

# Survey shows drugs are No. 1 problem

Drugs are the No. 1 community problem, according to a recent survey of Anchorage residents conducted by the Anchorage Crime Commission.

The survey found that the problem of drug-related crime overshadowed the economy and traffic — the two other problems mentioned most often by survey respondents.

The commission, a public group sponsored by the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, reported its findings at the chamber's weekly luncheon forum.

Crime Commission Chairman Harold Heinze said the public opinion survey also revealed that:

- By a margin of 2 to 1, residents believe crime has increased in their neighborhoods over the last two years.

- One-third of the respondents had personally been the victim of a crime in the last two years, with the vast majority being theft of personal property.

- By a margin of 4 to 1, respondents believe that illegal drugs affect the crime rate.

- By margins of 6 and 9 to 1,

respondents believe substance abuse by both adults and juveniles has increased within the last year.

- The state needs stronger laws to deal with illegal drug trafficking. And the Anchorage schools need more comprehensive drug education programs.

Heinze said the findings of the survey were consistent with crime statistics compiled by the Anchorage Police Department. Property crimes have increased, and traffic in illegal drugs is the cause.