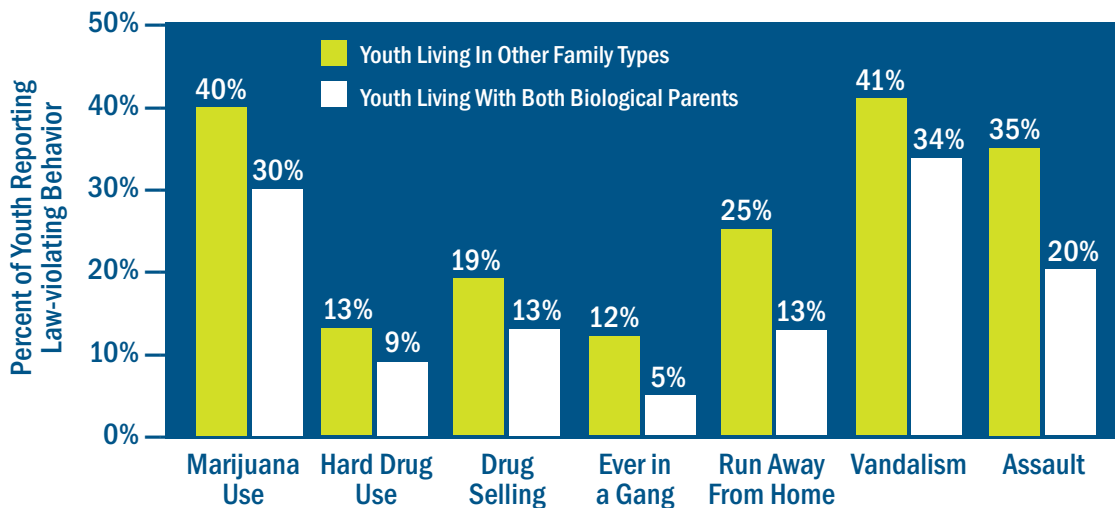




## Youth Problem Behaviors Linked to Family Structure

A recent study<sup>1</sup> examined the factors associated with youths' self-reported law-violating behaviors. Results indicate that seventeen-year-old youth who did not live with both biological parents reported a higher lifetime prevalence of problem behaviors than youth of the same age who did. Compared to youth living with both biological parents, youth living in other types of family situations reported a higher incidence of marijuana use (40% vs. 30%), hard drug use (13% vs. 9%), drug selling (19% vs. 13%), gang involvement (12% vs. 5%), running away from home (25% vs. 13%), vandalism (41% vs. 34%), and assault with the intent to seriously injure (35% vs. 20%).

**Engagement in Illegal Behavior by Youth Living in Other Family Types Compared to Youth Living With Both Biological Parents**



Source: McCurley, C., and Snyder, H. (Forthcoming). Risk, protection, and family structure. OJJDP Juvenile Justice Bulletin. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Cited in: Snyder, H., and Sickmund, M. (2006). Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 2006 National Report. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Retrieved April 14, 2006, from [www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/ojstatbb/nr2006/index.html](http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/ojstatbb/nr2006/index.html).

<sup>1</sup> The study used data from the *National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997* (NLSY97), which includes a nationally representative sample of about 9,000 youth who are interviewed on an annual basis. Youth were between the ages of 12 and 17 when first interviewed in 1997 and between the ages 19 and 24 when interviewed for a seventh time in 2003 and 2004. Data from rounds one through seven of the NLSY97 were released in June 2005. The event history file and the confidential geocode data file for rounds one through seven were released in October 2005.

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).