

POINTERS FOR PARENTS

Talking To Kids About Drugs And Terrorism ㊦

(NAPSA)—Although many families have been discussing terrorism lately, not all realize how one way to fight it may be in their hands—and in what they tell their children.

Narcotics production and trafficking have long been a source of funding for terrorist groups and those who give them asylum. The Taliban leadership reaped millions of dollars in revenue from opium and poppy production. In 2000, Afghanistan was responsible for 71 percent of the world's supply of opium.

It's not just opium from Afghanistan, however. More cocaine is produced in Colombia than any other country in the world, in addition to most of the heroin smuggled into the U.S. Paramilitary forces in Colombia have been responsible for an increasing number of massacres and have fought with guerrillas for control of coca-production as well as engaging directly in narcotics production and trafficking. Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) is deeply involved in drug trafficking, earning perhaps in

excess of \$300 million per year. Colombian drug traffickers and terrorists control coca and cocaine production in much of Colombia. They tell the growers what to produce, set the prices and extract severe penalties from any farmers who don't do what they're told.

Drug trafficking organizations in Mexico also contribute to corruption and violence that extends into the United States. Mexico was responsible for producing 7,000 metric tons of marijuana last year and distribution networks throughout the U.S. are controlled by various Mexican crime cartels to distribute marijuana, cocaine and methamphetamine.

Many believe it's time to tell kids about the connection between terrorism and drug use in the U.S.; to let them know that when they use illicit drugs like marijuana, cocaine or heroin, they may be feeding international terrorist networks.

For additional tips, download "Keeping Your Kids Drug-Free: A How-to-Guide for Parents and Caregivers," or call 1-800-788-2800.