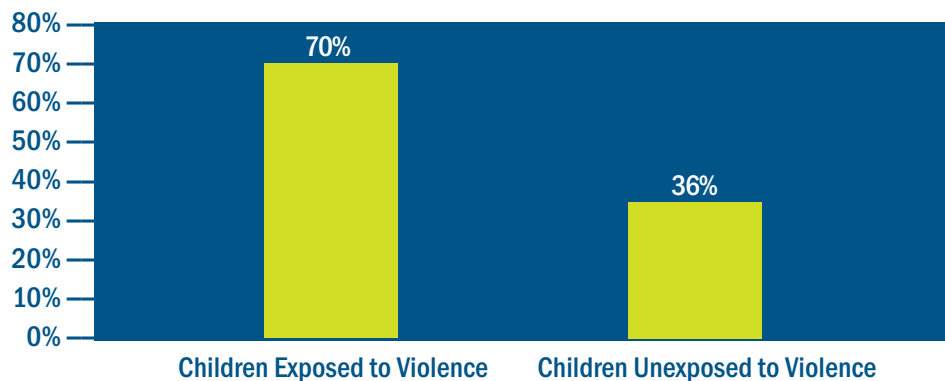




## Exposure to Violence Associated with Friend's Use of Alcohol and Other Drugs in Preadolescent Children

A recent study\* found that children who have been exposed to violence are more likely by age 11 than other children to have friends that engage in unhealthy behaviors. In a sample of children living in urban, lower socioeconomic areas, those who reported having been exposed to violence by 8.5 years of age were twice as likely at 11 years of age to report that their friends used alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (ATOD) than unexposed youth. This relationship was stronger among boys than among girls. While children with exposure to violence did not report higher personal use of ATOD at 11 years of age than unexposed children, they may have been reluctant to report their own use.

**Children Reporting Friend's Use of Alcohol, Tobacco, or Other Drugs**



**Source:** Joseph, N.P., Augustyn, M., Cabral, H. & Frank, D.A. (2006). Preadolescents report of exposure to violence: Association with friends' and own substance use. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 38, 669-674.

\* 104 children completed the Violence Exposure Scale for Children - Revised at 8.5 years and the Substance Exposure Assessment at 8.5, 9.5 and 11 years.

Prepared by TASC, Inc. TASC is an independent, not-for-profit agency that provides clinical case management and other services to men, women and adolescents with a variety of social and health-related needs. TASC serves approximately 30,000 clients in Illinois each year. For more information visit [www.tasc.org](http://www.tasc.org).

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