

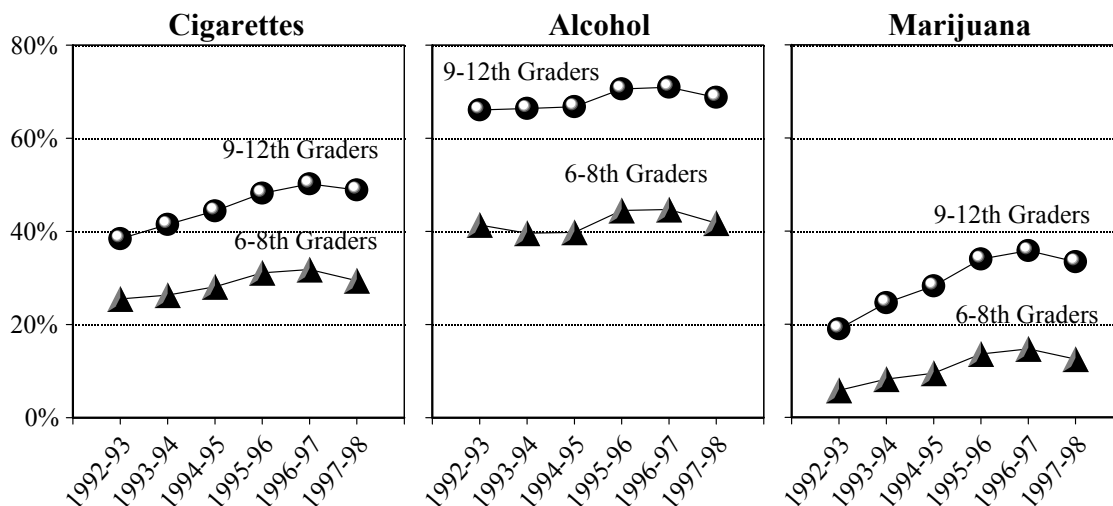
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Illicit Drug Use Declines Among Majority of Students; Slight Increases Found Among High School Seniors

Student substance use during the 1997-98 school year declined in all grades except twelfth, according to data released last Thursday by the Parents' Resource Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE). Past year use of all alcohol, tobacco, and other drug categories remained the same or decreased among 6th-11th grade students. However, twelfth graders reported slight increases in past year use of cigarettes, cocaine, uppers, downers, and designer drugs. While these declines are encouraging, the overall level of drug use among students remains relatively high compared to previous years. According to Dr. Thomas Gleaton, PRIDE president, "We have made remarkable progress in the past two years, but to return to drug use level of 1990 we would have to cut today's usage in half." Cigarettes, alcohol, and marijuana were the substances most widely used among the students surveyed; all other drugs (cocaine, uppers, downers, inhalants, hallucinogens, heroin, and designer drugs) were used by 10% or less of students.

Percentage of Junior (Grades 6-8) and Senior (Grades 9-12) High School Students Reporting Past Year Use of Cigarettes, Alcohol, and Marijuana, 1992-93 to 1997-98 School Years



NOTE: The category "alcohol" includes beer, wine coolers and liquor.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from Parents' Resource Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE), "Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Use Drops Among Teens; Despite Progress Drug Usage Remains Twice the 1991 Rate," Press Release (WWW document; URL <http://www.prideusa.org/press97/ns97pnat.htm>; accessed 6/19/98). For more information, contact Doug Hall of PRIDE at 770-458-9900.