

# Lee's Summit CARES

## 2008-09 Safety Survey Results

Lee's Summit CARES, an organization dedicated to safety and healthy lifestyles among our young people, conducted its annual safety survey during fall 2008. The survey was distributed to Lee's Summit R-7 School District middle-school and high-school students with a total of 1,336 responding. The survey was also distributed to parents at R-7 parent/teacher conferences with 634 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.

### PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH YOUTH VIOLENCE

When asked if they had previous experience with youth violence in Lee's Summit, 23 percent stated they had, and 77 percent stated they had not. Those who had experience with youth violence were asked what types of violence they had experienced. Top five types included physical, bullying, "other," domestic violence and cyber.

### ADEQUATE RESOURCES / KNOWLEDGE OF WHERE TO FIND HELP

When asked if they felt there were enough resources in Lee's Summit to deal with youth violence, 17 percent said there were not enough, 59 percent said there were enough and 24 percent gave no response.

When asked where they would turn to help if they had problems with youth violence, top choices in order among students responding were police, school counselor, church and the school's resource officer. Top choices in order among adults were police, school administrator, school counselor and school resource officer.

### WHAT CONTRIBUTES TO YOUTH VIOLENCE

Those responding to the survey were asked to rate a number of items based on how much each contributed to youth violence. Items were rated 1 through 12 with a rating of 1 having the strongest influence. Each item and its ranking (based on average scores) from most influential to least influential follow. There was a marked difference in how the adults and students ranked the contributing factors.

Ranking	Adult	Student Ranking
1	Lack of accountability	Alcohol and Drugs
2	Lack of supervision	Peer pressure/Bullying
3	Breakdown in families	Breakdown in families
4	Peer pressure/Bullying	Availability of weapons
5	Lack of attention	Feeling like an outsider
6	Alcohol and Drugs	Lack of supervision
7	Media	Lack of attention
8	Feeling like an outsider	Media
9	Intolerance	Lack of accountability
10	Availability of weapons	Difficulty adjusting to new environ
11	Mental illness	Mental illness
12	Difficulty adjusting to new environ	Intolerance

## EFFECTIVENESS OF SECURITY APPROACHES

Those taking the survey were also asked to rank their opinions of the effectiveness of security approaches within schools. No. 1 meant most effective and No. 11 meant least responsible. The rankings follow.

<b>RANK (based on average score)</b>	<b>Adult Ranking</b>	<b>Student Ranking</b>
<b>School Resource Officers</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>School Hall Monitors</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Character Education</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Crime Prevention Education</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Monitored security cameras in secondary schools</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Wearing of ID badges by staff and students</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Campus Supervisors at high schools</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Periodic Drug Dog Searches</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Hand Held metal detectors</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>School Uniforms</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Wearing of ED badges by students</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>

## RANKING OF POSSIBLE INTERVENTIONS TO YOUTH VIOLENCE

This question asked those responding to rank the significance of possible solutions to prevention of youth violence. Again, No. 1 is the most significant.

<b>RANK(based on average score)</b>	<b>Adult Ranking</b>	<b>Student Ranking</b>
<b>Teaching core values and morality</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Character Building</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Increased parent &amp; school communication</b>		
<b>Re: Security</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Bullying Prevention</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Parenting Classes</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Mentoring Programs</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Alcohol &amp; Drug prevention education</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Conflict Mediation Classes</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Limiting exposure to violent media</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Increased community dialogue</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Support groups</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Crisis Intervention Team</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>

## RATING OF GROUPS IN TERMS OF WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PREVENTION

The final question asked adults and students to rate nine listed groups in terms of who they felt was most responsible for helping to prevent youth violence. No. 1 is more responsible, and No. 9 is least responsible.

<b>RANK (based on average score)</b>	<b>Adult Ranking</b>	<b>Student Ranking</b>
<b>Families</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Law enforcement</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Churches</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Civic organizations</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Local government</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Lee's Summit Cares</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Schools</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Neighborhoods Watch Programs</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Mental health organizations</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>