

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

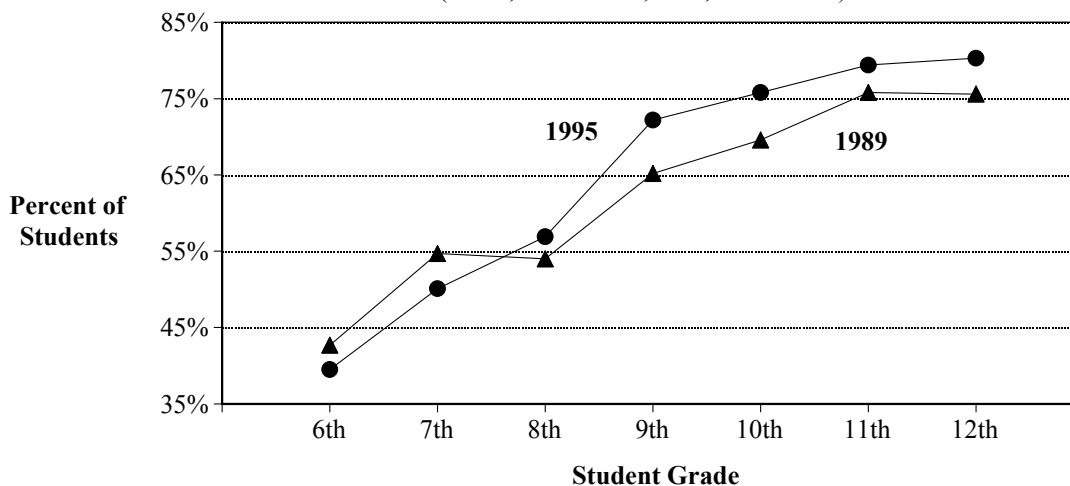
University of Maryland, College Park

Eighty Percent of 11th and 12th Graders Report Illicit Drugs Are Available in Their School

By the time students reach 11th and 12th grades, they are twice as likely as 6th graders to report the presence of drugs in their school (approximately 80% vs. 40%), according to a report released last week by the Department of Education and the Department of Justice.* In addition, the percentage of 6th and 7th graders reporting that drugs were available in their school decreased from 1989 to 1995. According to the students, marijuana was the most accessible drug (61% of students reported that marijuana was available and 36% reported that it was easy to obtain). Other drugs reported to be available, yet harder to obtain than marijuana, were uppers/downers (43%), crack cocaine (42%), cocaine (40%), LSD (39%), heroin (34%), and PCP (32%).

**Percentage of Students (Ages 12-19) Reporting that
Illicit Drugs Were Available in Their School, 1989 and 1995**

(N=10,449 in 1989; N=9,954 in 1995)



*This report analyzes two (1989 and 1995) School Crime Supplements (SCSs) to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). The NCVS is an ongoing household survey that gathers information on the criminal victimization of household members age 12 and older. SCS respondents (youth between the ages of 12 and 19 who had attended school at some point during the six months prior the interview) were asked about criminal activity that had occurred in their school (in the school building, on school grounds, or on a school bus) during the six months prior to the interview.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from K. Chandler, C. Chapman, M. Rand, and B. Taylor, "Students' Reports of School Crime: 1989 and 1995," U.S. Departments of Education and Justice, March 1998. For more information, contact Kathryn Chandler of the National Center for Education Statistics (202-219-1767) or Michael Rand of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (202-616-3494). A copy of the report can be downloaded from the World Wide Web at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/index.html> or <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/srsc.htm>.

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