

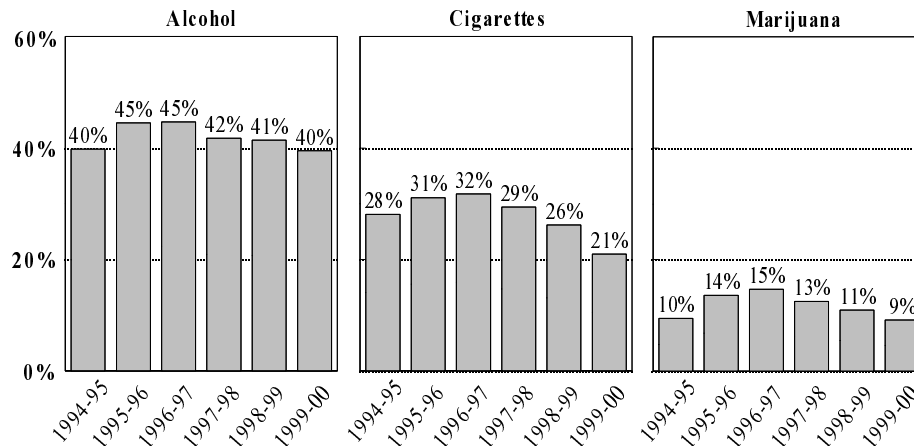
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

PRIDE Survey Reports Declines in Use of Alcohol, Cigarette, and Marijuana Among U.S. Junior High Students

Alcohol, cigarette, and marijuana use have declined among junior high school students (grades 6-8) over the past four years, according to data released by the Parents' Resource Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE). The most significant decreases occurred in past year cigarette use, which declined from a peak of 32% in 1996-97 to 21% in 1999-00, and past year marijuana use (from 15% to 9%). Senior high school students (grades 9-12) showed slightly smaller declines in past year cigarette use (from 50% in 1996-97 to 44% in 1999-00) and marijuana use (from 36% to 31%) and reported no change in alcohol use. While these findings are encouraging, particularly with respect to cigarette use among junior high school students, they suggest a need for heightened prevention and intervention programs for older students.

Percentage of Junior (Grades 6-8) High School Students Reporting Past Year Use of Alcohol, Cigarettes, and Marijuana, 1994-2000 School Years



NOTES: Past year use is defined as use on one or more occasions during the past year. States included in the 1999-00 survey were: Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and West Virginia.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from the Parents' Resource Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE), "Major Progress in Reducing Teen Drug Use, Cigarette and Alcohol Use, Gun Carrying, According to 13th PRIDE Survey," PRIDE News Release, September 5, 2000. For more information, contact Doug Hall at 800-279-6361 or visit the PRIDE website at www.pridesurveys.com.

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