

Alcohol and Cigarette Use Remains High Among Students; Illicit Drug Use Increases

Data from the 1993-94 survey by the National Parents' Resource Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE) indicate that alcohol and cigarettes continue to be the substances most widely used among junior and senior high students surveyed (grades 6-12). More than one third of junior high and two thirds of senior high students reported using alcohol at least once during the year prior to the survey. In addition, 26.3% of junior high and 41.5% of senior high students used cigarettes in the prior year.

Significant increases were found among both junior and senior high school students in the use of every illicit drug included in the survey. Eight percent of junior high students reported using marijuana in the prior year, a 41% increase over 1992-93. Senior high students' use of marijuana increased by 29%, from 19.0% in 1992-93 to 24.6% in 1993-94.

Percentage of Junior and Senior High School Students Who Used Selected Substances in the Year Prior to Survey, 1992-93 and 1993-94 School Years

Substance Used at Least Once in Prior Year	Junior High (6-8th Grades)		Senior High (9-12th Grades)	
	1992-93 (N = 105,335)	1993-94 (N = 92,939)	1992-93 (N = 131,410)	1993-94 (N = 104,796)
Alcohol (any form)	41.0%	39.3%*	65.5%	65.9%*
Cigarettes	25.5	26.3*	38.4	41.5*
Marijuana	5.8	8.2*	19.0	24.6*
Inhalants	4.8	5.9*	5.6	6.9*
Uppers	3.0	3.4*	7.9	9.1*
Downers	2.2	2.4*	4.6	5.3*
Hallucinogens	1.9	2.1*	5.7	6.6*
Cocaine	1.6	1.9*	3.4	4.0*

* Indicates a significant ($p \leq .05$) change over prior year.

SOURCE: 1993-94 PRIDE Survey, National Parents' Resource for Drug Education. The 1992-93 PRIDE survey included 236,745 students (grades 6-12) from 40 states. The 1993-94 PRIDE survey included 197,735 students (grades 6-12) from 34 states. For additional information, contact PRIDE at 404-577-4500.

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