



# **Youth Study on Substance Use:**

## **Comparing the 1995, 1997, 1998 and 2000 Results**



**Submitted to: Illinois Department of Human Services**

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**Prepared by: Chestnut Health Systems, Bloomington, IL.**

# Youth Study on Substance Use:

Comparing the 1995\*, 1997,  
1998 and 2000 Results

Illinois Department of Human Services  
Division of Community Health and Prevention

\*Study conducted under the Department of Alcohol and  
Substance Abuse (DASA).

May 2001  
Chestnut Health Systems, Inc.

## Acknowledgments

First, we would like to thank the principals, teachers and students throughout Illinois who participated in this survey.

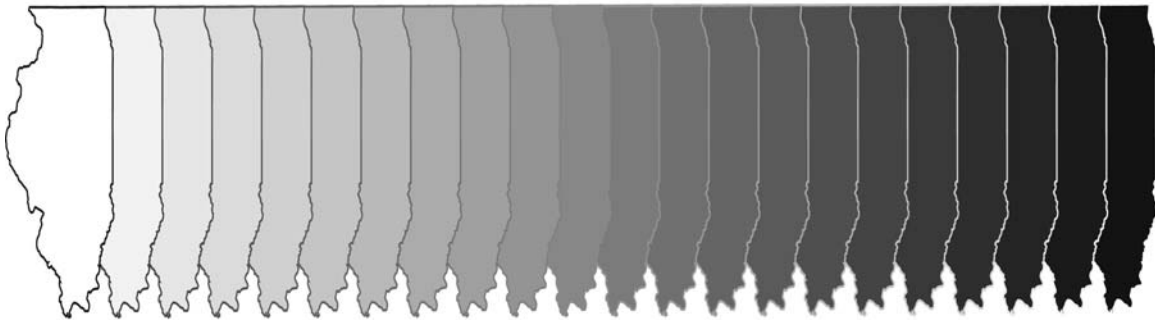
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Chestnut Health Systems, Inc. of Bloomington, IL directed this study. Mark Godley and Alan Markwood coordinated all phases of the projects. The database was compiled and created by Melissa McDermeit, Research Associate at Lighthouse Institute, Chestnut Health Systems, Inc., Bloomington, IL.

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## *2000 Illinois Youth Study on Substance Use: Executive Summary*



*This report summarizes results from the 2000 Illinois Youth Survey of 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Previous surveys were conducted in 1990, 1993, 1995, 1997 and 1998. Results from the 1995, 1997 and 1998 studies are compared with the 2000 study.*



# Executive Summary

## Key Findings

**The 2000 Illinois Youth Survey found a dramatic decrease in substance use among 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth compared to similar aged youth in 1998 and previous years. Rates of alcohol and tobacco use among 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth were lower in 2000 than any in any previous year since the survey began in Illinois in 1990. Marijuana use rates among 8<sup>th</sup> graders was also lower in 2000 than 1998.**

As a result of these decreases, as well as smaller scale decreases among 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade youth, **use of any substance in the past month was reported by only 45.7% of participating youth, down from 49.5% in 1998.**

## Survey Sample

The Illinois Youth Survey is conducted in the spring of every other year with students from 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Responses from a scientific sample of youth are tallied to give statewide figures. The sample used in 2000 included 6,387 students from around the state. Results from the 2000 survey can be compared with findings from the 1998 survey, which used a similar sample design and set of questions.

## Gateway Substances

As in all past surveys, nearly all youth who used any drug used one or more of the three gateway drugs: alcohol,

tobacco, and marijuana. Gateway drug use merits special attention for two reasons. One is that the great majority (about four-fifths) of drug-using youth uses only gateway drugs. As a result, public health studies have shown that gateway drugs do the most damage in terms of impairment of health among the population as a whole. The other consideration is that very few youth (less than 1%) use other drugs alone without also using gateway drugs. This does not mean that any use of gateway drugs leads to other drugs; a substantial number of gateway drug users do not progress. However, youth who avoid gateway drug use are extremely unlikely to use other drugs.

**Alcohol continued to be the number one drug of youth, used in the past month by nearly one in four of the surveyed 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth and by more than half of the surveyed 12<sup>th</sup> grade youth. The percent of youth using alcohol in the past month decreased from 40.7% in 1998 to 38.1% in 2000.** This was similar to, but slightly higher than the national use rate. In regard to binge drinking, Illinois' 8<sup>th</sup> grade prevalence rate of 12.7% was lower than the national rate of 14.1%, while the 12<sup>th</sup> grade Illinois rate of 34.8% was higher than the national rate of 30.0.

**Tobacco continued to be the next most used substance, used in the past month by about one in seven**

**8th grade youth and more than one in three 12th grade youth. The percent of youth smoking tobacco in the past month decreased from 28.4% in 1998 to 24.4% in 2000.** Most of the youth smokeless tobacco users in Illinois were among these smokers, but an additional 1.2% of youth used smokeless tobacco without also smoking. In spite of decreases in the prevalence of smoking among Illinois teens, our 12<sup>th</sup> grade rate of 36.0% was still higher than the national 12th grade rate of 31.4%.

***Marijuana was still the third most used substance, used in the past month by about one out of ten 8th graders and one out of four 12th grade youth. Past month use rates of marijuana among Illinois youth decreased from 19.7% in 1998 to 17.6% in 2000. These decreases resulted in the Illinois 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade prevalence rates being similar to national rates, but the Illinois 12<sup>th</sup> grade rate of 25.0% was higher than the national 12<sup>th</sup> grade rate of 21.6%.***

The three most common patterns of gateway drug use were use of alcohol only (13.6% of all youth, 30.2% of the youth who used any gateway substance), use of all three gateway drugs (approximately 10.5% of all youth, 23.2% of the youth who used any gateway substance), and use of both alcohol and tobacco (approximately 9% of all youth, 19.7% of the youth who used any gateway substance).

## Inhalants

Inhalants are unique among the substances used by youth. They are not as consistently a “gateway” drug as are alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana, but they are most heavily used by younger teens, presumably due to being more widely available and lower cost relative to other drugs. While rates of other substance use invariably rise as one looks at older teens, the rate of inhalant use peaks by tenth grade. Inhalants (some more than others) are also particularly capable of causing nervous system damage and death with relatively few uses. **Approximately one out of forty Illinois teens used inhalants (in the past month) in 2000.** The overall youth use level was essentially stable from 1998 to 2000, but this was due to a combination of decreases among White and African-American youth and an increase among Hispanic youth.

## Other Substances

The other two discrete drug categories currently measured by the Illinois Youth Survey are hallucinogens and cocaine and/or crack. From 1998 to 2000 the prevalence of past month hallucinogen use among Illinois youth fell from 2.6% to 2.1%, while the prevalence of cocaine and/or crack remained steady at 1.5%. The final category included in the survey is “Other Drugs”, which may include uppers, downers, heroin, and club drugs, as well as other substances not listed elsewhere. The prevalence of Illinois youth reporting use of other

drugs rose from 5.9% in 1998 to 8.0% in 2000. Based on national surveys, the increase is probably most due to increased use of the drug “ecstasy” (MDMA). Questions targeted to that drug will be included in the 2002 Illinois Youth Survey.

### **Gender Patterns**

Most common among the changes from 1998 was either the decrease of male use and increase of female use (e.g. with smokeless tobacco, inhalants, and hallucinogens) or decrease among both genders, but with a much greater decrease among males (especially alcohol). The result of both of these patterns was that for most substances the prevalence rates for female youth became much closer to the male rate. For inhalants, the female use rate now exceeds the male rate.

### **Racial/Ethnic Groups**

In general, decreases in prevalence among Whites and/or increases among Hispanic youth (e.g. smokeless tobacco and inhalants) led to the Hispanic rates equaling or exceeding White rates. African-American youth continued to have the lowest prevalence rates. The percent of African-American youth who use only tobacco is about the same as the percent of White or Hispanic youth who use only tobacco. However, the percent of African-American youth who use tobacco along with another gateway drug (alcohol, marijuana, or both) is far less than among the other two racial groups.

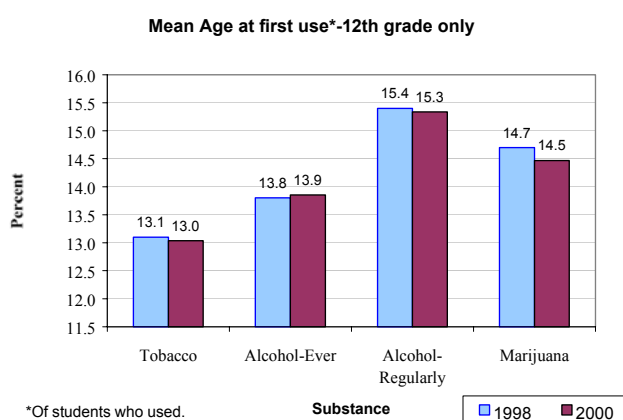
As a result, even though the African-American prevalence rates of tobacco use and of marijuana use are each lower than the corresponding White and Hispanic rates, the relation between African-American tobacco rates and marijuana rates are the opposite of other groups. Specifically, the prevalence of marijuana use among African-American youth is MORE than the prevalence of tobacco use among those youth. This suggests that tobacco is not as much of a feature of gateway drug use among African-American youth (at least those in Cook County, Illinois) as it is among White and Hispanic youth.

### **Age Trend**

With few exceptions (particularly inhalant use), 2000 prevalence rates decreased the most (from 1998 rates) at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level and the least at the 12<sup>th</sup> grade level. In fact, there were numerous instances of increases at the 12<sup>th</sup> grade level, and one increase (for smokeless tobacco) at the 10<sup>th</sup> grade level. This is consistent with the observation of a “cohort” of youth with greater substance use prevalence moving through the school system. That generational cohort is now mostly out of high school and being replaced by youth with lower prevalence of use. The most notable decrease in 8<sup>th</sup> grade prevalence rates was use of tobacco.

The mean ages of first use of drugs among 12<sup>th</sup> grade youth (see graph on the next page) were 13.0 years for tobacco use, 13.9 years for alcohol use, 14.5 years for marijuana, and age 15.3 for regular (ongoing, at least once a

month) use of alcohol. Paradoxically, these mean ages of first use were in some cases younger than in 1998. This is probably due to a decrease in the number of seniors who began use recently, compared to those who began use at a younger age. In other words, success in decreasing the number of seniors who begin to use substances can result in the remaining group having a lower average age of first use.



## Geographic Trend

As with gender, the geographic trends tended toward convergence between previously high prevalence areas (Cook County outside of Chicago and non-Cook urban areas) and previously lower ones (Chicago and non-Cook rural areas). Often (e.g. alcohol and marijuana) Chicago and/or rural rates were down the least or actually increased.

## Statistically Significant Changes

One measure of magnitude of change in prevalence is statistical significance. While any of the rates included in this report may have practical importance or applicability,

some of the differences between the 1998 and 2000 results may be attributable to normally expected variations or chance. Testing for statistical significance enables us to better gauge which changes are real or meaningful, versus those that represent normal fluctuations. The table at the end of the executive summary shows 1998-2000 changes that attained statistical significance at the .05 level or better, meaning that if we were able to replicate this survey, we would obtain 1998-2000 differences of this magnitude at least 95 times out of 100. Statistical significance was checked for each substance and each major demographic group (by grade level, gender, and region). For Cook County, the three main racial groups were also checked.

The two substances that had significant decreases in overall youth use rate were alcohol and tobacco. Each of these substances also had a significant decrease among numerous subgroups. One subgroup (Chicago) had a significant increase in alcohol use, but remained the lowest in use among the four regions.

The only other significant changes in specific substance use from 1998-2000 were an increase in (especially Hispanic) Chicago youths' use of smokeless tobacco and some decreases in marijuana use (10<sup>th</sup> grade youth, Cook County youth, and Chicago youth). The Cook County decreases were also significant among White and African-American sub-groups.

The previously discussed increase in use of “Other Drugs” was statistically significantly, as was the increase in “Other Drug” use by most subgroups.

Decreases in the categories of “Any Substance Use” and “Illicit Substance Use” tend to be driven by the most prevalent substances in the category. In the case of “Any Substance Use”, the decreases were due to the aforementioned decreases in alcohol and tobacco use. In the case of “Illicit Substance Use”, decreases in marijuana use were mainly the cause. In fact, the scope of decrease in marijuana use can best be seen by viewing the “Illicit Substance Use” category as an alternate measure of major decreases in marijuana use, including two (8<sup>th</sup> grade and Non-Chicago Cook County) that narrowly missed significance until combined with decreases in other illicit drug use.

### **Daily Use**

Illinois students were more likely to use alcohol, tobacco (except at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level) and marijuana daily than students nationwide were. Daily use of alcohol increased among all three grades. Daily use of tobacco and marijuana decreased among 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students and increased slightly among 12<sup>th</sup> graders.

### **Risk Behaviors and Problems**

The most commonly reported behaviors were having been drunk or high at school, having attacked someone, or having been suspended. Selling illegal drugs and carrying a

handgun were less common than having been suspended or arrested. Selling illegal drugs was the second most common behavior to occur 10 or more times.

Risk behaviors differed consistently by gender, with male students reporting these behaviors more frequently than female students. Younger students (8<sup>th</sup> grade) were more likely to have attacked someone or to have been suspended than older students.

### **Access to Substances**

Only about 20% of youth reported that marijuana was “Very Hard” to obtain, and less than 20% reported that alcohol or tobacco would be “Very Hard” for them to obtain. Apparently many of the adults who sell or possess these substances are not doing much to prevent youth from having access to them. Nearly 40% of youth said that other drugs would be “Very Hard” for them to get, and about 50% said that a handgun would be “Very Hard” to get.

### **Conclusions and Implications**

From 1998 to 2000 Illinois experienced markedly increased success in “primary prevention,” keeping more youth from ever starting to use alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs. This was most evident with 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth, with nearly seven of every ten those youth remaining substance-free (no use of any substance in the past month). If this success rate can be maintained, the number of youth using alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs will fall as current high school youth

are replaced by a cohort of youth with less use.

A less encouraging pattern is the elevated degree of use among those Illinois youth who do use substances. Evidence of this includes the greater than average rate of daily use among Illinois youth and the increase in "other drug" use that probably indicates the greatly increased popularity of MDMA ("ecstasy"). Although these rates will decrease if primary prevention continues to be successful, the generation of youth who came of age in the past ten years will continue to pose a challenge due to the heightened rate of use among that cohort as it ages.

### **Advanced Analysis**

In order to better understand patterns of youth substance use and the reasons for youth to engage in different types of drug use, advanced analysis has begun to be carried out with data from the Illinois Youth Survey. Chapter 15 reports on results so far, including identification of three major patterns of use that match the gateway phenomenon observed by others. As these patterns become better understood, they may serve as better measures of progress in drug prevention, intervention, and treatment than do the simple prevalence figures currently tracked.

**IYS 2000**

Significant (.05) Past Month Differences 1998 – 2000<sup>1</sup>  
*(Increases in Italics)*

<b>Substance</b>			
<b>Alcohol</b>	OVERALL	40.7	38.1
<b>Alcohol</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	27.7	23.2
<b>Alcohol</b>	Male	43.4	39.1
<b>Alcohol</b>	Non-CPS <sup>1</sup>	43.3	36.3
<b>Alcohol</b>	Urban <sup>2</sup>	47.8	39.7
<b>Alcohol</b>	White	49.0	41.3
<b><i>Alcohol</i></b>	<i>CPS</i>	28.7	34.9
<b>Tobacco(smoked)</b>	OVERALL	28.4	24.4
<b>Tobacco(smoked)</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	21.7	14.0
<b>Tobacco(smoked)</b>	Male	28.7	24.4
<b>Tobacco(smoked)</b>	Female	28.3	24.2
<b>Tobacco(smoked)</b>	Cook County	25.8	20.0
<b>Tobacco(smoked)</b>	Non-CPS	31.3	21.7
<b>Tobacco(smoked)</b>	Urban	32.7	27.4
<b>Tobacco(smoked)</b>	White	36.7	25.7
<b><i>Smokeless Tobacco</i></b>	<i>CPS</i>	2.1	4.2
<b><i>Smokeless Tobacco</i></b>	<i>Hispanic</i>	1.9	5.0
<b>Marijuana</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	23.5	19.2
<b>Marijuana</b>	Cook	22.6	16.0
<b>Marijuana</b>	CPS	20.9	17.7
<b>Marijuana</b>	White	23.7	16.3
<b>Marijuana</b>	African-American	21.6	14.5
<b><i>Other Drugs</i></b> <sup>3</sup>	<i>OVERALL</i>	5.8	8.1
<b><i>Other Drugs</i></b>	<i>Female</i>	4.8	6.6
<b><i>Other Drugs</i></b>	<i>Male</i>	7.0	9.2
<b><i>Other Drugs</i></b>	<i>10<sup>th</sup> Grade</i>	6.2	9.1
<b><i>Other Drugs</i></b>	<i>12<sup>th</sup> Grade</i>	5.9	10.4
<b><i>Other Drugs</i></b>	<i>Non-Cook</i>	6.6	8.8
<b><i>Other Drugs</i></b>	<i>Cook</i>	4.7	6.7
<b><i>Other Drugs</i></b>	<i>Rural</i>	5.6	8.8

<sup>1</sup> Data from oneway\_yr.spo, oneway\_yr2.spo, oneway\_yr3.spo, and oneway\_yr4.spo

<sup>1</sup> Cook County Students who are not Chicago Public School students

<sup>2</sup> Non-Cook counties only

<sup>3</sup> Heroin, Uppers, Downers, Club Drugs, and other<sup>xi</sup>

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# ***DHS Youth Study on Substance Use: Comparing the 1995, 1997, 1998 and 2000 Results:***

## **Introduction**

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*This report compares the estimates of prevalence from data collected during the 1995, 1997, 1998 and 2000 versions of the **DHS Youth Study on Substance Use**. These studies were sponsored by the Illinois Department of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse in 1995, and by the Illinois Department of Human Services in 1997, 1998 and 2000.*

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This is the sixth in a series of surveys of Illinois junior and senior high school students sponsored by the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS, formerly DASA). The results of previous studies have been reported earlier in:

**1990 Youth Survey: Our Youth is Our Future** (1991),  
**DASA Youth Study on Substance Use: 1993** (1994),  
**DASA Youth Study on Substance Use: Comparing the 1990 and 1993 Results** (1994),  
**DASA Youth Study on Substance Use: Comparing the 1990, 1993 and 1995 Results** (1996),  
**Patterns of Youth Substance Use** (1997), and  
**DHS Youth Study on Substance Use: Comparing the 1990, 1993, 1995 and 1997 Results** (1998).  
**DHS Youth Study on Substance Use: Comparing the 1995, 1997, and 1998 Results** (1999).

This report compares observed change in substance use among students based on data collected between 1995 and 2000. This report is divided into three major parts:

***Part 1 – Comparison of Estimates of Substance Prevalence.*** Chapters 1-10 summarize changes in past month use of various substances for the 1995, 1997, 1998 and 2000 surveys. Changes are considered by grade, gender, region, and, within Cook County by race. Each chapter also contains a comparison of adolescent substance use rates in Illinois with national rates as reported in 2000 *Monitoring the Future Survey* (University of Michigan). Each year, the national *Monitoring the Future* surveys report lifetime, past year, past month and daily use for 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

***Part 2 – Comparison of Various Sub-populations of Students and Additional Variables.*** Chapters 11-16 provide additional summaries of use for selected sub-populations of students and summaries of additional questions of interest. Chapter 11 summarizes the use of any gateway substance including alcohol, tobacco (cigarettes and/or smokeless), and marijuana. Chapter 12 looks at students who used alcohol, tobacco or marijuana daily. Chapter 13 focuses on student risk behaviors. Chapter 14

considers questions related to factors associated with initiation or cessation of use. Chapter 15 reports on advanced analyses, looking at patterns of youth substance use. Chapter 16 reports the unweighted data on use of substances by the sixth grade students who completed the survey.

**Appendices – A-C.** The appendices provide additional data and technical details. Appendix A contains tables showing lifetime, past year and past month drug use by various combinations of demographic characteristics for 2000. Appendix B consists of six sections (1-6) and provides tables of data trends across years by various demographic variables. Summary tables at the end of each section in Appendix B report the number of respondents in the groups examined in the section. Appendix C is a discussion of the technical aspects of the survey (methods, weighting techniques) and its interpretive value.

### ***The 2000 Report***

This report encompasses only the past four surveys from 1995, 1997, 1998 and 2000 and focuses on the 1998 to 2000 changes. There are several reasons for including only four surveys and for the focus on the past two surveys. First, between 1993 and 1995 there was a change in the weighting strategy to better reflect absenteeism. This change caused discontinuity in trends between 1993 and 1995.

Second, fewer grades were sampled in 1998 and 2000. As part of an effort to match the structure, format and

timing of a multi-state study, only grades 8, 10 and 12 were sampled in these years. By excluding the lower grades, overall use rates frequently appear higher since substance use and grade tend to have a linear relationship (as grade increases, substance use increases). Because of this, use rates for the 1995 and 1997 surveys were re-calculated in 1998.

Third, the survey instrument was substantially changed in 1998 to match the instrument used in the multi-state study. As a result, several questions needed to be re-calculated to reflect new wording or substance combinations. It was not possible to access the 1990-1993 data to do the wording and grade re-calculations. However, these years are extensively reported in earlier documents. Therefore, only results from the four surveys between 1995 and 2000 are included in this report. The survey instrument changed only slightly from 1998 to 2000; therefore the focus of this report will be on the changes since the 1998 survey.

The reader should note that, due to the re-calculations of data from 1995 and 1997, the data reported here will not be the same as data in the original reports from those years.

As in 1998, the 2000 report will focus on past month use, rather than lifetime or past year use. Past month use more accurately reflects ‘current’ use and does not reflect brief, one-time use in the student’s past. In addition, due to changes in data coding across the four surveys (See ***Changes in the 2000 Survey Instrument*** below.),

past month use was believed to be the most comparable measure across the four surveys included in this report.

### ***Changes in the 2000 Survey Instrument***

The 2000 survey instrument is virtually identical to the 1998 instrument. A few new items were added, and some were recorded as ‘check all that apply’ rather than ‘choose one’.

Some information was new in 1998, and some, included in the 1997 report, was not available in 1998 or 2000. For example, in the 1998 and 2000 surveys, perceived harm is asked for alcohol, tobacco and marijuana, but not for other substances.

In the 1998 survey crack and cocaine were combined into “Cocaine and/or Crack”; LSD and other psychedelics were combined into “Any Hallucinogens”, and Heroin, Uppers, Downers and other substances were also combined (although not specifically) as “Other Drugs”. None of these substances were reported individually in 1998, and will not be reported individually here.

The format in 1998 and 2000 surveys for substance use variables involved three questions identifying the number of occasions of use in a student’s lifetime, in the past year or past month. Previous surveys asked for the last use and usual frequency of use, allowing only one response for each question. The 1998/2000 format permitted re-coding longer time periods (lifetime use) based on responses to shorter time periods (past

month use). For example, if a student indicated that s/he used a substance on 10-19 occasions in the past month, but used the same substance on only 3-5 occasions in the past year, the value for the past year was changed to 10-19 occasions.

This ‘re-coding’ process resulted in somewhat higher use rates in 1998 for these longer time periods (Lifetime and past year use, and for alcohol, past month). That is not to say that the data are necessarily artificially inflated; it is possible that previous years were artificially deflated due to underreporting. It is also possible that use has actually increased, or that some of the increase is real and some is a function of wording/coding changes.

It is important to keep this in mind when considering changes in lifetime and past year use between 1997 and 1998, especially for lifetime and past year data. Table 1 in each chapter contains data for past month use, rather than lifetime use as in earlier studies. Lifetime, past year and past month data for 2000 are contained in ***Appendix A***, and four-year trend data in ***Appendix B***. Future surveys using the same instrument and format will allow for trend analysis including lifetime and past year use.

### ***Data Handling and Issues***

For counties outside of Cook County only, schools were designated either urban or rural. The term *urban* refers to a community of over 40,000 residents, as well as the communities in the metro Chicago collar counties

and Illinois counties near St. Louis. *Rural* refers to a community with a population of less than 40,000.

Racial breakdowns are reported ONLY within Cook County. We report a total for 'Native American' and 'Other' races in Cook County for main tables. However, there are too few cases in either of these groups to make firm conclusions about overall use or change in use. Consequently, references to race group in the text, graphs and in Appendix B tables refer only to the three major racial groups (White, African American, Hispanic).

The reader should note that, throughout this report, responses do not always total 100 percent due to rounding and/or missing values. Rounding and missing values also account for minor discrepancies across tables. On occasion, a value that appears as a total in one place is a subtotal in another. In these cases, the percent reported might differ slightly. In each case, the value used was the appropriate value for the particular table. In addition, since most tables include multiple comparisons (and thus a higher chance for missing data), the total number of respondents reported in any table (particularly those in **Appendix B**) represents the total number in the category, not necessarily the number of non-missing responses.

### ***Sample Characteristics***

The 2000 Illinois Youth Survey was administered between February and May 2000. The sample sizes for each survey year by demographic groups are summarized in Table 1. The basic

format of this table is repeated in each chapter showing the percent of 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in each demographic group who had used each type of substance in the past month in each of the four surveys.

**Table 1**  
**Number of Students**  
**8th, 10th and 12th Grade only**

	YEAR			
	1995	1997	1998	2000
<b>GENDER</b>				
Female	2,271	2,340	2,540	3,297
Male	2,160	2,210	2,201	2,982
<b>GRADE IN SCHOOL</b>				
Jr Hi	1,613	1,589	1,705	2,518
8th	1,613	1,589	1,705	2,518
Sr Hi	2,862	2,961	3,105	3,869
10th	1,580	1,597	1,626	2,029
12th	1,281	1,364	1,479	1,840
<b>REGION</b>				
Cook County	1,826	1,793	1,872	1,540
Chicago Public	754	738	757	788
Cook/Non-CPS	1,072	1,055	1,114	752
Non-Cook Counties	2,649	2,757	2,938	4,847
Urban	1,011	1,486	1,055	2,935
Rural	1,638	1,271	1,883	1,912
<b>Cook County Race Groups</b>				
White	669	646	679	544
Black	640	659	684	396
Hispanic	411	384	377	437
Other	76	93	111	120
Native American	18	11	20	43
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,475</b>	<b>4,550</b>	<b>4,810</b>	<b>6,387</b>

As a percentage of total students enrolled in Illinois schools, the 2000 respondents represented 1.35% of the grades (8, 10 and 12) surveyed. The 1998 respondents represented 1.03%, 1997 respondents represented .90% while the 1995 respondents represented 1.2% of 8<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students for that year.

**School/Community**

Of the students surveyed in 2000, most were from public schools (96%). Fifty-seven percent were from schools where the enrollment was less than 1000 students. Approximately one third (32%) were from schools where the enrollment was 1400 or more.

Seventy-six percent lived in urban or suburban settings. Thirty-nine percent were residents of Cook County. Nine percent lived in the country or on a farm. Of the Cook County students, 54% were non-White, and 40% were from Chicago Public Schools (CPS). Of the students from other counties, 39% were from rural settings.

**Students**

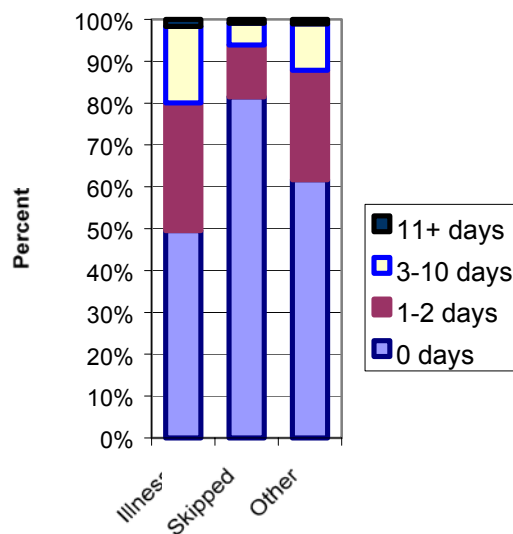
Student ages ranged from 12 to “19 and over”. The mean age was 15.6 years (SD=1.67). Fifty-four percent of the students surveyed were female. There were slightly more 8<sup>th</sup> graders (36%) than 10<sup>th</sup> (34%) and 12<sup>th</sup> (30%) graders.

Sixty-three percent of all students were White. Most of the non-White students were from Cook County (59%), while most White students were from counties outside of Cook County (74%). The majority (91%) speaks English at home.

Sixty-six percent of the students reported that they received mostly As or Bs for grades in the last year. Six percent of the students have belonged to a gang. Most (74%) were absent fewer than 10 days per year. **Figure**

1 shows the percent of students absent for a given reason by the number of days absent overall. For example, over 50 percent had been absent 0 days for illness, while over 80 percent had never been absent because they skipped school.

**Figure 1—**  
*Percent of students absent for various reasons by days absent overall*



More than four out of five students reported that they take care of themselves after school without an adult (82%). Almost half of the students (48%) reported that they cared for themselves 4 or more days each week. Of the students who reported caring for themselves, more than half (52%) indicated that they did so for 2 or fewer hours per day. Almost 20% indicated that they cared for themselves for 5 or more hours per day.

**Families**

Most students (72%) live either with both parents or one parent and a step parent. Approximately 21% live in

households headed by their mother or stepmother only, and 3% live in households headed by their father or stepfather only. About 3% do not live with either parents or stepparents. Approximately 0.7% reported that they did not live with any adult or that they lived with siblings.

The average family consists of 5.7 people including the student (SD=2.2). Half of the students (50%) live in families of 4 or 5 members.

More than one third (38%) of the students reported that someone in their family ever had a severe alcohol or drug problem. More than half (56%) reported that a brother or sister had drunk alcohol. Almost half (48%) reported that a sibling had smoked cigarettes. More than one third (34%) reported that a sibling had smoked marijuana.

The majority of mothers (88%) and fathers (87%) had graduated from high school. At least one parent was a high school graduate for 92% of the students. Sixty-nine percent of the students reported that at least one parent had received education beyond high school.

## *Chapter 1*

### *Any Substance*

**Table 1-1** shows the percent of 8th, 10th and 12th grade students who had used any substance in the past month for the 1995, 1997, 1998 and 2000 *DASA/DHS Studies*.

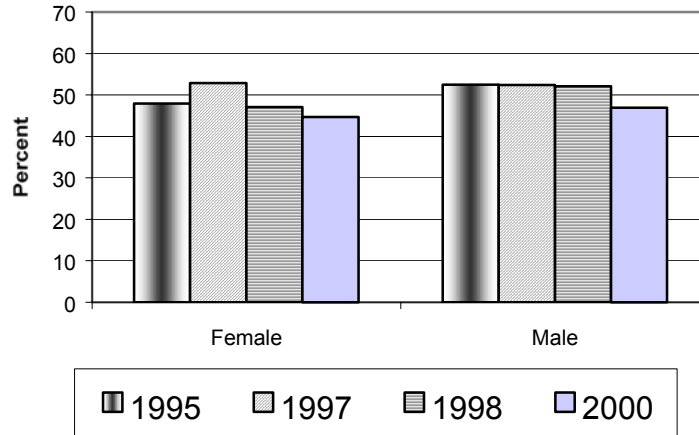
**Table 1-1**  
**Percent of Students Using**  
**Any Substance in the Past Month**

	Survey Year			
	1995	1997	1998	2000
<b>GENDER</b>				
Female	47.9	52.9	47.1	44.7
Male	52.5	52.4	52.1	46.9
<b>GRADE IN SCHOOL</b>				
8th	40.8	40.8	36.1	30.5
10th	50.9	53.2	51.4	47.8
12th	61.1	65.8	62.6	61.7
<b>REGION</b>				
Cook County	48.8	48.7	47.4	42.7
Chicago Public	40.8	37.9	39.2	41.9
Cook/Non-CPS	54.3	56.0	53.0	43.2
Non-Cook Counties	51.0	55.1	50.7	47.7
Urban	53.5	58.0	55.8	48.4
Rural	49.5	51.8	47.9	46.5
<b>Cook County Race Groups</b>				
White	60.9	59.6	58.1	48.0
African American	36.4	37.3	35.6	30.9
Hispanic	50.9	51.1	48.3	48.1
Other*	30.4	43.5	49.9	38.7
Native American*	69.1	46.7	57.8	77.2
<b>OVERALL</b>	50.1	52.6	49.5	45.7

\*Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.

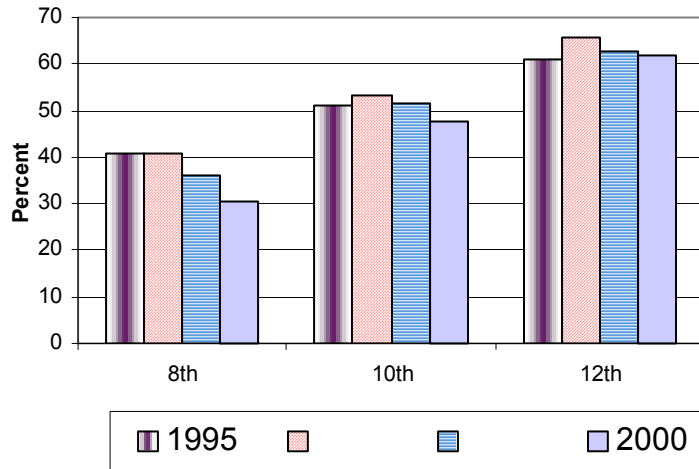
Past month substance use declined in 2000 for both female students and male students. Substance use by male students remained slightly higher than use by female students.

***Any Substance use by Gender***



Students in each grade reported decreased use of any substance in 2000. Only the decrease for 8<sup>th</sup> graders was significant. The national study<sup>2</sup> does not include comparable data for ‘any substance’.

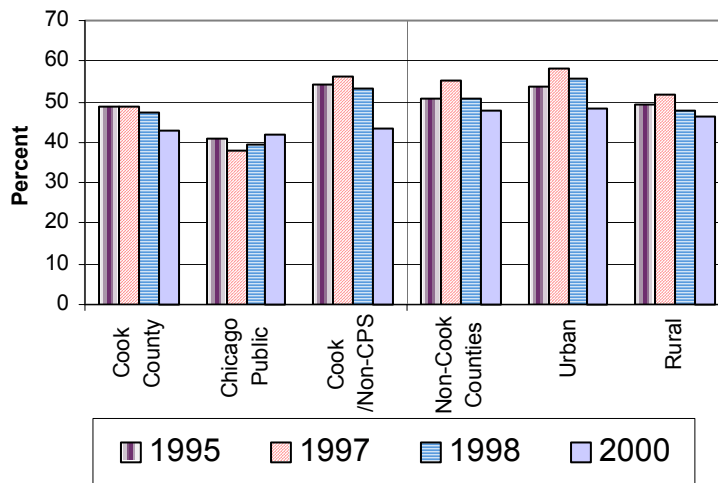
***Any Substance use by Grade***



<sup>2</sup> Source *Monitoring the Future 2000*.

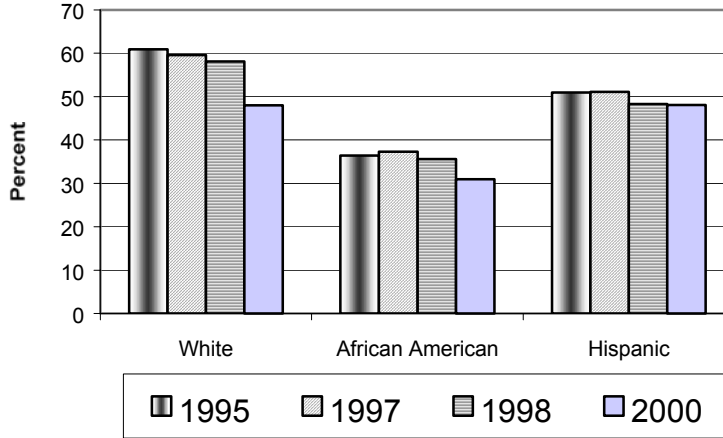
Past month substance use among students from various regions generally peaked in 1997, with the exception of use among Chicago Public School students who show non-significant increases over the past two surveys. For all other regions, 2000 data represents continued decreases in past month use. The decrease for Cook County/Non-CPS students and Cook County students overall represented a significant decrease from 1998 to 2000. The use rate in 2000 among Non-Cook County Urban students is significantly lower than the 1997 peak rate.

*Any Substance use by Region*



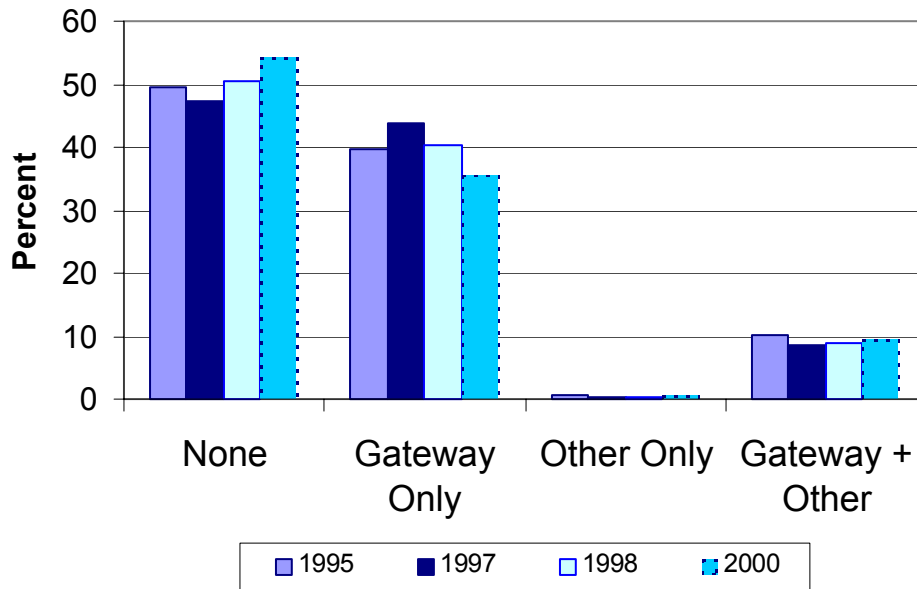
Past month substance use decreased for White Cook County students, decreased less for Black Cook County students, and remained stable for Hispanic Cook County students. (Other racial groups are shown, but group sizes are too small for interpretation.) Of the three major racial groups, African-American youth continued to have the lowest overall prevalence of use, while the 2000 rates for White and Hispanic youth were essentially equal.

***Any Substance use by Race (Cook County)***



More than half of the students had not used any substance in the past month. Of those who had used a substance, most had used only gateway substances. Very few had used other substances without also using a gateway substance. The percentage of students using other substances (with or without use of gateway substances) increased slightly in 2000.

*Drug Experience by Year*



Gateway includes: alcohol, tobacco and marijuana.  
 Other includes: inhalants, cocaine/crack, hallucinogens and other illicit substances.



## *Chapter 2*

### *Alcohol*

**Table 2-1** shows the percent of 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who had used alcohol in the past month for the 1995, 1997, 1998 and 2000 *DASA/DHS Studies*.

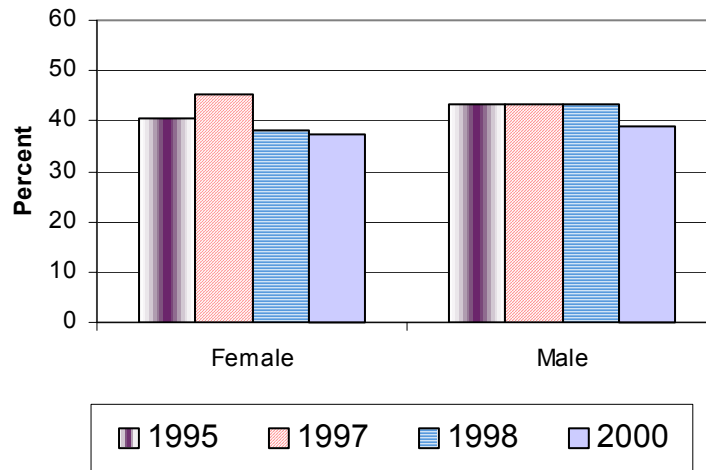
**Table 2-1**  
**Percent of Students Using**  
**Alcohol in the Past Month**

	Survey Year			
	1995	1997	1998	2000
<b>GENDER</b>				
Female	40.6	45.4	38.3	37.2
Male	43.2	43.4	43.4	39.1
<b>GRADE IN SCHOOL</b>				
8th	31.9	31.0	27.7	23.2
10th	42.3	45.8	41.3	40.2
12th	53.8	58.3	54.9	53.3
<b>REGION</b>				
Cook County	40.3	40.4	37.5	35.7
Chicago Public	31.8	28.7	28.7	34.9
Cook/Non-CPS	45.9	48.3	43.3	36.3
Non-Cook Counties	42.8	46.9	42.7	39.6
Urban	46.5	49.5	47.8	39.7
Rural	40.6	43.9	39.8	39.3
<b>Cook County Race Groups</b>				
White	52.0	52.8	49.0	41.3
African American	26.2	27.9	24.4	24.8
Hispanic	45.0	41.0	40.0	39.9
Other*	24.7	37.0	37.2	31.1
Native American*	42.6	41.9	34.7	60.0
<b>OVERALL</b>				
	41.8	44.4	40.7	38.1

\*Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.

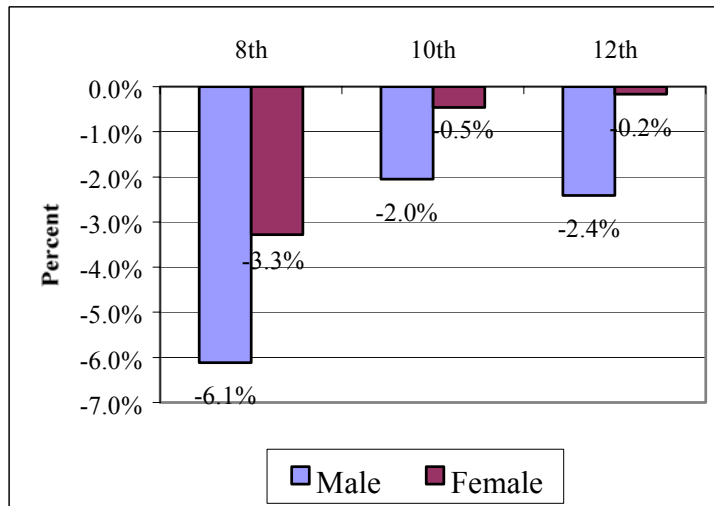
Use among male students decreased more than use among female students. However, use among male students remained only slightly higher than use among female students.

**Past Month Alcohol Use by Gender**



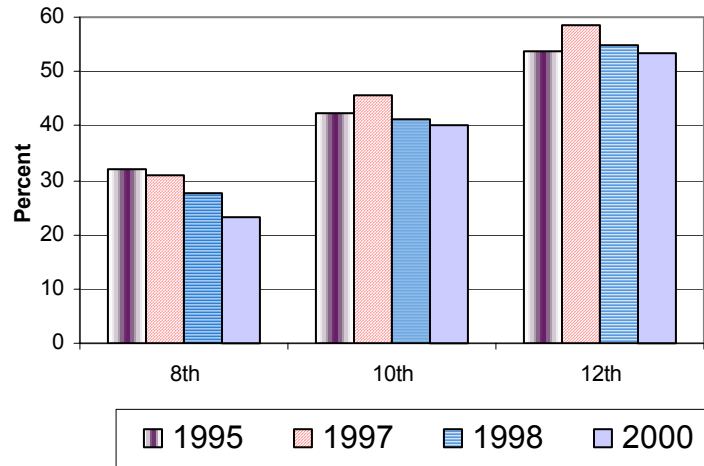
The 2000 difference was greatest among 8<sup>th</sup> grade male students, but the decrease among 12<sup>th</sup> grade males was 14 times that of the decrease for 12 grade females.

**Change in past month alcohol use 1998-2000**



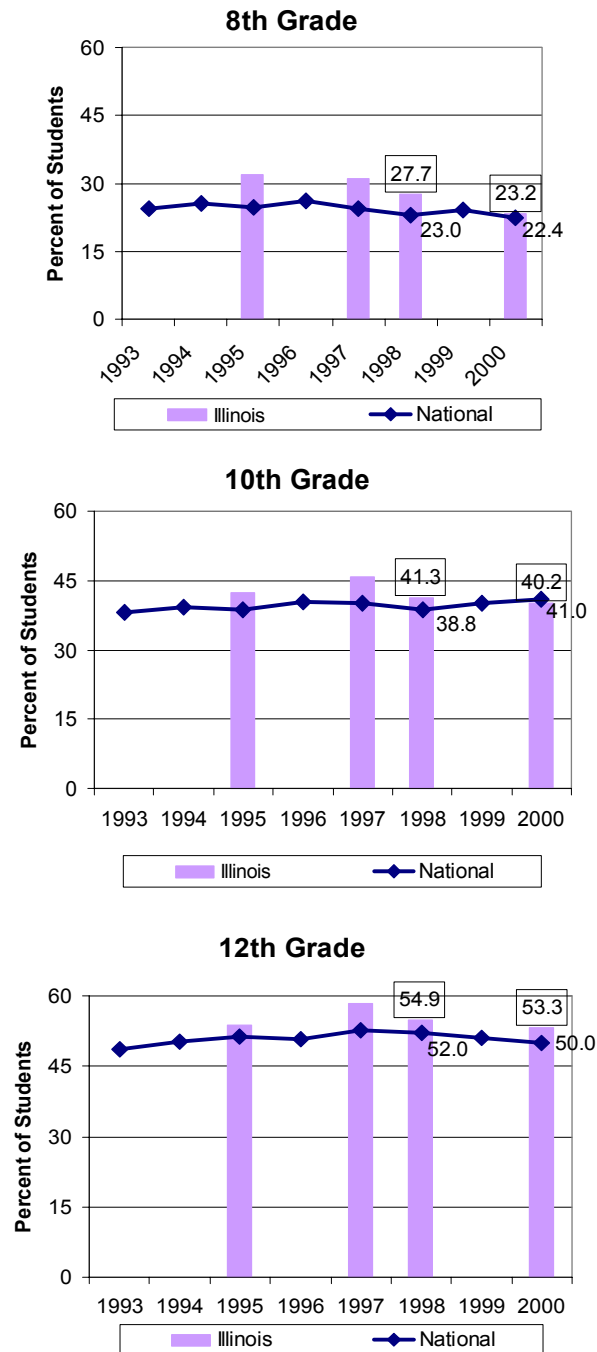
Eighth grade students showed a third year of decreased past month use of alcohol. (1998 to 2000 change was significant.) Tenth and twelfth grade students reported a second year of lower use in 2000 after a peak in 1997. (2000 rates for 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders were significantly lower than peak 1997 rates.)

***Past Month Alcohol Use by Grade***



Illinois students in 2000 were similar to, but still slightly higher than students nationally<sup>3</sup> in use of alcohol in the past month. The greatest difference was among 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Illinois rates are in boxes.

***Past Month Alcohol Use by Grade: Illinois vs. National***

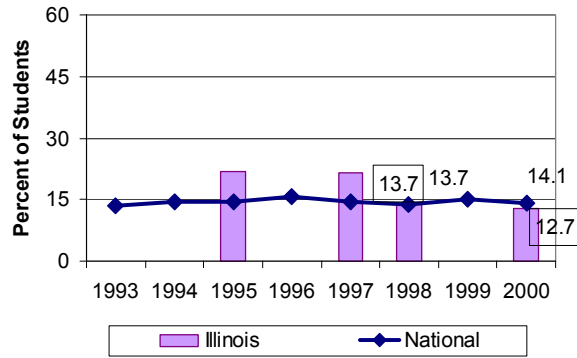


<sup>3</sup> Source *Monitoring the Future 2000*.

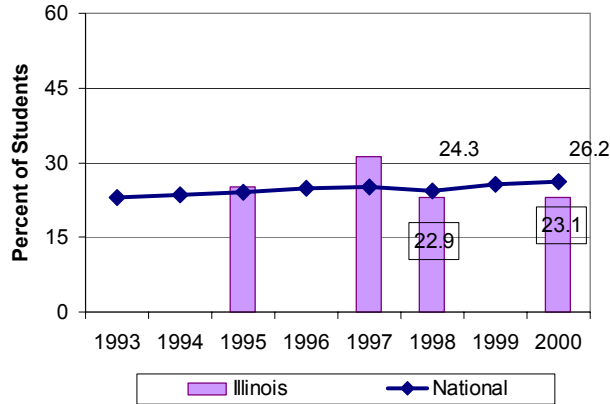
Rates of binge drinking<sup>4</sup> in the past two weeks decreased in 2000 among 8<sup>th</sup> grade Illinois youth but increased among Illinois 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Illinois rates are in boxes.

***Binge Drinking by Grade: Illinois vs. National***

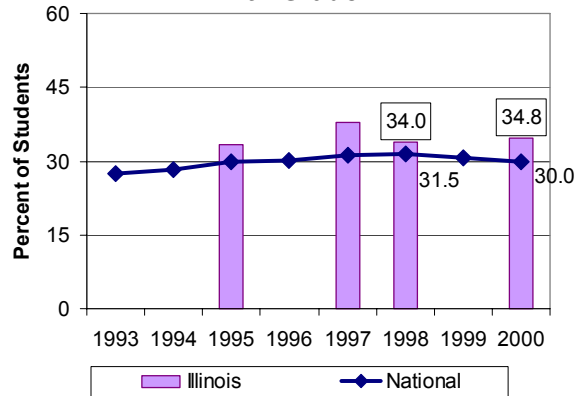
**8th Grade**



**10th Grade**



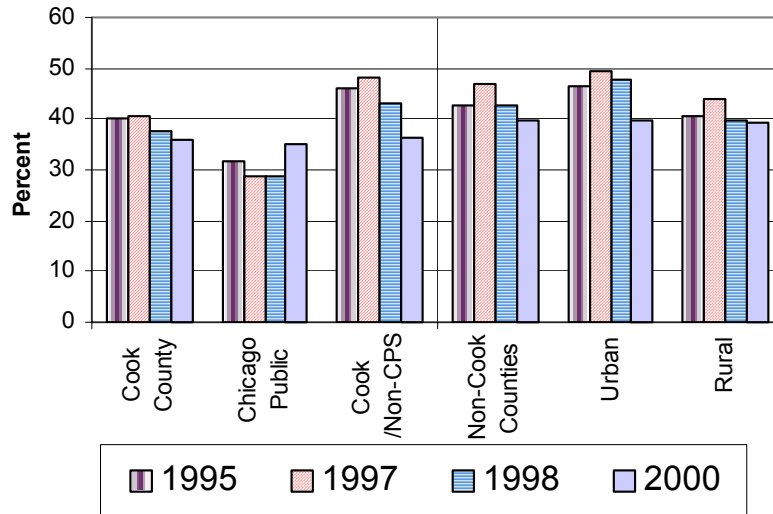
**12th Grade**



<sup>4</sup> Binge drinking=5+ drinks in a setting.

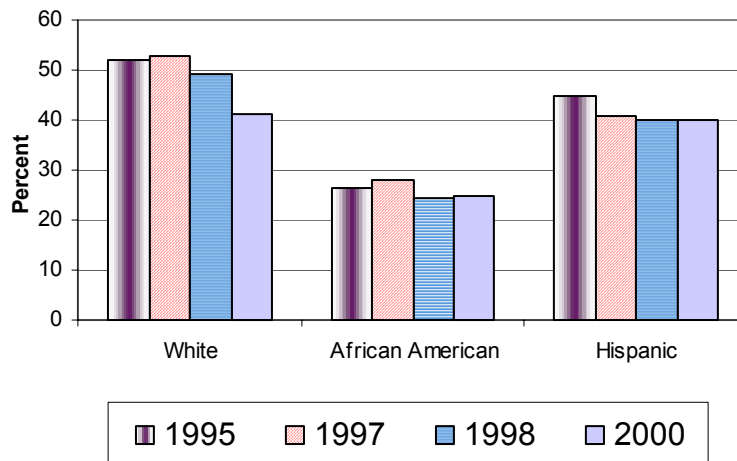
Past month alcohol use among students from most regions were lower than 1995 and 1997 levels, with the exception of Chicago Public Schools where use rates were significantly higher in 2000, and Non-Cook rural students where rates remained stable. Non-CPS Cook County students and Non-Cook urban students reported use rates significantly lower than all other reported years.

***Past Month Alcohol Use by Region***



Racial groups within Cook County show stable use rates for African American and Hispanic students, and a significant decrease for White students.

***Past Month Alcohol Use by Race (Cook County)***



## Chapter 3 Tobacco

**Table 3-1** shows the percent of 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who had used tobacco (excluding smokeless tobacco, which is covered in the next chapter) in the past month for the 1995, 1997, 1998 and 2000 *DASA/DHS Studies*.

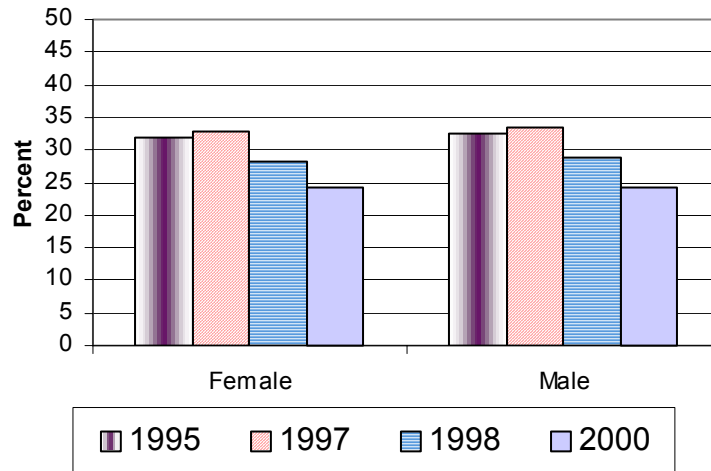
**Table 3-1**  
**Percent of Students Using**  
**Tobacco in the Past Month**

	Survey Year			
	1995	1997	1998	2000
<b>GENDER</b>				
Female	31.8	32.9	28.3	24.2
Male	32.6	33.5	28.7	24.4
<b>GRADE IN SCHOOL</b>				
8th	27.1	25.6	21.7	14.0
10th	31.1	35.2	27.9	25.0
12th	39.9	39.7	36.6	36.0
<b>REGION</b>				
Cook County	28.7	28.4	25.8	20.0
Chicago Public	20.3	20.0	17.6	17.4
Cook/Non-CPS	34.3	33.9	31.3	21.7
Non-Cook Counties	34.4	36.2	30.1	27.1
Urban	35.3	38.0	32.7	27.4
Rural	33.9	34.0	28.6	26.7
<b>Cook County Race Groups</b>				
White	42.5	40.6	36.7	25.7
African American	14.5	14.8	14.6	10.8
Hispanic	27.7	31.1	24.5	20.3
Other*	19.3	22.7	32.3	19.2
Native American*	47.6	42.9	19.6	38.1
<b>OVERALL</b>				
	32.2	33.2	28.4	24.4

\*Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.

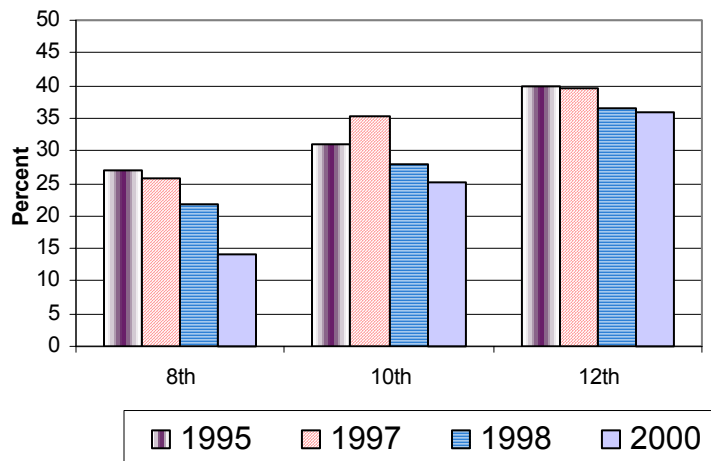
Past month tobacco use decreased significantly among both male and female students in 2000. Use levels for both genders were virtually identical.

### *Past Month Tobacco Use by Gender*



Eighth grade students showed a third year of decreased past month use of tobacco. Tenth grade students reported lower use in 1998 and again in 2000 after a peak in 1997. Twelfth grade student use began to decline in 1998 and remained stable in 2000. (The decrease for all three grades was significant from 1997 to 2000, while the decrease for 8<sup>th</sup> graders was significant from 1998-2000.)

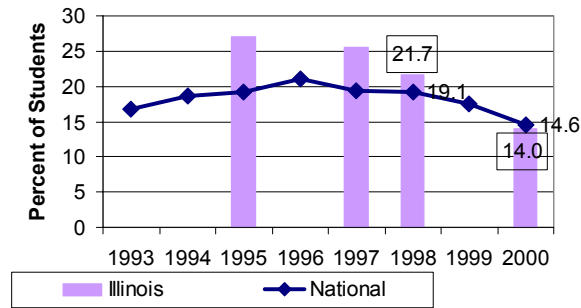
### *Past Month Tobacco Use by Grade*



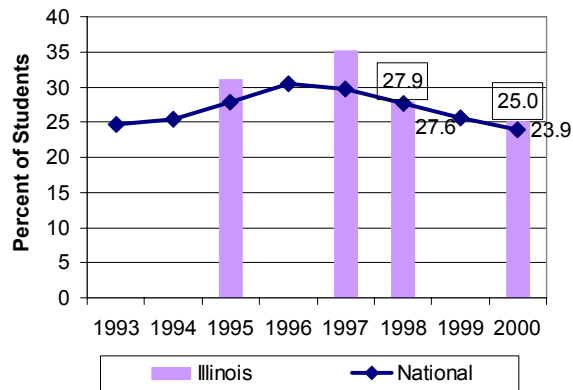
Although rates declined in each grade, Illinois 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students were equally likely as students nationally<sup>5</sup> and Illinois 12<sup>th</sup> grade students were somewhat more likely than students nationally to have used tobacco in the past month. Illinois rates are in boxes.

***Past Month Tobacco Use by Grade: Illinois vs. National***

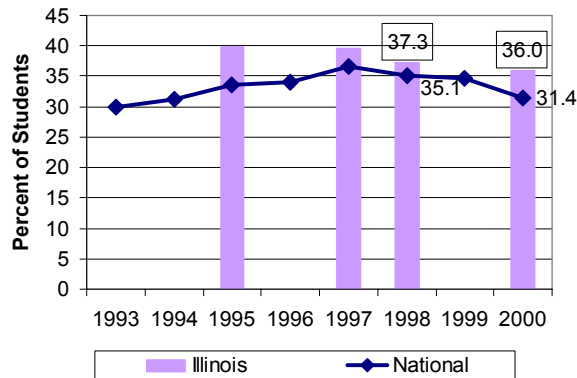
**8th Grade**



**10th Grade**



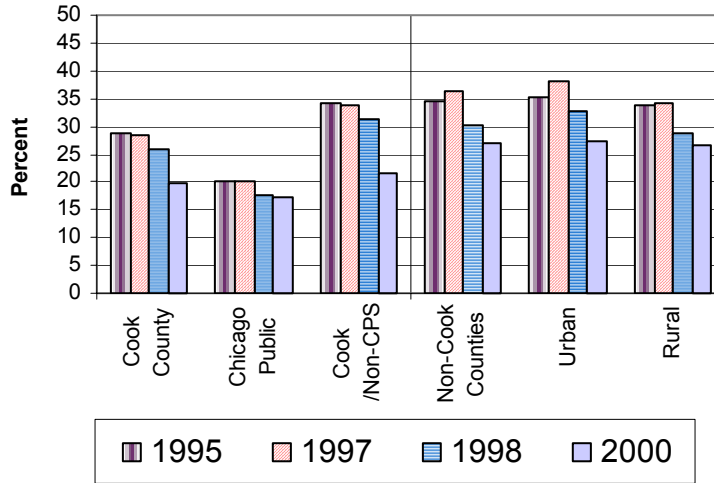
**12th Grade**



<sup>5</sup> Source *Monitoring the Future 2000*.

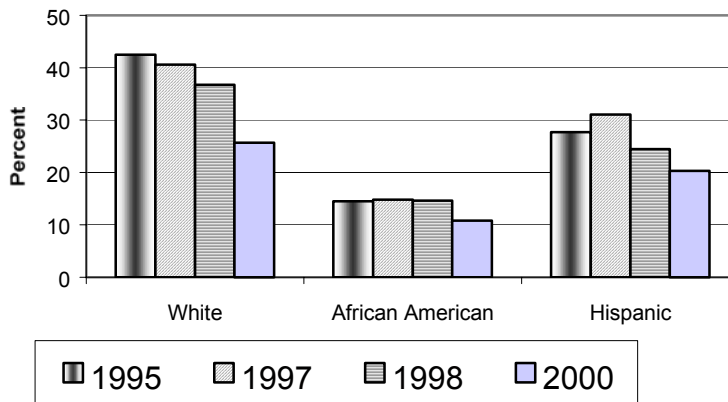
Past month tobacco use among students from both Cook and Non-Cook Counties decreased to levels lower than 1995 levels. Cook County use rates were significantly lower in 2000 than in 1998. While Chicago Public School students showed the smallest decrease (non-significant change), they remain the region with the lowest reported past month use.

**Past Month Tobacco Use by Region**



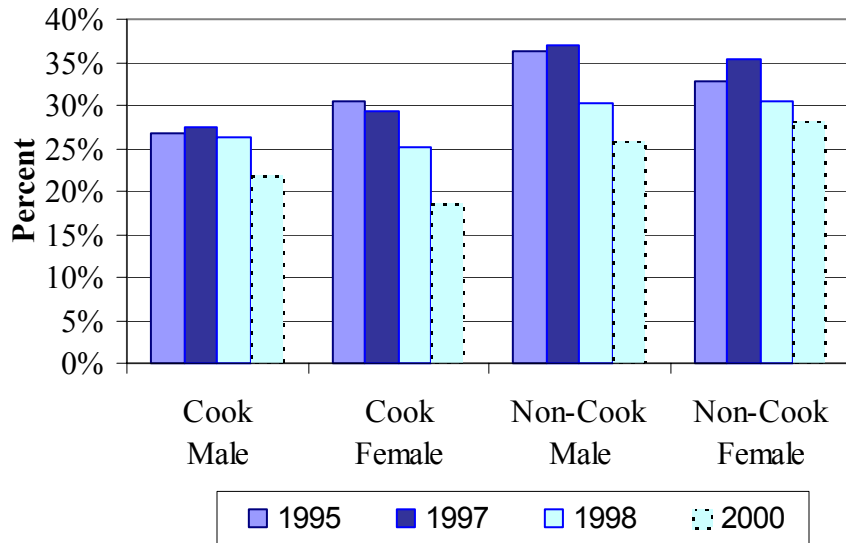
Cook County White students reported significantly lower rates of tobacco use in 2000 than in 1998. Use among Cook County Hispanic students was significantly lower in 2000 than in 1997. Use among African American students remained statistically stable and remained the lowest of any of the three main racial groups.

**Past Month Tobacco Use by Race (Cook County)**



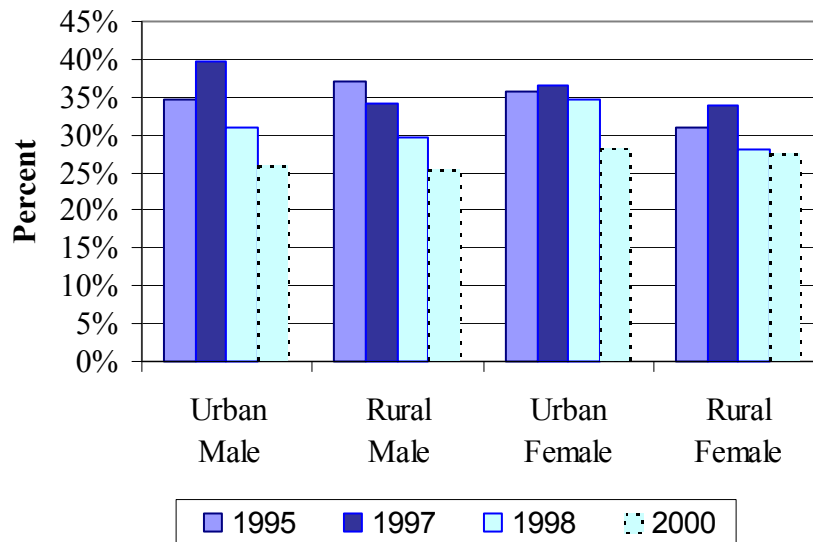
Past month tobacco use decreased significantly from 1998 to 2000 for Cook County females. For all four groups, the 2000 rate was significantly lower than the 1997 rate.

***Past month Tobacco use: by Cook County and Gender***



For Non-Cook County students, both urban and rural, male and female, past month tobacco use in 2000 was significantly lower than in 1997. The change from 1998 was not significant for these groups.

***Past month Tobacco use: by Urbanicity and Gender (Non-Cook Counties)***





## Chapter 4 Smokeless Tobacco

**Table 4-1** shows the percent of 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who had used smokeless tobacco in the past month for the 1995, 1997, 1998 and 2000 *DASA/DHS Studies*. The 4.4% of youth who used smokeless tobacco in the past month includes 3.2 percent that also smoked tobacco, and 1.2 percent that didn't.

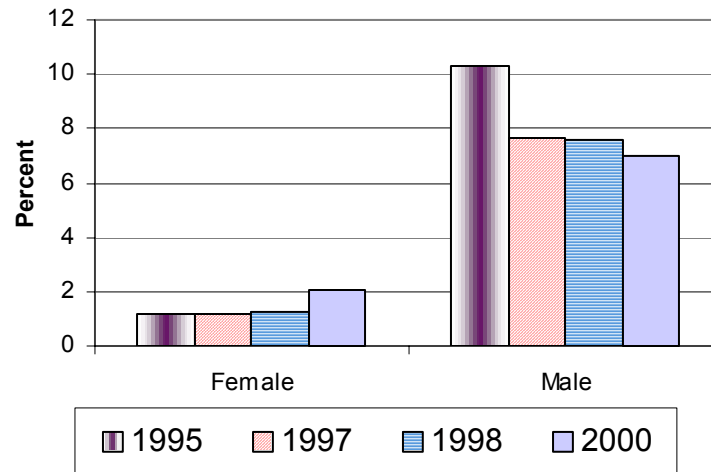
**Table 4-1**  
**Percent of Students Using**  
**Smokeless Tobacco in the Past Month**

	Survey Year			
	1995	1997	1998	2000
<b>GENDER</b>				
Female	1.2	1.2	1.3	2.1
Male	10.3	7.7	7.6	7.0
<b>GRADE IN SCHOOL</b>				
8th	4.8	2.8	3.0	2.6
10th	5.4	5.2	4.0	4.6
12th	6.9	5.0	5.6	6.5
<b>REGION</b>				
Cook County	2.3	1.8	2.6	3.5
Chicago Public	1.5	1.2	2.1	4.2
Cook/Non-CPS	2.9	2.2	3.0	3.1
Non-Cook Counties	7.8	5.9	5.1	5.0
Urban	5.4	4.3	3.9	3.9
Rural	9.3	7.7	5.7	6.8
<b>Cook County Race Groups</b>				
White	4.1	3.3	3.6	3.7
African American	0.7	0.6	2.1	2.3
Hispanic	1.4	1.6	1.9	5.0
Other*	2.3	0.0	1.3	0.4
Native American*	11.4	1.0	7.2	20.7
<b>OVERALL</b>				
	5.6	4.3	4.1	4.4

\*Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.

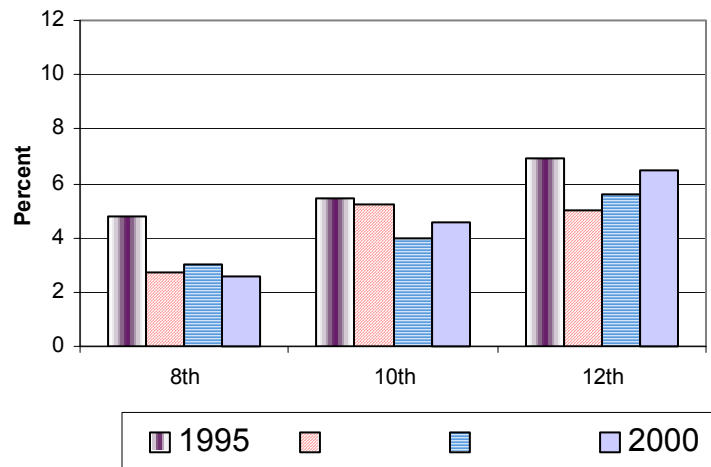
Use of smokeless tobacco continues to be much higher among males than females. Rates of use among female students increased in 2000. 1997, 1998 and 2000 use rates among males are significantly lower than the 1995 rate.

### *Past Month Smokeless Tobacco Use by Gender*



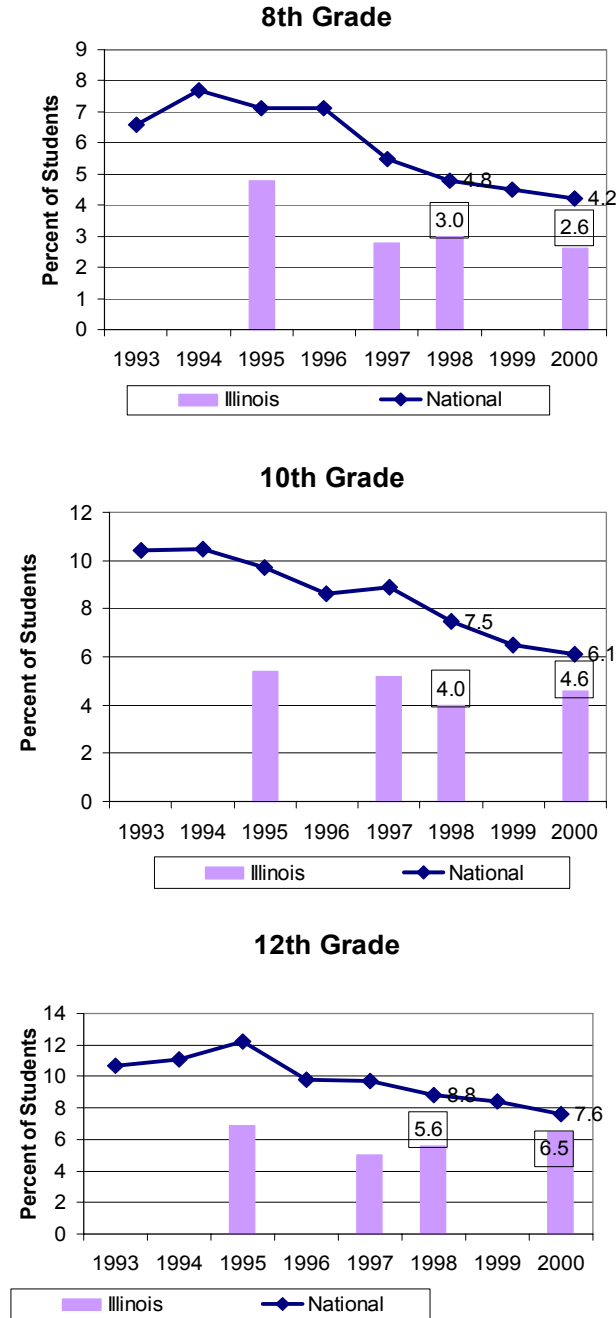
Eighth grade students' past month use of smokeless tobacco remained stable from 1997 to 2000, and significantly lower than 1995 use. Use was higher in 2000 than in 1998 among both 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, continuing the trend from 1998's 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students who are now 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders. (Neither change was significant.)

### *Past Month Smokeless Tobacco Use by Grade*



Illinois students were less likely than students nationally<sup>6</sup> to have used smokeless tobacco in the past month. Twelfth grade Illinois use most closely parallels the national pattern. Illinois rates are in boxes.

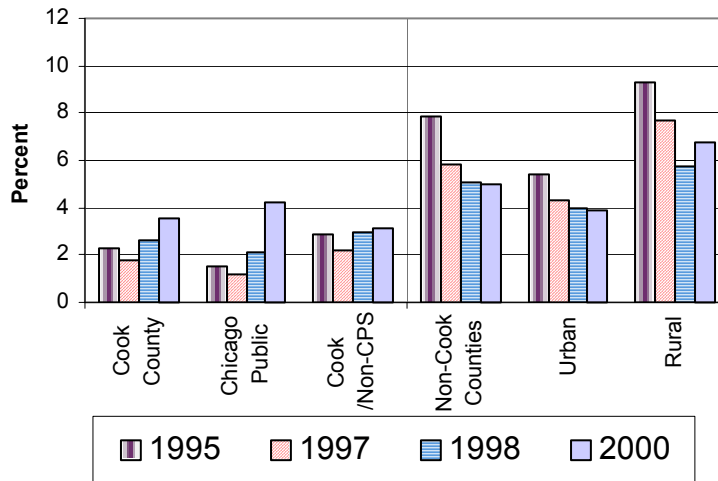
***Past Month Smokeless Tobacco Use by Grade: Illinois vs. National***



<sup>6</sup> Source *Monitoring the Future 2000*.

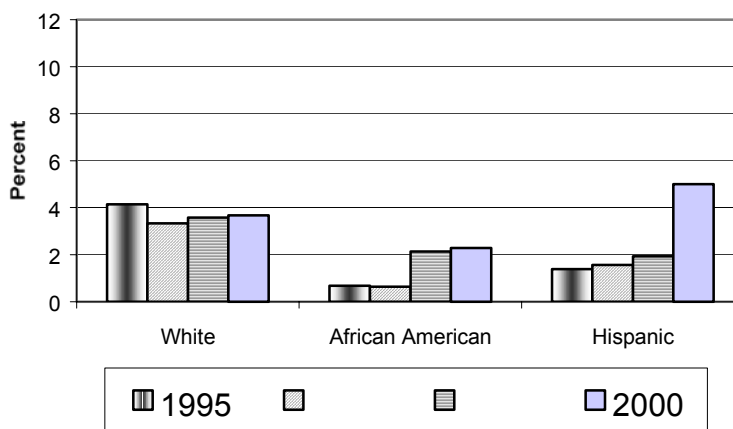
Past month smokeless tobacco use is much higher among rural non-Cook County students than among students from other regions. Use among students from Non-Cook Counties was stable, while use increased among students from Cook County, particularly Chicago public school students.

***Past Month Smokeless Tobacco Use by Region***



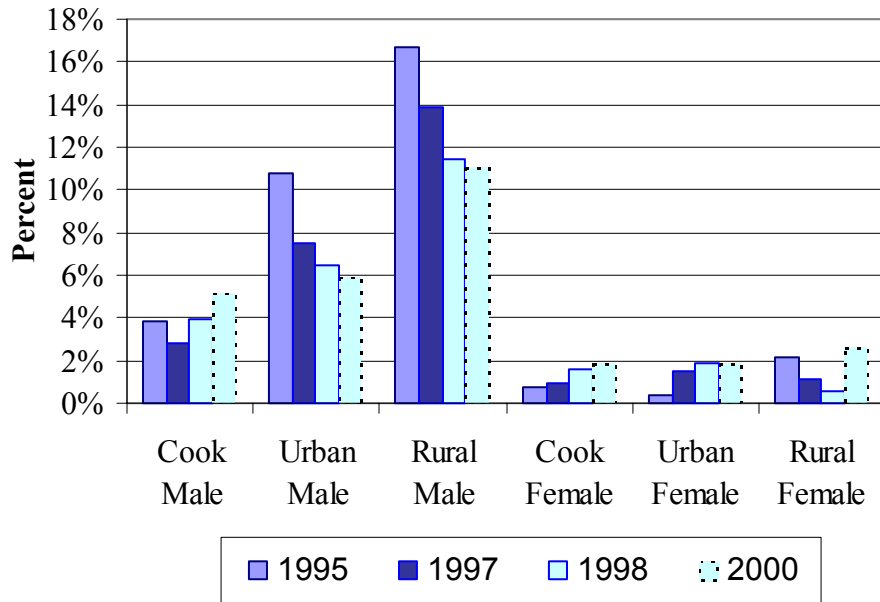
Smokeless tobacco use increased more among Hispanic Cook County students than among White or African-American students. This was due to increases among both male and female Hispanic students (See chart of female use on next page).

***Past Month Smokeless Tobacco Use by Race (Cook County)***



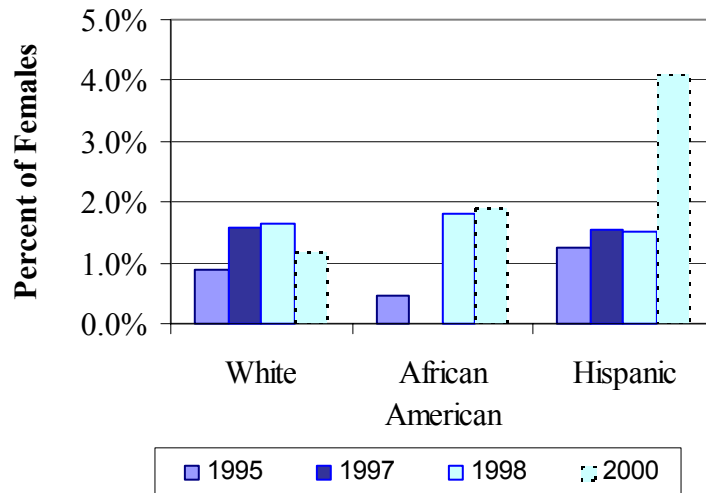
Smokeless tobacco use was highest among rural males, followed by other males. Past month smokeless tobacco use increased significantly from 1998 to 2000 for rural female students.

***Past month use of smokeless tobacco: Region by Gender***



Cook County Hispanic female students reported greater than 2% use rates in 2000. Use among Cook County Hispanic males increased similarly to a level just below that of Cook County White males. The changes for all three racial groups were not statistically significant.

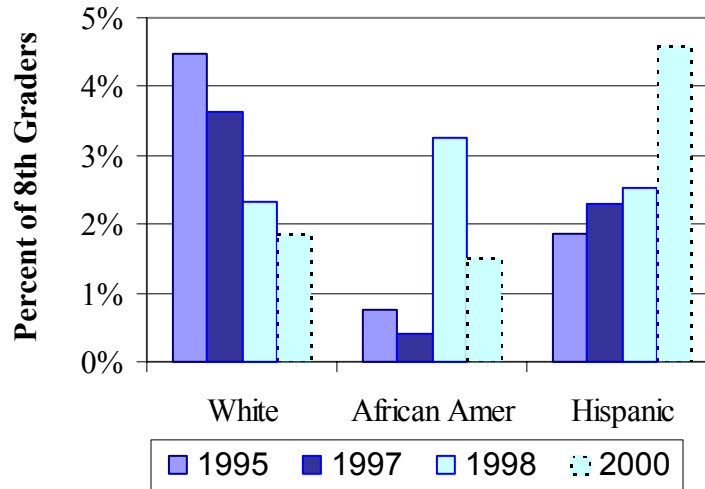
***Past month use of smokeless tobacco by race  
For Cook County female students\****



\*The rate reported by African American students in 1997 was zero.

Cook County African American 8<sup>th</sup> grade students decreased past month use of smokeless tobacco in 2000, while use among Hispanic 8<sup>th</sup> grade students increased. Neither change was statistically significant.

***Past month use of smokeless tobacco by race  
For Cook County 8<sup>th</sup> grade students***



## **Chapter 5**

### ***Inhalants***

**Table 5-1** shows the percent of 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who had used inhalants in the past month for the 1995, 1997, 1998 and 2000 *DASA/DHS Studies*.

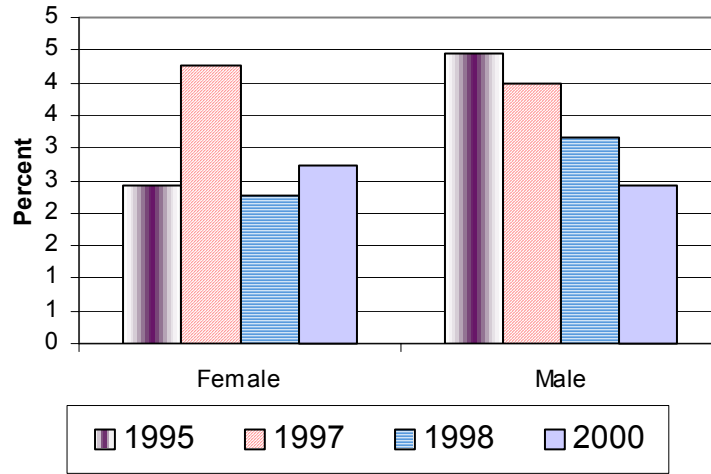
**Table 5-1**  
***Percent of Students Using***  
***Inhalants in the Past Month***

	Survey Year			
	1995	1997	1998	2000
<b>GENDER</b>				
Female	2.4	4.3	2.3	2.7
Male	4.5	4.0	3.2	2.4
<b>GRADE IN SCHOOL</b>				
8th	4.2	5.3	4.1	4.1
10th	2.9	4.6	2.1	2.1
12th	3.0	2.2	1.8	1.4
<b>REGION</b>				
Cook County	3.6	4.1	2.4	2.0
Chicago Public	2.4	4.0	2.0	1.4
Cook/Non-CPS	4.4	4.2	2.6	2.4
Non-Cook Counties	3.3	4.1	3.0	3.0
Urban	3.9	4.4	2.8	2.8
Rural	3.0	3.9	3.1	3.2
<b>Cook County Race Groups</b>				
White	4.9	7.5	3.4	2.3
African American	1.1	0.8	0.6	0.0
Hispanic	5.3	4.4	3.4	4.1
Other*	2.3	1.9	3.1	2.1
Native American*	12.5	0.0	3.8	5.5
<b>OVERALL</b>	3.4	4.1	2.7	2.6

\*Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.

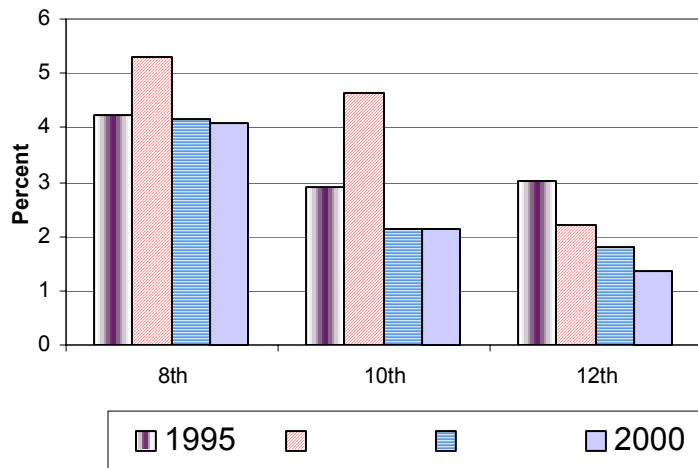
Use of inhalants by male students continued to decrease for the third time. Use by female students was higher than use by males in 2000.

**Past Month Inhalant Use by Gender**



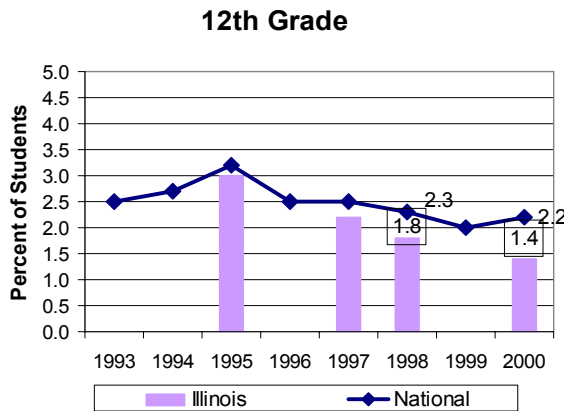
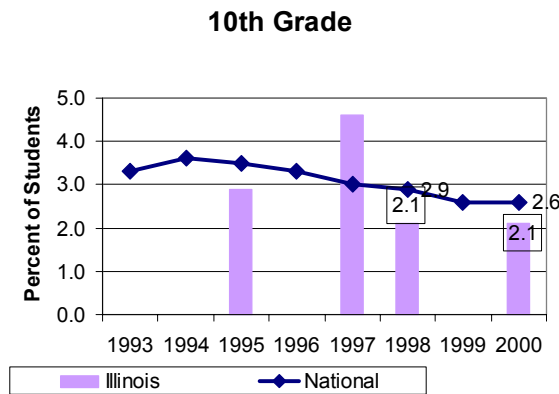
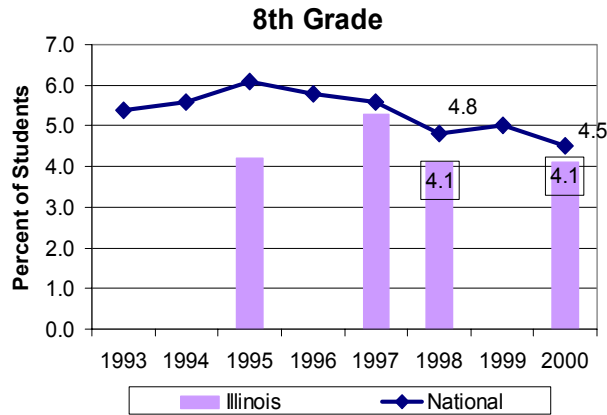
Use of inhalants by 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students remained stable in 2000. Twelfth grade student use continued to decline for the third time, a significant decrease from 1995 rates. Unlike other substances, use of inhalants tends to peak in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and decline in later grades.

**Past Month Inhalant Use by Grade**



Illinois students were somewhat less likely than students nationally<sup>7</sup> to have used inhalants in the past month. Eighth grade Illinois use most closely parallels the national pattern. While use among twelfth grade students nationally increased slightly, use by Illinois twelfth grade students decreased. Illinois rates are in boxes.

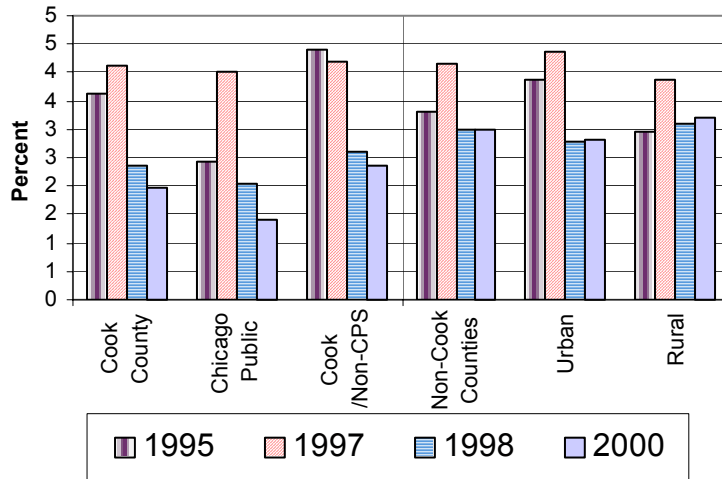
***Past Month Inhalant Use by Grade: Illinois vs. National***



<sup>7</sup> Source *Monitoring the Future 2000*.

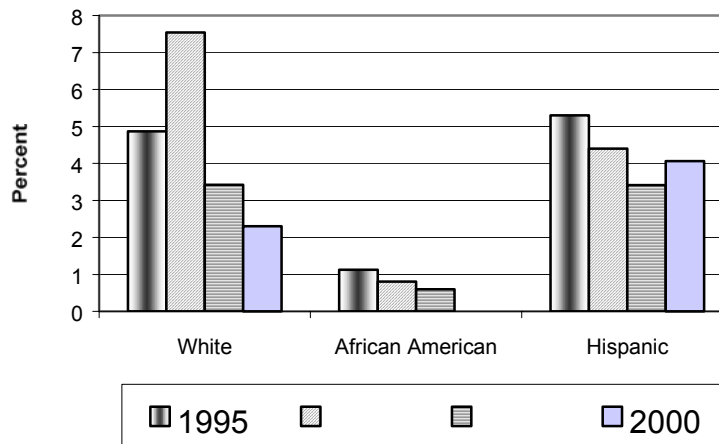
Past month inhalant use among students from Cook County decreased in 2000. Use among non cook county rural students increased (non-significantly) in 2000 and remained stable for urban students and non-Cook County students overall. (Cook County and CPS decreases from 1997 to 2000 were significant, while the Non-CPS decrease from 1995 to 2000 was significant).

**Past Month Inhalant Use by Region**



Inhalant use decreased among White and African American Cook County students and increased slightly among Hispanic students in 2000. Inhalant use by African American students continues to be lower than use by other racial groups in Cook County.

**Past Month Inhalant Use by Race (Cook County)\***



\* The rate reported by African American students in 2000 was zero.

## *Chapter 6*

### *Illicit Substance\**

**Table 6-1** shows the percent of 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who had used any illicit substance\* in the past month for the 1995, 1997, 1998 and 2000 *DASA/DHS Studies*.

**Table 6-1**  
**Percent of Students Using**  
**Any Illicit Substance\* in the Past Month**

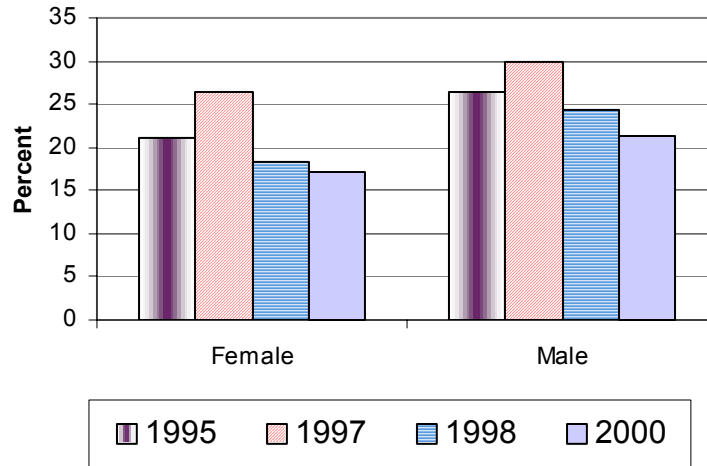
	Survey Year			
	1995	1997	1998	2000
<b>GENDER</b>				
Female	21.1	26.5	18.2	17.2
Male	26.4	29.9	24.3	21.3
<b>GRADE IN SCHOOL</b>				
8th	17.6	20.6	14.6	11.1
10th	24.1	30.1	24.4	20.9
12th	30.9	34.6	24.8	26.9
<b>REGION</b>				
Cook County	25.3	29.1	23.5	17.6
Chicago Public	24.9	25.9	21.1	18.7
Cook/Non-CPS	25.7	31.2	25.1	16.9
Non-Cook Counties	22.5	27.5	19.6	20.2
Urban	27.5	30.8	24.9	21.9
Rural	19.5	23.7	16.6	17.5
<b>Cook County Race Groups</b>				
White	28.0	31.9	25.1	18.3
African American	24.8	25.7	22.1	15.1
Hispanic	22.7	31.0	22.8	18.8
Other**	16.5	23.8	25.9	12.4
Native American**	34.3	42.0	12.5	60.6
<b>OVERALL</b>	23.7	28.1	21.1	19.2

\*Marijuana, Cocaine/Crack, Hallucinogens, Other Drugs

\*\*Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.

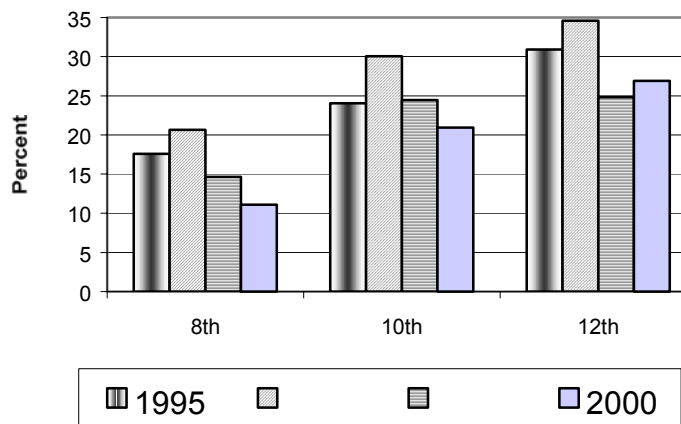
Use of illicit substances continued to decrease for both males and female students in 2000, and remains significantly lower than 1997 rates. The decrease is not significantly different from 1998 rates.

***Past Month Use of Any Illicit Substance by Gender***



In 2000, students in 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades reported continuing decreases, while 12<sup>th</sup> grade students reported a slight increase in use of Illicit Substances. Use by 10<sup>th</sup> graders in 2000 has decreased to a level comparable to the 1997 peak among 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

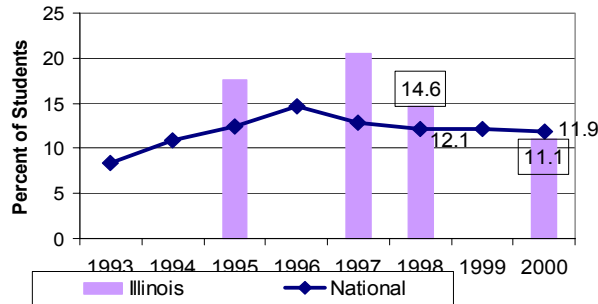
***Past Month Use of Any Illicit Substance by Grade***



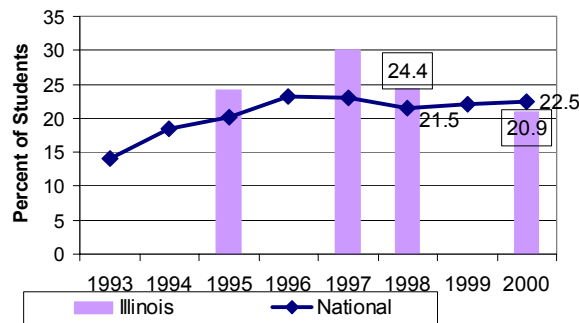
Illinois 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students were about as likely as students nationally<sup>8</sup> to have used any illicit substance in the past month. Twelfth grade Illinois use in 2000 was slightly higher than the national rate. Illinois rates are in boxes.

***Past Month Use of Any Illicit Substance by Grade:  
Illinois vs. National***

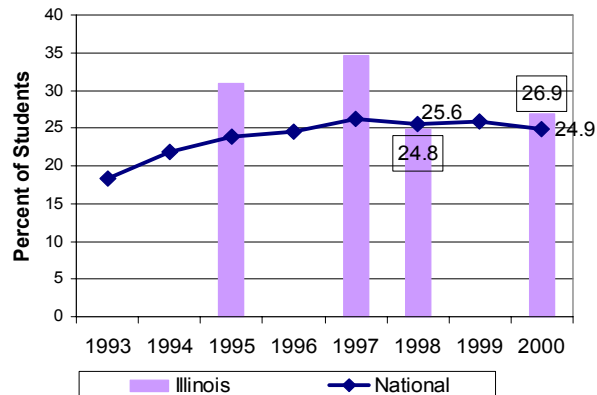
**8th Grade**



**10th Grade**



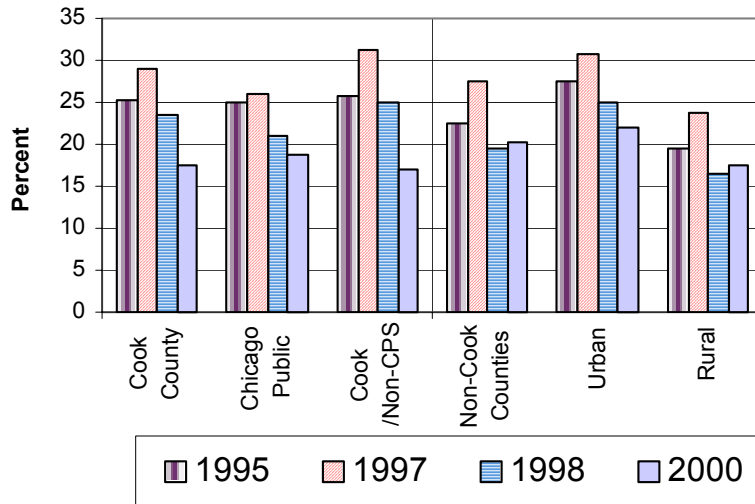
**12th Grade**



<sup>8</sup> Source *Monitoring the Future 2000*.

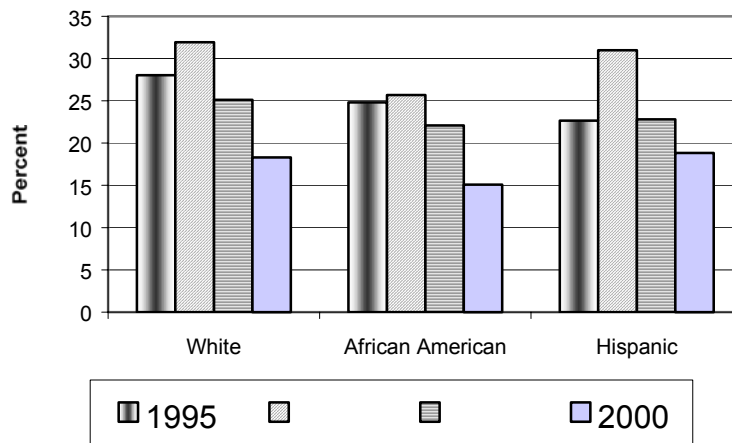
Past month illicit substance use among students from Cook County continued to decrease in 2000 following a 1997 peak in use. Use has decreased among non-Cook County urban students, but remains higher than use by other students. Use among non-Cook County rural students increased somewhat, but is comparable to overall use rates among Cook County students.

***Past Month Use of Any Illicit Substance by Region***



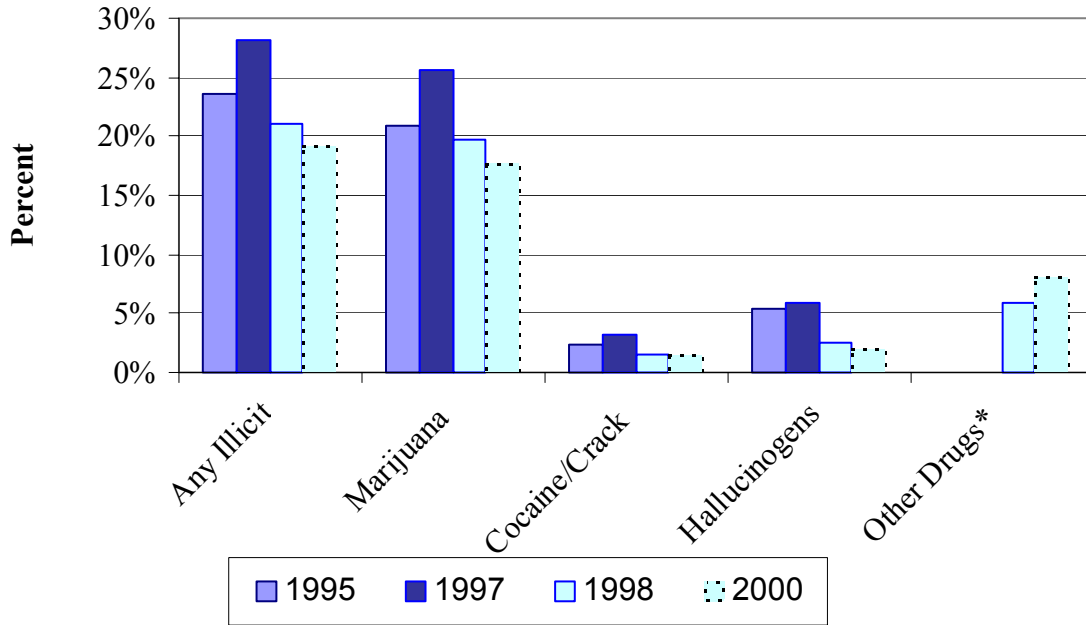
Illicit substance use continued to decrease for all three major Cook County students racial groups.

***Past Month Use of Any Illicit Substance by Race (Cook County)***



Although youth use rates for many illicit substances continued to decrease in 2000, the overall decrease in prevalence of illicit drug use among youth was driven mainly by marijuana use rates, since it is used by so many more teens than are other illicit drugs.<sup>9</sup>

***Any Illicit compared to specific illicit substances by year***



<sup>9</sup> Since use of ‘other drugs’ (e.g., heroin, uppers, downers) were listed separately in 1995 and 1997 and combined in 1998 and 2000, the 1995 and 1997 rates are not comparable and are not included in this graph.



## **Chapter 7**

### **Marijuana**

**Table 7-1** shows the percent of 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who had used marijuana in the past month for the 1995, 1997, 1998 and 2000 *DASA/DHS Studies*.

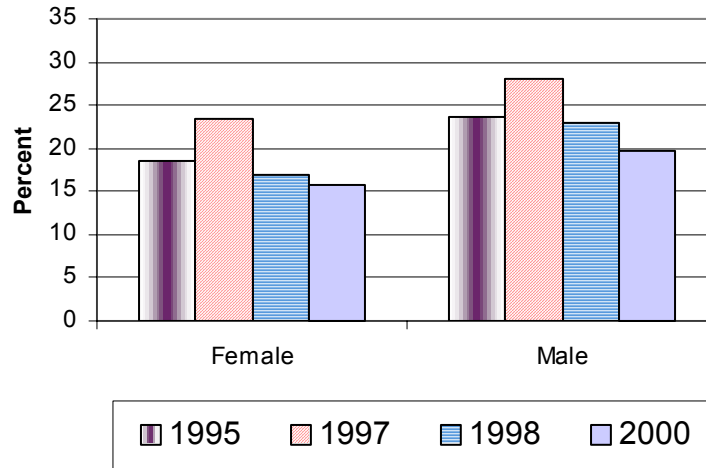
**Table 7-1**  
**Percent of Students Using**  
**Marijuana in the Past Month**

	Survey Year			
	1995	1997	1998	2000
<b>GENDER</b>				
Female	18.5	23.3	16.8	15.7
Male	23.6	28.0	22.9	19.7
<b>GRADE IN SCHOOL</b>				
8th	14.1	17.0	12.7	9.9
10th	21.6	27.5	23.5	19.2
12th	28.9	33.2	23.6	25.0
<b>REGION</b>				
Cook County	22.9	26.9	22.6	16.0
Chicago Public	23.5	23.7	20.9	17.7
Cook/Non-CPS	22.5	29.0	23.7	15.0
Non-Cook Counties	19.7	24.8	17.9	18.6
Urban	24.9	27.4	23.2	20.6
Rural	16.5	21.6	15.0	15.6
<b>Cook County Race Groups</b>				
White	24.8	27.5	23.7	16.2
African American	24.3	25.7	21.6	14.5
Hispanic	18.5	28.1	22.2	16.8
Other*	15.4	23.3	24.6	12.2
Native American*	28.4	42.0	12.2	53.2
<b>OVERALL</b>				
	21.0	25.6	19.7	17.6

\*Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.

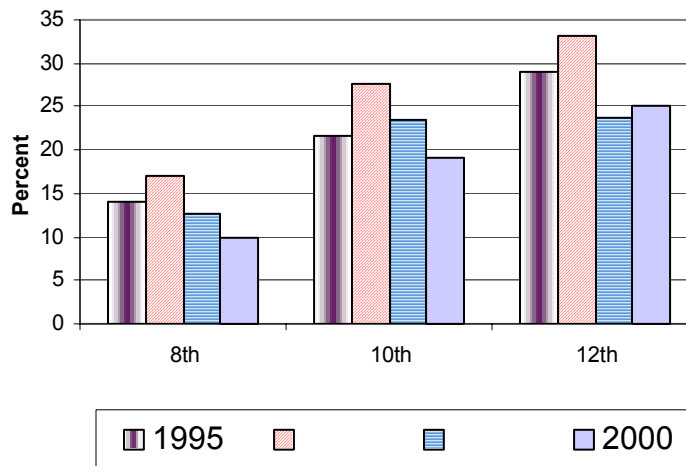
Use of marijuana continued to decrease for the second time following a 1997 peak to levels below the 1995 figures for both male and female students. The drop was slightly larger for female students in 1998 and for male students in 2000.

*Past Month Marijuana Use by Gender*



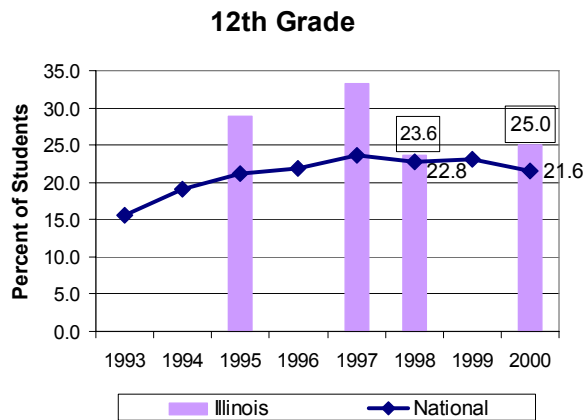
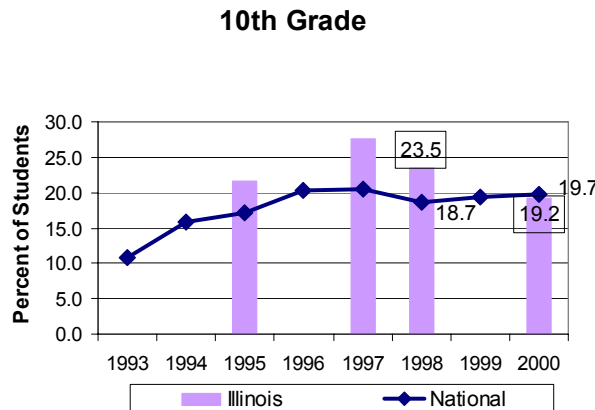
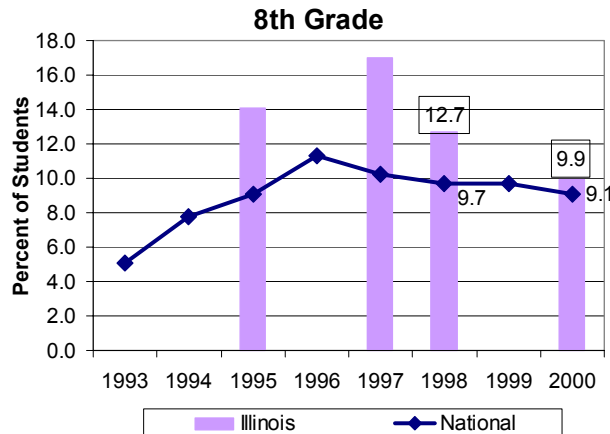
Students in 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades reported continued decreases in 2000. Twelfth grade students reported slightly increased rates of use.

*Past Month Marijuana Use by Grade*



Illinois 8<sup>th</sup> grade students remained only slightly more likely than students nationally<sup>10</sup> to have used marijuana in the past month. Tenth grade Illinois use in 1998 was closest to the national rate. Use by twelfth grade students in Illinois was higher than the national rate. Illinois rates are in boxes.

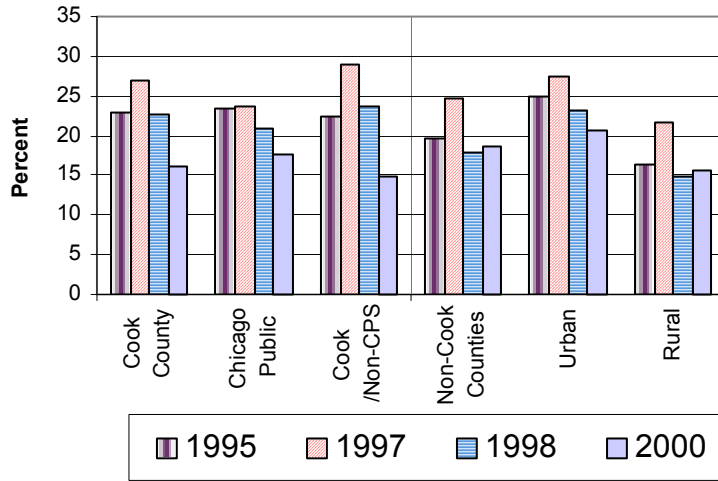
***Past Month Marijuana Use by Grade: Illinois vs. National***



<sup>10</sup> Source *Monitoring the Future 2000*.

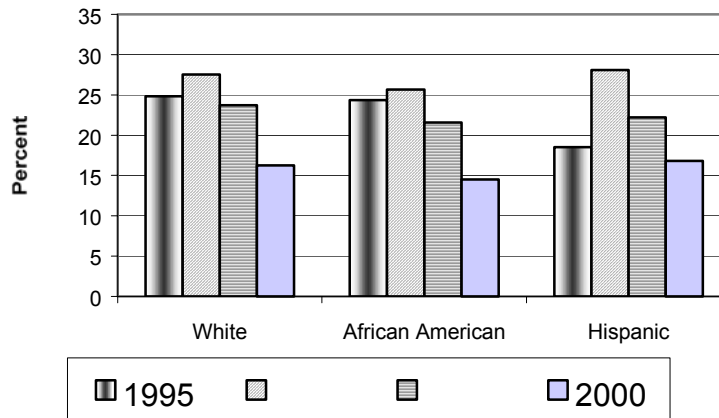
Past month marijuana use among students from Cook County, decreased in 2000, particularly among non-CPS students. Urban students from non-Cook Counties decreased use in 2000, while use increased slightly among rural students.

***Past Month Marijuana Use by Region***



Marijuana use continued to decrease in 2000 for each of the three major racial groups in Cook County.

***Past Month Marijuana Use by Race (Cook County)***



## Chapter 8 Cocaine and/or Crack

**Table 8-1** shows the percent of 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who had used cocaine and/or crack in the past month for the 1995, 1997, 1998 and 2000 *DASA/DHS Studies*.

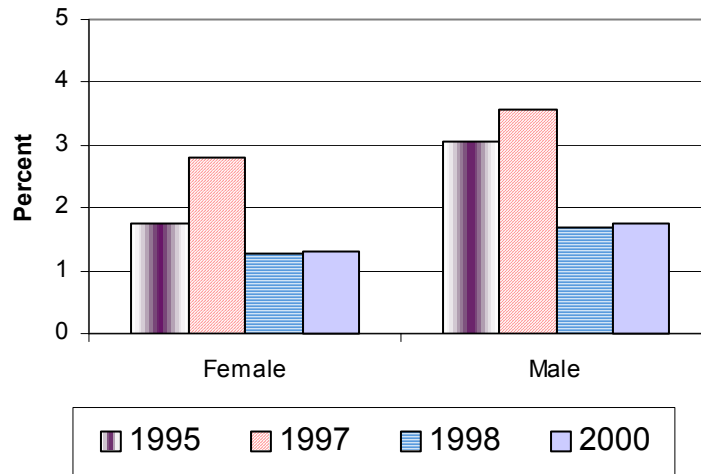
**Table 8-1**  
**Percent of Students Using**  
**Cocaine/Crack in the Past Month**

	Survey Year			
	1995	1997	1998	2000
<b>GENDER</b>				
Female	1.8	2.8	1.3	1.3
Male	3.0	3.6	1.7	1.8
<b>GRADE IN SCHOOL</b>				
8th	1.4	1.6	0.7	0.6
10th	2.5	3.4	1.9	1.3
12th	3.6	4.7	2.1	2.8
<b>REGION</b>				
Cook County	3.1	2.7	0.9	1.1
Chicago Public	2.1	1.4	0.3	0.8
Cook/Non-CPS	3.7	3.5	1.3	1.4
Non-Cook Counties	2.0	3.5	1.9	1.8
Urban	1.9	3.8	1.8	2.0
Rural	2.0	3.1	2.0	1.5
<b>Cook County Race Groups</b>				
White	4.1	5.0	1.5	1.7
African American	1.1	0.6	0.2	0.0
Hispanic	3.3	2.7	0.9	1.7
Other*	6.7	1.3	2.2	0.0
Native American*	11.4	0.0	0.0	7.4
<b>OVERALL</b>	2.4	3.3	1.5	1.5

\*Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.

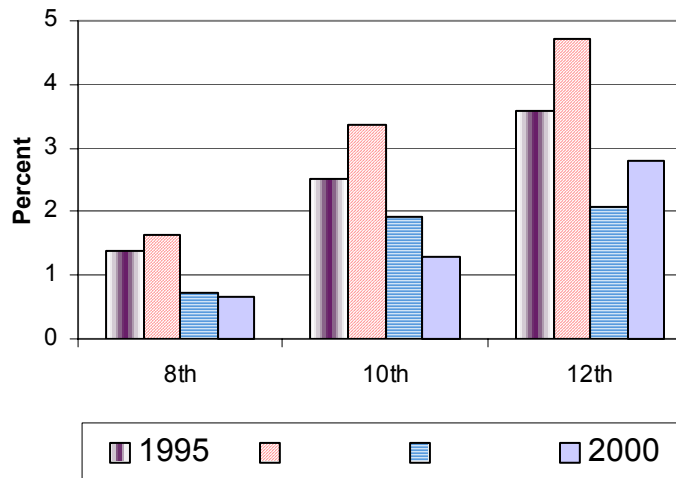
Past month use of cocaine/crack remained stable at less than 2% for both male and female students.

### *Past Month Cocaine/Crack Use by Gender*



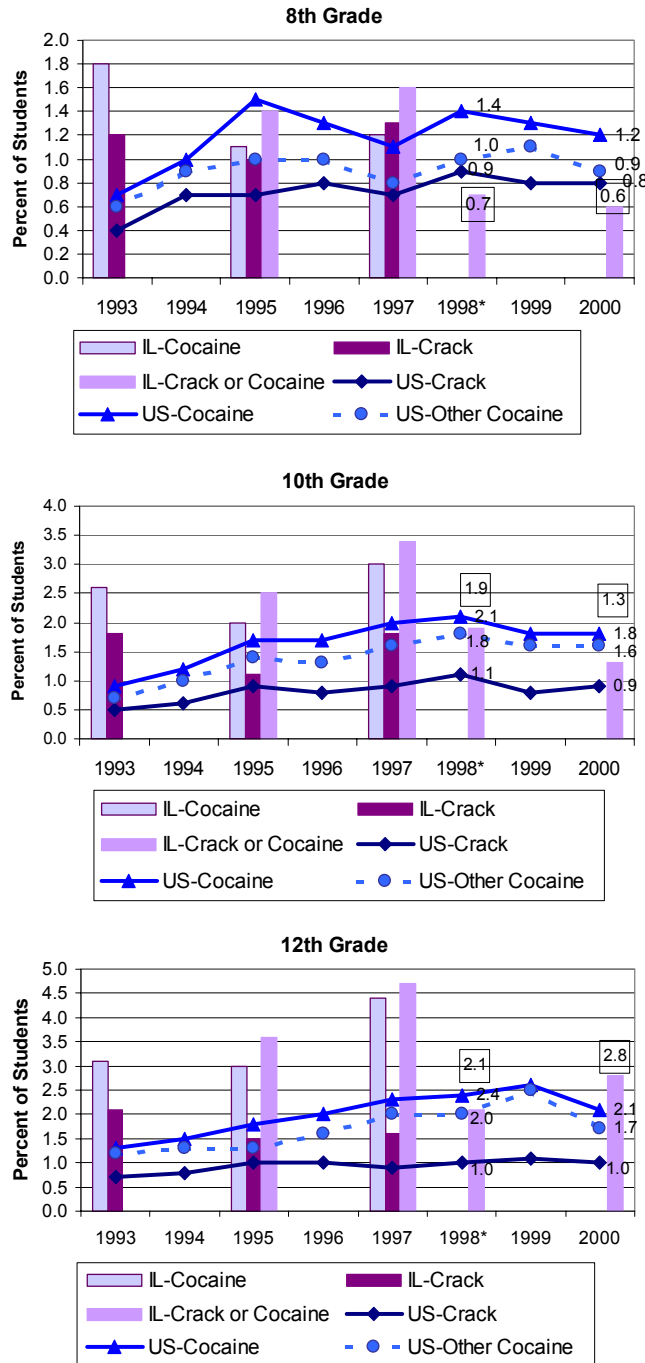
In 2000, 2% or less of students in 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades reported past month use of cocaine/crack, with 8<sup>th</sup> grade use remaining stable, and 10<sup>th</sup> grade use rates continuing to decrease. Use by twelfth grade students rates climbed above 2% in 2000.

### *Past Month Cocaine/Crack Use by Grade*



Illinois rates of past month cocaine or crack use were lower than the national rates<sup>11</sup> for 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. Among 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, however, national rates decreased or remained stable, while rates for Illinois students increased.<sup>12</sup> Illinois rates are in boxes.

***Past Month Cocaine/Crack Use by Grade: Illinois vs. National***

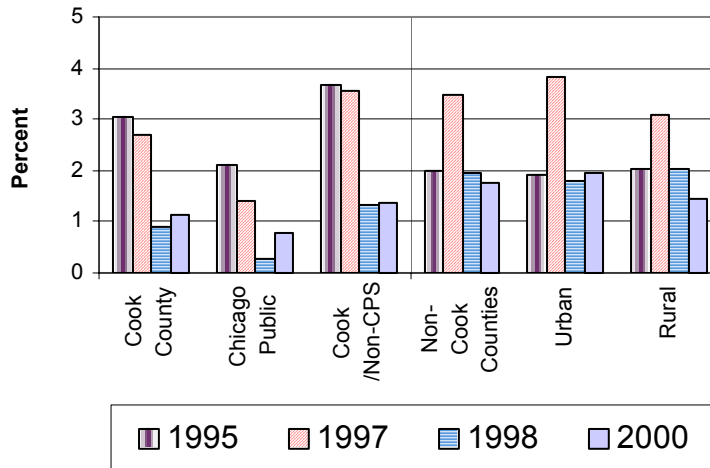


<sup>11</sup> Source *Monitoring the Future 2000*.

<sup>12</sup> Note that Crack and Cocaine were combined in the 1998 survey. The combined form was not available for the 1993 survey. Crack and "Other (non-crack) Cocaine" are reported separately in the national data.

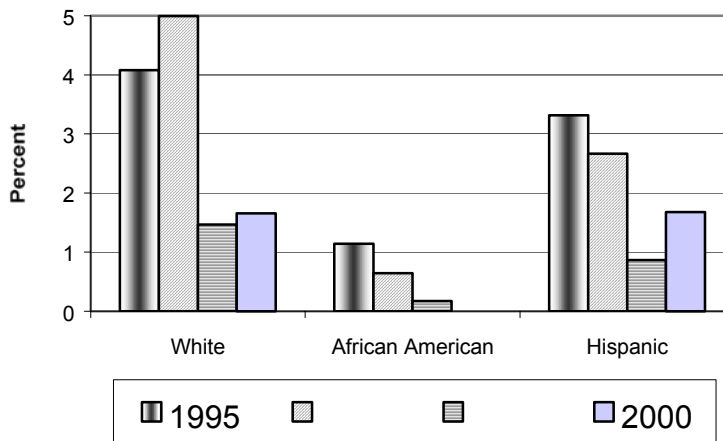
Past month cocaine/crack use rose slightly among students from Cook County and urban non-Cook County students. Use remained below 1% only for Chicago Public School students. Use dropped for the second time among rural non-Cook County students. Rates for students in all regional groups were 2% or less in 2000.

**Past Month Cocaine/Crack Use by Region**



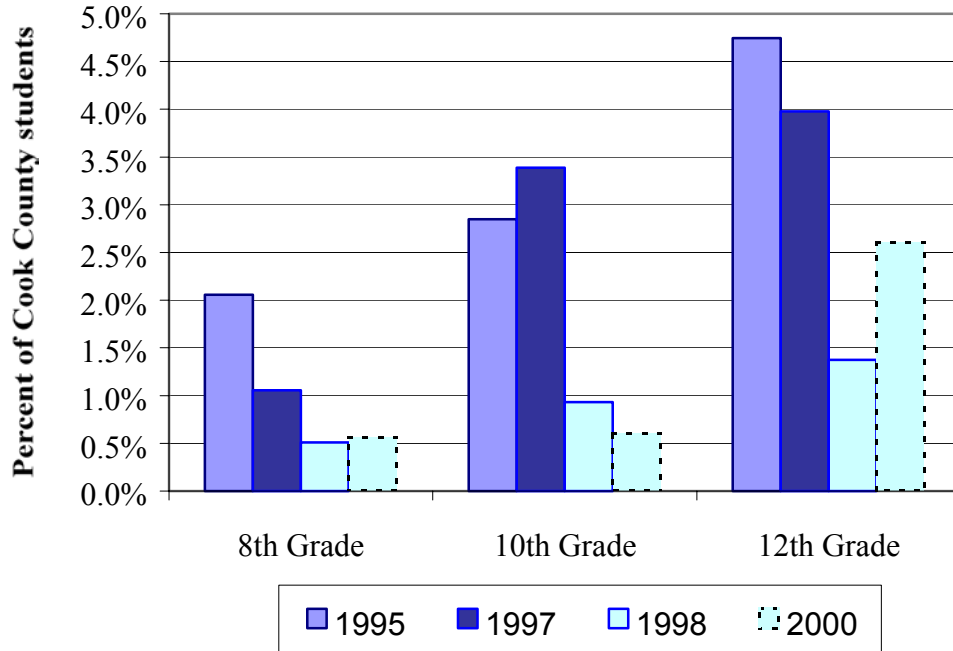
Past month Cocaine/Crack use decreased in 2000 among African-American Cook County students. Use was up slightly, but remained less than 2% among White and Hispanic students.

**Past Month Cocaine/Crack Use by Race (Cook County)\***



\* The rate reported by African American students in 2000 was zero.

The number of Cook County 12<sup>th</sup> grade students using cocaine or crack increased in 2000 (2000 rates were not statistically different from 1998 rates for any grade).





## *Chapter 9*

### *Any Hallucinogen*

**Table 9-1** shows the percent of 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who had used any hallucinogen in the past month for the 1995, 1997, 1998 and 2000 *DASA/DHS Studies*.

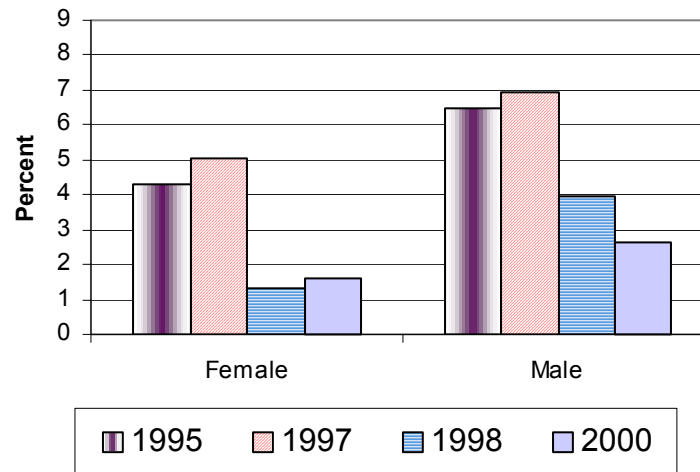
**Table 9-1**  
**Percent of Students Using**  
**Any Hallucinogen in the Past Month**

	Survey Year			
	1995	1997	1998	2000
<b>GENDER</b>				
Female	4.3	5.0	1.3	1.6
Male	6.5	6.9	4.0	2.7
<b>GRADE IN SCHOOL</b>				
8th	3.5	2.8	1.0	0.8
10th	5.7	8.0	2.7	2.2
12th	7.3	7.3	4.3	3.4
<b>REGION</b>				
Cook County	5.2	5.5	1.3	1.8
Chicago Public	4.1	4.1	0.9	0.7
Cook/Non-CPS	6.0	6.4	1.5	2.5
Non-Cook Counties	5.4	6.3	3.5	2.3
Urban	5.9	7.3	4.5	2.4
Rural	5.1	5.0	2.9	2.1
<b>Cook County Race Groups</b>				
White	7.7	10.4	1.9	2.5
African American	1.7	0.9	0.5	0.2
Hispanic	6.4	4.6	1.7	1.2
Other*	4.6	4.6	0.9	2.2
Native American*	11.4	8.2	0.0	22.2
<b>OVERALL</b>	5.4	6.0	2.6	2.1

\*Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.

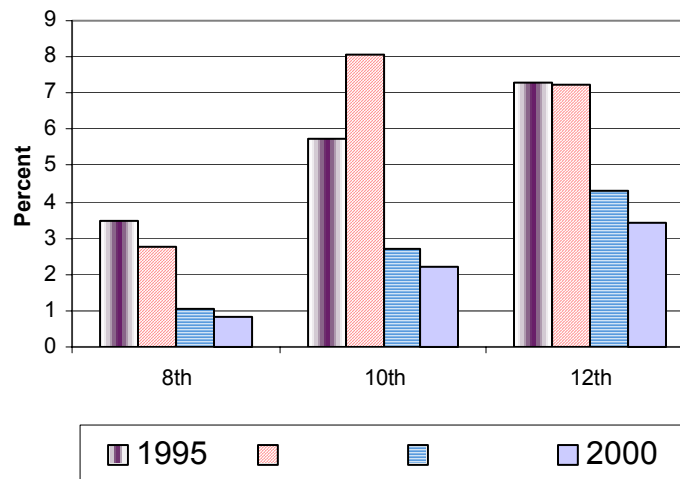
Past month hallucinogen use continued to decrease for male students, but did not decrease for female students. Use by female students remained below 2%.

### *Past Month Hallucinogen Use by Gender*



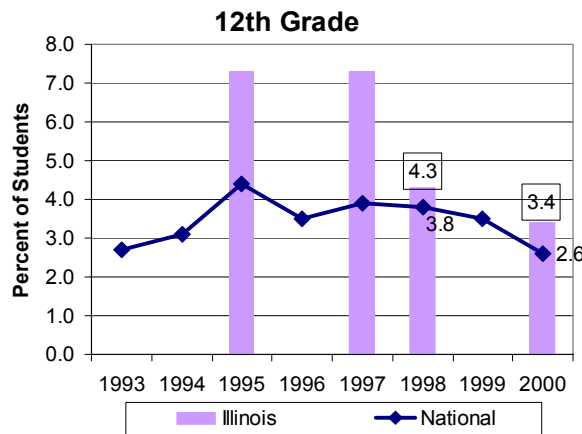
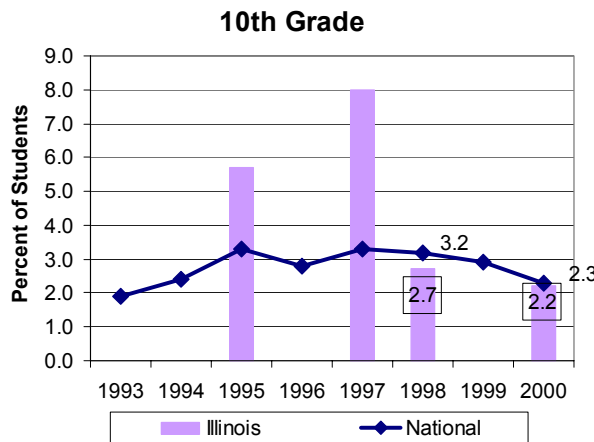
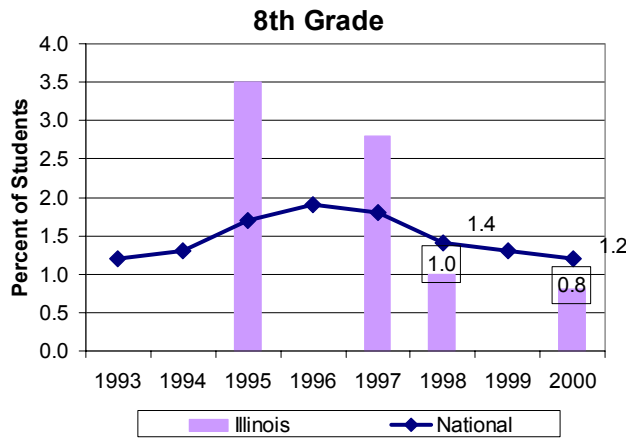
In 2000, students in all three grades reported continued decreases in past month hallucinogen use.

### *Past Month Hallucinogen Use by Grade*



Past month hallucinogen use in 2000 remained below national<sup>13</sup> rates among Illinois 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Rates were similar among 10<sup>th</sup> grade students in Illinois and nationally. Among 12<sup>th</sup> graders, although both Illinois and national rates decreased, the decrease was greater nationally. Illinois rates are in boxes.

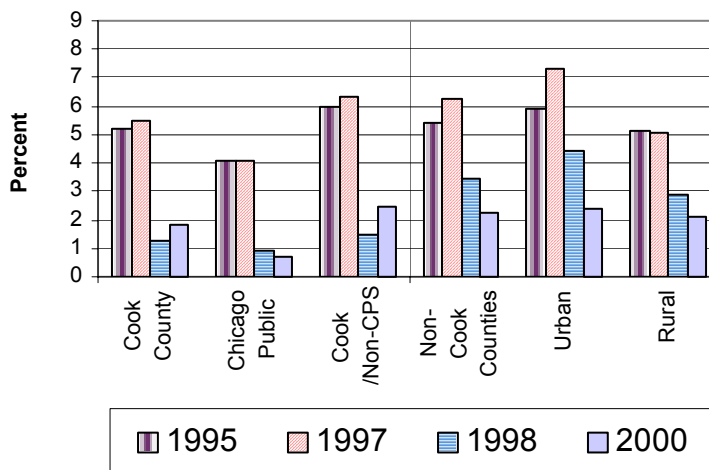
***Past Month Hallucinogen Use by Grade: Illinois vs. National***



<sup>13</sup> Source *Monitoring the Future 2000*.

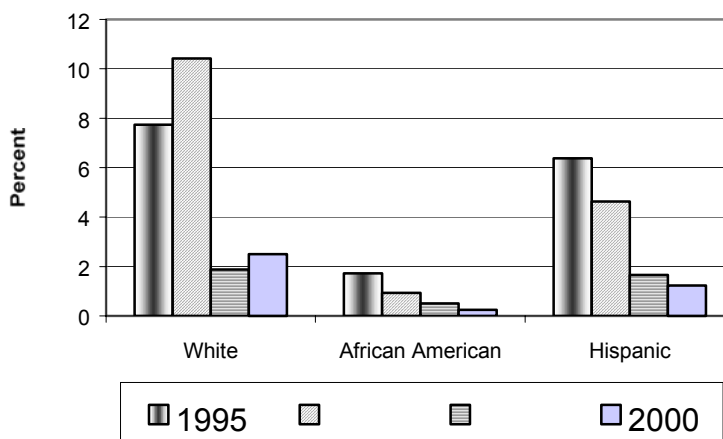
Past month hallucinogen use among non-Cook County students decreased in 2000 to just over 2%, dropping almost in half for urban students. Use among students from Cook County increased for non-CPS students, and decreased to less than 1% for CPS students.

**Past Month Hallucinogen Use by Region**



Past month hallucinogen use continued to decrease and remained less than 2% for African American and Hispanic Cook County students. Use among White students increased to more than 2% in 2000. Although the change from 1998 to 2000 was not significant for any group, the 2000 rates were significantly lower than 1995 rates for all three groups, and were significantly lower than 1997 rates for White and Hispanic students.

**Past Month Hallucinogen Use by Race (Cook County)**



**Chapter 10  
Other Drugs\***

**Table 10-1** shows the percent of 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who had used other drugs\* in the past month for the 1998 and 2000 *DASA/DHS Studies*. Data for Other Drugs was not available as a single category in 1995 or 1997.

**Table 10-1  
Percent of Students Using  
Other Drugs\* in the Past Month**

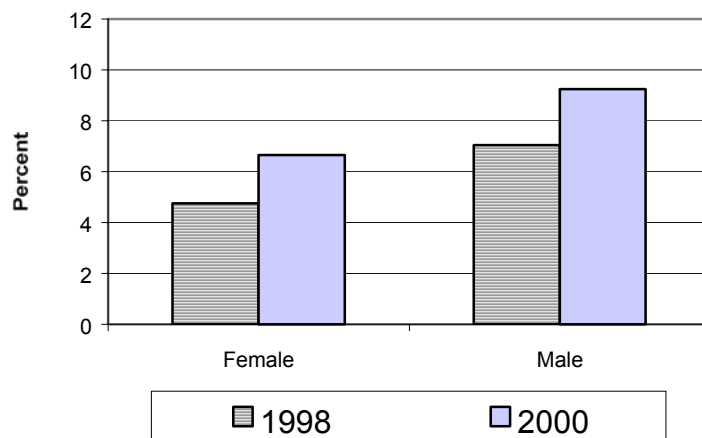
	Survey Year			
	1995	1997	1998	2000
<b>GENDER</b>				
Female			4.8	6.6
Male			7.0	9.2
<b>GRADE IN SCHOOL</b>				
8th			5.5	5.0
10th			6.2	9.1
12th			5.9	10.4
<b>REGION</b>				
Cook County			4.7	6.7
Chicago Public			3.2	4.7
Cook/Non-CPS			5.7	8.0
Non-Cook Counties			6.6	8.8
Urban			8.3	8.8
Rural			5.6	8.8
<b>Cook County Race Groups</b>				
White			5.9	7.6
African American			2.6	3.7
Hispanic			6.2	7.7
Other**			4.1	5.6
Native American**			6.6	35.3
<b>OVERALL</b>				
			5.9	8.0

\*Data would include Heroin, Uppers, Downers, and Other Drugs

\*\*Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.

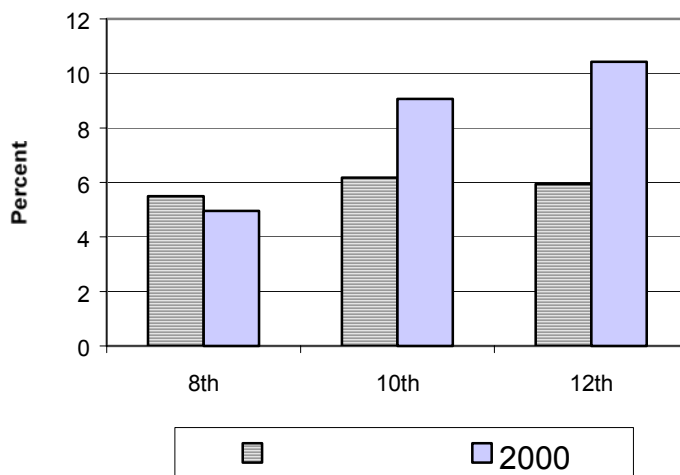
Use of other substances increased in 2000 for both male and female students. In 2000, use by female students was almost equal to the 1998 rate of use by male students.

***Past Month Use of Other Drugs by Gender***



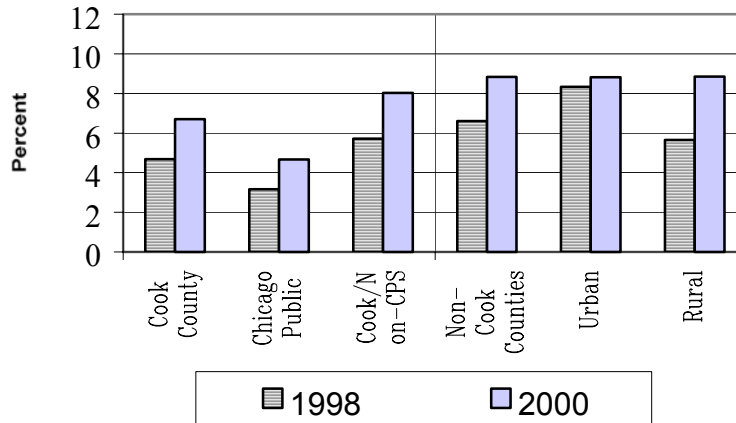
Use of other drugs increased for 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, but decreased slightly for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

***Past Month Use of Other Drugs by Grade***



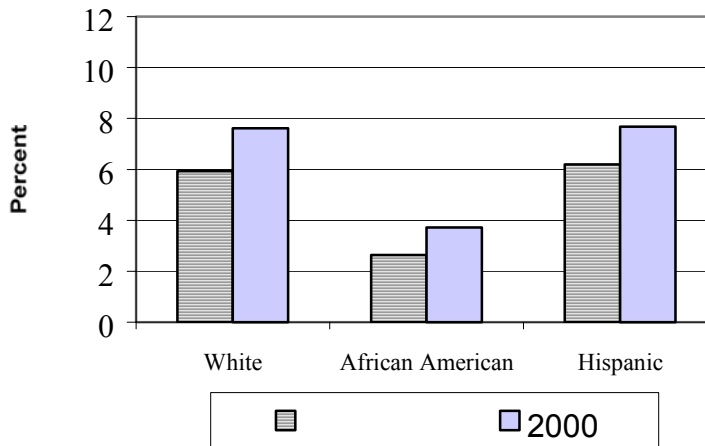
Past month use of other drugs increased for students in all regions. The smallest increase was among urban non-Cook County students who reported the highest rates of use in 1998, and remained tied for highest in 2000. The largest increase was among rural non-Cook County students.

***Past Month Use of Other Drugs by Region***

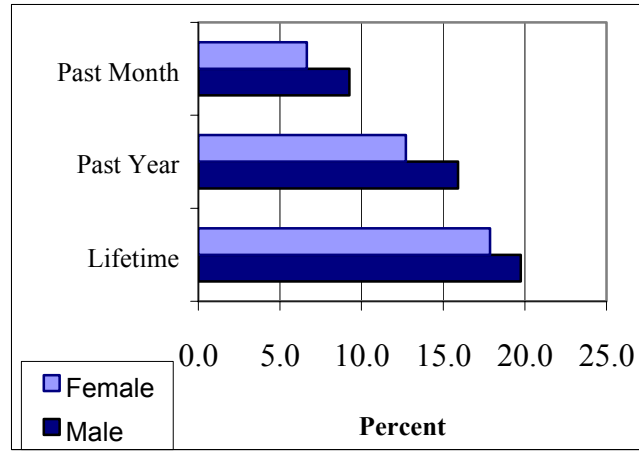


Past month use of other drugs increased among all three major race groups in Cook County. Use remained lowest for African American Cook County students.

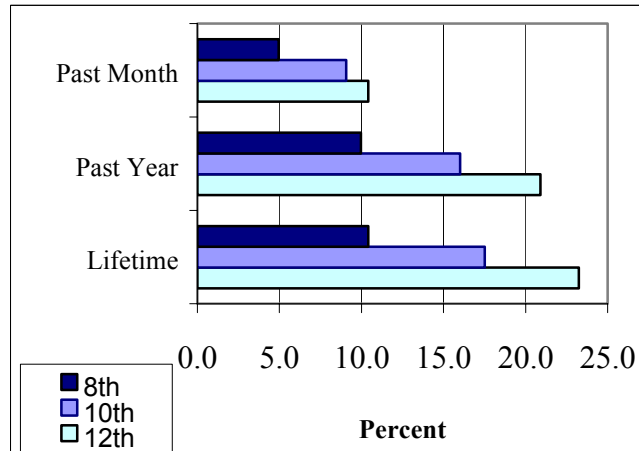
***Past Month Use of Other Drugs by Race (Cook County)***



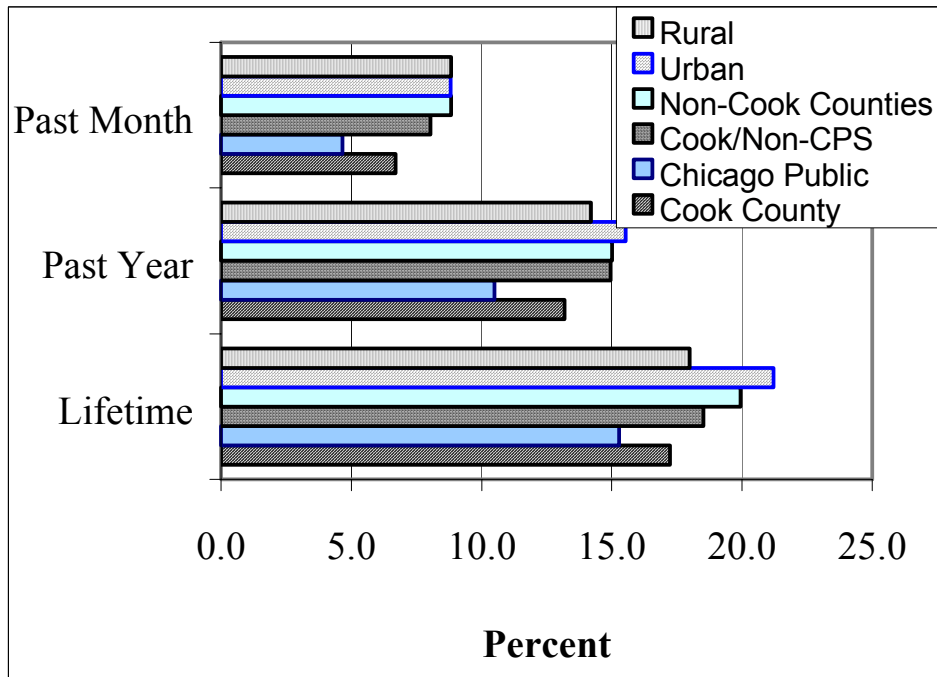
Use of other drugs in 2000 was consistently higher for male students than for female students.



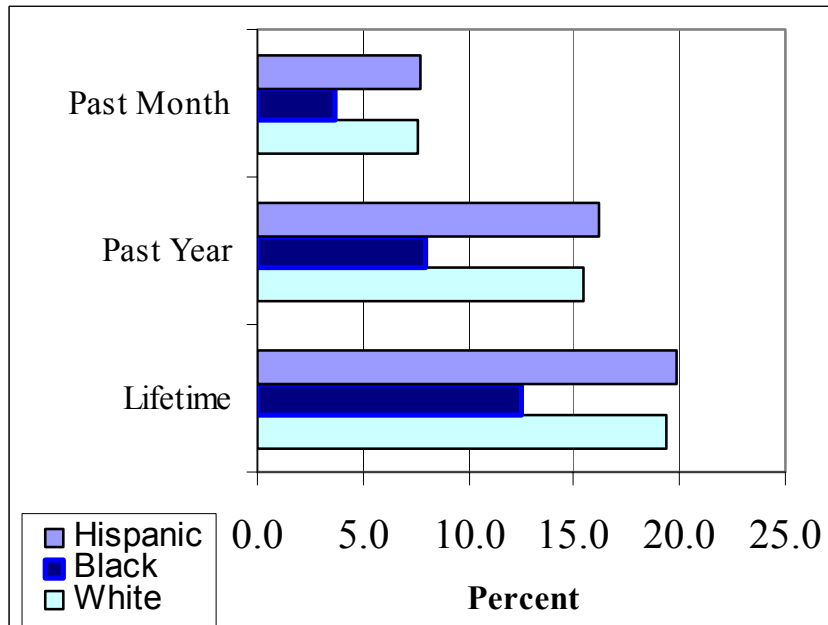
Lifetime, past year and past month use was lower for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in 2000, but was not significantly different for 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.



Urban students in non-Cook counties reported the highest lifetime and past year rates of other drug use in 2000. Chicago Public School students reported the lowest rates of other drug use in all three time periods.



Among Cook County students, use of other drugs was lower among African American students than among White or Hispanic students.





**Chapter 11**  
**Use of Gateway Substances**  
**(including: alcohol, tobacco and marijuana)**

**Table 11-1** shows the percent of 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who had used any gateway substance in the past month for the 1995, 1997, 1998 and 2000 *DASA/DHS Studies*.

**Table 11-1**  
**Percent of Students Using**  
**Gateway Substances\* in the Past Month**

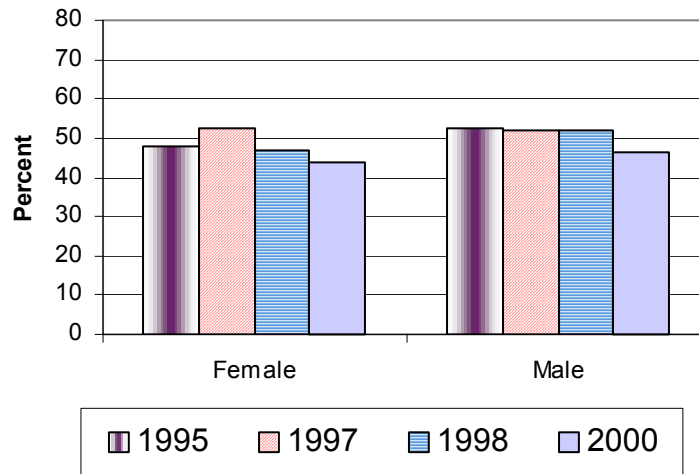
	Survey Year			
	1995	1997	1998	2000
<b>GENDER</b>				
Female	47.7	52.7	46.7	43.8
Male	52.3	52.2	51.8	46.3
<b>GRADE IN SCHOOL</b>				
8th	40.1	40.3	35.6	29.2
10th	51.2	53.4	51.1	47.3
12th	60.9	65.6	62.3	61.3
<b>REGION</b>				
Cook County	49.0	48.9	47.2	41.9
Chicago Public	41.4	38.1	38.9	41.2
Cook/Non-CPS	54.0	56.1	52.7	42.3
Non-Cook Counties	50.6	54.8	50.3	47.0
Urban	53.1	57.5	55.4	47.7
Rural	49.1	51.5	47.4	45.8
<b>Cook County Race Groups</b>				
White	60.6	59.6	57.8	47.1
African American	36.8	37.8	35.5	30.9
Hispanic	51.0	50.6	47.8	46.9
Other**	30.0	44.3	50.0	36.7
Native American**	69.1	46.7	54.0	72.1
<b>OVERALL</b>	49.9	52.5	49.1	45.0

\*Alcohol, Tobacco and Marijuana

\*\*Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.

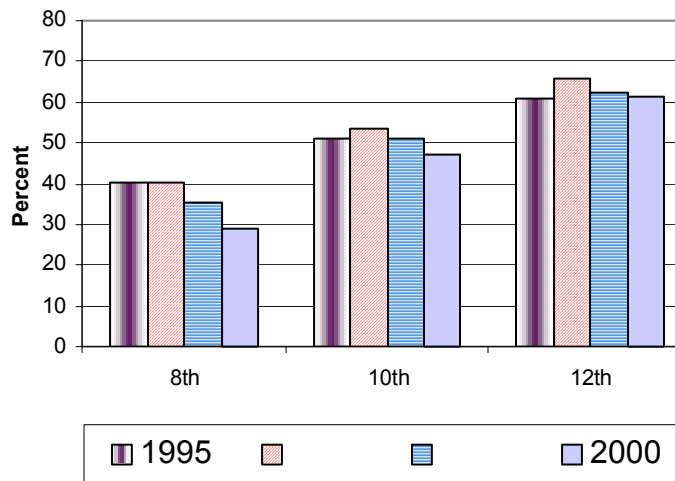
Past month use of gateway substances decreased for both male and female students in 2000. The decrease was greater for males than for females. Use by males in 2000 was comparable to the rate by females in 1998.

***Past Month Gateway Substance Use by Gender***



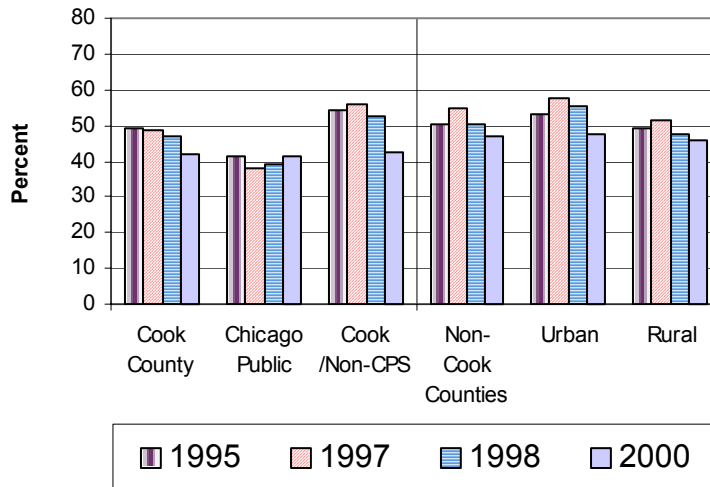
Past month use of gateway substances in 2000 decreased significantly for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students since 1998, for 10<sup>th</sup> grade students since 1997, but remained stable for 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

***Past Month Gateway Substance Use by Grade***



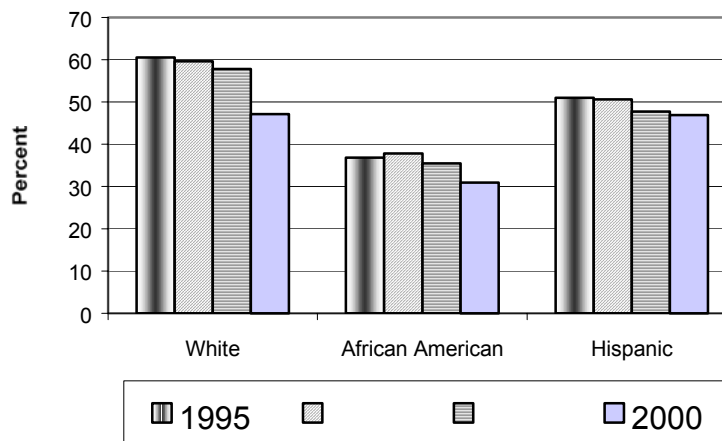
Past month gateway use declined significantly for Cook County students overall, but this was purely due to decreases among Non-CPS Cook County students. Use also decreased significantly among Non-Cook urban students.

***Past Month Gateway Substance Use by Region***



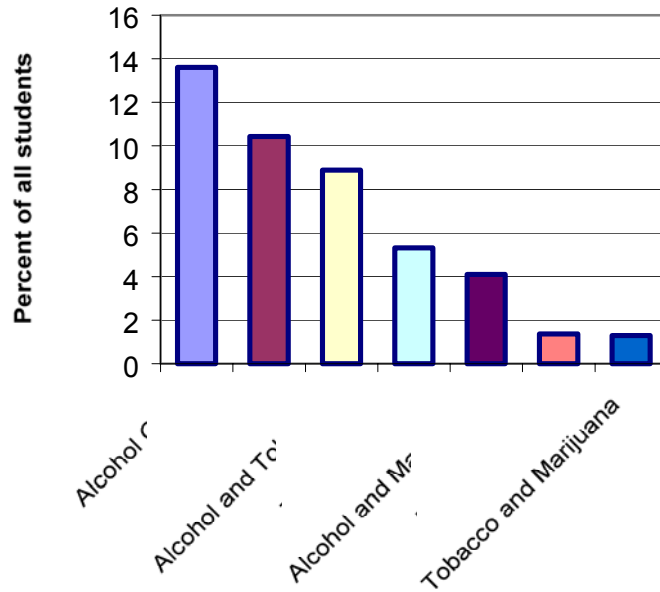
Past month gateway use decreased significantly from 1998 to 2000 among White Cook County students, decreased from 1997 to 2000 among African American students and remained stable for the Hispanic Cook County students.

***Past Month Gateway Substance Use by Race (Cook County)***



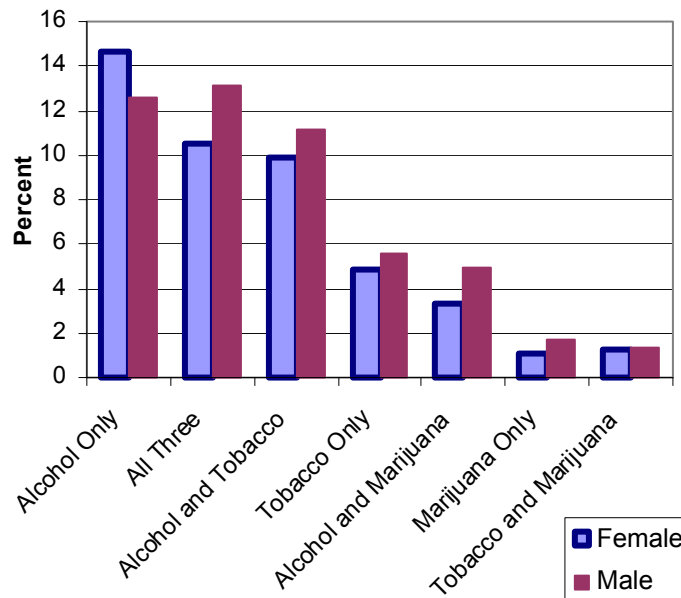
Alcohol alone is the most commonly used gateway substance (used by 13.6% of students), followed by a combination of all alcohol, tobacco and marijuana. Fifty-five percent of the students had used no gateway substance.

***Patterns of Gateway Substance Use***



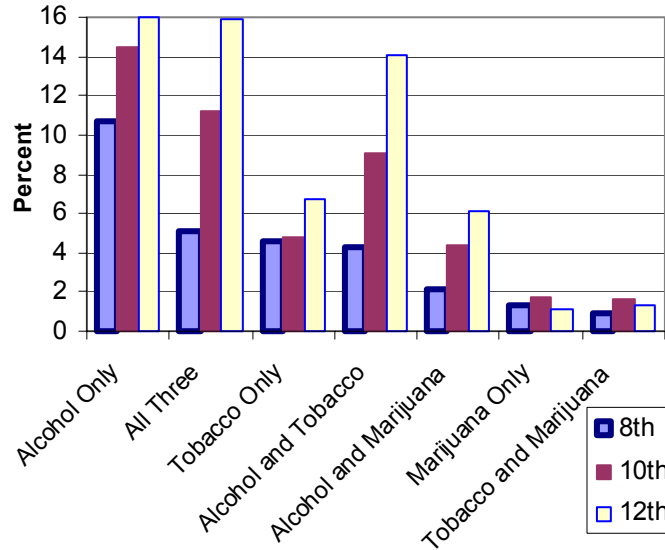
Female students used alcohol only more frequently than male students did. Male students were higher or equal on all other combinations.

***Patterns of Gateway Substance Use by Gender***



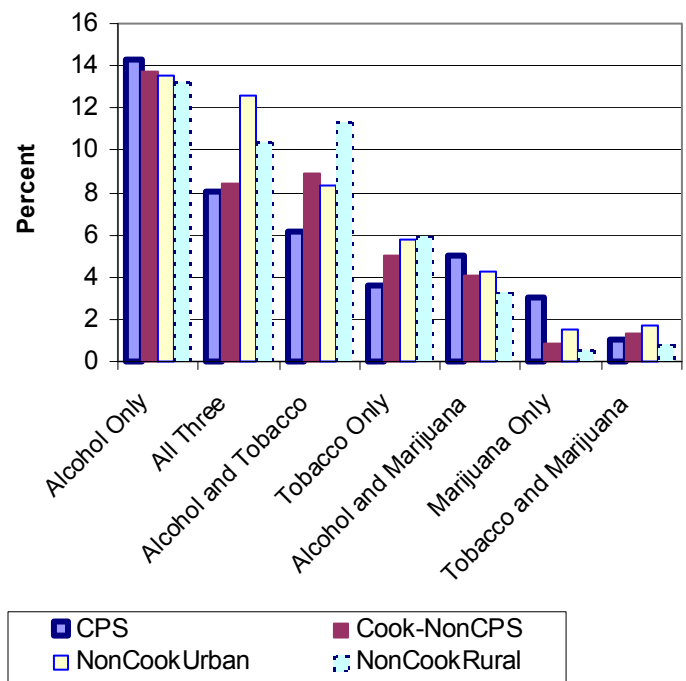
Twelfth grade students use alcohol only or alcohol and tobacco in combination, or all three gateway substances more commonly than other combinations. Tenth grade students report using marijuana only or tobacco and marijuana in combination more than eighth or twelfth grade students. Eighth grade students report a high level of tobacco only.

*Patterns of Gateway Substance Use by Grade*



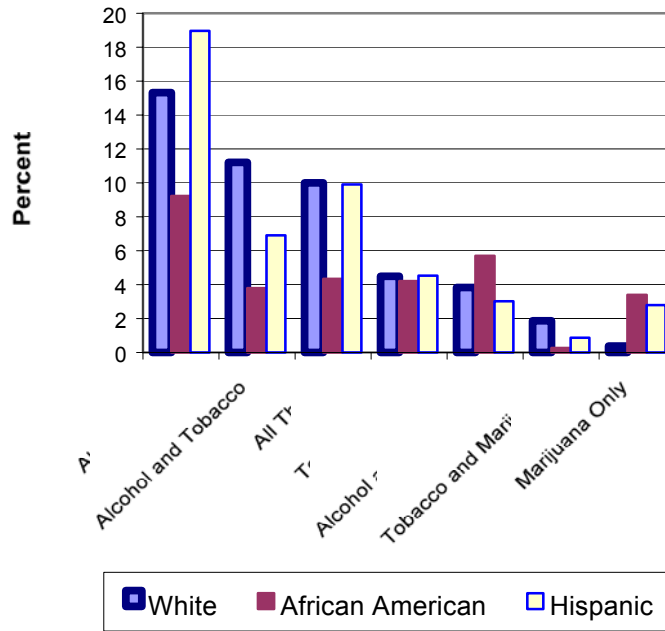
Regional differences in gateway combinations are also evident. Urban non-Cook county students report the highest rates of all three substances, marijuana only, or tobacco and marijuana in combination. Rural non-Cook County students report the highest rates of alcohol and tobacco and tobacco only. Chicago Public School students reported the highest rates of alcohol only, alcohol and marijuana in combination and marijuana only. Other Cook County students did not report the highest or lowest rates for any combination of substances. All 4 regions were very similar in use of alcohol only.

***Patterns of Gateway Substance Use by Region***



Within Cook County, there are different patterns of gateway substance use by racial group. White and Hispanic students are most likely to use alcohol alone or in combination with tobacco. African American students are most likely to use alcohol alone or in combination with marijuana. Hispanic students are more likely to use alcohol alone than White and African American students are. African American students are more likely to use alcohol and marijuana or marijuana alone than White and Hispanic students are.

***Patterns of Gateway Substance Use among Cook County students by Race***



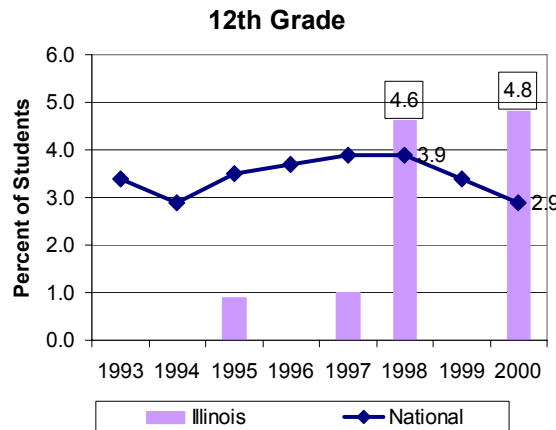
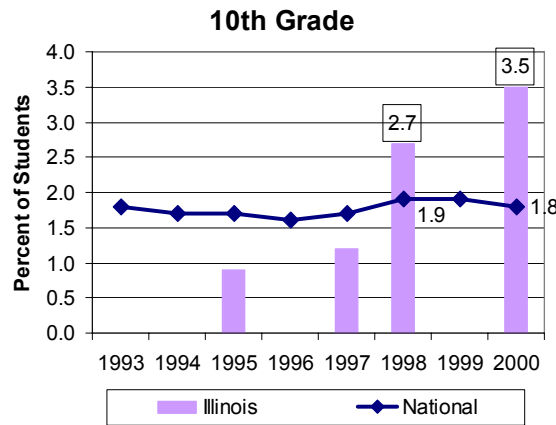
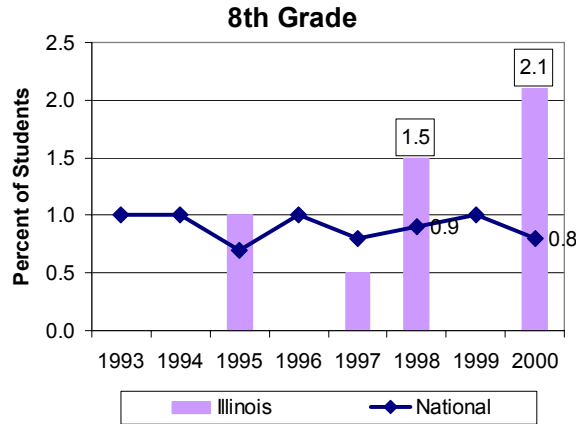


## *Chapter 12* *Daily Use of Selected Substances*

### Alcohol

In 2000, Illinois students reported increasingly more daily alcohol use compared to students nationally<sup>14</sup>. Daily use of alcohol increased for each grade in Illinois and decreased slightly or remained stable for each grade nationally.

### *Daily Alcohol Use by Grade: Illinois vs. National*

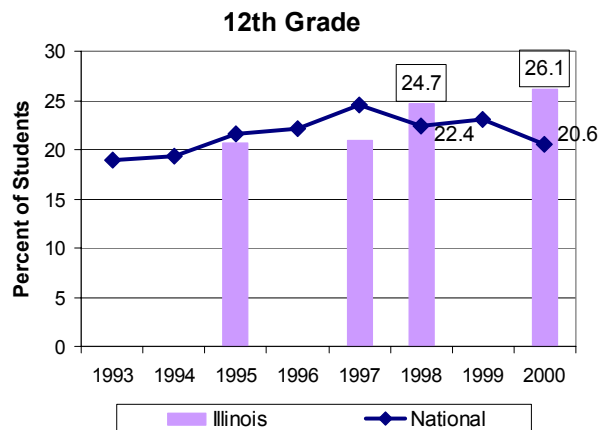
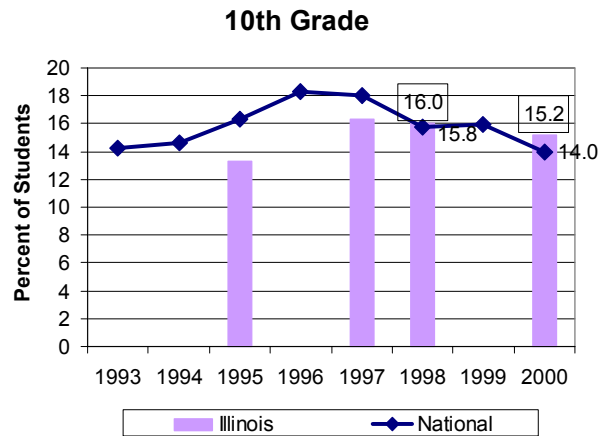
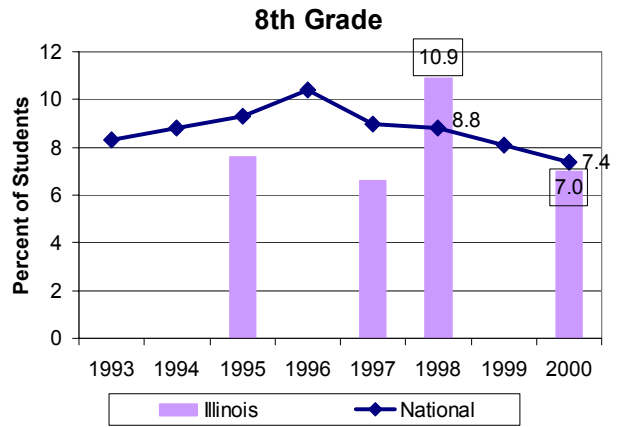


<sup>14</sup> Source *Monitoring the Future 2000*

Tobacco

Daily use of tobacco was higher among Illinois 12<sup>th</sup> grade students than among their national<sup>15</sup> counterparts. Due to increases in use by Illinois 12<sup>th</sup> graders and decreases nationally, this difference was even greater than in 1998. Daily use of tobacco was similar for 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students in Illinois and their national counterparts.

*Daily Tobacco Use by Grade: Illinois vs. National*

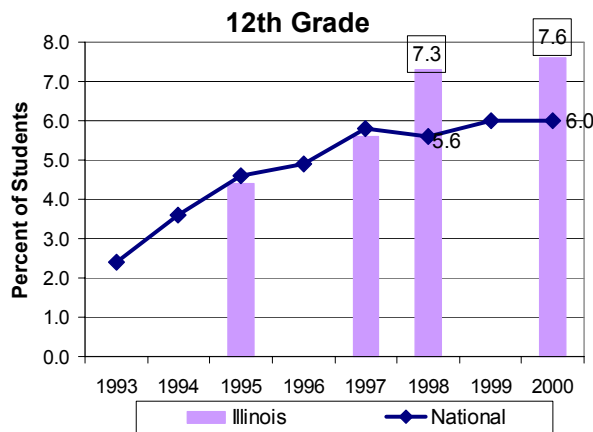
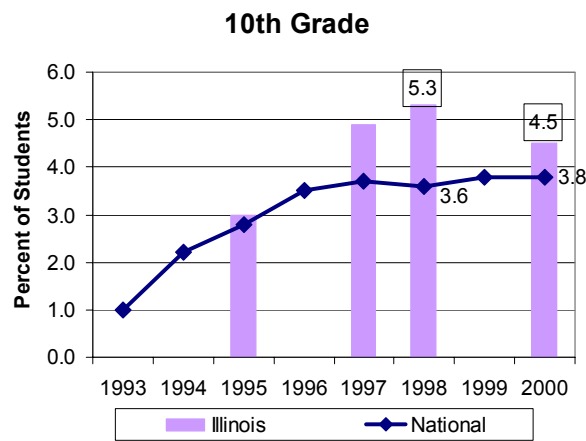
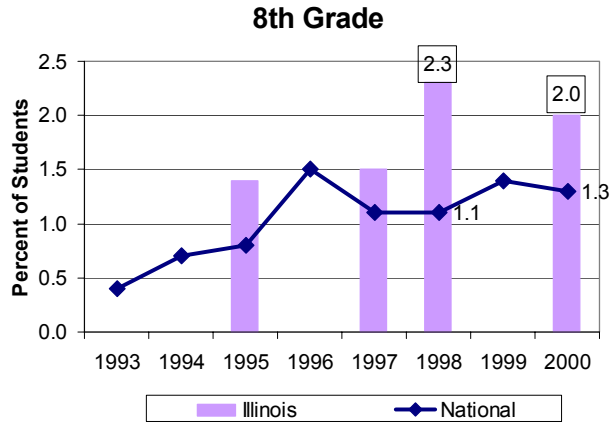


<sup>15</sup> Source *Monitoring the Future 2000*

Marijuana

In 2000, despite decreases in daily use among 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students, daily use of marijuana was higher for each grade in Illinois than nationally<sup>16</sup>.

*Daily Marijuana Use by Grade: Illinois vs. National*

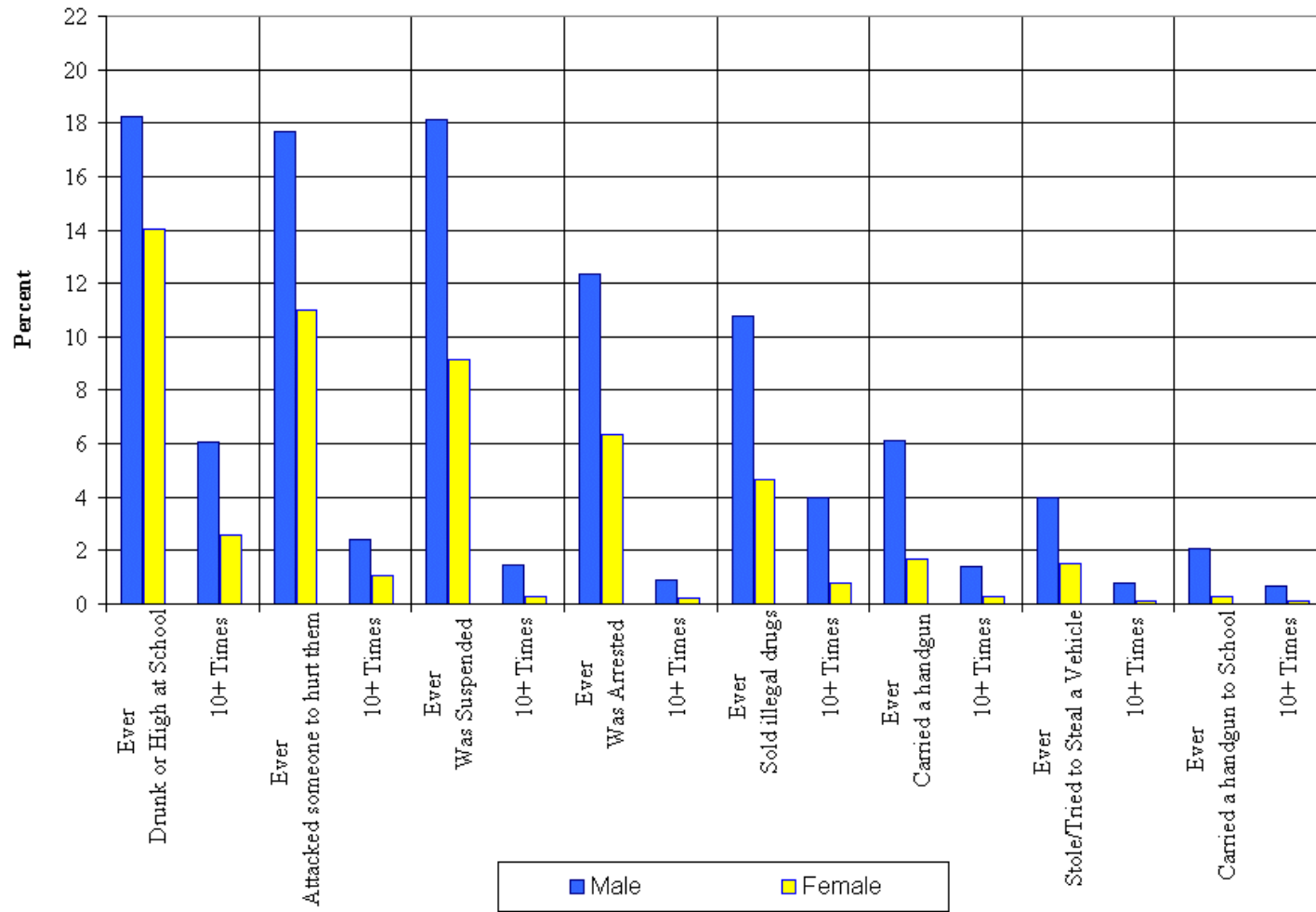


16

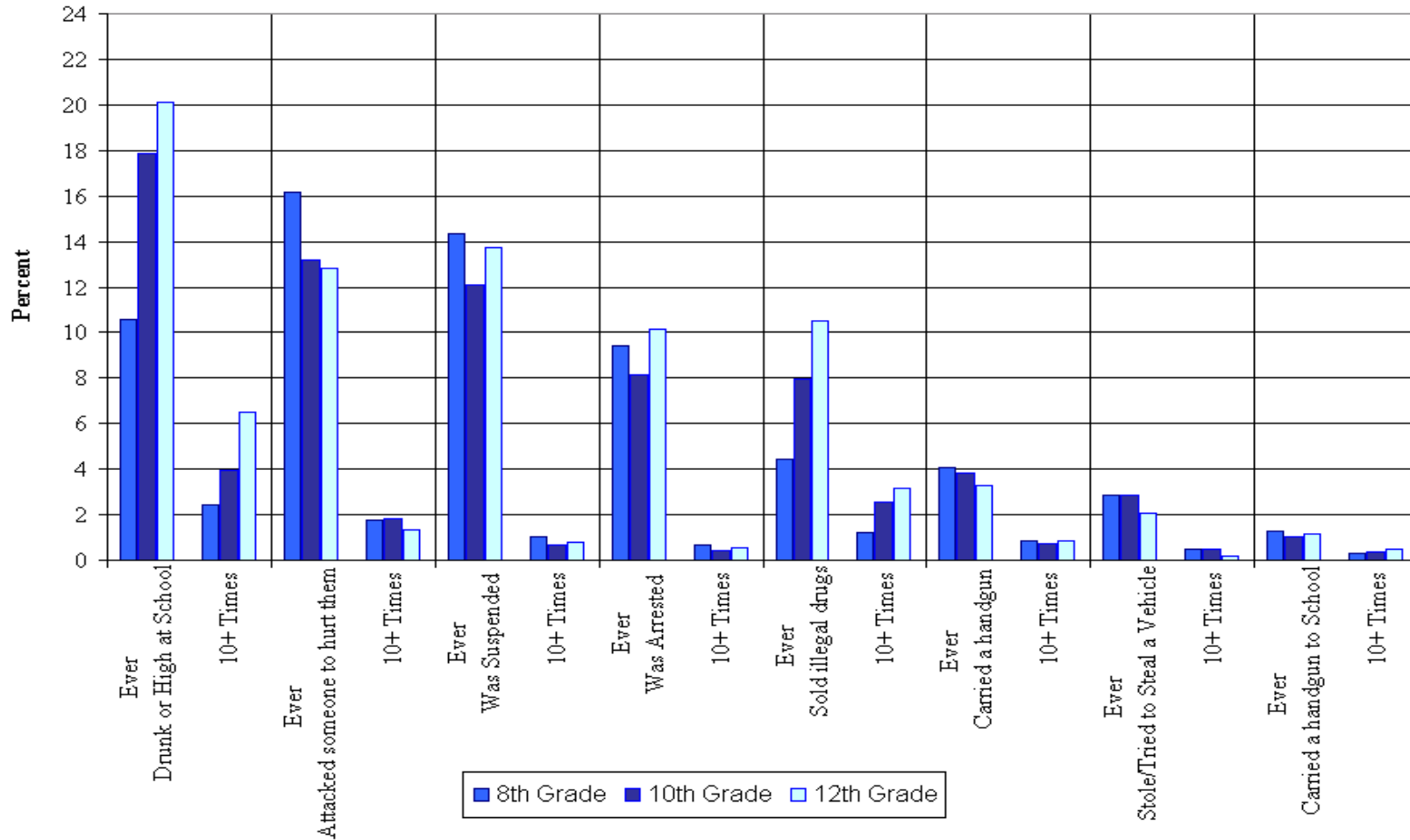


**Chapter 13**  
**Problems and Risk Behaviors**

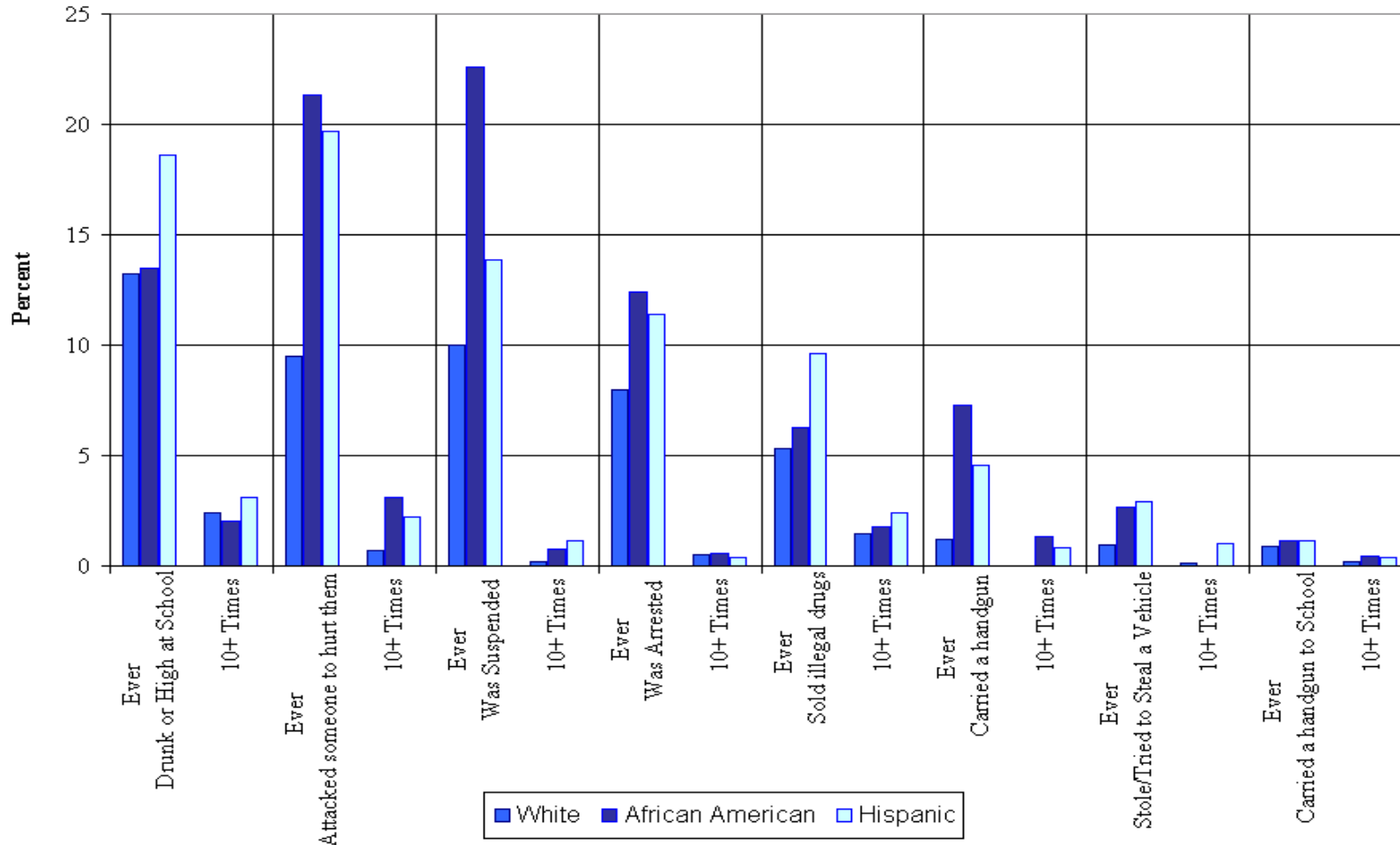
Risk behaviors are more prevalent among male students. There is a different pattern for students reporting ever engaging in a risk behavior than for reporting frequently (10 or more times) engaging in a risk behavior.



Two risk behaviors increased with grade (ever drunk or high at school and ever sold illegal drugs). Three, (ever attacked someone to hurt them, ever carried a handgun and ever stole/tried to steal a vehicle), decreased with grade. Two, (suspension from school and ever arrested), showed a drop from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> grade and an increase in 12<sup>th</sup> grade as well. Ever carried a handgun to school was virtually the same across all three grades.



Among Cook County students, there are racial differences for ever or frequently engaging in risk behaviors. For example, African American students report ever having attacked someone or been suspended at more than twice the rate of White students. Hispanic students were more likely to ever have been drunk or high at school or to have sold illegal drugs than White or African American students.



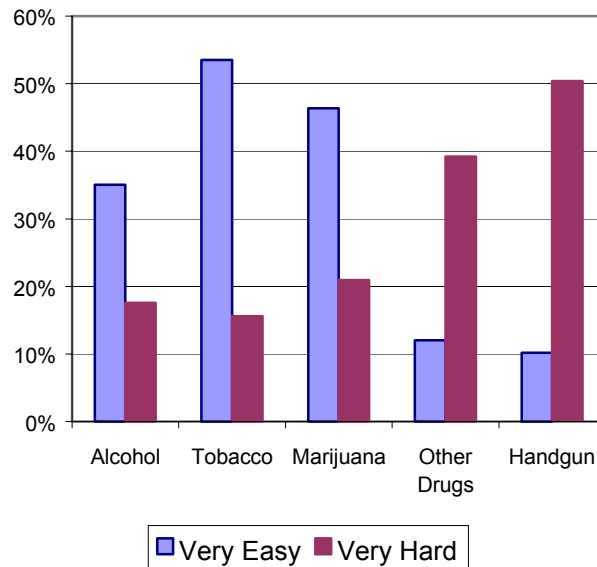


**Chapter 14**  
**Initiation and Quitting**

**Access**

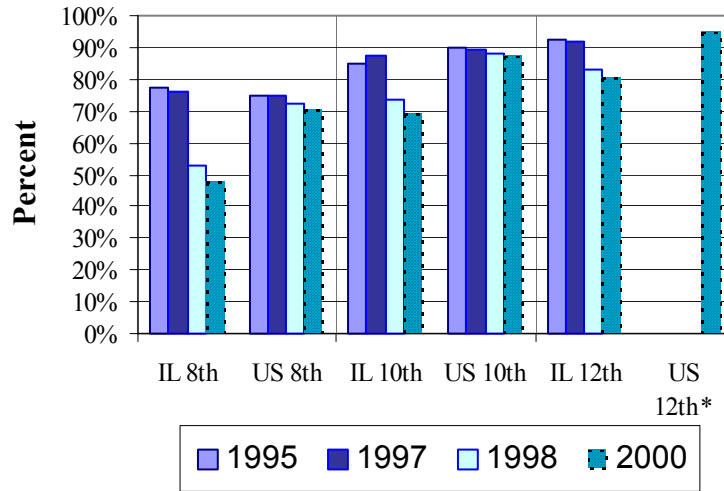
More than 50% of all students surveyed in 1998 believed that it was “Very Easy” to obtain tobacco. However, fewer than 50% thought marijuana was “Very Easy” to get, down from over 50% in 1998. Alcohol was viewed as somewhat harder to obtain than tobacco or marijuana, while other drugs and handguns were generally considered hard to obtain. However, 50% or fewer thought that either other drugs or handguns would be “Very Hard” to obtain, and more than 10% thought these items would be “Very Easy” to obtain.

***Difficulty of obtaining various substances or guns: 2000***



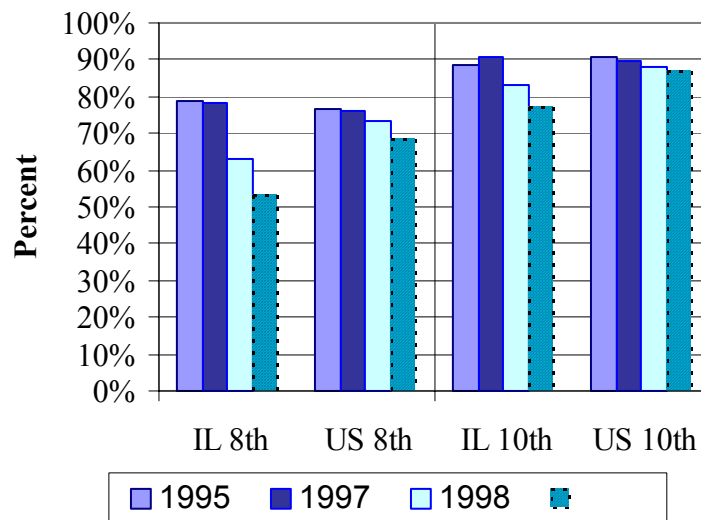
Compared to students nationally<sup>17</sup>, fewer students in Illinois found alcohol and tobacco “Very Easy” or “Sort of/Fairly Easy to get. Seventy percent or more of Illinois 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders found alcohol and tobacco “Very Easy” or “Sort of/Fairly Easy” to get. Ease of access showed slight decreases for most grades in Illinois and nationally.

***Percent of students reporting that alcohol was Very Easy or Sort of/Fairly Easy to get***



\*MTF added availability for 12<sup>th</sup> graders in 1999.

***Percent of students reporting that cigarettes Were Very Easy or Sort of/Fairly Easy to get\****

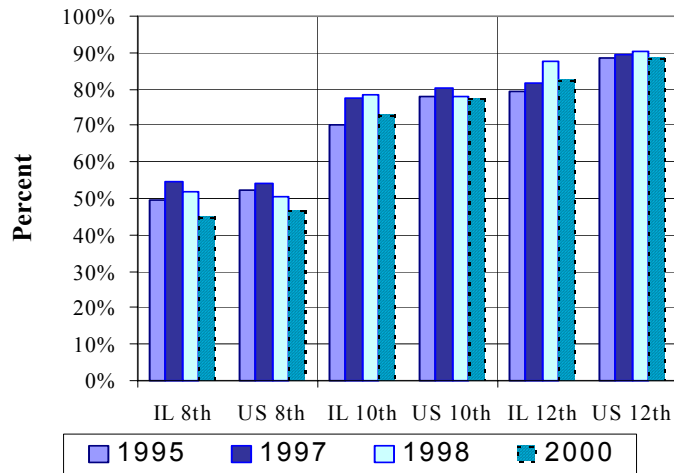


\*MTF does not report ease of access for 12<sup>th</sup> grade students since use is legal for 18 year olds.

<sup>17</sup> Source *Monitoring the Future 2000*

A similar percentage of Illinois and national<sup>18</sup> students reported it was easy to get marijuana. More than seventy percent of Illinois 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders found marijuana “Very Easy” or “Sort of/Fairly Easy” to get. Ease of access was lower in 2000 than in 1998.

***Percent of students reporting that marijuana Was Very Easy or Sort of/Fairly Easy to get***

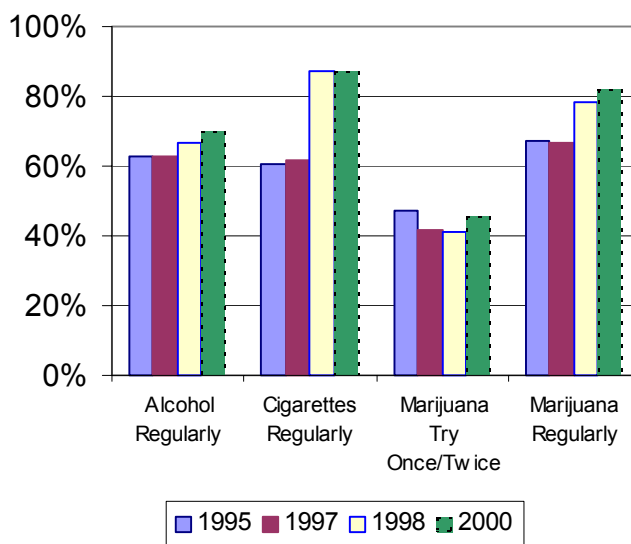


<sup>18</sup> Source *Monitoring the Future 2000*

### *Perception of harm*

A greater percentage of students saw regular use of alcohol, trying marijuana or regular use of marijuana as risky in 2000 than in earlier years. Perception of harm did not change for regular use of tobacco.<sup>19</sup>

#### *Perceived harm in use of various substances Percent perceiving “Great or Moderate” Harm.*

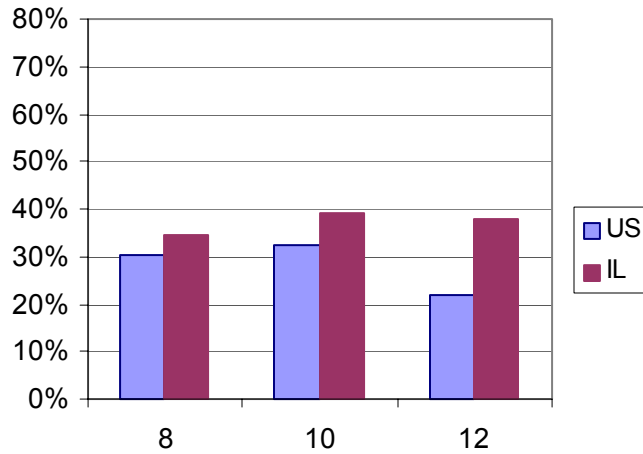


Illinois students are somewhat more likely than students nationally<sup>20</sup> to perceive great risk associated with regular use of alcohol, particularly in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

#### *Percent of students indicating ‘great’ risk of harm With regular use of alcohol*

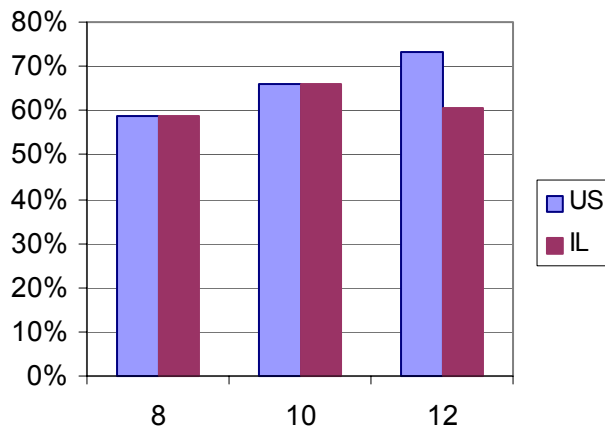
<sup>19</sup>It should be noted that the 1998 and 2000 survey included harm questions for only those substances listed, and that the 1995 and 1997 responses for these questions were slightly different than those in 1998 and 2000. In this figure, the 1995 and 1997 results represent the percent who believed use was “very likely to harm someone who uses it”.

<sup>20</sup> Source *Monitoring the Future 2000*



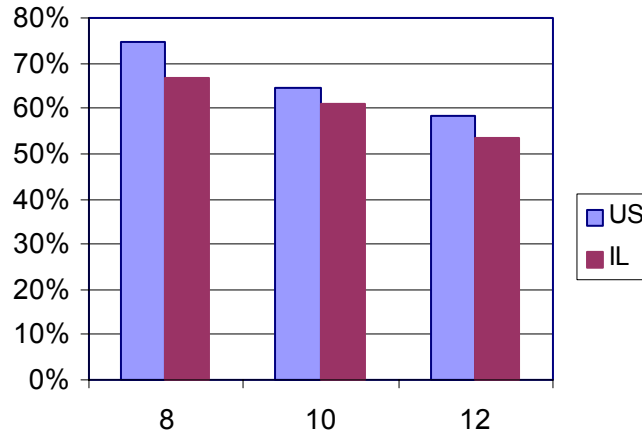
While 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders in Illinois are as likely as national 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders to perceive great risk with regular tobacco use, far fewer 12<sup>th</sup> graders in Illinois (60% compared to 73% nationally) perceived great risk.

***Percent of students indicating ‘great’ risk of harm  
With regular use of tobacco***



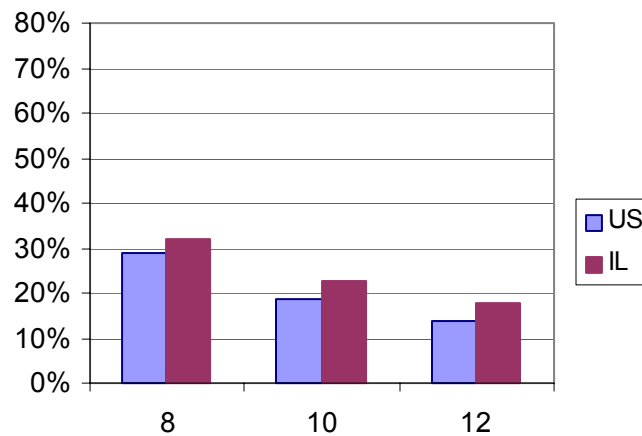
Illinois students are less likely than students nationally<sup>21</sup> to see great risk in regular use of marijuana. This is particularly true for 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 67% of whom perceive great risk, compared to 75% of students nationally.

***Percent of students indicating 'great' risk of harm  
With regular use of marijuana***



Illinois students were somewhat more likely than their national counterparts to perceive great risk in using marijuana once or twice. Less than one third of students in Illinois or nationally perceive great risk in trying marijuana. At the same time, more than 50% of Illinois students believed that trying marijuana once or twice involved no risk or only slight risk of harm.

***Percent of students indicating 'great' risk of harm  
With one or two uses of marijuana***



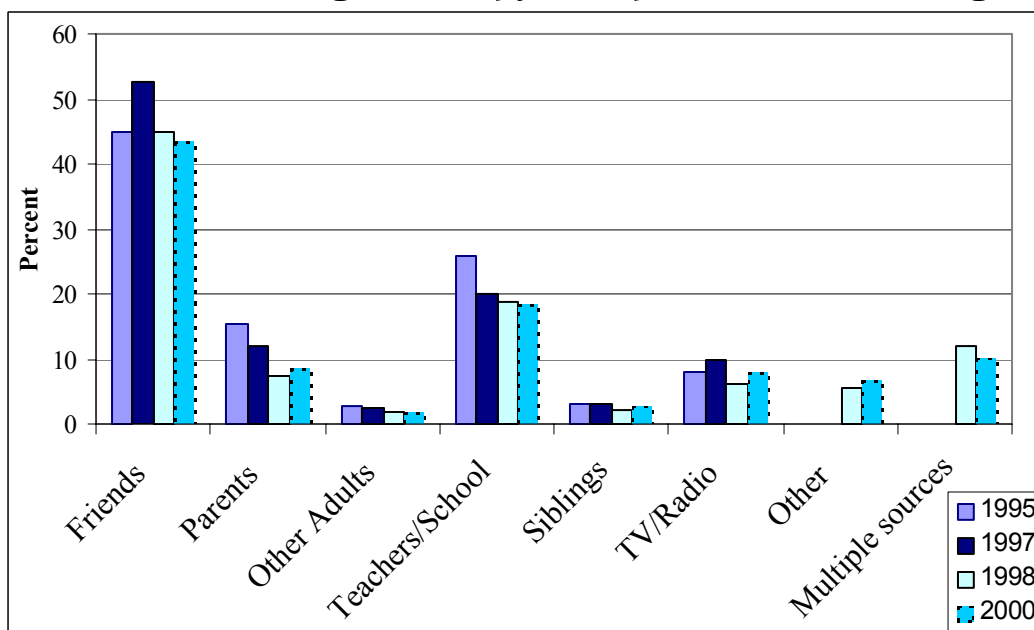
<sup>21</sup> Source *Monitoring the Future 2000*

### Source of ATOD Information

The question about source of information changed in 1998 from a single response to an item allowing multiple responses. In 1998, 12% of the students indicated multiple sources and in 2000, 10% did so. Thus, it is difficult to make a direct comparison between the two years. In addition, the option “Teachers” as a source of information in 1997 was changed to “School” in 1998. Although most students would likely interpret “School” to mean teachers, it is possible that some students may have interpreted it to mean other children at school.

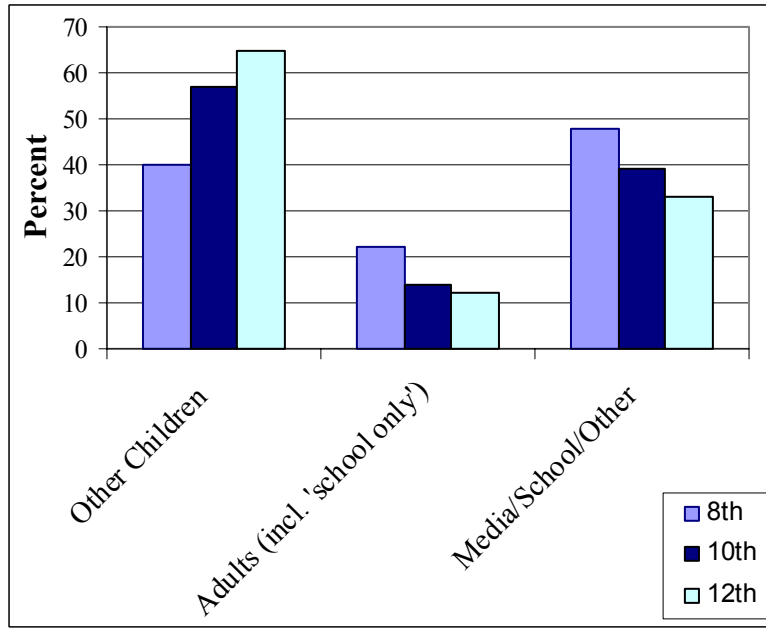
In 2000, 54% of the students (down from 56% in 1997 and 1998) received most of their information about ATOD from other children (friends or siblings), 35% received their information from adults (parents, teachers/school (alone) or other adults), and 41% received their information from the media, school (combined) or other sources.

*Where do students “get most of your information about drugs”?*



The percent of students getting information from other children, primarily friends, increases by grade, while the percent getting information from adults or media/school decreases by grade.

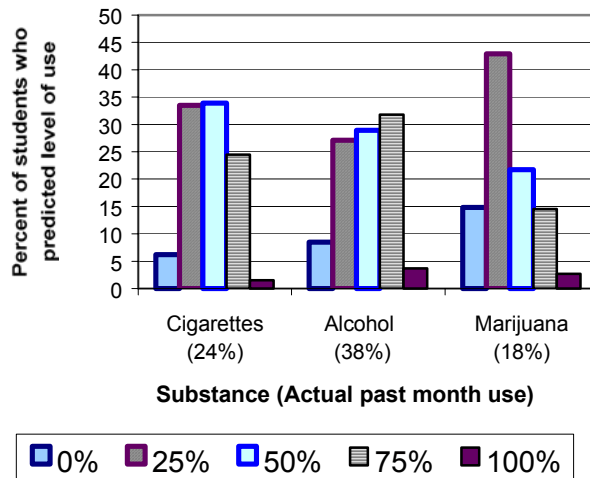
***Drug information from children, adults or other sources by Grade***



### *Peer Substance Use*

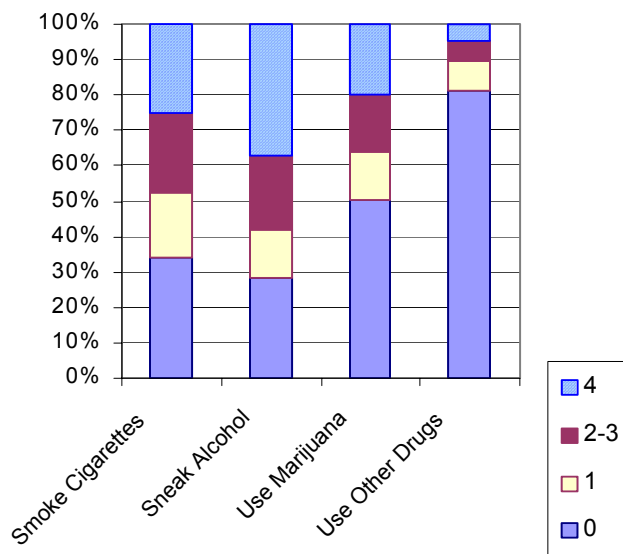
Students were asked to indicate the number of students out of 100 who used various substances. The figure below shows their responses to these questions. As can be seen, students tended to overestimate the percent of peers who use substances, particularly cigarettes and alcohol. More than half of the students estimated that 50% or more students their age used cigarettes or alcohol, when in fact it is far fewer. The percent listed in parentheses below the substance name indicates the actual percent who reported past month use of the substance.

***Perceived use of Gateway substances by peers***



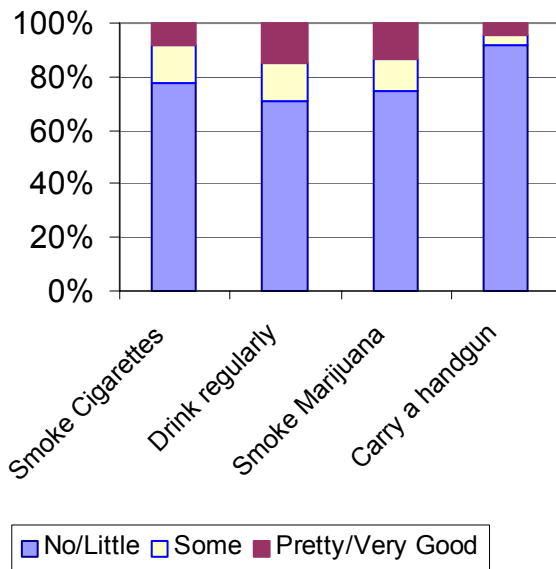
A large percentage of students reported that none of their 4 closest friends had used other drugs (79%) or marijuana (50%). A large percentage (37%) had reported that all of their 4 closest friends had tried alcohol ‘when their parents didn’t know about it’.

**Number of 4 best friends who:**



The majority of students reported that there was little or no chance of being seen as cool if they smoked cigarettes, drank regularly, smoked marijuana or carried a handgun. Drinking and smoking marijuana were associated with the greatest chances of being seen as cool.

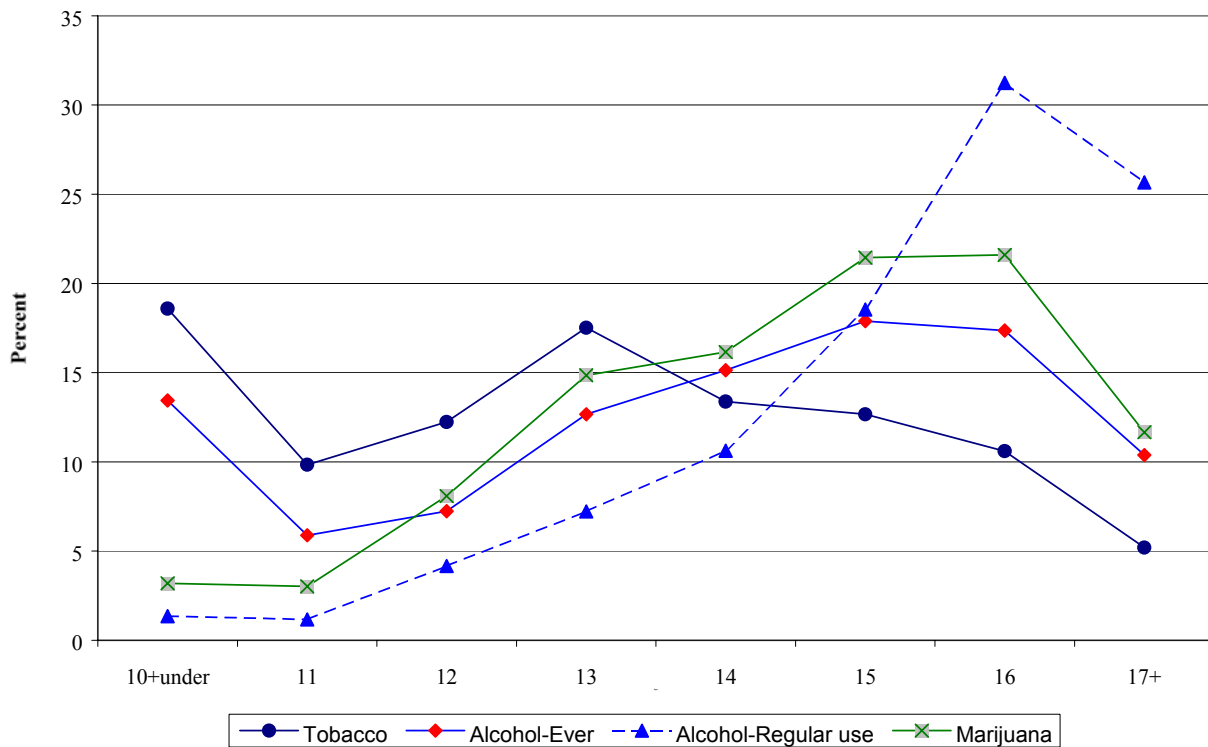
**Chance of being seen as cool if you:**



### Age of Initiation

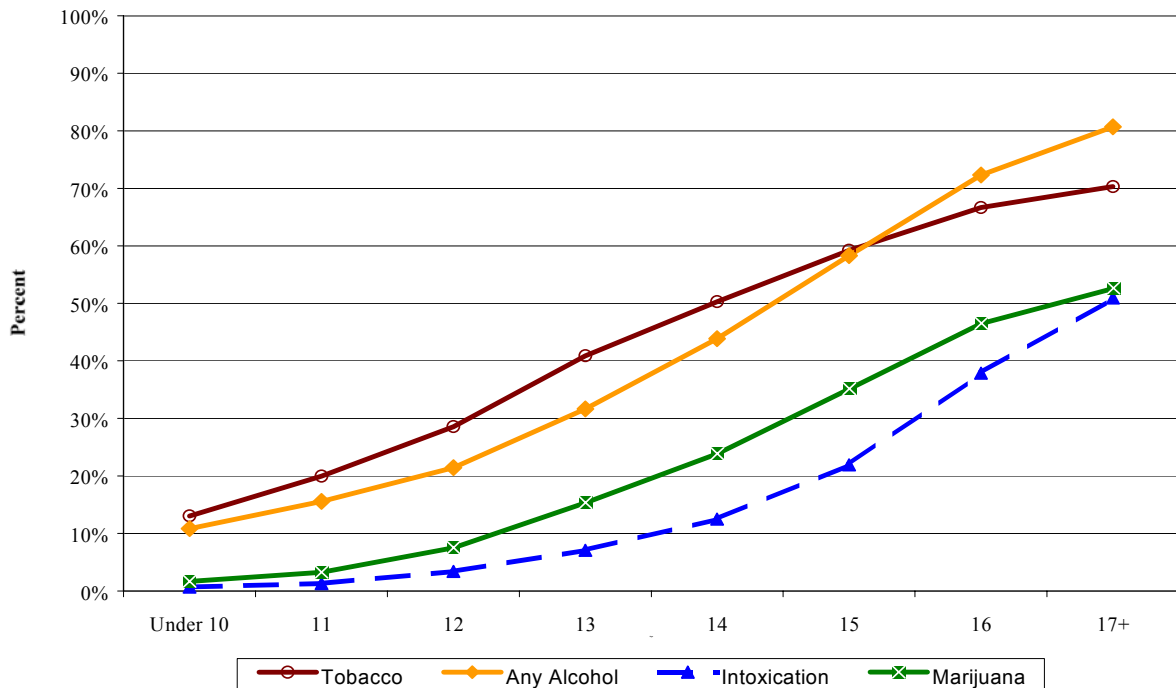
Twelfth grade students had initiated tobacco or alcohol use at age 10 or under to a greater degree than trying marijuana or becoming intoxicated. Initiation of tobacco by twelfth graders had peaked by about age 13. Initiation of alcohol peaked at age 15, while initiation of marijuana and alcohol intoxication peaked at age 16. A large proportion of twelfth graders initiated regular alcohol use at age 16.

Age of First use-12th Grade Only



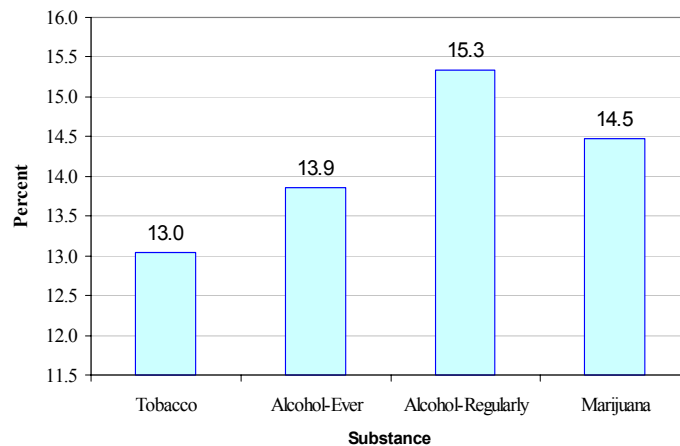
The chart below shows the percent of students who had used by a given age. This differs from the above chart in that each age includes the percent of students who had begun at an earlier age (cumulative). This chart indicates that students in Illinois tend to begin using tobacco at the earliest age (50% of those who smoke had begun by age 14), followed by trying alcohol (50% just after age 14), trying marijuana (50% just before age 17) and using alcohol regularly (50% by age 17).

**Age of First use-12th Grade Only**



Another way to look at order of onset is using mean age. The mean age of initiation among twelfth grade students was highest for regular alcohol use and lowest for tobacco use.

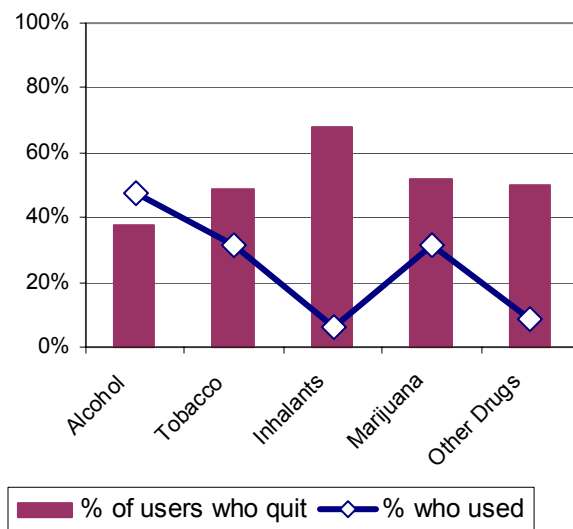
**Mean Age at first use\*-12th grade only**



### Percent Quitting

Of those who had used alcohol<sup>22</sup> (47% of all students had used alcohol), 38% reported a reason for quitting. Thus, the proportion of students still using alcohol was the highest compared to the other substances shown below (i.e. the percent who had quit was lowest.) Conversely, those who had used inhalants had the highest percent of users reporting a reason for quitting (68%) and the lowest continued use (32%).

**Percent who quit using various substances as a percentage of those who used**

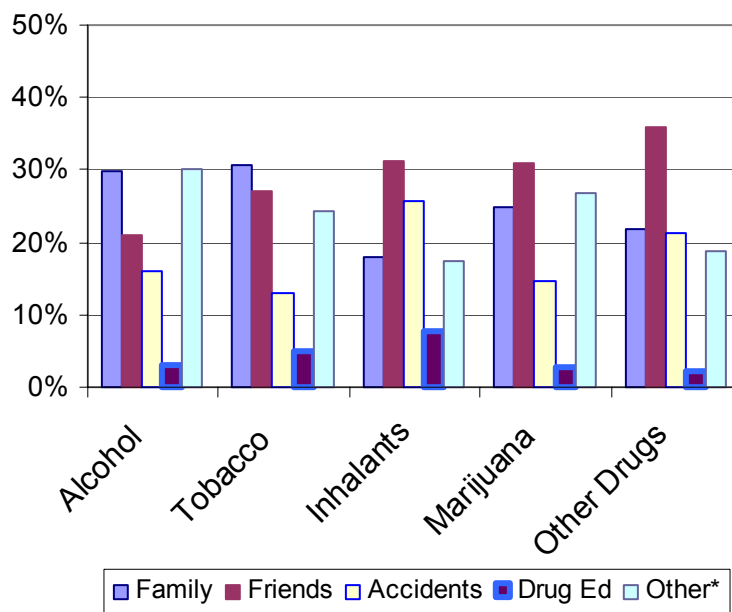


<sup>22</sup> Based on this item which identifies “have not used”, “have not quit” or “reason for quitting”, percentages may differ from items based on other use variables.

### Reasons for Quitting

For students who used substances, the three key influences on quitting were family, friends, and substance-related deaths, accidents or stories. A large proportion of students reporting “Other” reasons, reported combinations of several reasons. Family was the strongest single influence for those who quit using alcohol or tobacco (cigarettes or smokeless), while friends were the strongest single influence among those who quit using inhalants, marijuana or other drugs. Substance related deaths, accidents, or stories had the strongest impact among those who quit using inhalants.

**Reason for quitting various substances**

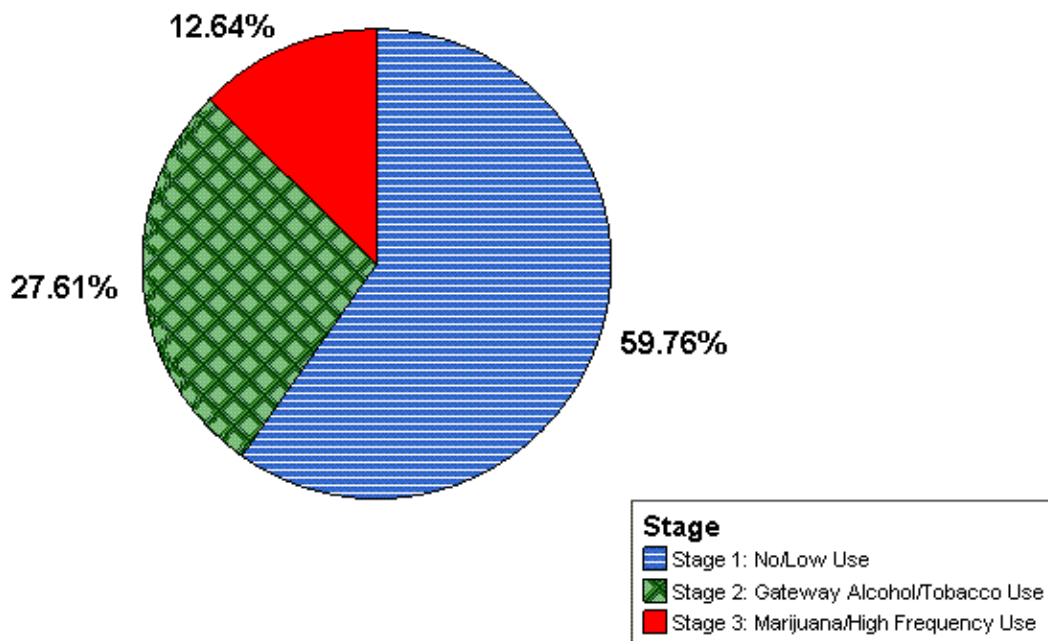


\*Includes: Church, Law Enforcement, TV/Radio, and multiple reasons

## Chapter 15 Advanced Analysis

In addition to measuring the prevalence of use of various substances among Illinois youth, Lighthouse Institute has been analyzing the data from the Illinois Youth Study on Substance Use to identify patterns of use. The clearest pattern to emerge is separation of youth into three groups according to type of substance(s) used and frequency of use.

### *Prevalence of patterns of substance use*



“*Group One*,” with approximately 60% of the surveyed youth, have used very little or none of any substance in the past month.

“*Group Two*,” with approximately 28% of the youth, have regularly used alcohol, cigarettes, or both in the past month. They have also “binged”, i.e. had five or more drinks in a row, in the past two weeks. Some of them tried marijuana once in the past month, but that and their regular alcohol and/or tobacco use have been the extent of their substance use in the past month.

“*Group Three*,” with the remaining 12% of Illinois youth, is distinguished by its rate of marijuana use, which averages over ten times per month. Not everyone in this group uses illegal drugs other than marijuana, but virtually any youth who use any other drug are in this Group. The rates of alcohol use and binge drinking in Group 3 are similar to, but slightly higher than, Group 2. Past month cigarette use is twice as prevalent among Group 3 as it is in Group 2.

Youth from all three surveyed grade levels are in each group, but 8th grade youth are more prevalent among Group 1 than Group 2, and more among Group 2 than Group 3. This is consistent with the expectation that the membership of Group 1 at any point in time includes many youth who will stay in that category, but also includes some younger students who will begin regular substance use by the time they reach 12th grade.

### ***What does this mean?***

The pattern described above is the specific operation of the gateway effect in Illinois. Youth who begin regular use of a substance do so with alcohol, tobacco, or both. Most do not also begin use of other substances, but those who do so take their next step through marijuana use. A portion of the youth who reach the stage of regular marijuana use also begin use of other substances. In each case, youth don’t substitute new substances for previously used ones, but add them on top of continued use of familiar substances. A similar pattern probably exists in most other states (based on national prevalence data), but the extent to which details of use can be generalized beyond Illinois is not yet known.

### ***What is the significance of this pattern?***

Understanding the gateway progression effect is vital for those who wish to measure the extent of youth use in a community or to devise effective efforts to reduce youth use rates. To prevent use of marijuana, one must plan how to best affect “Group 2”: youth who already have established regular use of alcohol, or alcohol and cigarettes, or, in a small percent of cases, just cigarettes. To prevent use of any other substance, one must plan how to affect “Group 2” youth who have moved or are moving into “Group 3.” It is likely that most successful prevention of use beyond the gateway level involves at least individual intervention for alcohol and marijuana use, and often involves treatment for dependency on alcohol or marijuana.

To engage in “primary prevention”, defined as keeping non-using youth from beginning any (especially regular) use:

1. Target youth alcohol and tobacco use.

2. Focus on risk and/or protective factors that predict movement into Group 2, and not on those that are only salient in the later development of other drug use.

Knowledge about which risk and protective factors are important at each stage is not well established, but preliminary data suggests that community policy-makers keep the following categories and factors in mind:

- A. Factors that are very strong at both stages (moving from Group 1 to 2 and from Group 2 to 3)
  1. Availability of Substances: Norms against use may be important, but the degree to which a substance is or is not available to youth is one key area with potential for successful prevention efforts. One of the clearest examples is the degree to which a minimum drinking age of 21 saves lives in comparison to a drinking age of 18. Based on tobacco availability research, it is likely that there is a threshold effect. So, for example, making a substance harder to obtain and possess may have little effect if youth can still easily circumvent the new barriers, but youth use will drop when the barriers against availability become complete enough to prevent youth from easily switching to some other source for a substance.
  2. Youth Peer Influence: There is no doubt that the influence of peers (whether intentional or unintentional, by example) plays a major role in the initiation of youth substance use. A more challenging issue is how to best increase positive peer influence and/or decrease influence toward use.
- B. Other factors active at initiation (moving from Group 1 to Group 2)
  1. Sensation Seeking/Identity Seeking: Youth who tend to seek thrilling or defiant activities are more prone to initiate use.
  2. Social Skills: Youth who lack the ability and/or desire to behave in pro-social ways are more prone to initiate use.
  3. Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward Drug Use: Parents who present an ambivalent or even pro-use attitude toward drugs are more likely to have children that initiate gateway use.
  4. Parental Monitoring: Parents who are aware of their children's friends and activities and who steer youth away from less safe settings decrease their children's chance of initiating gateway use.
  5. Safe and Nurturing School Environment: Youth in schools that are safe and that nourish youth participation are less likely to initiate gateway use.
- C. Factors active in the move into marijuana and other drug use (moving from group 2 to group 3)

1. Perceived Risks of Drug Use: Youth who deny the dangerousness of drugs are more likely to move beyond gateway alcohol and/or tobacco use.
  2. Academic Failure: Students who succeed in school are less likely to move beyond gateway use.
  3. Low Neighborhood Attachment: Youth who don't feel comfortable in their neighborhood are more likely to move beyond gateway use.
  4. Gang Involvement (in localized areas of the state): Youth in gangs are more likely to move beyond gateway use.
  5. Family History of Anti-Social Behavior: Significant problems like substance use among siblings or parents is associated with more likelihood of youth use of marijuana and other drugs.
  6. Transitions and Mobility: Youth who have moved a lot are more prone to use drugs beyond gateway use.
- D. Other noteworthy factors: Many other factors have been associated with drug use, but most do not play as strong a role as the ones mentioned above. There are three other factors that are HIGHLY predictive of use, but which don't necessarily indicate any particular prevention strategy:
1. Early Initiation of Use: The earlier in young teen or pre-teen years a person starts regular use, the more likely that use will continue and escalate.
  2. Favorable Attitude Toward Use: Youth who don't see anything wrong with drug use are more likely to use.
  3. Intent to Use: Youth who say they are likely to use when they are adults are more likely to already be users.

Further progress in identifying the most salient reasons behind initiation of youth alcohol and tobacco use, and behind progression into use of other drugs, will be reported in future years as research progresses.

**Chapter 16**  
**Sixth Grade Students**  
**(Unweighted)**

This chapter explores the characteristics and use patterns of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Data reported here are unweighted and represent 1,167 students with valid responses from six school districts in the non-Cook counties. It is presented here as an indication of the possible direction of trends in the future and is not intended to be representative of all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in Illinois.

Sixth grade students were mostly female (52%). They ranged in age from 10 to 14 with most (55%) age 12. The majority were white (61%), with African American students representing the largest minority group (22%). The majority of students were from rural settings (54%).

Schools were categorized by the grades they served. The first group, elementary schools, where schools served only sixth grade and younger represented 65% of the students. The second group, middle schools or junior high schools, where schools included older grades represented the remaining 35% of the students.

**Table 16-1** shows the percent of students endorsing various risk behaviors in the past year. The most common risk behavior among sixth grade students is having attacked someone with the intent to hurt the person. This percent was similar to the number who reported having been suspended from school. However, only about one third of the students who had attacked someone had also been suspended and vice versa. Most students (89%) reported zero behaviors or one behavior. A small number (3.5%) reported all eight behaviors.

**Table 16-1**  
**Percent of students**  
**Endorsing Risk Behaviors in the Past Year**

Behavior	Ever	3+ Times
Been suspended from school*	13.2	4.4
Attacked someone to hurt them	12.3	5.1
Been arrested	4.1	1.3
Carried a handgun	3.4	2.1
Been drunk/high at school	3.0	1.0
Stolen/tried to steal a motor vehicle*	1.9	0.9
Sold illicit drugs	1.3	0.6
Taken a handgun to school	0.9	0.4

\*Moved up from last year

**Table 16-2** shows the source of information about drugs reported by students. Most sixth graders get their information from school or their parents. The number getting their information from TV/Radio has increased from 6<sup>th</sup> place in 1998 to 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 2000.

**Table 16-2**  
**Where students**  
**get information about drugs**

Source	N	%
School	355	31.9
Parents	232	20.8
TV/Radio*	141	12.7
Multiple sources**	130	11.7
Friends	98	8.8
Other	91	8.2
Other Adults	43	3.9
Siblings	24	2.2

\*Moved up since last year

\*\*All combined sources include TV/Radio

**Table 16-3** shows the percent of sixth grade students who have used various substances in their lifetime, past year or past month by various demographic characteristics.

Where use of particular substances varies among sixth grade students, use is generally higher among male students, urban students, and

students in middle or junior high schools.

*Table 16-3  
Use of Various Substances by Sixth Grade Students  
Per Cent of Students*

	Any Substance	Alcohol	Smoke-less	Tobacco	Marijuana	Any Illicit	Inhalants	Cocaine/Crack	Hallucinogens	Other Drugs
<b>Percent with Lifetime Use</b>										
<b>Gender</b>										
Female (n=587)	41.7	<b>29.6</b>	3.9	28.7	4.9	7.0	8.2	0.5	0.4	4.8
Male (n=549)	45.2	<b>36.0</b>	5.9	27.1	7.5	10.1	9.1	1.3	0.8	5.8
<b>School</b>										
Elementary (n=761)	42.4	31.4	4.6	26.7	5.8	7.5	8.8	0.5	<b>0.1</b>	4.8
Middle/Jr (n=406)	44.7	35.0	5.0	28.8	6.7	10.0	8.2	1.5	<b>1.3</b>	5.8
<b>Non-Cook Cty</b>										
Urban (n=538)	<b>47.9</b>	33.5	5.1	<b>36.0</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>12.4</b>	7.9	1.5	0.8	<b>7.6</b>
Rural (n=629)	<b>39.2</b>	31.9	4.5	<b>20.2</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>5.0</b>	9.2	0.3	0.3	<b>3.1</b>
<b>Total (n=1167)</b>	43.2	32.6	4.7	27.4	6.1	8.4	8.6	0.9	0.5	5.1
<b>Percent with Past Year Use</b>										
<b>Gender</b>										
Female	26.4	<b>21.2</b>	<b>2.4</b>	9.3	3.5	4.8	4.6	0.5	0.2	2.9
Male	30.5	<b>26.2</b>	<b>4.6</b>	8.1	5.3	7.4	6.8	0.9	0.6	3.7
<b>School</b>										
Elementary	28.8	23.1	2.8	8.6	4.0	5.0	5.8	<b>0.3</b>	0.1	2.8
Middle/Jr	26.7	24.0	4.5	8.5	4.6	7.5	5.4	<b>1.5</b>	0.8	4.0
<b>Non-Cook Cty</b>										
Urban	47.1	23.8	3.9	<b>11.6</b>	<b>6.9</b>	9.0	5.0	<b>1.3</b>	0.4	<b>4.9</b>
Rural	28.6	23.1	2.9	<b>6.1</b>	<b>2.0</b>	32.0	6.2	<b>0.2</b>	0.3	<b>1.8</b>
<b>Total</b>	28.1	23.4	3.4	8.5	4.2	5.9	5.7	0.7	0.4	3.2
<b>Percent with Past Month Use</b>										
<b>Gender</b>										
Female	11.8	7.3	0.7	5.1	1.7	2.7	2.3	0.3	0.2	1.7
Male	13.7	9.1	1.8	4.2	2.8	4.4	3.8	0.6	0.4	1.7
<b>School</b>										
Elementary	11.7	<b>6.7</b>	0.9	4.9	1.7	<b>2.5</b>	2.8	<b>0.1</b>	-	1.7
Middle/Jr	14.1	<b>10.9</b>	1.8	4.2	3.1	<b>5.2</b>	3.3	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.8</b>	1.5
<b>Non-Cook Cty</b>										
Urban	<b>15.5</b>	<b>10.3</b>	1.5	<b>6.0</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>5.8</b>	2.9	0.8	0.4	<b>2.8</b>
Rural	<b>10.0</b>	<b>6.3</b>	1.0	<b>3.5</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.4</b>	3.1	0.2	0.2	<b>0.6</b>
<b>Total</b>	12.5	8.2	1.2	4.7	2.2	3.5	3.0	0.4	0.3	1.7

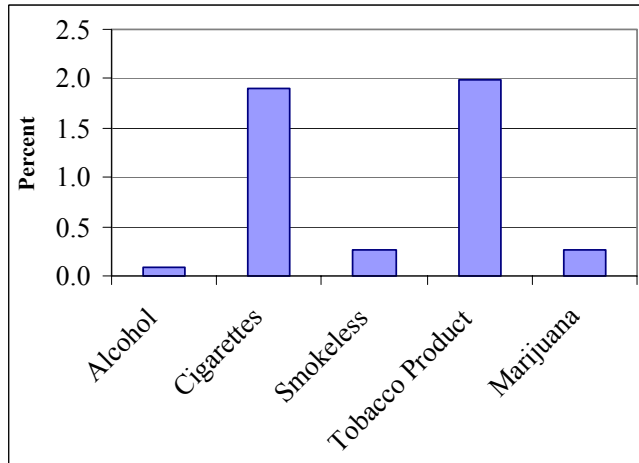
Significance Using Likelihood Ratio

***Bold/Italics means P<=.01***

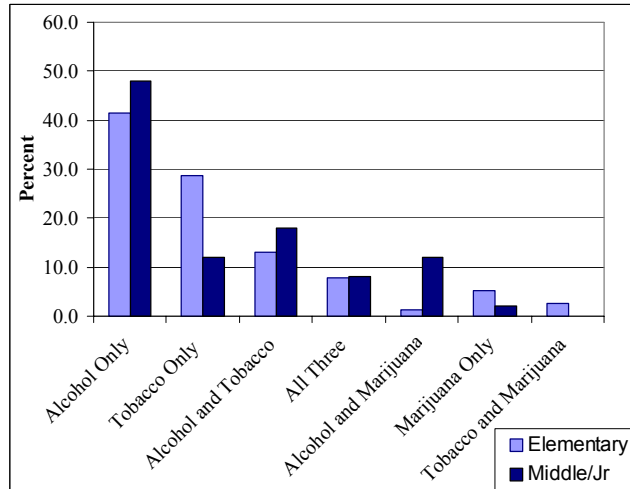
**Bold means P<=.05**

Plain means NS

**Daily Use of Various Substances among 6<sup>th</sup> Graders**



**Gateway Substances Used among 6<sup>th</sup> Graders by school composition**



**Perceived Risk of Great/Moderate Harm with use of Various Substances among 6<sup>th</sup> Graders**

