

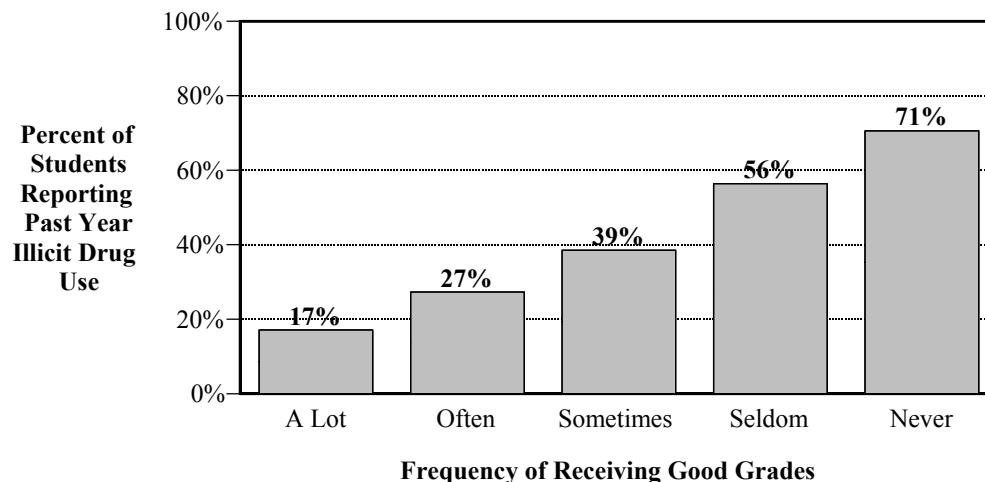
**A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research**

**University of Maryland, College Park**

***Students Who Report Never Receiving Good Grades  
Four Times More Likely to Use Illicit Drugs***

The less often students receive good grades, the more likely they are to use illicit drugs, according to data from the 1997-98 national Parents' Resource Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE) school survey. Seventeen percent of students who reported receiving good grades "a lot" reported using at least one illicit drug (primarily marijuana) in the year prior to the survey, compared to 71% of students who reported never receiving good grades. Similar results were found in a 1994 survey of undergraduate students enrolled at the University of Maryland at College Park--students with the lowest grade point averages were four times more likely to report using marijuana in the past month (see CESAR FAX, Volume 6, Issue 11). Other factors that may be associated with academic performance (participating in school and community activities, religiosity, parents talking to their children about drug use, setting clear rules, and punishing when rules are broken) were also found by the PRIDE survey to be related to reduced illicit drug use.

**Percentage of Students (Grades 6-12) Reporting  
Past Year Illicit Drug Use, by Reported Frequency of Receiving Good Grades, 1997-98**  
(N=154,350)



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.