

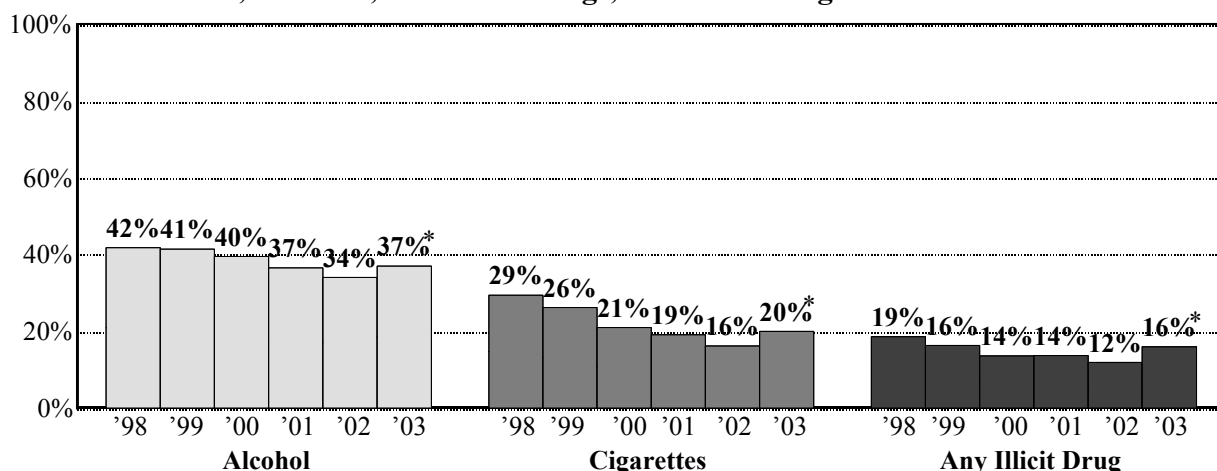
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

PRIDE Survey Shows Significant Increase in Junior High School Students' Use of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs

Alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use increased significantly among U.S. junior high school students for the first time since the mid-1990s, according to the data recently released from the Parents' Resource Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE). The percentage of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students reporting the use of alcohol over the past year increased from 34% in 2001-02 to 37% in 2002-03. Similarly, tobacco use increased from 16% to 20% and use of any illicit drug increased from 12% to 16% over the same period. Among high school students (grades 9-12), rates of alcohol and tobacco use decreased slightly, while illicit drug use increased slightly (data not shown).

Percentage of Junior High School Students (Grades 6-8) Reporting Past Year Use of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Illicit Drugs, 1997-98 through 2002-03 School Years



*The difference between 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 was statistically significant at $p \leq .05$.

NOTES: Year indicates the end of each school year (i.e. '98= 1997-1998 school year). N=48,026 in 2001-2002 and N=54,520 in 2002-2003.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from the Parents' Resource Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE), *PRIDE Questionnaire Report: 2002-03 National Summary Grades 6-12*, 2003.

Available online at <http://www.pridesurveys.com>. For more information, contact Janie Pitcock at 800-279-6361.

Thank You for Your Letters of Support

We would like to thank the recipients of the *CESAR FAX* who took the time to send in letters of support earlier this year. The over 300 letters we received were instrumental in securing funding for this project through June 2004. Thank you!

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