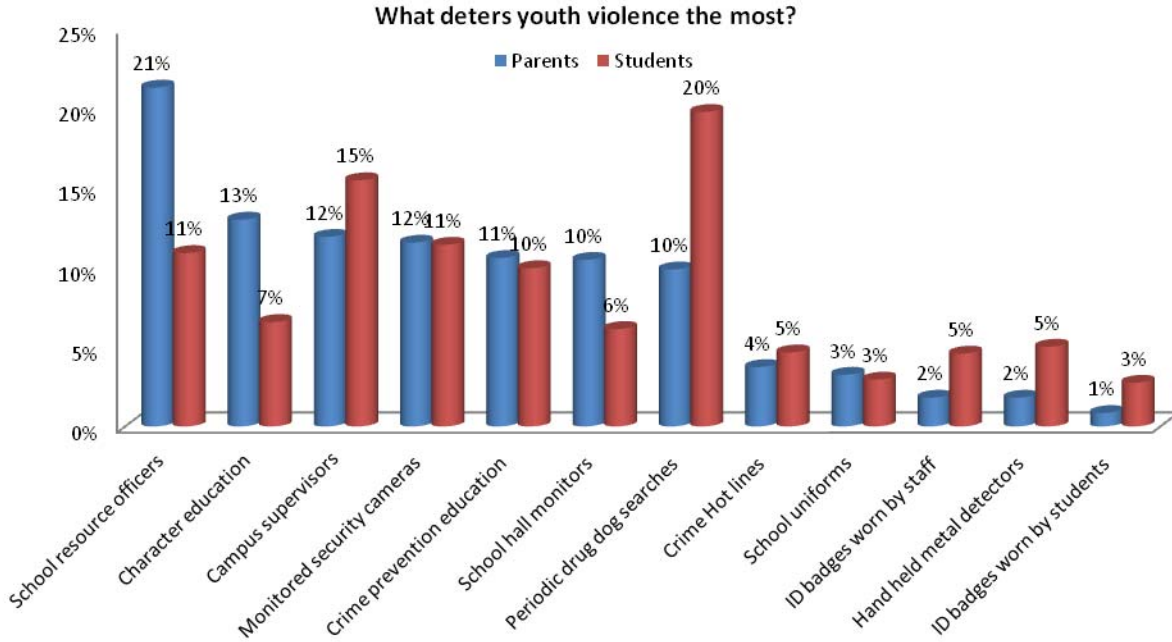
## CONTRIBUTIONS TO YOUTH VIOLENCE

Parents said that breakdown in families (19%) contributed to youth violence the most, while students said that alcohol and drugs (21%) was the biggest contributor to youth violence.



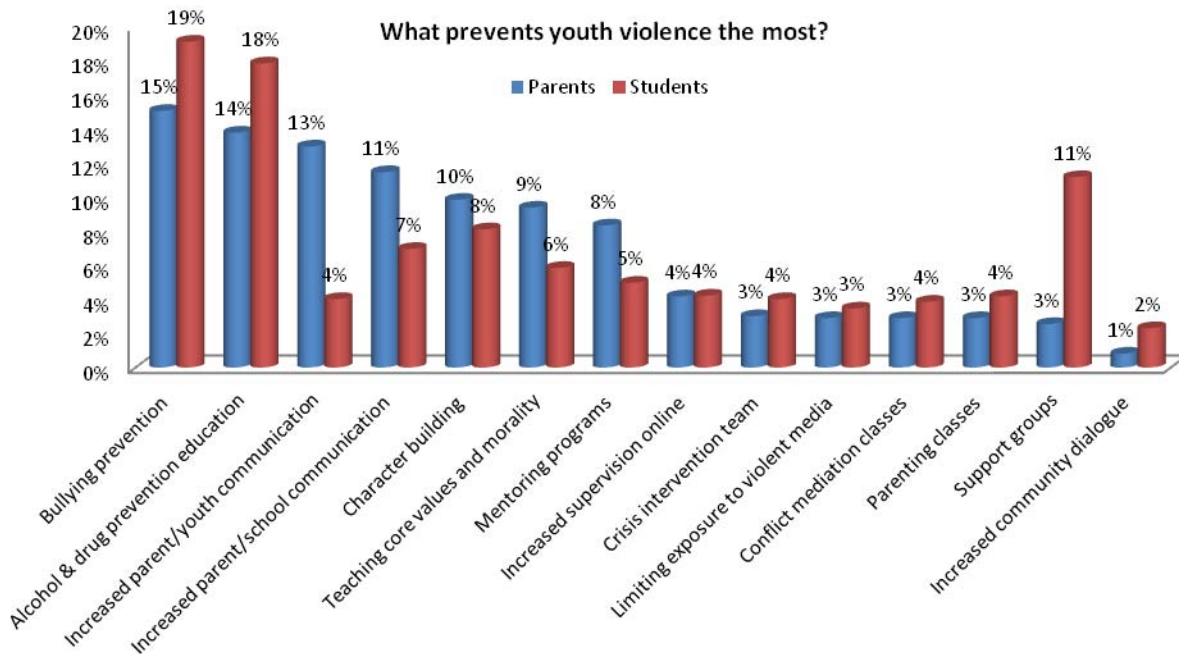
### DETERRING YOUTH VIOLENCE

Parents said that having a school resource officer (21%) would be the best way to deter youth violence, but students said that drug dogs (20%) would be a deterrent for youth violence.



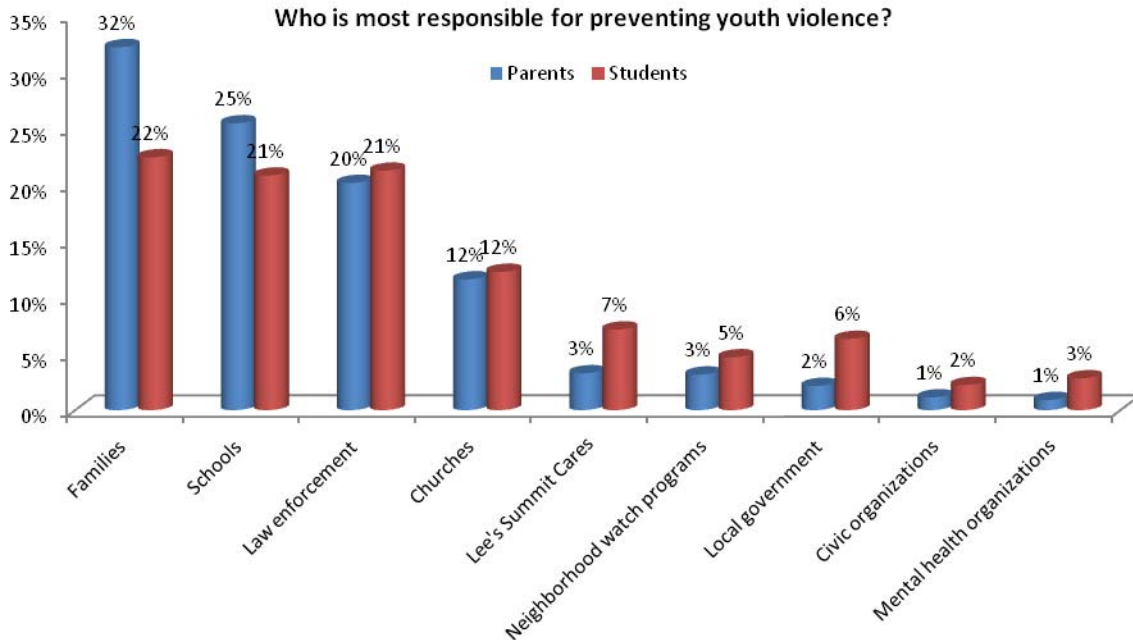
### PREVENTING YOUTH VIOLENCE

Both parents and students stated that bullying prevention was the best way to prevent youth violence (p=15%, s=19%).



## RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUTH VIOLENCE

Both parents and students stated that families were most responsible for preventing youth violence (p=32%, s=22%).



## CONCLUSION

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Less than a third of parents (13%) and students (32%) have experienced youth violence in Lee's Summit and about two-thirds of parents (75%) and students (60%) believe there are enough resources in Lee's Summit to handle the youth violence problem. This suggests that youth violence is not a prominent issue in Lee's Summit, and when it is, parents and students know where to go to for help. However, since a third of parents and students are dealing with youth violence, it is necessary to continue to help those in need.

Both parents and students agreed that the most experienced forms of youth violence were traditional bullying (p=40%, s=29%), physical violence (p=21%, s=21%), and cyber bullying (p=16%, s=17%). When it came to a contact person when dealing with youth violence, parents said that they would contact the police (39%), where as students said that they would first contact a friend or family member (59%) before they would contact the police (21%).

Parents said that a breakdown in families (19%) contributed to youth violence the most, while students said that alcohol and drugs (21%) was the biggest contributor to youth violence. When it came to youth violence deterrence and prevention, parents said that having a school resource officer (21%) would be the best way to deter youth violence, but students said that drug dogs (20%) would be the greatest deterrent for youth violence. However, both parents and students stated that bullying prevention

(p=15%, s=19%) was the best way to prevent youth violence in Lee's Summit. Similarly, both parents and students stated that families (p=32%, s=22%) were most responsible for preventing youth violence.

Overall, both parents and students had similar results. This helps the validity of the results from the safety surveys. In instances where parents and students did not agree, it was by one or two factors. For example, when asked who they would contact first, both parents and students had the same top 4 answers (parents: Police, School Administration, Friends or Family, and School Counselor; students: Friends or Family, Police, School Counselor, and School Administration). The results from this survey suggest that youth violence is not a critical problem in Lee's Summit and there are enough resources to help combat youth violence.