

Drug Early Warning System

Working Together to Identify Emerging Drug Trends in Maryland

Maryland

Underage Drinking

**Report Prepared
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Preface

Maryland's underage drinking problem is best described in a March 2000 Maryland Adolescent Survey Report. This biennial report by the Maryland State Department of Education reveals that almost three-quarters of twelfth-grade respondents had at least tried an alcoholic beverage, 65.6% of them had drunk within the past year, and 48.4% had drunk within the past month. The report also showed that, while relatively few sixth graders had tried alcohol, 41.7 % of eighth graders and 62.7% of tenth graders had done so, and many eighth and tenth graders, like their older counterparts, had drunk alcohol during the last 30 days.

The *Combating Underage Drinking in Maryland* initiative was implemented by Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend in mid-1998. Her primary action was to appoint a state Task Force to work with local counties to initiate a coordinated underage drinking prevention strategy. The Lt. Governor's Task Force has now established three subcommittees charged with developing and enforcing laws, changing societal attitudes about underage drinking, and providing technical assistance to youth and community groups.

As part of the initiative, the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention has awarded incentive grants to all twenty-four jurisdictions. The incentive grants will support the long-term structural, societal, and legal changes necessary to help reduce underage drinking. Money from the grants will be used by local jurisdictions to:

- Develop underage drinking prevention strategies;
- Create support for law enforcement's efforts to prevent underage drinking;
- Assess community needs and resources;
- Strengthen community involvement;
- Provide training and assistance to help citizens create change; and
- Create on-going interagency task forces to support underage-drinking prevention programs.

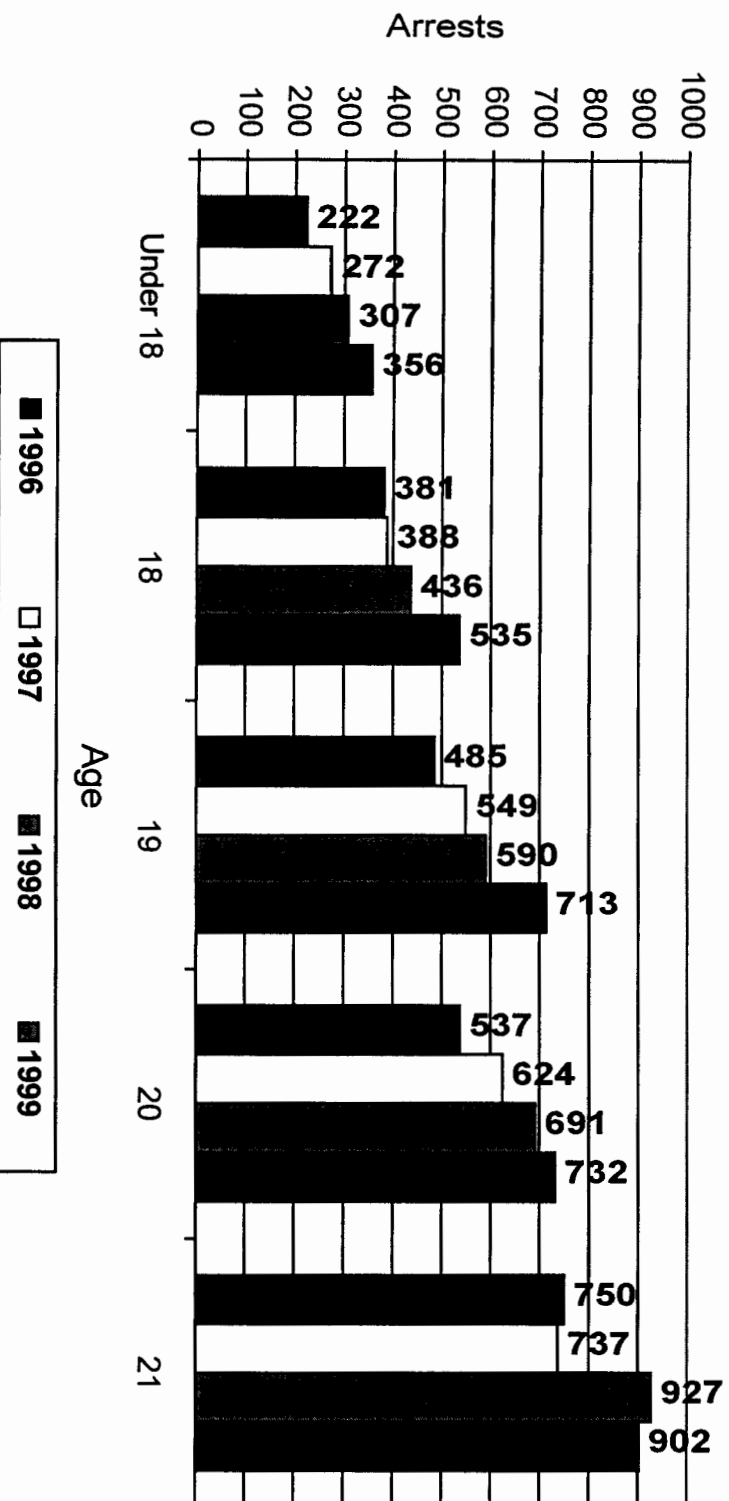
Once these basic goals have been met, initiative resources can be used for specific prevention and enforcement projects.

County indicator reports maintained by the Maryland Drug Early Warning System (DEWS), as well as the biennial Maryland Adolescent Study and an annual report produced by the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention, will enable Maryland residents to measure local and state governments' success in meeting the goals defined by the Lt. Governor's initiative.

The following report is an assessment of underage drinking in Maryland. It was developed by DEWS to summarize current local and state research.

Youth Arrests

Statewide Juvenile Arrests for Driving Under the Influence (DUI), by Age and Year

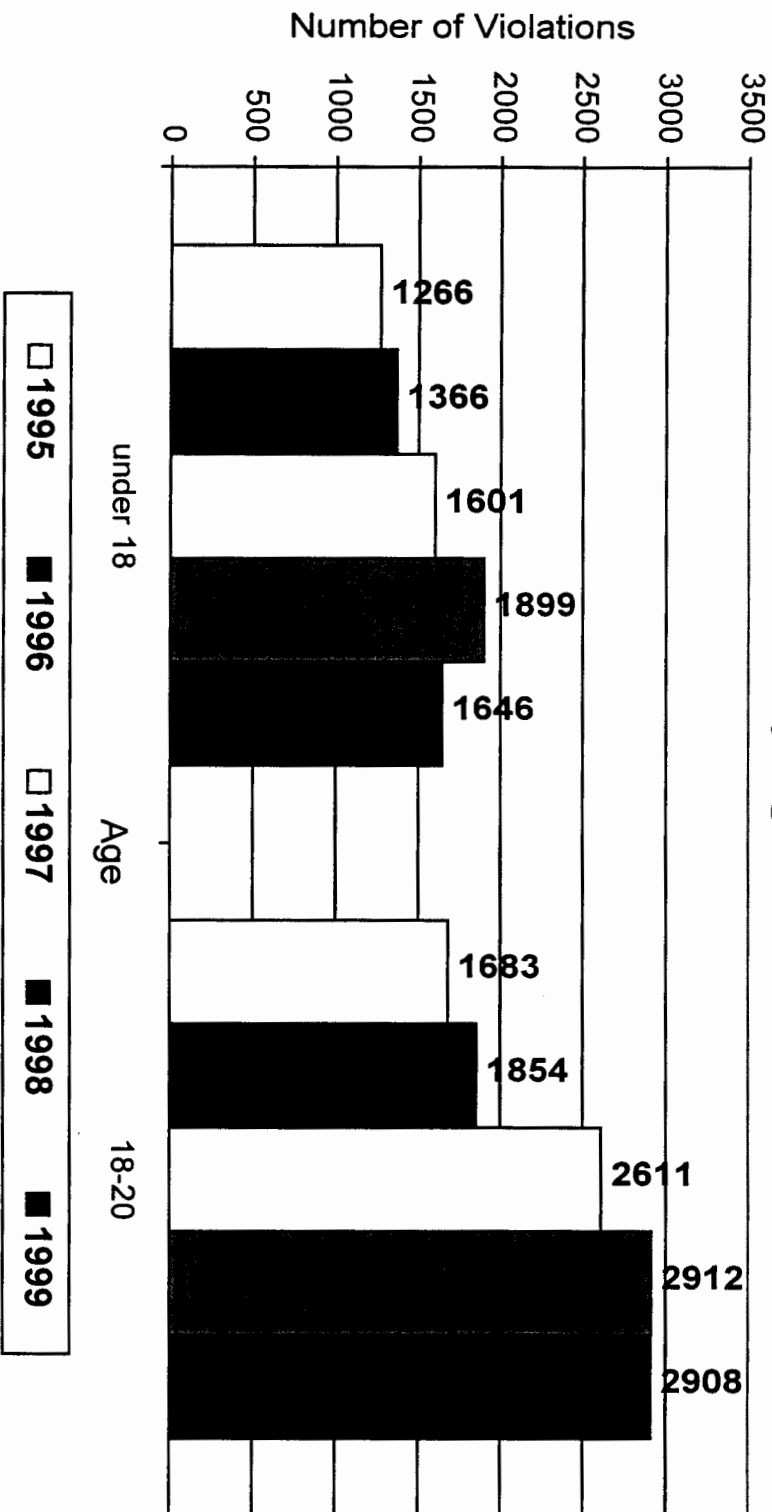


Source: Adapted by Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR) from the Maryland State Police, Uniform Crime Reporting Division, Central Records Section.

INTERPRETATION:

Statewide, over the last four years, there has been a steady rise in DUI (Driving Under the Influence) arrests among high school and college age youth. The highest increase (60%) was among youth under 18. Further, there is an increase in DUI arrests across age groups, so, as an individual gets older, their chance of a DUI arrest increases. See Appendix (Table A) for a table showing DUI arrests by county.

Total Liquor Law Violations in Maryland, by Age and Year



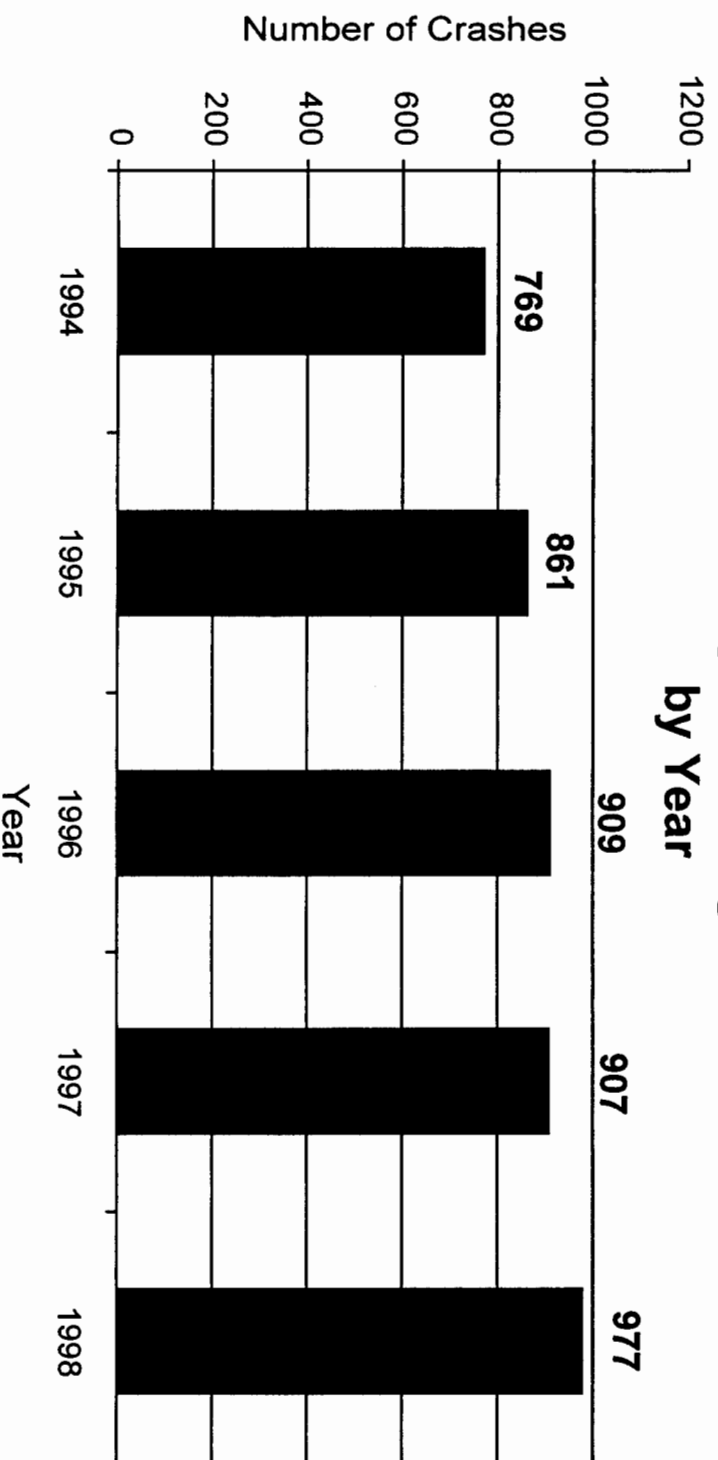
Note: Liquor Law Violations include all violations for possession and consumption of alcohol by youth under 21 and the distribution of alcohol to youth under 21.

Source: Adapted by the Center for Substance Abuse Research from the Maryland State Police, Central Records Division, Uniform Crime Reporting Section.

INTERPRETATION:
 Liquor law violations have been increasing since 1995 for both age groups. However, violations among youth under 18 years of age saw a large decrease (13.3%) in 1999, whereas violations among 18-20 year olds remained stable.

Traffic Crashes

Total Alcohol-Related Crashes in Maryland Involving Drivers Age 16-20, by Year

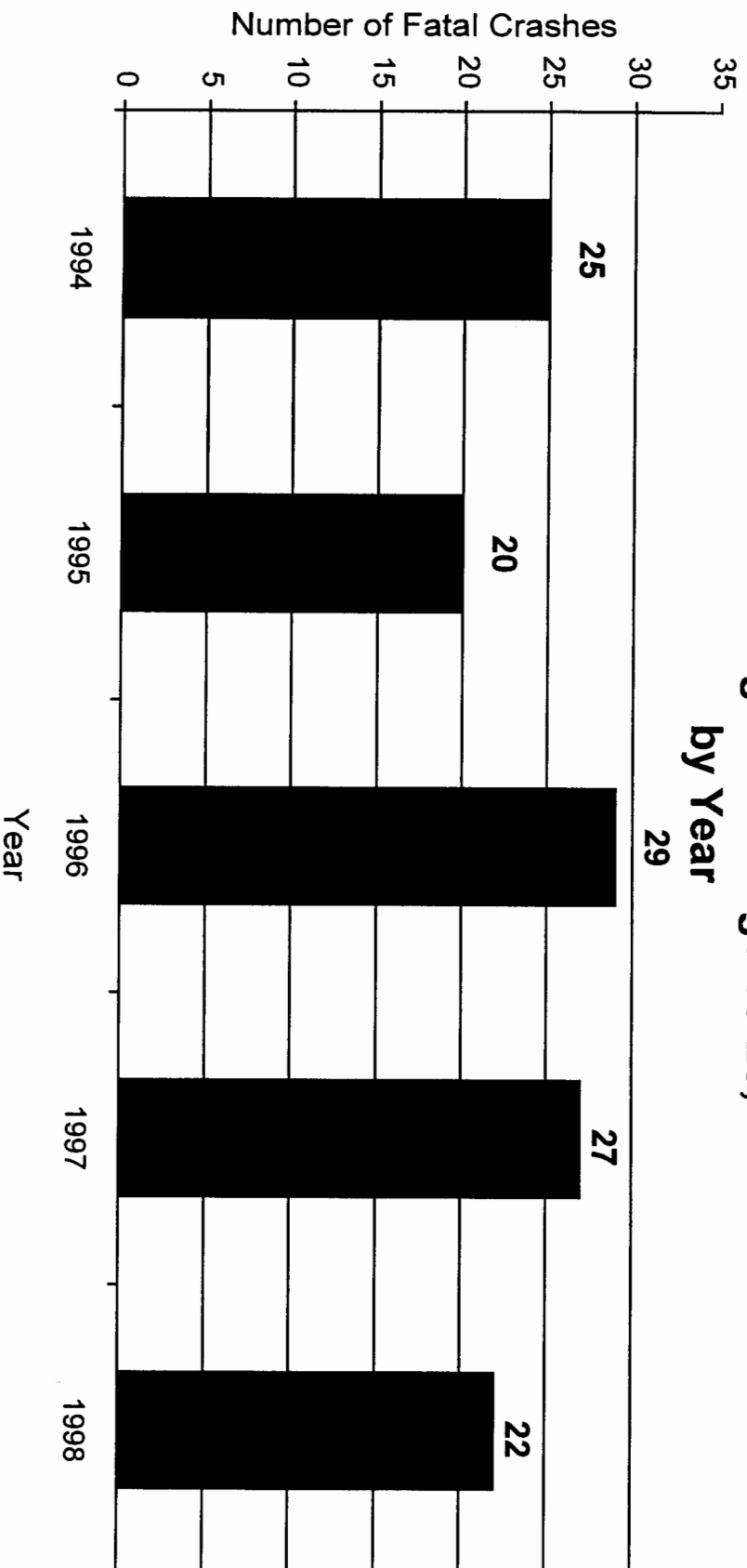


Source: Adapted by the Center for Substance Abuse Research from the Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration.

INTERPRETATION:

Since 1994, alcohol-related car crashes have increased by almost 200 crashes annually for a net increase of 27%. See Appendix (Table B) for a table showing alcohol-related crashes by county.

Total Fatal Alcohol-Related Crashes in Maryland Involving Drivers Age 16-20, by Year



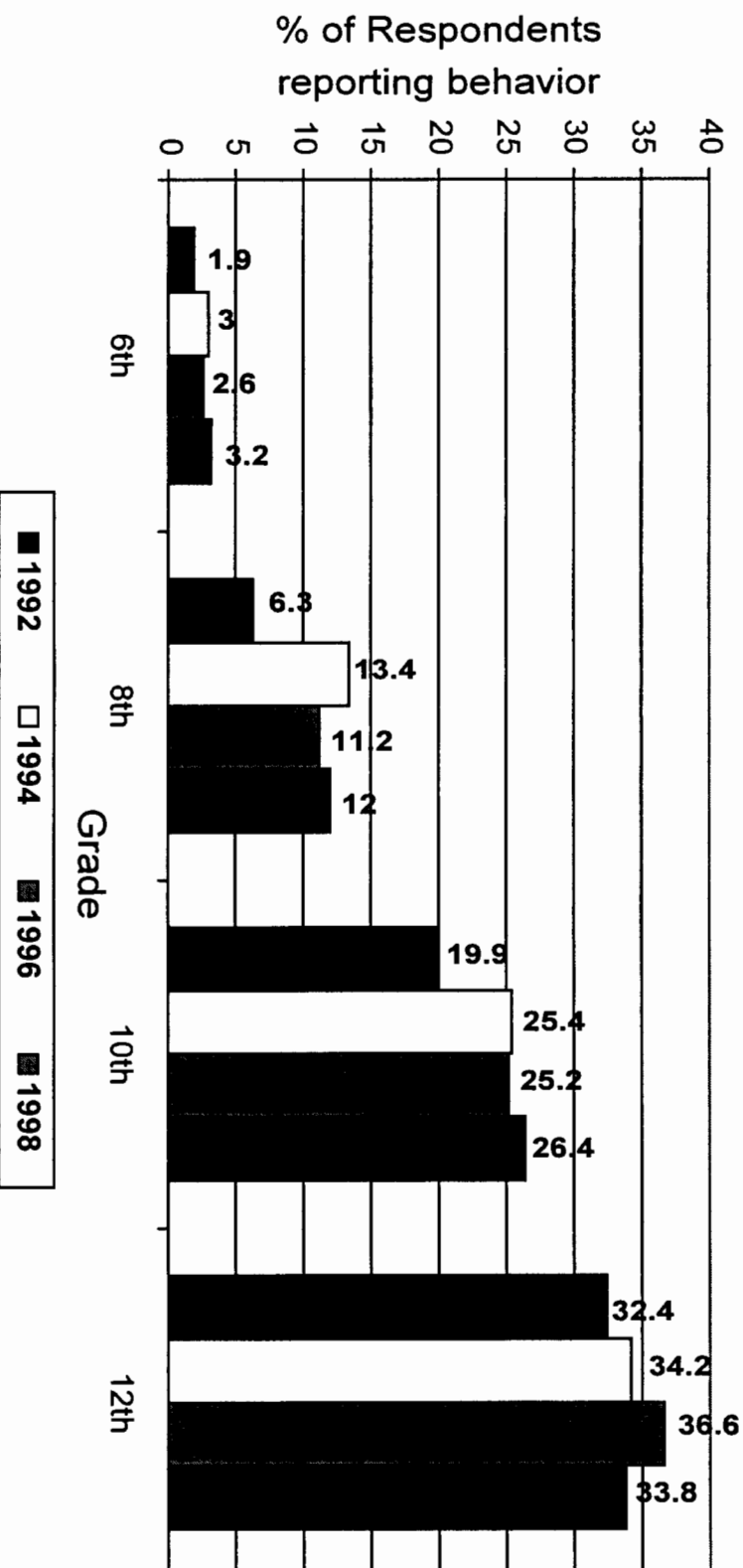
Source: Adapted by the Center for Substance Abuse Research from the Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration.

INTERPRETATION:

The number of alcohol-related fatal crashes jumped in 1996, but has been steadily decreasing since. However, it is difficult to identify a definite trend with such small numbers. See Appendix (Table C) for a table showing fatal alcohol-related crashes by county.

Maryland Public School Students

Self-Reported Binge Drinking by Maryland Public School Students in the Last 30 Days, by Grade and Year

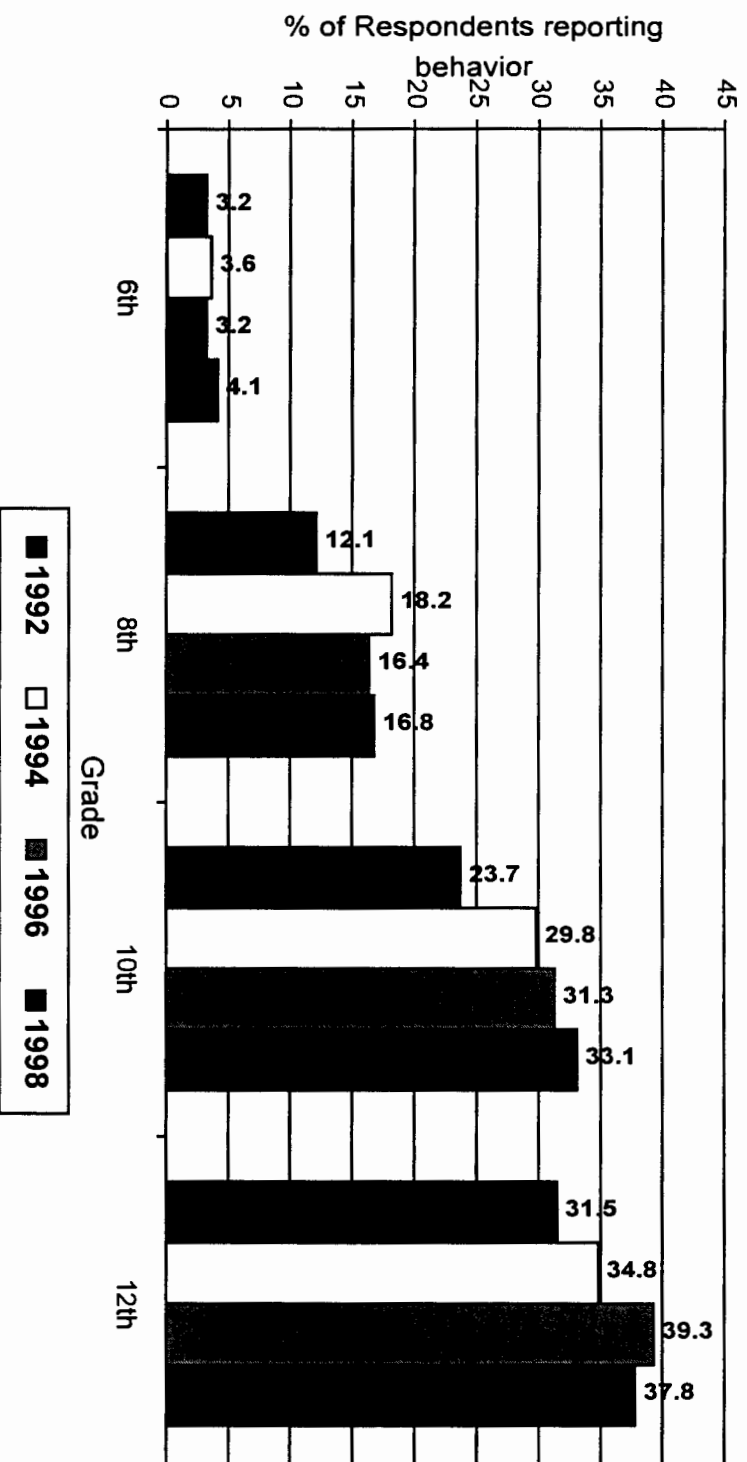


Source: Adapted by CESAR from the Maryland State Department of Education's Maryland Adolescent Survey, 1998, 1996, 1994, 1992.

INTERPRETATION:

Binge drinking rose considerably among 8th and 10th graders in 1994, but levels remained relatively stable among all grades in 1996 and 1998.

Self-Reported Drinking of Hard Liquor by Maryland Public School Students in the Last 30 Days, by Grade and Year

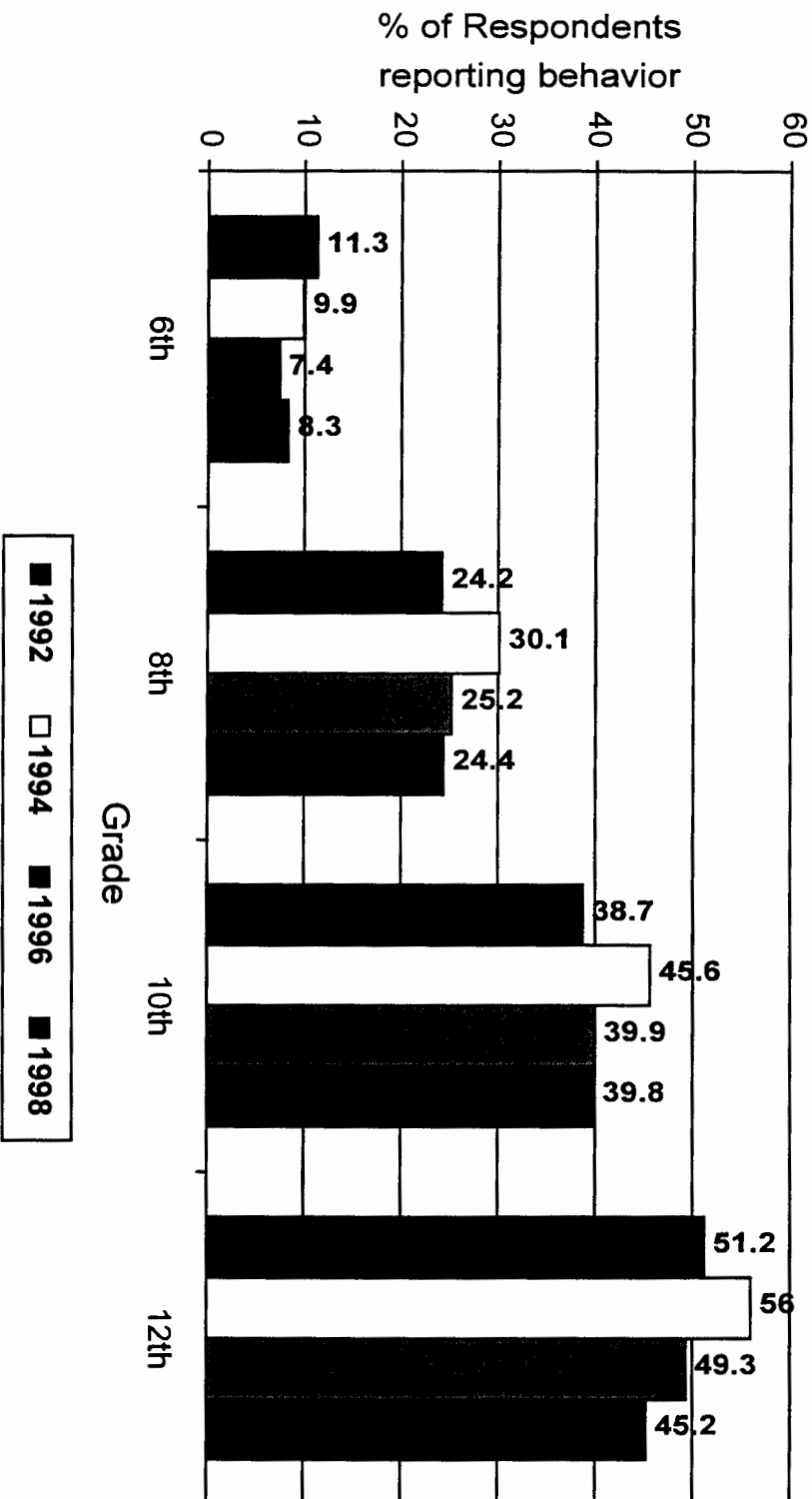


Source: Adapted by CESAR from the Maryland State Department of Education's Maryland Adolescent Survey, 1998, 1996, 1994, 1992.

INTERPRETATION:

Over the last four survey periods, 6th graders have remained relatively stable in their hard liquor drinking, while 10th graders liquor drinking has increased steadily.

Self-Reported Drinking of Beer or Wine by Maryland Public School Students in the Last 30 Days, by Grade and Year

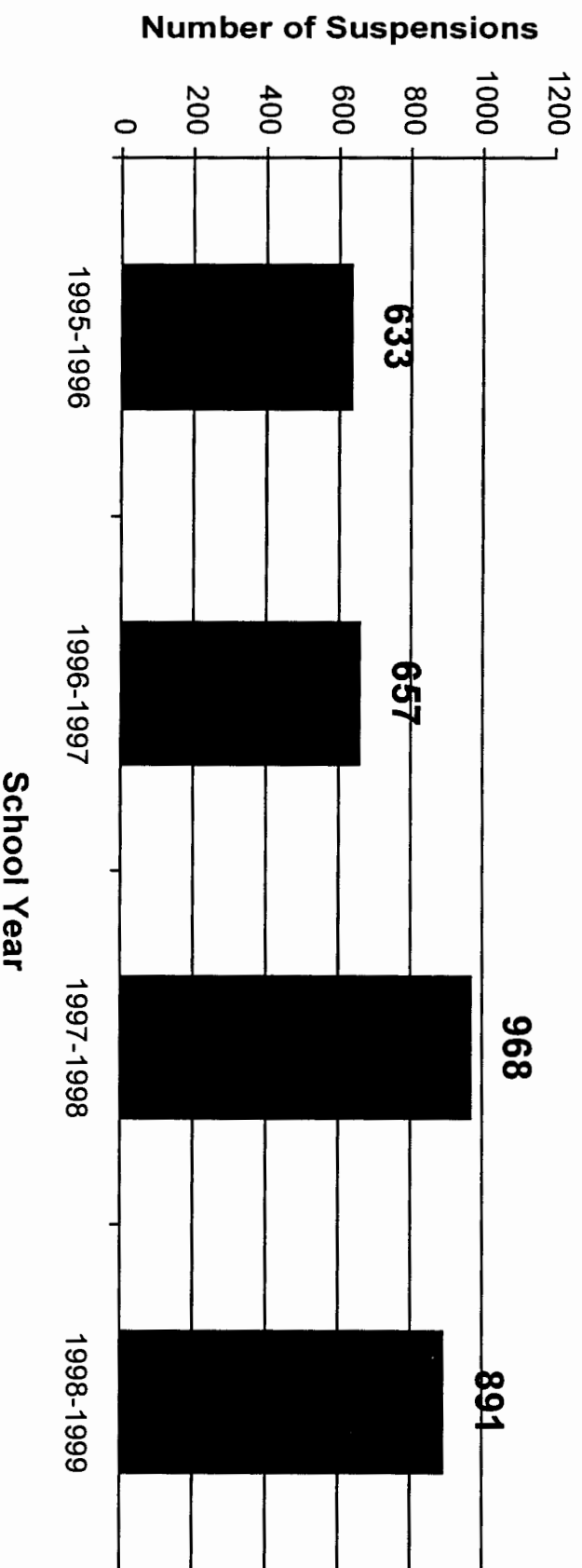


Source: Adapted by CESAR from the Maryland State Department of Education's Maryland Adolescent Survey, 1998, 1996, 1994, 1992.

INTERPRETATION:

Beer and wine consumption among 8th and 12th grades has been decreasing since 1994. Although consumption by the 6th and 10th graders decreased from 1994 to 1996, consumption remained relatively stable in 1998.

Alcohol-Related Suspensions from Maryland Public Schools, by Year



Note: The number of suspensions equals the number of offenses, not the number of students.

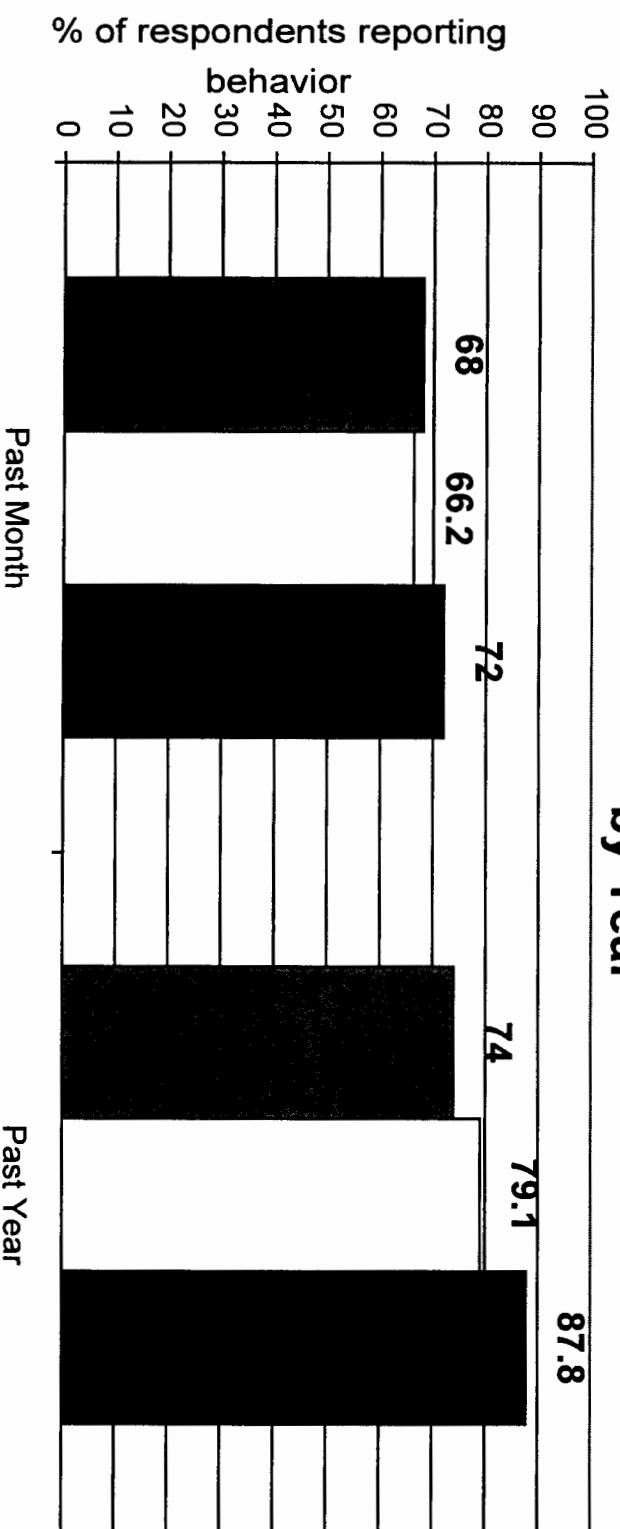
Source: Adapted by the Center for Substance Abuse Research from the Maryland State Department of Education.

INTERPRETATION:

The number of alcohol-related suspensions for public school students increased 3.8% in the 1996-1997 school year and 47.3% in 1997-1998. The 1998-1999 school year saw a 7.95% decrease in alcohol-related suspensions. See Appendix (Table D) for a table showing alcohol-related suspensions by county.

University of Maryland Students

Percentage of University of Maryland Students Who Reported Past Year and Past Month Use of Alcohol, by Year

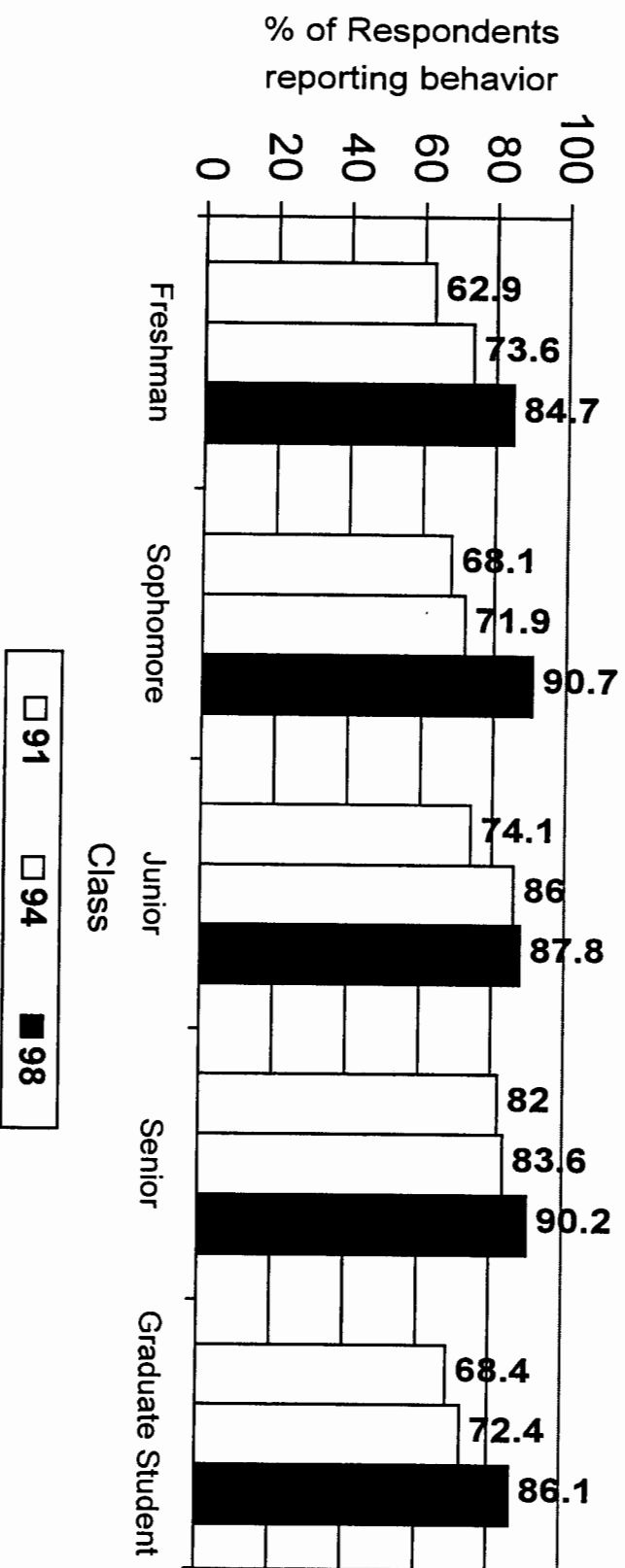


Source: Center for Substance Abuse Research, University of Maryland, College Park, 1998 Student Drug Survey.

INTERPRETATION:

The number of University of Maryland students who used alcohol in the past month has increased slightly from 1994 to 1998. The percentage of students who report having used in the past year has steadily increased.

Percentage of University of Maryland Students Reporting Use of Alcohol in the Past Year, by Class and Year



Source: Center for Substance Abuse Research, University of Maryland, College Park, 1998 Student Drug Survey.

INTERPRETATION:

Since 1991, all class years have shown steady increases in use of alcohol in the past year.

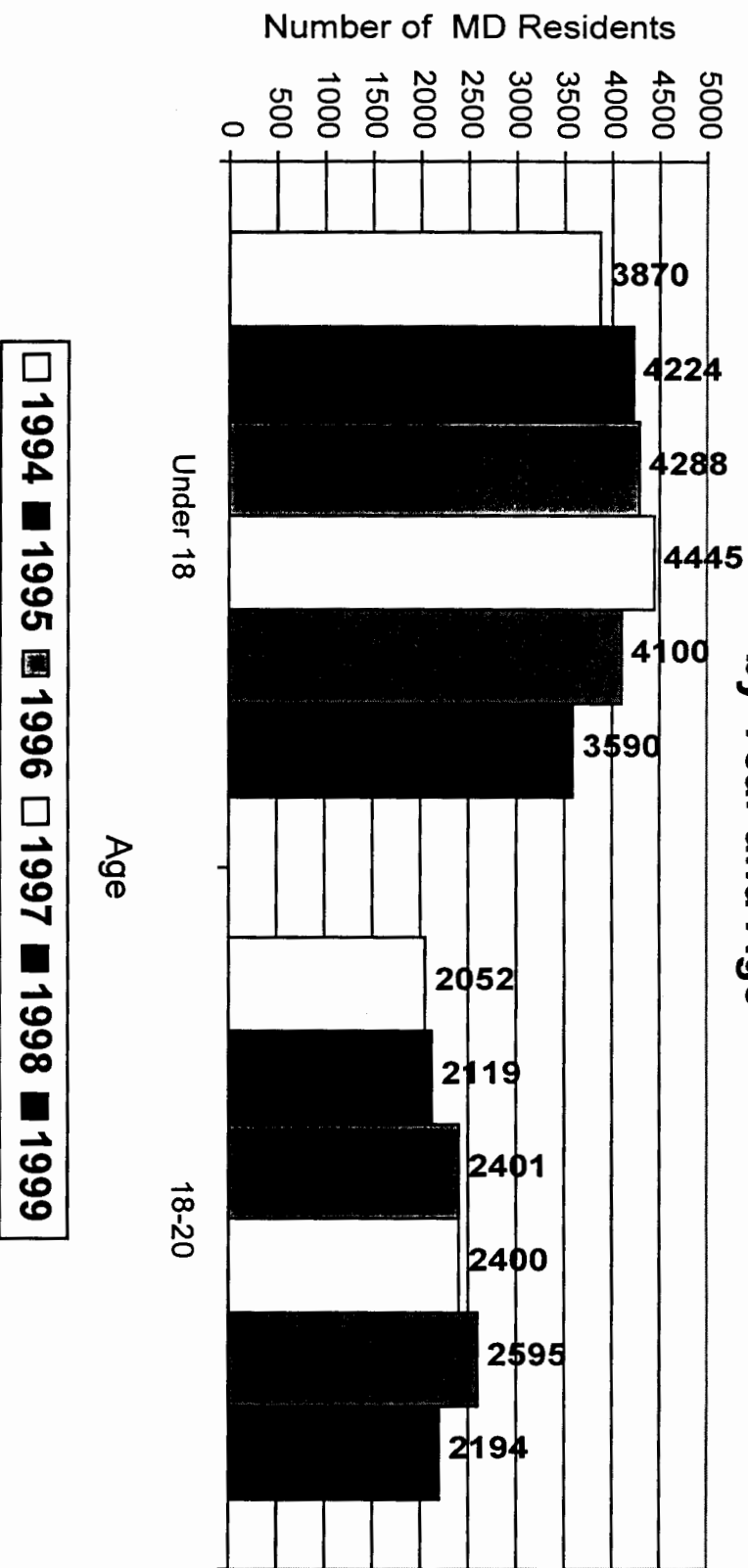
**Percentage of Past Year Alcohol Users and Persons Who
Used Alcohol on at Least 20 Occasions During the Past Month
Who Experienced Selected Alcohol-Related Problems Within
the Last Year**

Alcohol-Related Problems	Any Use in Past Year	Those Using 20+ occasions in past month
	(N=992)	(N=57)
Hangover	58.4%	75.2%
Vomiting or nausea	46.0	57.0
Missed studying	28.0	43.8
Missed class	24.9	39.9
Had memory loss	26.8	50.8
Got in fight/argument	20.6	39.1
Had unprotected sex	13.7	33.6
Had an alcohol-related injury	10.9	26.6
Damaged property	10.8	28.4
Got in some trouble (legal or school)	9.6	20.4
Was taken advantage of sexually	7.9	19.9
Took advantage of another sexually	6.5	21.5
Thought about or tried to commit suicide	3.8	14.7
Been slipped Rohypnol	2.1	14.2
Total number of problems experienced:		
0	33.3	23.5
1-2	25.8	16.8
3-4	18.0	17.3
5-6	10.1	10.3
7-14	12.8	31.8

Source: Center for Substance Abuse Research, University of Maryland, College Park, 1998
Student Drug Survey.

Treatment

Maryland Residents Admitted to Certified Drug and Alcohol Treatment Programs with Alcohol Problems, by Year and Age



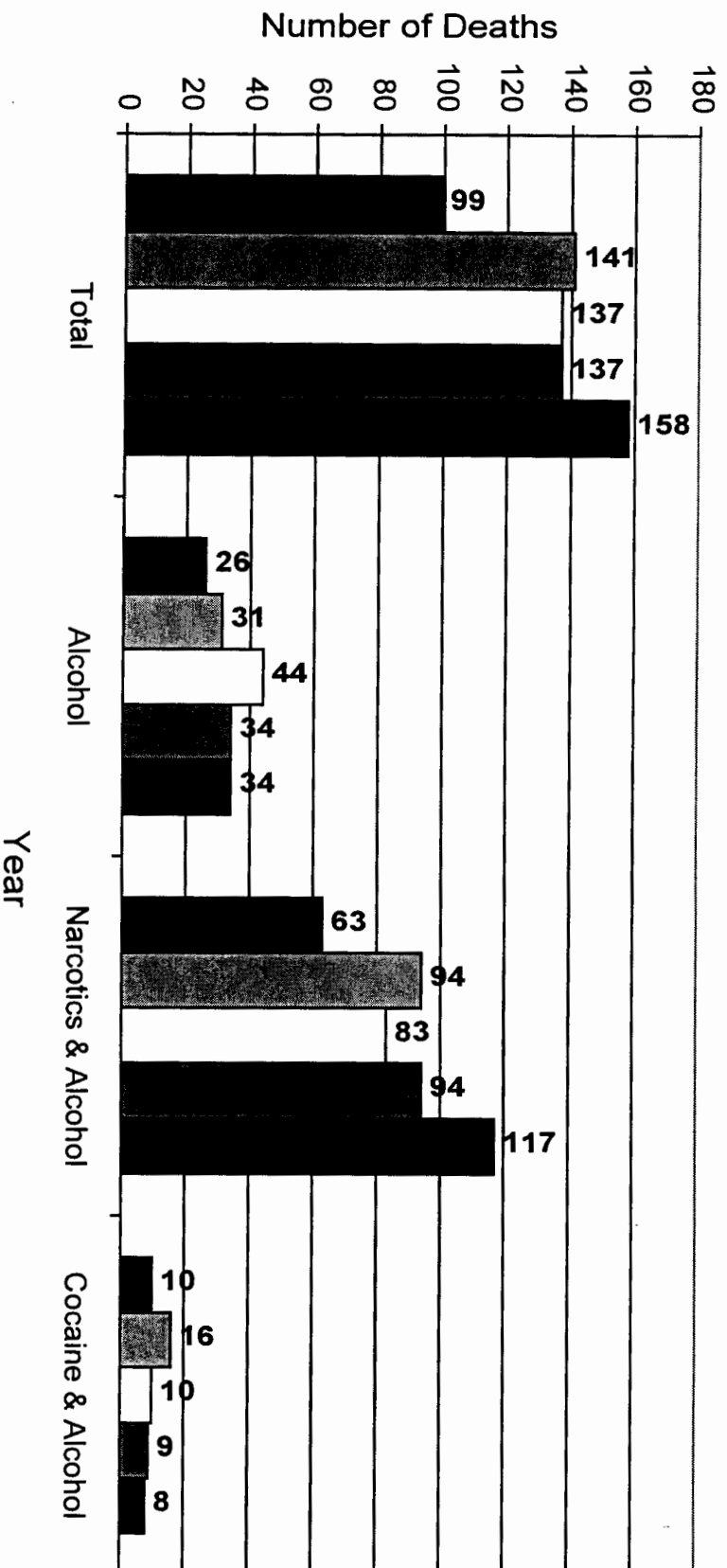
Source: Adapted by the Center for Substance Abuse Research from the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration from the Substance Abuse Management Information System (SAMIS) 6/12/00.

INTERPRETATION:

Both age groups saw steady increases that peaked in 1997 (Under 18) and 1998 (18-20). Both groups saw large decreases in 1999 (12.43% Under 18, 15.45% 18-20).

Overdoses

Total Maryland Alcohol-Related Overdose Deaths, by Year



Note: Alcohol-related includes overdoses of alcohol and alcohol mixed with other drugs.

Source: Adapted by the Center for Substance Abuse Research from the Maryland Medical Examiner's Office, 9/16/00.

INTERPRETATION:

Total alcohol-related deaths increased markedly (42%) in 1997 and remained relatively stable through 1999. Cocaine and narcotics overdoses in which alcohol was involved also saw large increases (narcotics & alcohol 49%, cocaine & alcohol 60%) in 1997. The numbers for the first half of 2000 indicate that another sharp increase is now occurring in total alcohol-related deaths.

Cost of Underage Drinking

The Annual Cost of Underage Drinking (in 1998 dollars), by Jurisdiction

	Pennsylvania	Maryland	Virginia	DC	National Cost
Traffic crashes	531,466,400	312,851,600	377,895,700	207,047,700	19,116,001,100
Violent crimes *	766,496,000	724,018,000	483,611,000	391,954,000	29,367,513,000
Burns, drownings, and suicide attempts	124,141,200	30,265,400	65,712,800	5,403,900	2,127,000,000
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome	N/A**	N/A**	N/A**	N/A**	493,000,000
Alcohol poisonings	N/A**	N/A**	N/A**	N/A**	340,000,000
Treatment	N/A**	N/A**	N/A**	N/A**	1,008,000,000
Total †	1,422,103,600	1,067,135,000	927,219,500	604,405,600	50,946,912,400

Notes:

* Violent crimes include murder, rape, assault, robbery, and child abuse and neglect.

** Data was not available at a state level for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, alcohol poisonings, and alcohol treatment

† Total does not include a break down of any state's portion of the \$1.84 billion national cost for treatment of substance abuse, alcohol poisoning, or Fetal Alcohol Syndrome because these figures are not available by individual state.

Source: Levy, D. T.; Stewart, K.; Wilbur, P. M. (October 1999). Costs of Underage Drinking. Rockville, MD: Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation.

Appendix

Table A - DUI Arrests in Maryland for ages 16-20, by Year and County

Table B - Total Alcohol-Related Crashes Involving Drivers Age 16-20, by Year and County

Table C - Fatal Alcohol-Related Crashes Involving Drivers Age 16-20 by Year and County

Table D - Alcohol-Related Suspensions from Maryland Public Schools, by Year and County

Table A - DUI arrests in Maryland for ages 16-20, by Year and County

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Allegany	45	54	41	78	50
Anne Arundel	143	183	193	216	241
Baltimore City	42	63	71	56	49
Baltimore County	99	109	149	156	180
Calvert	47	28	46	53	73
Caroline	19	15	20	18	22
Carroll	22	33	28	28	33
Cecil	85	77	95	74	108
Charles	32	29	34	59	66
Dorchester	25	23	19	28	32
Frederick	116	107	98	92	87
Garrett	28	13	17	12	21
Harford	54	69	91	95	152
Howard	85	121	138	134	147
Kent	8	16	16	9	7
Montgomery	134	265	341	412	439
Prince George's	87	132	124	157	162
Queen Anne's	28	19	30	37	28
St. Mary's	29	30	46	66	66
Somerset	11	16	12	10	16
Talbot	45	34	24	18	61
Washington	54	58	55	55	83
Wicomico	32	36	40	58	65
Worcester	69	75	89	92	144
Total	1,339	1,605	1,817	2,013	2,332

SOURCE: Adapted by the Center for Substance Abuse Research from the Maryland State Police, Central Records Division, Uniform Crime Reporting Section.

Table B - Total Alcohol-Related Crashes Involving Drivers Age 16-20, by Year and County

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Allegany	18	23	25	21	28
Anne Arundel	80	94	97	83	99
Baltimore City	59	60	70	51	58
Baltimore County	100	116	126	153	152
Calvert	5	18	16	17	19
Caroline	27	26	36	30	22
Carroll	3	8	8	9	8
Cecil	33	42	34	47	24
Charles	24	27	22	23	43
Dorchester	12	7	11	5	14
Frederick	56	44	60	30	52
Garrett	14	22	7	9	11
Harford	34	40	46	54	51
Howard	28	33	45	42	48
Kent	6	2	4	4	3
Montgomery	76	87	94	119	100
Prince George's	86	106	96	81	95
Queen Anne's	6	7	9	13	14
St. Mary's	7	14	11	19	20
Somerset	9	5	5	5	4
Talbot	13	11	10	19	17
Washington	26	33	25	29	34
Wicomico	17	15	25	17	38
Worcester	30	21	27	27	23
Total	769	861	909	907	977

SOURCE: Adapted by the Center for Substance Abuse Research from the Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration.

**Table C - Fatal Alcohol-Related Crashes Involving Drivers Age
16-20, by Year and County**

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Allegany	1	0	0	0	0
Anne Arundel	1	2	6	1	3
Baltimore City	3	1	5	3	1
Baltimore County	1	1	1	3	0
Calvert	0	0	1	0	0
Caroline	2	1	1	2	2
Carroll	0	0	0	1	0
Cecil	0	2	3	2	2
Charles	1	1	2	1	1
Dorchester	0	0	0	0	1
Frederick	2	1	1	0	0
Garrett	0	1	1	1	0
Harford	0	1	2	2	1
Howard	1	0	1	0	2
Kent	0	0	0	0	0
Montgomery	3	2	1	2	1
Prince George's	4	3	1	4	4
Queen Anne's	0	1	0	1	0
St. Mary's	0	1	1	1	0
Somerset	2	0	0	0	0
Talbot	0	0	0	1	0
Washington	0	0	1	2	1
Wicomico	3	2	1	0	3
Worcester	1	0	0	0	0
Total	25	20	29	27	22

SOURCE: Adapted by the Center for Substance Abuse Research from the Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration.

**Table D - Alcohol-Related Suspensions from Maryland Public Schools,
by Year and County**

	1995-96 School Year	1996-97 School Year	1997-98 School Year	1998-99 School Year
Allegany	2	8	11	4
Anne Arundel	55	39	45	67
Baltimore City	15	33	114	83
Baltimore County	61	66	82	103
Calvert	19	22	13	30
Caroline	3	0	23	6
Carroll	25	12	16	28
Cecil	22	31	16	14
Charles	26	11	32	34
Dorchester	13	4	11	18
Frederick	32	32	59	43
Garrett	12	5	18	4
Harford	15	11	37	22
Howard	56	55	45	81
Kent	4	0	4	4
Montgomery	96	106	182	112
Prince George's	107	151	137	143
Queen Anne's	3	3	15	11
St. Mary's	16	16	27	26
Somerset	5	2	10	6
Talbot	3	7	3	0
Washington	18	13	24	18
Wicomico	8	12	22	14
Worcester	17	18	22	20
Total	633	657	968	891

NOTE: The number of suspensions equals the number of offenses, not the number of students.

SOURCE: Adapted by the Center for Substance Abuse Research from the Maryland State Department of Education.