



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Caucasus Research Resource Centers Releases 2006 Survey Results

**Yerevan, Armenia** - The Caucasus Research Resource Centers-Armenia released the results of the 2006 Data Initiative Survey today. The regional survey is carried out across the South Caucasus and interviews respondents from over 6,800 households, asking over 120 questions. The survey assesses knowledge, attitudes and practices in all three South Caucasus countries – Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, and paints an intriguing picture of behavior over time. Additionally, 2006 marks a watershed year for CRRC. Now in its third year, the Data Initiative has been expanded to all regions of the South Caucasus.

The Data Initiative raises a host of fascinating questions that beg further sociological and journalistic investigation. Why does Armenia continue to have the most male smokers in the region? Although the number of male smokers in Yerevan has dropped, it is currently 12% higher than in Baku and 5% higher than in Tbilisi. What explains Armenian and Azerbaijani ambivalence towards NATO membership, with a large percentage of the population—41% and 35% in Yerevan and Baku respectively—responding that they “don’t know” if their country should join NATO?

The survey results also provide key indicators on economic development. For instance, the percentage of households having personal computers in Yerevan increased from 15% in 2004 to 21% in 2006. By contrast, only 3% of rural households possess a personal computer.

The Data Initiative questions regarding social institutions also provide contentious results for politicians and policymakers. In Armenia, people distrust most social institutions. For instance, in 2006, only 15% said they trusted the parliament.

The Data Initiative Survey contains blocks of questions on demography, education, political attitudes/views, social institutions, migration, crime, health and economic behavior. “The Data Initiative will improve the quality and availability of up-to-date data in the region,” states Dr. Hans Gutbrod, CRRC Regional Director. “Ultimately, the CRRC data sets will enable local and regional social scientists and policy practitioners to collaborate and engage in meaningful dialogue about the ongoing transitions in their homelands”

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CRRC are a network of resource and training centers established in 2003, in the capital cities of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia with the goal of strengthening social science research and public policy analysis in the South Caucasus. A partnership between the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Eurasia Foundation and local universities, the CRRC network offers scholars and practitioners stable opportunities for integrated research, training and collaboration in the region. For more information on CRRC activities, and a complete list of our independent advisory committee members, please contact:

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To find out more about our activities in Georgia and Azerbaijan, please go to [www.crcccenters.org](http://www.crcccenters.org).