

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland at College Park*

***Beer and Wine Coolers are the Substances Most Widely Used
by 6th, 9th, and 12th Graders Across the United States***

Data from the 1991-92 National Parents' Resource Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE) survey on drug and alcohol use among junior high and high school students show that beer and wine coolers were the drugs most likely to be used in the past year by 6th, 9th and 12th graders. The figures indicate increasing use of each drug, except inhalants, with each advancing grade. Use of inhalants peaked in ninth grade. While the use of other drugs was less common, almost 22% of the seniors had used marijuana in the past year. Furthermore, it is likely that many students failed to disclose their illicit drug use. The study included 212,802 students in 6th through 12th grades from 1,588 schools in 34 states.

**Drug Use in Year Prior to Survey
Among a National Sample of 6th, 9th, and 12th Grade Students,
1991-1992 School Year**

<u>Drug Ever Used In Prior Year</u>	<u>6th Grade (%) (N = 25,784)</u>	<u>9th Grade (%) (N = 34,309)</u>	<u>12th Grade (%) (N = 24,556)</u>
Beer	20.4	49.3	63.8
Wine Coolers	20.7	47.4	60.3
Liquor	10.8	40.8	59.4
Cigarettes	16.9	34.8	40.4
Marijuana	2.0	11.4	21.8
Uppers	1.7	7.0	8.9
Hallucinogens	1.2	3.8	7.1
Downers	1.4	4.4	5.2
Inhalants	3.7	6.1	4.8
Cocaine	1.1	2.9	4.2

SOURCE: 1991-92 PRIDE Survey, National Parents' Resource for Drug Education (PRIDE).

NEW USE OF MARIJUANA BY YOUTHS?

"Blunt" use (marijuana smoked through a hollowed-out cigar casing) by youths in Washington, D.C. and Maryland has recently been reported. CESAR would appreciate any information on this practice. Anyone with information, please contact us at (301) 403-8329 or via the CESAR Board at (301) 403-8343 or 1-800-842-3727.

For more information about today's topic or to be placed on the distribution list, please call CESAR at 301-403-8329.

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