

156254

**U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice**

This document has been reproduced exactly as received from the person or organization originating it. Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the National Institute of Justice.

Permission to reproduce this [REDACTED] material has been granted by

Public Domain/NIDA

U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services

to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS).

Further reproduction outside of the NCJRS system requires permission of the [REDACTED] owner.



NIDA Capsules



Issued by the Press Office of the National Institute on Drug Abuse

5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857

301-443-6245

2852

MF

156254

NCJRS

NOV 15 1995

HIGHLIGHTS OF NATIONAL ADOLESCENT SCHOOL HEALTH SURVEY

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE

ACQUISITION

The National Adolescent School Health Survey was conducted in the Fall of 1987 and included approximately 11,000 eight and tenth grade students from public and private schools. The survey included questions on illicit drug use, cigarette and alcohol use, suicide and depression, violence, AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and nutrition. The following highlights pertain to findings on illicit drug use, and cigarette and alcohol use.

CIGARETTE USE

- o 51% of 8th grade students and 63% of 10th grade students report having tried cigarettes, and 16% of 8th grade students and 26% of 10th grade students report having smoked a cigarette during the past month.
- o Nearly equal numbers of boys and girls report ever trying cigarettes (girls 58% boys 57%) as well as smoking during the past month (girls 23% boys 20%).
- o 12% of boys and 1% of girls reported having chewed tobacco or used snuff during the past month.
- o Of those students who have tried cigarettes, 72% of the 8th grade students and 41% of the 10th grade students report first use by grade 6 or before.

ALCOHOL USE

- o 77% of 8th grade students have tried alcohol and of these, 55% report first trying it by grade 6. 89% of 10th grade students report having tried an alcoholic beverage; of these, 69% report first use by grade 8.
- o 34% of 8th grade students and 53% of 10th grade students report having had an alcoholic beverage during the past month.
- o 26% of 8th grade students and 38% of 10th grade students report having had five or more drinks on at least one occasion during the past two weeks.
- o 13% of 8th grade students and 18% of 10th grade students report using a combination of alcohol and drugs on one or more occasions during the past month.

C-88-04

August 1988 CAP 28

MARIJUANA USE

- o 15% of 8th grade students report having tried marijuana and of these, 44% report first use by grade 6. 35% of 10th grade students report having tried marijuana with 56% of them reporting first use by grade 8.
- o 6% of 8th grade students and 15% of 10th grade students report having used marijuana during the past month.
- o Past month marijuana use was reported by 10% of the girls and 12% of the boys.
- o 4% of the students report having used marijuana 6 or more times during the past month.

COCAINE USE

- o 5% of 8th grade students and 9% of 10th grade students report having tried cocaine. 2% of 8th grade students and 3% of 10th grade students report having used cocaine during the past month.
- o Of those who have tried cocaine, approximately one-third have tried crack. 2% of 8th grade students and 3% of 10th graders report having tried the crack form of cocaine.
- o Of those students who have tried cocaine, 62% of the 8th grade students report first trying it in grades 7 or 8, and 76% of the 10th grade students report first trying it in grades 9 or 10.

INHALANT USE

- o 21% of both 8th and 10th grade students report having tried inhalants (glues, gases, sprays). Of those students who have tried inhalants, 61% of the 8th grade students report first use by grade 6 and 78% of the 10th grade students report first use by grade 8.
- o 7% of the 8th grade students and 5% of the 10th grade students report inhalant use during the past month.

PERCEPTION OF RISK

- o 86% of the students perceive a moderate or great risk from smoking cigarettes on a daily basis.
- o 80% of the students perceive a moderate or great risk from the regular use of alcohol.
- o 81% of the students perceive a moderate or great risk from occasional use of marijuana; 88% from cocaine powder; and 77% perceive a moderate or great risk from occasional use of inhalants.

PEER DISAPPROVAL OF DRUG USE

- o 76% of the students report that their close friends would disapprove if they smoked a pack of cigarettes each day.
- o 74% of the students report that their close friends would disapprove if they drank alcohol regularly; however, slightly less than half (43%) think that their close friends would disapprove if they drank alcohol occasionally.
- o 81% of the students report that their close friends would disapprove if they smoked marijuana occasionally and 93% would disapprove if they used cocaine occasionally.

OTHER FINDINGS

- o 86% of the students report that it would be fairly or very easy for them to get cigarettes, 84% for alcohol; 57% for marijuana; and 27% report that it would be easy for them to get cocaine.
- o 79% of the 8th grade students and 88% of the 10th grade students report having received instruction in school on the effects of drugs and alcohol.

Lifetime Prevalence for Selected Drugs Among 8th, 10th, and 12th Grade Students* 1987

	Percent Who Ever Used		
	<u>8th graders</u>	<u>10th graders</u>	<u>12th graders</u>
Alcohol	77	89	92
Cigarette	51	63	67
Marijuana	15	35	50
Cocaine	5	9	15
Crack**	2	3	6
Inhalants	21	21	17

* Data on 8th and 10th grade students is from the National Adolescent Student Health Survey. Data on 12th graders is from the High School Senior Survey.

** Reflects a subset of any use of cocaine.

