

**REVERSAL SEEN IN PROGRESS AGAINST TEEN DRUG USE;  
STUDENTS SHYING AWAY FROM ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, BULLYING**

WASHINGTON, July 19 – After three years of declining illicit drug use, a new survey indicates some American students may be turning on in greater numbers.

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Pride Survey reported today that use of drugs such as marijuana, uppers and heroin rose among senior high school students (grades 9 to 12) during the 2000-01 school year. Increases were reported for both annual and monthly usage.

Among junior high school students (grades 6 to 8), drug use also showed some revival, but the change since the previous school year was not statistically significant.

Although young people appeared more inclined to use illicit drugs, the number of students who drink alcohol and smoke cigarettes dropped to the lowest point in 13 years. The incidence of bullying and violent behavior also diminished.

Dr. Thomas J. Gleaton, author of the study, said the survey results might point to the need for stepped-up efforts to target older teens with drug prevention and intervention efforts.

Drug use among students in grades 6 to 8 fell at a rate of decrease of 34 percent from 1996-97 until 2000-01, but use among students in grades 9 to 12 fell at a rate of just 9 percent. Among 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, use has hovered at about 41 percent for the past five years, the highest levels in 14 years. The 1996-97 school year produced the recent peak in adolescent drug use.

“Efforts to reach early teens with anti-drug messages successfully reduced drug use by junior high students over the past five years.

However, during that same period, use among 12<sup>th</sup> graders remained flat,” Gleaton said. “Perhaps it’s time to target older students with anti-drug strategies.”

**Annual Use – Any Illicit Drug\***

	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01	Rate +/- 96-97/ 00-01
<b>Jr. High (6-8)</b>	20.7	18.6	16.3	13.6	13.7	- 34%
<b>Sr. High (9-12)</b>	38.9	36.7	35.2	34.3	35.3	- 9%
<b>12<sup>th</sup>Grade</b>	41.6	41.0	40.2	40.2	41.4	-.01%

\*Any illicit drug use indicates a student reported taking at least one drug among eight categories: marijuana, cocaine, uppers, downers, inhalants, hallucinogens, heroin, and steroids.

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Today's report represents the first time since the 1996-97 school year that the survey has revealed a year-to-year increase in drug use among U.S. students.

The Pride Survey is the nation's largest independent study of adolescent drug use and other behaviors. It is designated by Federal law as a measure of performance of the White House drug policy. A total of 75,804 students in grades 6 to 12 were surveyed in the national study during the school year that ended in June.

### **One in five use drugs monthly**

According to the data, more than one in five (22.5 percent) senior high school students used at least one drug on a monthly basis, and more than one in three (35.3 percent) used a drug at least once during the past school year.

This compares with 21.3 percent monthly use and 34.3 percent annual use during the previous school year.

Among younger students in junior high, annual use rose from 13.6 percent to 13.7 percent, and monthly use remained the same at 7.0 percent; however, the increase in annual use was not statistically significant.

Senior High Students		
Any Illicit Drug Use	1999-00	2000-01
Annual	34.3	35.3
Monthly	21.3	22.5
Junior High Students		
Any Illicit Drug Use	1999-00	2000-01
Annual	13.6	13.7
Monthly	7.0	7.0

The study uncovered increases among senior high school students in annual and monthly reported use of marijuana, uppers, downers, and heroin. Steroid use increased on an annual basis.

Annual marijuana use increased from 31.4 to 32.3 percent; monthly from 19.3 to 20.5 percent. Uppers rose from 9.1 to 9.8 percent annual; 5.2 to 5.7 percent monthly. Downers from 7.1 to 7.7 percent annual; 4.1 to 4.6 percent monthly. Heroin from 2.9 to 3.2 percent annual; 1.9 to 2.1 percent monthly. Steroids from 3.2 to 3.5 percent annual.

### **Drinking, smoking: success story**

Against the backdrop of rising illicit drug use, students continued to turn away from alcohol and tobacco. Among all students in grades 6 to 12, annual reported use of any alcohol product (beer, wine coolers, liquor) fell from 53.3 to 52.1 percent, while any tobacco use (cigarettes, smokeless, and cigars) dropped from 36.2 to 34.9 percent.

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Broken down by senior high and junior high, once again younger students demonstrated a stronger willingness to abstain. Any alcohol use on an annual basis fell among junior high students from 39.5 to 36.5 percent, and 12.1 to 11.0 percent on a monthly basis. But the change in alcohol use among senior high school students was not statistically significant on either an annual or monthly basis.

The 52.1 percent of all students who tried a form of alcohol at least once in the past year is the smallest percentage reporting alcohol use since total alcohol use stood at 52.0 percent in 1987-88.

Overall alcohol use has fallen for five straight years.

% Annual alcohol use, grades 6-12													
87-88	88-89	89-90	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01
52.0	61.7	58.2	62.3	55.1	55.1	53.8	54.2	58.8	58.3	56.9	56.8	53.3	52.1

Students of all ages appeared to continue drifting away from tobacco use. Significant declines were posted in tobacco use among both junior and senior high students, on both annual and monthly frequencies.

The decline was most prominent in cigarette and cigar smoking. A slight increase in smokeless tobacco use was not statistically significant.

Annual cigarette use for all students in grades 6 to 12 fell to 30.5 percent, the lowest level since 1987-88 when 29.1 percent of students said they smoked at least once in the past year.

Cigarette use has fallen for four straight years.

% Annual cigarette use, grades 6-12													
87-88	88-89	89-90	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01
29.1	34.2	32.1	30.9	31.9	32.7	34.3	36.8	40.5	41.3	40.3	37.9	32.0	30.5

### **Bullying, violence on the ebb**

Despite sensational headlines, schools are becoming more peaceful when measured on an array of indicators: guns in school, gang membership, threats, and actual harm.

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The number of students saying they carried a gun to school fell from 2.7 to 2.6 percent. The occurrence of carrying a gun to school has fallen each year since the question was first asked in 1993-94.

Gang membership fell from 12.4 percent in 1995-96 to 9.1 percent this year (versus 9.2 percent last year).

The survey also indicated that fewer students bullied other students by making threats and delivering upon threats. The number who said they made a threat with a weapon (gun, knife or club) fell from 5.2 to 4.8 percent. Likewise, the number of students who reported being threatened with a weapon fell from 11.1 to 10.4 percent.

% Carrying a Gun to School	
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<b>1993-94</b>	6.0
<b>1994-95</b>	4.9
<b>1995-96</b>	4.5
<b>1996-97</b>	4.1
<b>1997-98</b>	3.8
<b>1998-99</b>	3.3
<b>1999-00</b>	2.7
<b>2000-01</b>	2.6

There was also a slight reduction in the number of students who said they were hurt at school by a student using a weapon – 2.9 percent this year versus 3.0 percent last year. Fewer students reported they were hit, slapped, or kicked by another student – 19.9 percent this year versus 20.8 percent last year.

### **The Pride Survey**

The Atlanta-based Pride Survey was begun in 1982 as a tool to help local school systems assess alcohol, tobacco, and other drug problems. At the end of the 1987-88 school year, a national summary was developed. In 1993-94 questions were added about other student behaviors, such as carrying a gun to school, making and receiving threats, physical harm, and gang membership.

The Pride Survey is designated by Federal law as an official measure of effectiveness of the White House drug policy (H.R. 4328 Div. C Title VII Sec. 706 (a)(4)(B), Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998).

A full copy of the 158-page report for the 2000-01 school year is available by visiting [www.pridesurveys.com](http://www.pridesurveys.com).

### **Methodology**

The study was conducted during the 2000-01 school year and involved students nationwide. The Pride Survey represents data from sixth through twelfth grade students collected between August 2000 and June 2001. Participating schools are sent the Pride Questionnaire with explicit instructions for administering the anonymous, self-report instrument. Schools that administer the Pride Questionnaire do so voluntarily or in compliance with a school district or state request.

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### Comparing Pride Survey to others

Results of the Pride Survey are usually consistent with the National Institute on Drug Abuse's Monitoring the Future Survey (MTF), which has not been published for the 2000-01 school year.

Any Illicit Drug Annual Use – Pride vs. Monitoring the Future (MTF)															
	1999-00			1998-99			1997-98			1996-97			1995-96		
Grade	8	10	12	8	10	12	8	10	12	8	10	12	8	10	12
Pride	19.3	33.9	40.2	22.1	35.0	40.2	25.1	37.2	41.0	27.9	39.1	41.6	25.9	38.0	40.8
MTF	19.5	36.4	40.9	20.5	35.9	42.1	21.0	35.0	41.4	22.1	38.5	42.4	23.6	37.5	40.2
Diff.	+0.2	+2.5	+0.7	-1.6	+0.9	+1.9	-4.1	-2.2	+0.4	-5.8	-0.6	+0.8	-2.3	-0.5	-0.6

A third survey, the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHS) has historically shown significantly lower drug use in the age 12 to 17 cohort than either the Pride Survey or Monitoring the Future. This table compares the Pride Survey with NHS. The NHS for the year 2000 has not been released.

### Any Illicit Drug Monthly Use 1999-2000 Pride vs. 1999 NHS Ages 12 to 17

<b>Pride</b>	13.8%
<b>NHS</b>	9.0
<b>Difference</b>	-4.8

The 2000-01 Pride Survey was released in a news conference July 19, 2001, at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. Participating in the announcement were Gleaton, Dr. Donald Ian Macdonald, chairman and medical director, Employee Health Programs, and Edward H. Jurith, acting director, Office of National Drug Control Policy. Invited to represent Congress were Sen. Joseph Biden, D-DE, and Rep. Rob Portman, D-OH.

Individual state or regional breakdowns are not available.

**The complete 2000-01 National Summary can be found at:**

<http://www.pridesurveys.com/natsum00.pdf>