

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

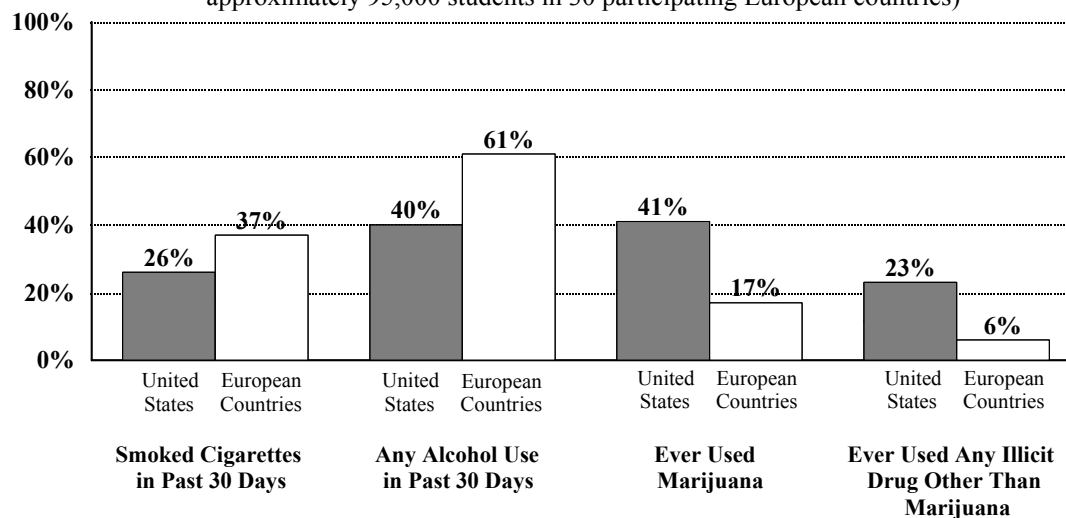
U.S. 10th Graders Less Likely Than Those in European Countries to Drink or Smoke; More Likely to Use Marijuana and Other Illicit Drugs

Specifically designed to be comparable to the U.S.'s Monitoring the Future (MTF) high school survey, the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Drugs (ESPAD) was conducted in 1999 with 10th grade students in 30 participating European countries.* According to the 1999 MTF survey, just over one-fourth (26%) of U.S. 10th graders reported that they had smoked at least one cigarette in the past 30 days, compared to an average of 37% of 10th grade students in the participating European countries (ranging from 16% to 67%). Forty percent of U.S. 10th grade students reported using alcohol in the past 30 days, compared to 61% of European students (ranging from 36% to 85%). U.S. 10th graders, however, were much more likely to have ever used illicit drugs. For example, 41% of U.S. 10th grade students reported ever using marijuana, compared to 17% of European students (ranging from 1% to 35%).

Percentage of 10th Grade Students Reporting Substance Use, United States and European Countries, 1999

(N=approximately 14,000 students in the United States and

approximately 95,000 students in 30 participating European countries)



* The ESPAD survey in each country is representative of the national 10th grade student population with the exception of the survey in Russia, which is representative of Moscow only.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from State University of New York at Albany, Press Release, 2/20/01. For more information regarding the ESPAD, contact Dr. Thor Bjarnason at thor@albany.edu. For more information regarding the MTF study, contact Dr. Lloyd Johnston at lloydj@umich.edu.