

# A Look into the Lives of 3 Youth

**Mike**— Mike is a 14 year old Caucasian male of low economic status who lives with his mother, father, older sister Kate, and baby brother Troy. Mike often feels that he is getting lost when it comes to his family. He thinks that his parents have no time to devote to him since they both work and now have a new child to take care of and support. He is an average student, but frequently misses school because he is asked to stay home and care for Troy while his parents are at work. When some of his friends started smoking pot, Mike decided to try it as a way to escape the pressures he faces at home.



**Anthony**— Anthony is a 15 year old African American male of low economic status who lives with his mother and older brother Charles. Charles is 18 and often not around because he works to help support the family and to save money for college. Anthony enjoys sports and plays on his school's basketball team. However, he has trouble maintaining the grades to stay on the team. Anthony's father has been in prison since Anthony was three. Anthony claims he cannot remember his dad. He occasionally receives cards sent from prison.

**Cassie**— Cassie is a 15 year old Hispanic female of low economic status living with her mother, father, and three younger brothers. She babysits her brothers every day after school and must have dinner on the table for the family by 6pm when her parents return from work. When she doesn't do this, her father often becomes angry and hits her and her little brothers. Cassie feels that she is under a lot of pressure and begins drinking while her parents are at work but she doesn't believe she has ever been drunk. She says that she does it to "take the edge off." In the last two months, she has been caught shoplifting twice.

