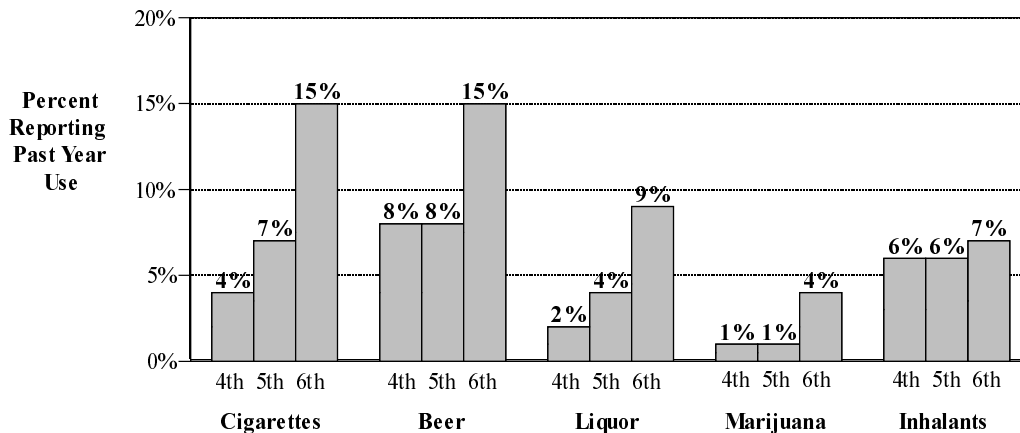


***Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use Begin As Early as Fourth Grade;  
Dramatic Increases Seen by Sixth Grade***

Fourth, fifth, and sixth graders report a small but striking level of substance use, according to a survey conducted with 26,086 students in 22 states. Among 4th graders, 4% reported past year cigarette use and 8% reported past year use of beer. By 6th grade, these rates had jumped to 15% for both cigarette and beer use. Similar increases between 4th and 6th grades were found for liquor and marijuana. Inhalant use remained at around 6% for all three grade levels. The authors suggest that "social factors such as associating with new friends might explain the escalation in drug use" (p. 1). For more information, contact the National Parents' Resource Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE) at 800-279-6361.

**Percentage of Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Grade Students  
Reporting Past Year Substance Use, 1997-98**

(N=26,086 students in 22 states)



NOTE: Past year use is defined as use on one or more occasions during the past year.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from the National Parents Resource Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE), "Study Shows Nine-Year-Olds Already Involved in Drugs and Alcohol; Transition from Fifth to Sixth Grade Seen as Vulnerable Time," Pride News Release, April 7, 1999. WWW document: [www.prideusa.org/press99/978\\_4x6.htm](http://www.prideusa.org/press99/978_4x6.htm) (accessed 4/8/99).

**Do You Have Information Regarding the Purchase of Drugs Via the Internet?**

CESAR is looking for any information concerning the sale and/or purchase of legal or illegal drugs on the internet. If you would like to anonymously share information, please contact Brook Wraight of CESAR at 301-403-8329 or [bwraight@cesar.umd.edu](mailto:bwraight@cesar.umd.edu). Thank you!

•• 301-403-8329 (voice) •• 301-403-8342 (fax) •• [CESAR@cesar.umd.edu](mailto:CESAR@cesar.umd.edu) •• [www.cesar.umd.edu](http://www.cesar.umd.edu) ••

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