

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

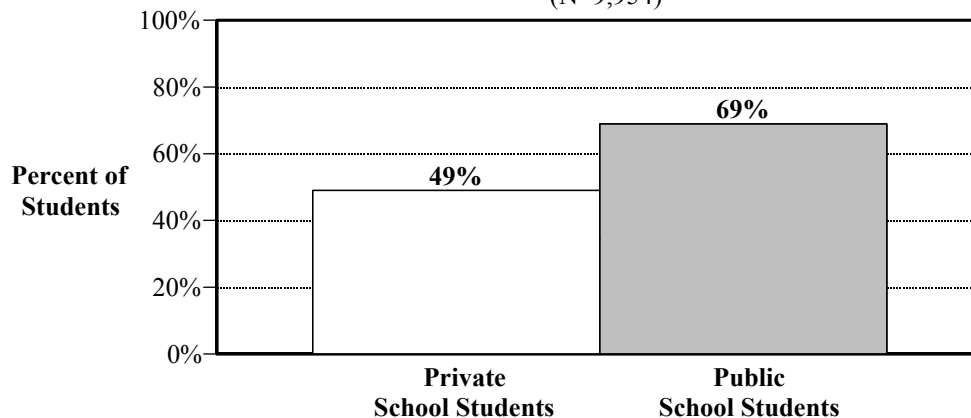
University of Maryland, College Park

Public School Students More Likely to Report that Drugs Are Available in Their School

It is sometimes argued that private school students, due to their typically elevated socioeconomic status, are more likely than public school students to have access to illicit drugs. However, recently released data from the School Crime Supplement to the 1995 National Crime Victimization Survey* reveal that 49% of private school students reported that drugs were available in their school, compared to 69% of students attending public schools. It should be noted that these results are not evidence that public school students are more likely to use drugs.

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

(N=9,954)



*For a description of the survey, see CESAR FAX, Volume 7, Issue 16.

NOTE: Students were asked about the availability of marijuana, cocaine, crack, uppers/downers, LSD, PCP, heroin, or other illegal drugs at school. If the students reported any of these were easy or hard to obtain at school, they were counted as believing drugs were available at school.

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> (NCES #98241) or <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/crsc.htm>.

Have You Heard of the Drugs "Silk" or "Totem Poles"?

CESAR has recently received inquiries about the identity of two drugs with the slang names of "silk" and "totem poles". If you have heard of either of these drugs, please contact CESAR at cesar@cesar.umd.edu. Thank you!