

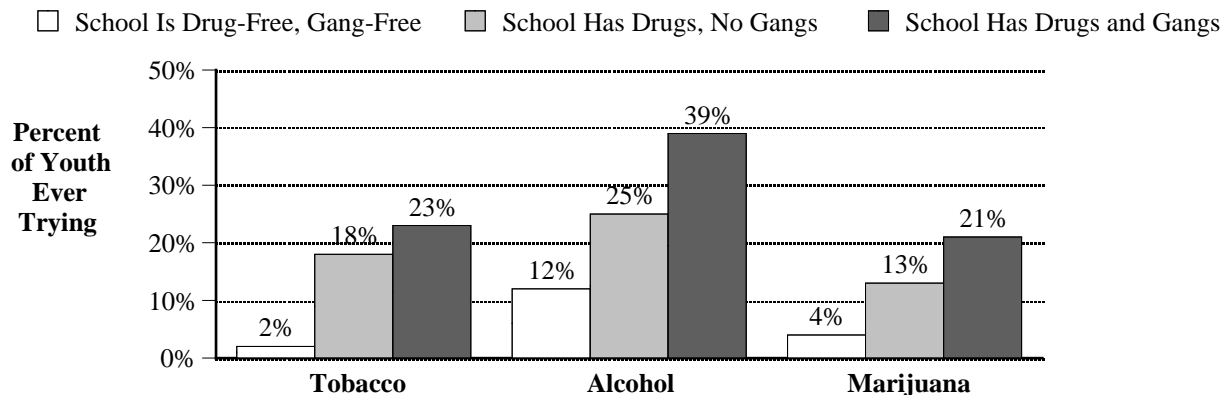
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Youth Attending Drug-Free and Gang-Free Schools Least Likely to Have Ever Tried Tobacco, Alcohol, or Marijuana

Youth attending drug- and gang-free schools are less likely to have ever used tobacco, alcohol, or marijuana, according to a survey conducted by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA). Only 4% of U.S. youth ages 12 to 17 attending schools with neither drugs nor gangs report ever trying marijuana, compared to 13% of those attending schools with drugs but not gangs and 21% of youth attending schools where drugs were kept, used, or sold and where gangs were present. Similar results were found for ever trying tobacco and alcohol (see figure below). These findings remained “significant and meaningful” even after controlling for socioeconomic status.* The survey also found that youth attending drug- and gang-free schools were least likely to have friends who drank regularly, smoked marijuana, abused prescription drugs, or used illegal drugs (data not shown).

Percentage of U.S. Youth Ages 12 to 17 Reporting They Have Ever Tried Tobacco, Alcohol, or Marijuana, by the Presence of Drugs and Gangs in Their School, 2010



*According to the authors, “the associations between tobacco, alcohol and marijuana use and indicators of gangs and drugs in schools were both significant and meaningful” after running a series of logistic regression analyses to control for socioeconomic status, which was defined as both parental education and income.

NOTE: Data were collected from telephone surveys of a randomly selected sample of 1,000 U.S. youth ages 12 to 17 conducted between April 6 and April 27, 2010 and an internet-based survey of a randomly selected sample of 1,055 U.S. youth ages 12 to 17 conducted between April 8 and April 27, 2010.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, *National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse XV: Teens and Parents*, August 2010. Available online at <http://www.casacolumbia.org/upload/2010/20100819teensurvey.pdf>.

VHS Tapes of Lectures by Renowned Scientists Available

In the early 1990s, CESAR sponsored a series of lectures with leading scientists in the fields of substance abuse and criminal justice, including David Musto, Robert Dupont, Ethan Nadelmann, David Nurco, and James Inciardi. Limited supplies of VHS tapes of these CESAR Speaker Series lectures are now available for the cost of shipping and handling (\$5 per tape). Don't miss this chance to add these unique lectures to your library! See the CESAR website (www.cesar.umd.edu) for a list of available tapes and for ordering information.