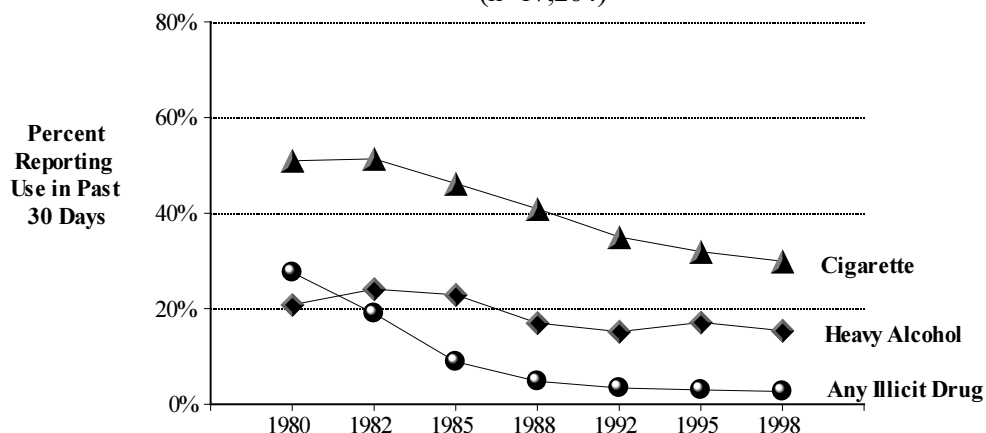


## ***Survey Finds Long-Term Declines in Cigarette and Illicit Drug Use Among Military Personnel; Heavy Alcohol Use Remains Unchanged***

While cigarette and illicit drug use among military personnel has decreased dramatically since 1980, heavy alcohol use has remained relatively stable, according to the *1998 Department of Defense Survey of Health Related Behaviors Among Military Personnel*. Cigarette use in the 30 days prior to the survey decreased from 51% in 1980 to 30% in 1998 while illicit drug use decreased from 28% to 3% over the same period. Heavy alcohol use decreased only slightly (from 21% in 1980 to 15% in 1998). However, a large part of this decline can be attributed to sociodemographic changes among military personnel during this period. According to the authors, "these results suggest that prevention of heavy alcohol use is a topic that may need further emphasis in the Military" (p. 7).

**Percentage of Military Personnel Reporting Past Month Heavy Alcohol, Cigarette, and Illicit Drug Use, 1980-1998**  
(n=17,264)



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from Robert M. Bray, *1998 Department of Defense Survey of Health Related Behaviors Among Military Personnel*. WWW document: <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/analysis/surveys/98survey/survey.html> (accessed 5/19/99) and Robert M. Bray et al., *1995 Department of Defense Survey of Health Related Behaviors Among Military Personnel*, February 1996. For more information, contact Robert Bray at 919-541-6000.

### **Notice of NEDTAC Website Closing**

The National Evaluation Data and Technical Assistance Center (NEDTAC) website closed on May 15, 1999 because the contract ended. Many of their products are now available at the National Evaluation Data Services (NEDS) website ([neds.calib.com](http://neds.calib.com)). Questions or comments can be sent to [neds@calib.com](mailto:neds@calib.com).

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