

Negative Peer Pressure

A Discussion Guide for Adults



6 Facts and Discussion Questions

It's easy to worry about how kids pressure each other to do risky behaviors. The headlines tell of groups of kids getting into trouble, such as drinking too much alcohol, vandalizing, or hurting others. The problem isn't friendships. The problem is kids giving into the pressures of the group.

Research Findings

1. Only 10 percent of those surveyed about peer pressure say they have never been influenced by peer pressure.¹
2. Most kids say that their peers influence them both positively and negatively.²
3. Forty-five percent of teenagers say that peer pressure is a problem but that most teenagers can deal with it on their own.³
4. Forty percent of kids say that peer pressure only distracts a person from reaching his or her goals.⁴
5. Twenty-eight percent of kids say that giving into peer pressure helps them move up the social ladder.⁵
6. Forty-six percent of teenagers said they teased somebody because their friends were teasing that person.⁶

Sources

1. Survelum Public Data Bank, "Peer Pressure Survey Statistics," at www.survelum.com/survey-results/PeerPressure/filter-2-0/, accessed on January 13, 2010.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.

Take It Further

ParentFurther discussion guides are created to help you talk with your kids about tough topics. Visit www.ParentFurther.com for more discussion guides and additional resources.

Discussion Questions

- **When you were a teenager, what were common negative peer pressures?**
- **How well could you stand up to negative peer pressure as a teenager?**
- **Do you feel that peer pressure is only for kids or do you think adults feel peer pressure too? Why?**
- **When is it hard to resist negative peer pressure?**
- **Do you think kids today are under more peer pressure than earlier generations? Why?**
- **How big of problem do you think negative peer pressure is?**
- **How can we help kids resist negative peer pressure?**

All kids experience both positive and negative peer pressure. By better understanding the issue, you can make it more likely that they will be a positive influence on their friends.