



Youth Study on Substance Use:

Comparing the 1995, 1997
and 1998 Results



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Prepared by: Chestnut Health Systems, Bloomington, IL.

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and 1998 Results

Illinois Department of Human Services
Division of Community Health and Prevention

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

November 1999
Chestnut Health Systems, Inc.

Acknowledgments

First, we would like to thank the sixth, eighth, tenth, and twelfth grade principals, teachers and students throughout Illinois for participating in this survey.

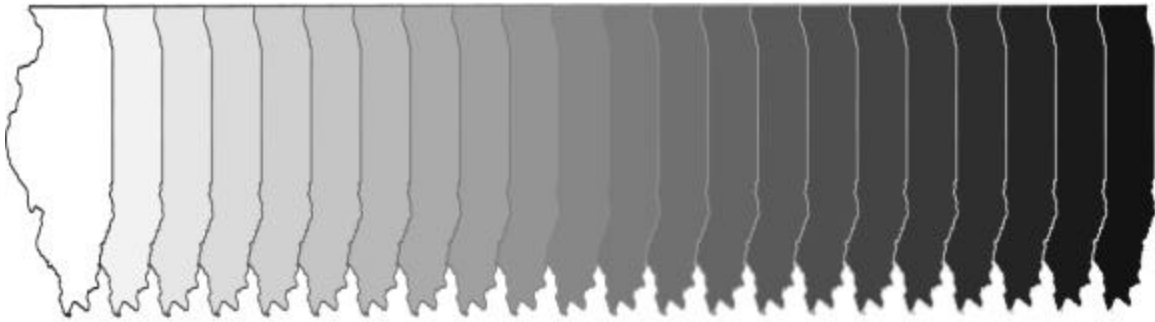
We would also like to thank the Illinois State Board of Education, who assisted with the design and selection of the sample, and in gaining the participation of school superintendents, principals and teachers. Additional gratitude is extended to InTouch Program Coordinators throughout the State who worked so diligently to administer the survey at each school. Special thanks go to Patricia McPherson-Davis for collaboration with the "Safe and Drug-Free Schools" program at the Chicago Public Schools.

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 Chestnut Health Systems, Inc., Bloomington, IL.

Chestnut Health Systems, Inc., Bloomington, IL, analyzed the data and produced this report.

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1998 Illinois Youth Study on Substance Use: Executive Summary



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

Executive Summary

Year-to-year changes in use rates don't take place as a single, uniform phenomenon. Some sub-groups of youth (by region, gender, grade level, etc.) can show a change pattern different from other sub-groups. Thus, shifts in statewide use rates often occur with exceptions, rather than unequivocally. The following text uses "trends" to summarize changes among aggregated categories of youth. The tables in the appendices of this report describe changes among numerous sub-groups.

Overall Trends

The global trend in Illinois youths' use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs between 1997 and 1998 consisted of decreases in the percent of students using these substances in the past month (except for smokeless tobacco for which use rates remained stable.) This reverses a trend of increased use shown in the 1993 and 1995 surveys, and is consistent with national use trends. Other global measures showed an increase in the percent who used alcohol, tobacco, smokeless tobacco, inhalants and marijuana in their lifetime or in the past year (except tobacco which was stable for past year use), and a decrease in or stable percentages for lifetime or past year use of any illicit, cocaine or crack, or hallucinogens. Use of any substance was driven primarily by the use of gateway substances (alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana). The changes in percentages of lifetime and past year use for the 1998 data may be related more to the change in survey instrument rather

than actual changes in use trends. Therefore, this report focuses on past month use of each substance.

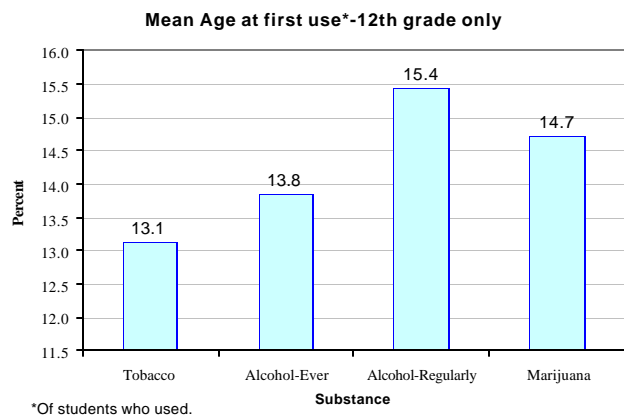
Age Trend

Prevalence rates decreased across all three grade levels, through 12th grade decreases often weren't large enough to attain statistical significance. This reflects:

- **Continuing decreases for a second year in use of several substances among 8th grade students.**
- Decreases after a peak in use in 1997 for many substances particularly in older grades.

Only smokeless tobacco showed a non-significant increase in use rates for 8th and 12th grade students. The rest of the past month use measures showed some kind of decrease in each grade.

The mean ages of first use of drugs among 12th grade youth were 13.1 years for tobacco use, 13.8 years for alcohol use, 14.7 years for marijuana, and age 15.4 for regular (ongoing, at least once a month) use of alcohol.



Gender Trend

For many substances, use in the past month decreased more for female students than for male students. This was the opposite of trends reported in 1997. Some of the results of this trend:

- The percent of male and female users were approximately the same for tobacco and for cocaine/crack.
- Use by male students was higher for other substances, particularly for smokeless tobacco, marijuana and hallucinogens.
- For inhalants, the 1997 gender reversal, that put female use rates ahead of males, returned to the previous pattern due to a substantial decrease in female use rates and a smaller decrease in male rates.

Geographic Trend

Past month use rates generally declined more for non-Cook County students than for Cook County students. Exceptions to this were cocaine/crack and hallucinogens. However, rates were lower for Cook County students on all measured substances except marijuana and any

illicit substance (which was driven by marijuana).

Among non-Cook County students, past month use rates for rural students (i.e., rates in communities of less than 40,000) tended to decrease more than rates for urban students. With the exception of smokeless tobacco and inhalants, past month rural use rates were lower than urban use rates. Urban non-Cook County student use tended to look much more like Cook County student use, particularly more like non-Chicago Public School student use than like use by their rural counterparts. Among Cook County students, use rates among the non-CPS students tended to be similar to or higher than use rates among CPS students.

National Comparison

Compared to similar youth across the country, students in Illinois were somewhat less likely to have used smokeless tobacco and inhalants, in the past month. They were approximately as likely to have used tobacco, cocaine/crack and hallucinogens, and slightly more likely to have used alcohol and marijuana.

In general, use among Illinois students decreased more than did use by students nationally. Alcohol was an exception, as use decreased similarly for both national and Illinois students.

Risk Behaviors and Problems

Trend data on risk behaviors is limited due to changes in the survey instrument. **Two-thirds of the students did not acknowledge any risk behaviors or problems.** The maximum rate of any single risk behavior was less than 18% of all students.

The most common reported behavior was having been drunk or high at school, followed by having attacked someone and then by having been suspended. Selling illegal drugs and carrying a handgun, although less common than having been suspended or arrested were more likely to have occurred 10 or more times. Selling illegal drugs was the second most common behavior to occur 10 or more times.

Risk behaviors differed most consistently by gender, with male students reporting these behaviors more frequently than female students. Non-Cook County students tended to report risk behaviors slightly less frequently than Cook County students.

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. **Alcohol continued to be the number one drug of youth, used in the past month by more than one in four of the surveyed 8th grade youth and by more than half of the surveyed 12th grade youth.** Rates of female

past month alcohol use declined, while the percentage of male alcohol users remained steady.

Tobacco continued to be the next most used substance, used in the past month by more than one in five 8th grade youth and almost two out of five 12th grade youth. Tobacco use rates declined for both genders.

Marijuana was still the third most used substance, used in the past month by more than 12% of 8th graders and almost 24% of the surveyed 10th and 12th grade youth. Marijuana use increased in Cook County, but decreased outside of Cook County.

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 (0.4% in the current study) 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.

The two most common patterns of gateway drug use were use of alcohol only (13.2% of youth) and use of all three gateway drugs (11.6% of youth). The next three most likely were respectively alcohol and tobacco (10%),

tobacco only (7%), and alcohol and marijuana (4%). The two least common patterns, with approximately 2% each, were marijuana only and tobacco and marijuana (without alcohol).

Daily Use

The change in wording in the 1998 survey makes this year's data more comparable with national data. However, it also makes the comparison with previous years more speculative. **Illinois students were more likely to use alcohol, tobacco and marijuana daily than students nationwide were.** Daily marijuana use among Illinois students was twice the rate of use nationally. For each substance, 8th grade students showed the greatest percent difference between national and Illinois rates. Male students used alcohol and marijuana on a daily basis more than female students did. Daily use was also higher among White Cook County students than among Hispanic or African American Cook County students.

Sixth Graders

In a few districts, sixth grade students were also surveyed in 1998. Because this did not constitute a valid statewide sample, the 6th grade results are not included in the main chapters. However, this report includes an unweighted summary of use by sixth graders (Chapter 15). All surveyed 6th graders attended schools outside of Cook County.

There was some reported past month use for each substance included in the survey. Urban students did not report any use of smokeless tobacco, cocaine/crack or 'other drugs'. However, where there were significant differences (e.g. for marijuana, alcohol and inhalants), use was higher among urban students than among rural students.

Female students did not report any past month use of cocaine/crack or hallucinogens. Use by male students was higher than use by female students for every substance. Males were significantly more likely than females to have used marijuana or any illicit substance in the past month. They were also significantly more likely than females to have used any substance, any illicit substance, alcohol and smokeless tobacco in the past year or in their lifetime.

Most sixth grade students surveyed attended elementary schools (80%) with students younger than themselves, but some attended middle schools or junior high schools with students who were older than themselves. **For every substance and each time period (lifetime, past year and past month), except past month use of smokeless tobacco, sixth grade students attending middle or junior high schools reported higher use rates than did those attending elementary schools.** Past month use rates were significantly different for any substance, marijuana and any illicit use for these two groups.

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Chapter One – Any Substance.....	7
Chapter Two – Alcohol.....	11
Chapter Three – Tobacco.....	15
Chapter Four – Smokeless Tobacco.....	21
Chapter Five – Inhalants.....	27
Chapter Six – Illicit Substance.....	33
Chapter Seven – Marijuana.....	39
Chapter Eight – Cocaine and/or Crack.....	45
Chapter Nine – Any Hallucinogen.....	51
Chapter Ten – Other Drugs.....	57
Chapter Eleven – Use of Gateway Substances.....	61
Chapter Twelve – Daily Use of Selected Substances.....	67
Chapter Thirteen – Problems and Risk Behaviors.....	71
Chapter Fourteen – Initiation and Quitting.....	75
Chapter Fifteen – Sixth Grade Students.....	87
 Appendices	
Appendix A – 1998 Substance Use Tables.....	A1
Appendix B – Drug Prevalence: Total Respondents By Grade and Region.....	B1
Appendix C – Post-stratification and Weighting.....	C1

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

Introduction

*This report compares the estimates of prevalence from data collected during the 1995, 1997 and 1998 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 and 1998.*

This is the fifth 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).

This report compares observed change in substance use among students based on data collected between 1995 and 1998. 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 and 1998 surveys. Changes are considered by grade, gender, region, and, within Cook County, racial group. Each chapter also contains a comparison of adolescent substance use rates in Illinois with national rates as reported in 1998 *Monitoring the Future Survey* (University of Michigan). Each year, the national *Monitoring the Future* surveys consider lifetime, past year, past month and daily use for 8th, 10th and 12th grade students.

Part 2 – Comparison of Various Sub-populations of Students and Additional Variables. Chapters 11-14 provide additional summaries of use for selected sub-populations of students or 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 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 1998. Appendix B consists of five sections (1-5) 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 1998 Report

This report encompasses only the past three surveys from 1995, 1997 and 1998 and focuses on the 1997 to 1998 changes. There are several reasons for this change. 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. 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 1998. 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, it was necessary to re-calculate all use rates for previous surveys.

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. Since it was not possible to access the 1990-1993 data to do the wording and grade re-calculations, and since these years are extensively reported in earlier documents, only results from the 1995, 1997 and 1998 surveys are included in this report.

The reader should note that due to the re-calculations of data from previous years, the data reported here will not be the same as data in earlier reports.

The 1998 report will also 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 (See ***Changes in the 1998 Survey Instrument*** below.), past month use was believed to be the most comparable measure across the three surveys included in this report.

Changes in the 1998 Survey Instrument

While most variables in 1998 are identical or comparable to previous years, some information is new in 1998, and some, included in the 1997 report, is no longer available. For

example, in the 1998 survey, perceived harm is asked for alcohol, tobacco and marijuana, but not for other substances.

Another change in the 1998 survey is the combination of substances in a single survey question. In this survey, crack and cocaine have been combined into “Cocaine and/or Crack”, LSD and other psychedelics have been combined into “Any Hallucinogens”, and Heroin, Uppers, Downers and other substances are also combined (although not specifically) as “Other Drugs”. None of these substances are reported individually in 1998. The 1997 report anticipated several of these changes and reported data in a manner consistent with this report.

Some of the changes in survey design and resulting changes in data preparation may have caused reports of increased past year and lifetime use. The order and wording of use items were intended to capture the highest possible reporting of use, particularly for commonly used substances such as alcohol, tobacco and marijuana. However, it is possible that the new order of questions would result in lowered reports of use for less commonly used substances.

The new question format 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 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 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. As a result, Table 1 in each chapter will contain data for past month use, rather than lifetime use as in previous reports. Lifetime and past month trend data are contained in **Appendix A** and **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 all 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 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 sub-total 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 1998 Illinois Youth Survey was administered between January and June 1998. 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 8th, 10th and 12th grade students who had used each type of substance in the past month in 1995, 1997 and 1998.

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

As a percentage of total students enrolled in Illinois schools, the 1998 respondents represented 1.03% of the grades (8, 10 and 12) surveyed, 1997 respondents in these grades represented .98% while the 1995 respondents represented 1.04% of 8th 10th and 12th grade students for that year.

School/Community

Of the students surveyed in 1998, most were from public schools (94%). Fifty-

three percent were from schools where the enrollment was less than 1000 students. Approximately one third were from schools where the enrollment was 1400 or more.

Sixty-one percent lived in urban or suburban settings. Thirty-nine percent were residents of Cook County. Eleven percent lived in the country or on a farm. Of the Cook County students, 64% were non-White. Of the Cook County students, 40% were from Chicago Public Schools (CPS). Of the students from other counties, 64% were from rural settings.

Students

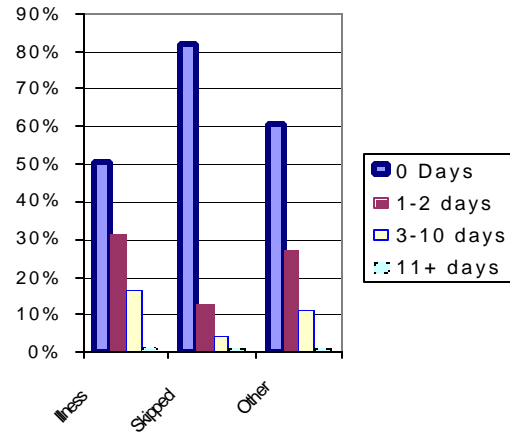
Student ages ranged from 12 to 19 and over. The mean age was 15.6 years (SD=1.63). Fifty-four percent of the students surveyed were female. There were slightly more 8th graders (35%) than 10th (34%) and 12th (31%) graders.

Sixty-five percent of the students were White. Most of the non-White students were from Cook County (71%), while most White students were from counties outside of Cook County (78%). The majority (91%) speaks English at home.

Sixty-eight percent of the students reported that they received mostly As or Bs for grades in the last year. Eight 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 number of days by the reason for the absence.

Figure 1
Percent of students absent by days absent and reason for absence



Over half of the students reported that they take care of themselves after school without an adult (83%). Half of the students reported that they cared for themselves 4 or more days each week. Of the students who reported caring for themselves, more than half (54%) 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 (73%) live either with both parents or one parent and a step parent. Approximately 20% live in households headed by their mother or stepmother only, and 3% live in households headed by their father or stepfather only. About 5% do not live with either parents or stepparents. Approximately 0.8% reported that they did not live with any adult or that they lived with siblings.

The average family consists of 5.6 people including the student (SD=2.2). The majority of students (51%) live in families of 4 or 5 members; a range of 1 to 20 members was reported.

More than one third (37%) of the students reported that someone in their family ever had a severe alcohol or drug problem. More than half (59%) reported that a brother or sister had drunk alcohol. One half (49%) reported that a sibling had smoked cigarettes. More than one third (36%) reported that a sibling had smoked marijuana.

The majority of mothers (76%) and fathers (67%) had graduated from high school. At least one parent was a high school graduate for 81% of the students. Sixty-one percent of the students reported that at least one parent had received education beyond high school.

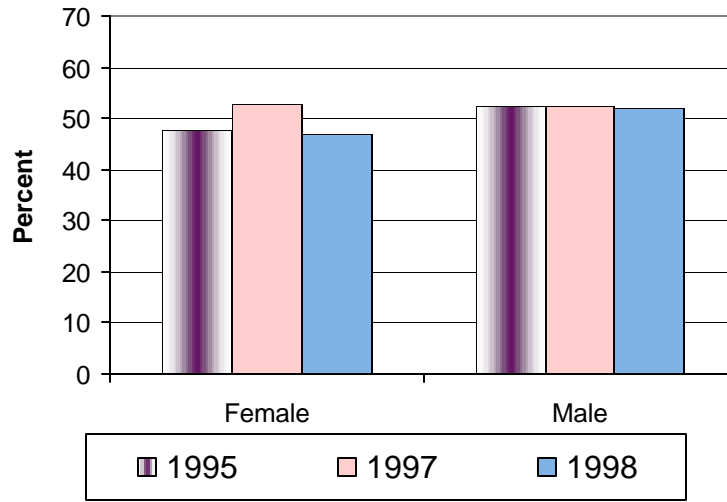
Chapter 1

Any Substance

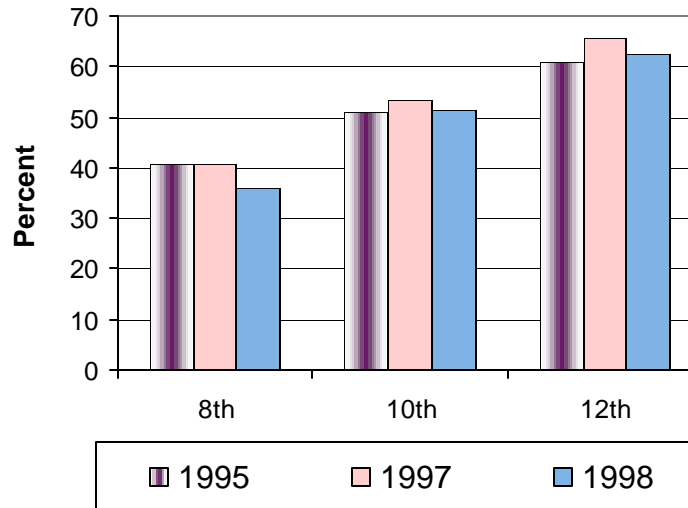
Table 1-1 shows the percent of 8th, 10th and 12th grade students who had used any substance in the past month for the 1995, 1997 and 1998 DASA/DHS Studies.

Table 1-1			
<i>Per Cent of Students Using</i>			
<i>Any Substance in the Past Month</i>			
	Survey Year		
	1995	1997	1998
GENDER			
Female	47.9	52.9	47.1
Male	52.5	52.4	52.1
GRADE IN SCHOOL			
8th	40.8	40.8	36.1
10th	50.9	53.2	51.4
12th	61.1	65.8	62.6
REGION			
Cook County	48.8	48.7	47.4
Chicago Public	40.8	37.9	39.2
Cook/Non-CPS	54.3	56.0	53.0
Non-Cook Counties	51.0	55.1	50.7
Urban	53.5	58.0	55.8
Rural	49.5	51.8	47.9
Cook County Race Groups			
White	60.9	59.6	58.1
African American	36.4	37.3	35.6
Hispanic	50.9	51.1	48.3
Other*	30.4	43.5	49.5
Native American*	69.1	45.5	60.0
OVERALL			
	50.1	52.6	49.5
*Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.			

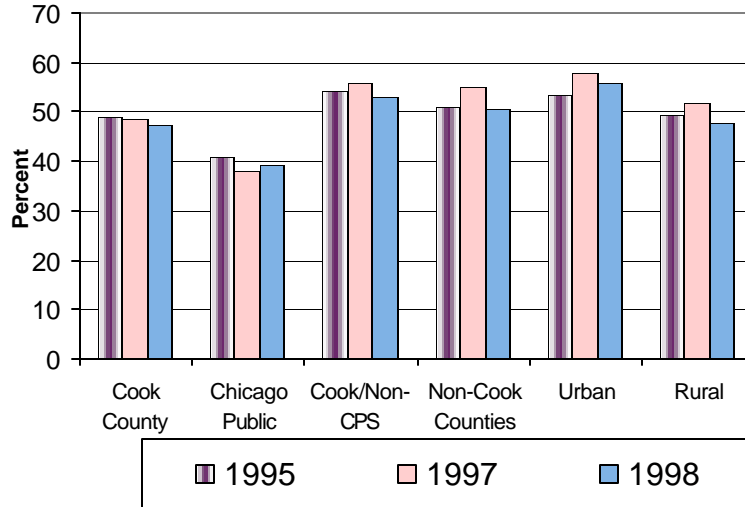
Past month substance use declined in 1998 for female students, and remained stable for males.



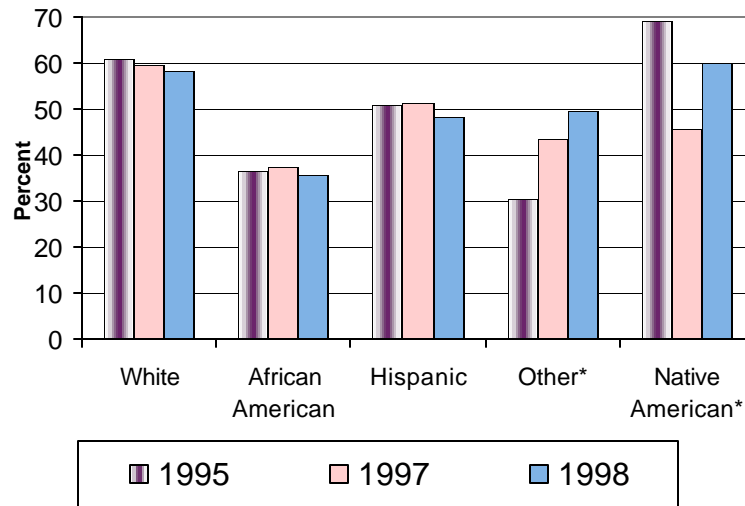
Students in 8th and 12th grades reported decreased use of any substance in 1998. The national study does not include comparable data for 'any substance'.



Past month substance use among students from various regions generally peaked in 1997. Only the decrease for Non-Cook County students overall represented a significant decrease.

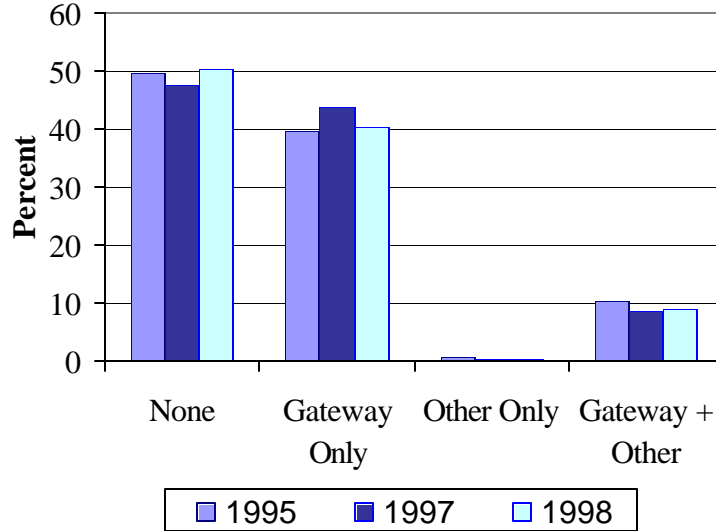


Past month substance use maintained earlier levels in 1998 for each of the three major racial groups in Cook County.



*Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.

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.



Gateway includes: alcohol, tobacco and marijuana.

Other includes: inhalants, cocaine crack, hallucinogens and other illicit substances.

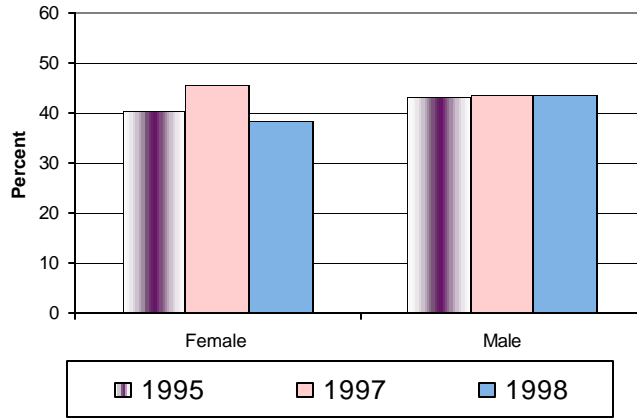
Chapter 2

Alcohol

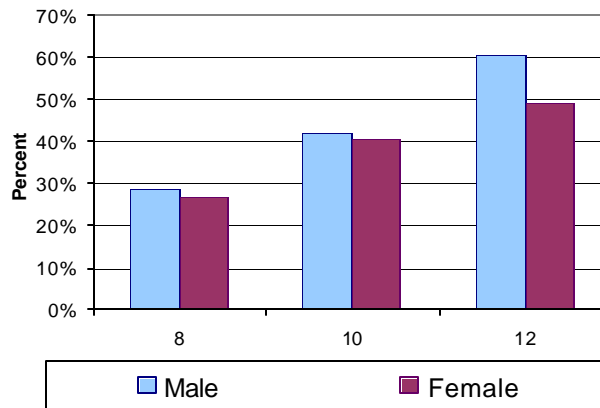
Table 2-1 shows the percent of 8th, 10th and 12th grade students who had used alcohol in the past month for the 1995, 1997 and 1998 *DASA/DHS Studies*.

	Survey Year		
	1995	1997	1998
GENDER			
Female	40.6	45.4	38.3
Male	43.2	43.4	43.4
GRADE IN SCHOOL			
8th	31.9	31.0	27.7
10th	42.3	45.8	41.3
12th	53.8	58.3	54.9
REGION			
Cook County	40.3	40.4	37.5
Chicago Public	31.8	28.7	28.7
Cook/Non-CPS	45.9	48.3	43.3
Non-Cook Counties	42.8	46.9	42.7
Urban	46.5	49.5	47.8
Rural	40.6	43.9	39.8
Cook County Race Groups			
White	52.0	52.8	49.0
Black	26.2	27.9	24.4
Hispanic	45.0	41.0	40.0
Other*	24.7	37.0	37.2
Native American*	42.6	41.9	34.7
OVERALL	41.8	44.4	40.7
*Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.			

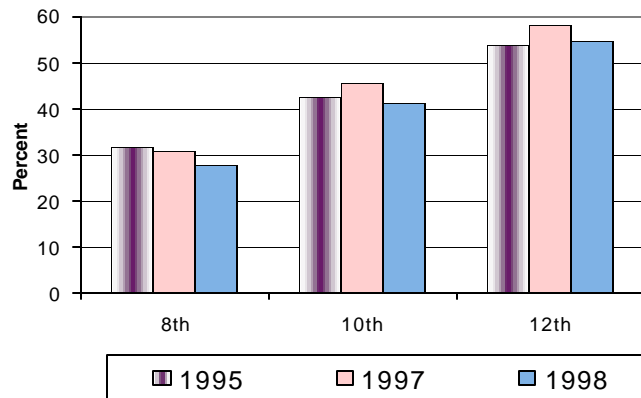
Use among female students decreased more than use among male students.



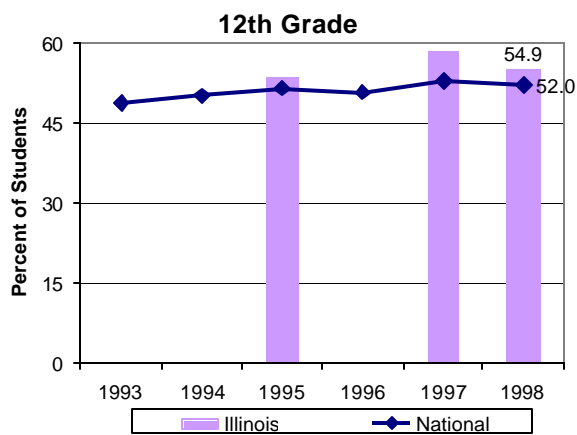
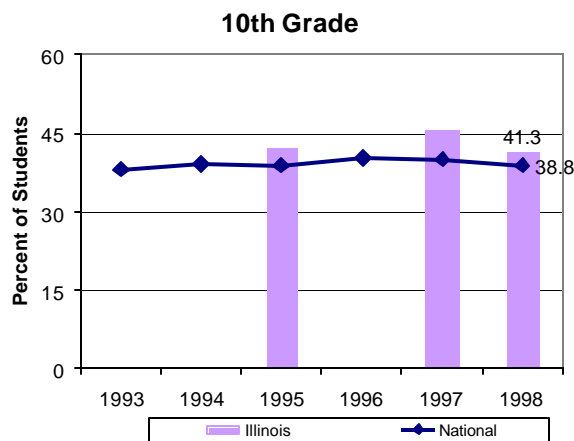
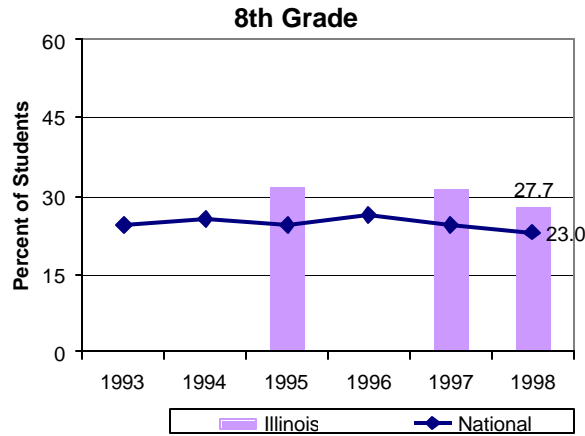
However, the 1998 difference was primarily due to a decrease among 12th grade females.



Eighth grade students showed a second year of decreased past month use of alcohol. (Two year change was significant.) Tenth and twelfth grade students reported lower use in 1998 after a peak in 1997. (The decrease for 10th graders was significant, while the decrease for 12th graders was not.)

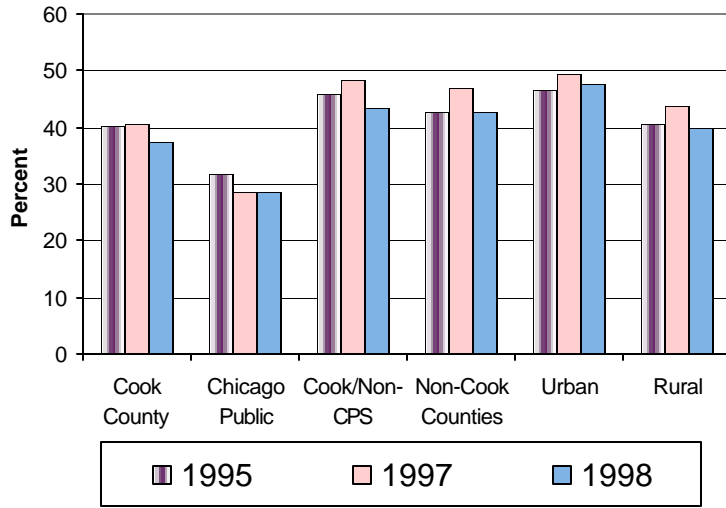


Although rates declined in each grade, Illinois students were somewhat more likely than students nationally¹ to have used alcohol in the past month, particularly in the 8th grade.

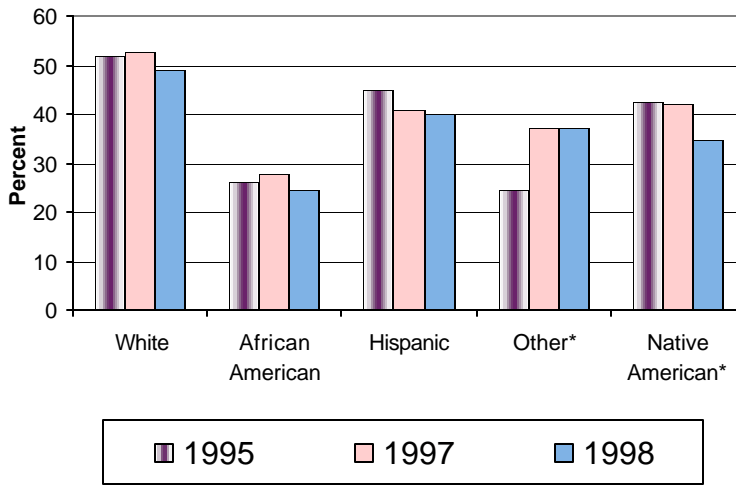


¹ Source *Monitoring the Future 1998*.

Past month alcohol use among students from Non-Cook Counties returned to 1995 levels. (Other changes were not statistically significant)



Racial groups within Cook County show non-significant changes.



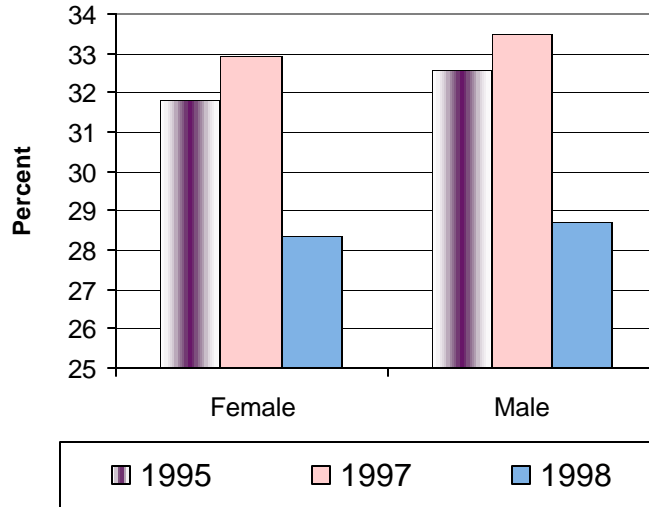
*Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.

Chapter 3 **Tobacco**

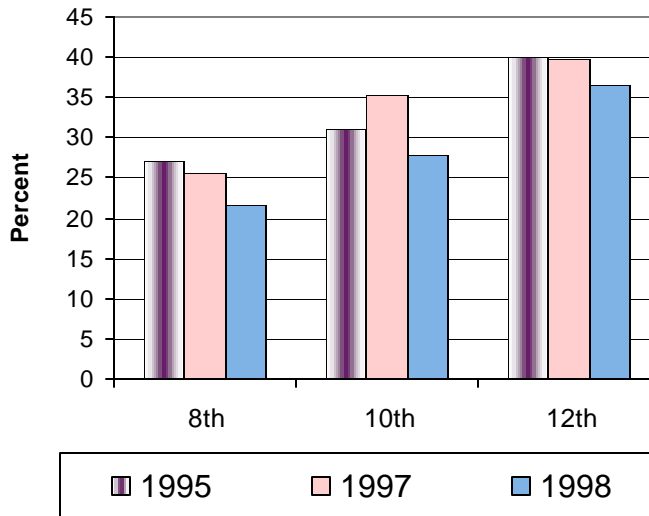
Table 3-1 shows the percent of 8th, 10th and 12th grade students who had used tobacco in the past month for the 1995, 1997 and 1998 *DASA/DHS Studies*.

Table 3-1			
Per Cent of Students Using Tobacco in the Past Month			
	Survey Year		
	1995	1997	1998
GENDER			
Female	31.8	32.9	28.3
Male	32.6	33.5	28.7
GRADE IN SCHOOL			
8th	27.1	25.6	21.7
10th	31.1	35.2	27.9
12th	39.9	39.7	36.6
REGION			
Cook County	28.7	28.4	25.8
Chicago Public	20.3	20.0	17.6
Cook/Non-CPS	34.3	33.9	31.3
Non-Cook Counties	34.4	36.2	30.1
Urban	35.3	38.0	32.7
Rural	33.9	34.0	28.6
Cook County Race Groups			
White	42.5	40.6	36.7
African American	14.5	14.8	14.6
Hispanic	27.7	31.1	24.5
Other*	19.3	22.7	32.3
Native American*	47.6	42.9	19.6
OVERALL	32.2	33.2	28.4
*Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.			

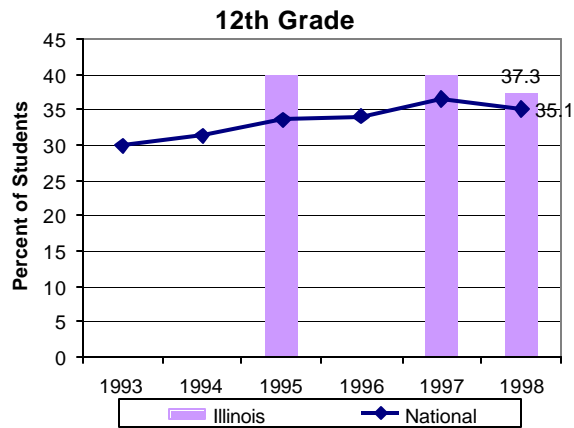
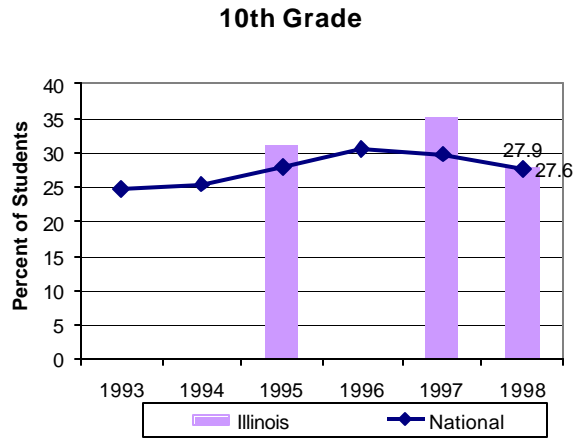
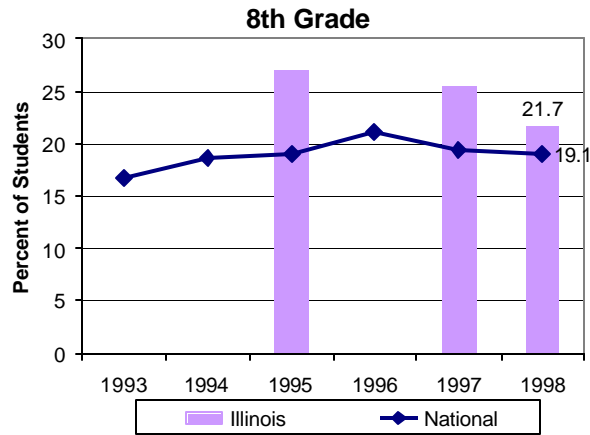
Past month tobacco use among decreased significantly among both male and female students in 1998.



Eighth grade students showed a second year of decreased past month use of tobacco. (1997 to 1998 change was significant.) Tenth grade students reported lower use in 1998 after a peak in 1997. Twelfth grade student use began to decline in 1998. (The decrease for 10th graders was significant, while the decrease for 12th graders was not.)

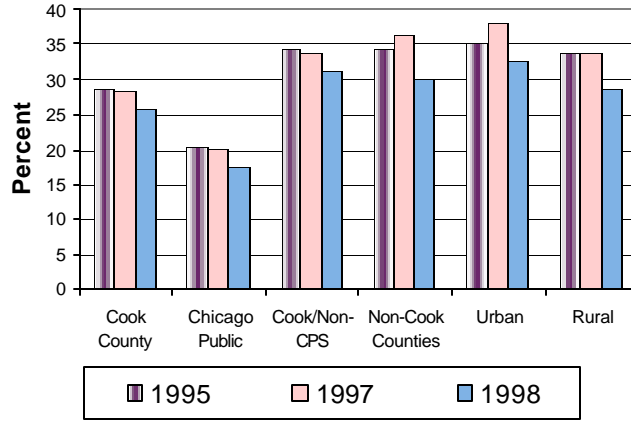


Although rates declined in each grade, Illinois students were equally or somewhat more likely than students nationally² to have used tobacco in the past month, particularly in the 8th grade.

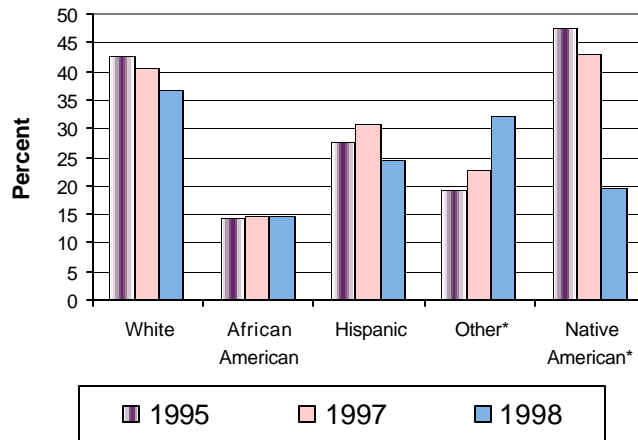


² Source *Monitoring the Future 1998*.

Past month tobacco use among students from Non-Cook Counties decreased to levels lower than 1995 levels. (Cook County changes were not statistically significant)

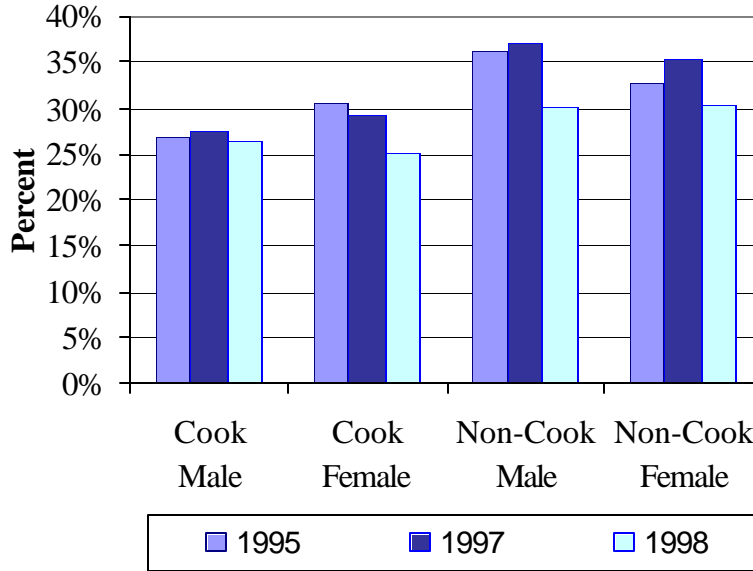


Racial groups within Cook County show non-significant changes.

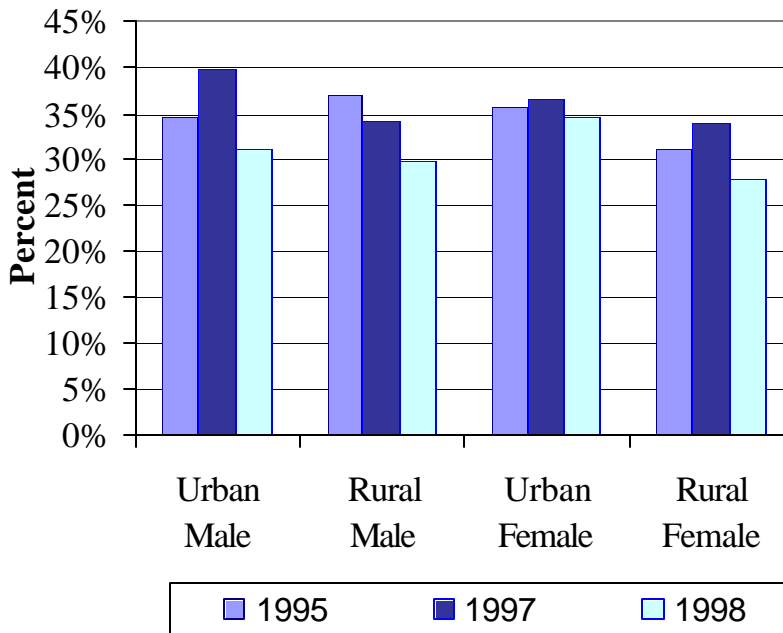


*Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.

Past month tobacco use decreased significantly for Cook County females, and for both males and females in the non-Cook counties. Use was stable for Cook County males.



Among the non-Cook County students, past month use decreased significantly from 1997 to 1998 for urban males and rural females. For rural males, the drop from 1995 to 1998 was significant. Use remained stable for urban females.



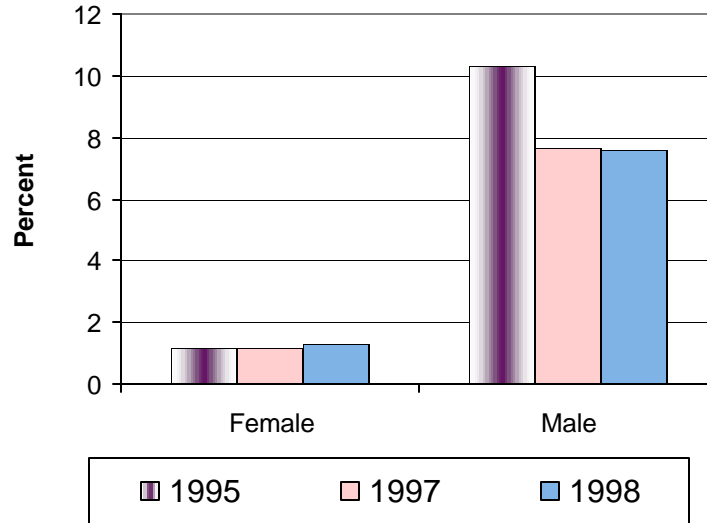
Chapter 4

Smokeless Tobacco

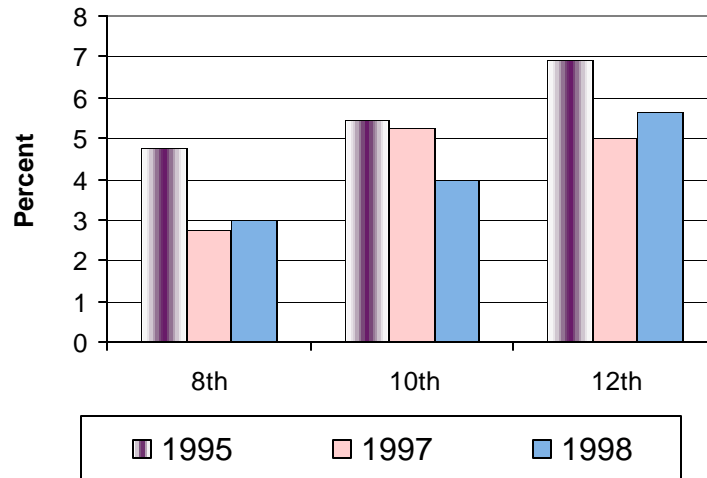
Table 4-1 shows the percent of 8th, 10th and 12th grade students who had used smokeless tobacco in the past month for the 1995, 1997 and 1998 DASA/DHS Studies.

	Survey Year		
	1995	1997	1998
GENDER			
Female	1.2	1.2	1.3
Male	10.3	7.7	7.6
GRADE IN SCHOOL			
8th	4.8	2.8	3.0
10th	5.4	5.2	4.0
12th	6.9	5.0	5.6
REGION			
Cook County	2.3	1.8	2.6
Chicago Public	1.5	1.2	2.1
Cook/Non-CPS	2.9	2.2	3.0
Non-Cook Counties	7.8	5.9	5.1
Urban	5.4	4.3	3.9
Rural	9.3	7.7	5.7
Cook County Race Groups			
White	4.1	3.3	3.6
African American	0.7	0.6	2.1
Hispanic	1.4	1.6	1.9
Other*	2.3	0.0	1.3
Native American*	11.4	1.0	7.2
OVERALL	5.6	4.3	4.1
*Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.			

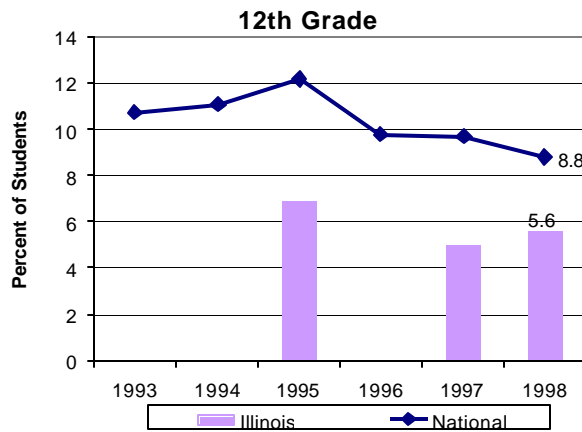
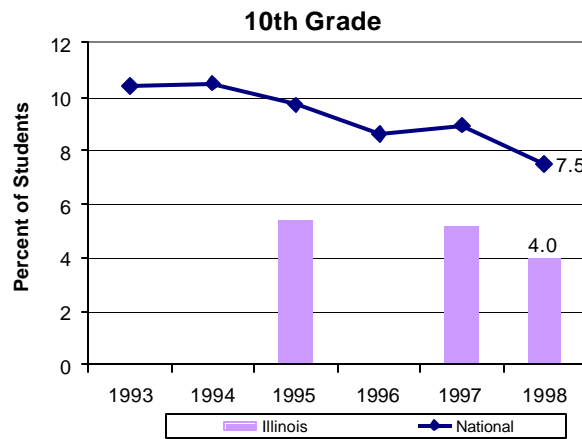
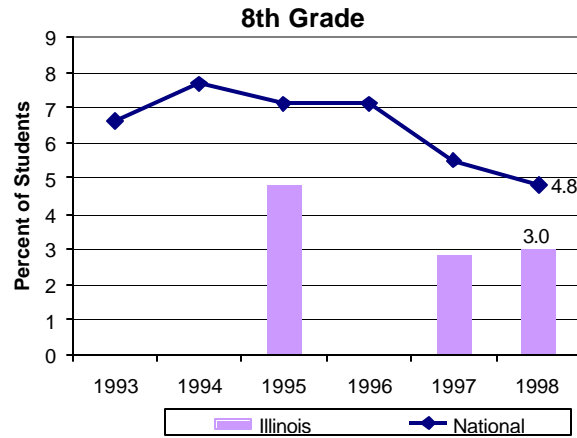
Use of smokeless tobacco continues to be higher among males than females. 1997 and 1998 use rates among males are significantly lower than the 1995 rate.



Eighth grade students' past month use of smokeless tobacco remained stable from 1997 to 1998, and significantly lower than 1995 use. Tenth grade students reported lower use in 1998. Twelfth grade student use began to increase in 1998. (Neither change was significant.)

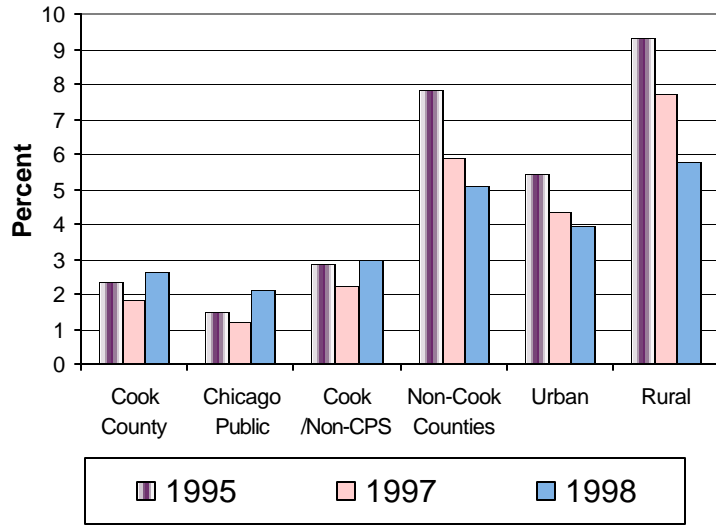


Illinois students were less likely than students nationally³ to have used smokeless tobacco in the past month. Tenth grade Illinois use most closely parallels the national pattern.

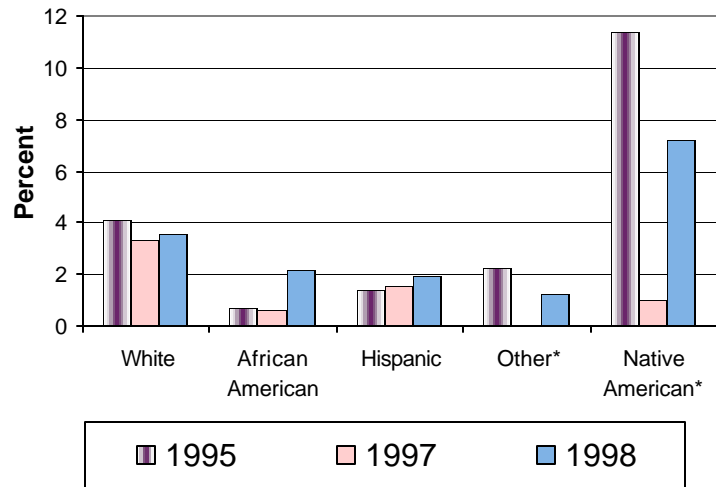


³ Source *Monitoring the Future 1998*.

Past month smokeless tobacco use is much higher among rural non-Cook County students than among students from other regions. Use among students from Cook Counties was stable, while use decreased significantly among students from non-Cook Counties, particularly rural students.

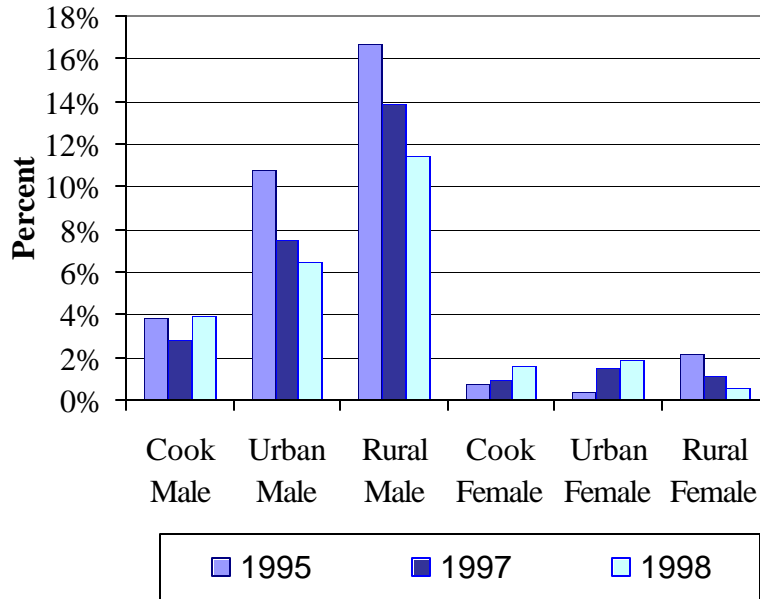


Smokeless tobacco use increased more among African-American Cook County students than among White or Hispanic students.

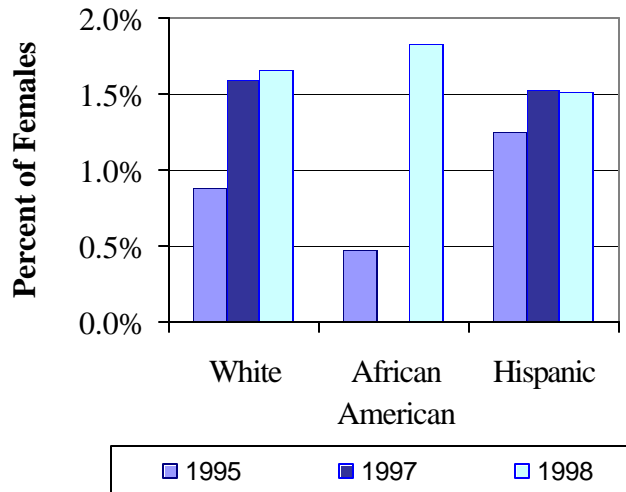


*Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.

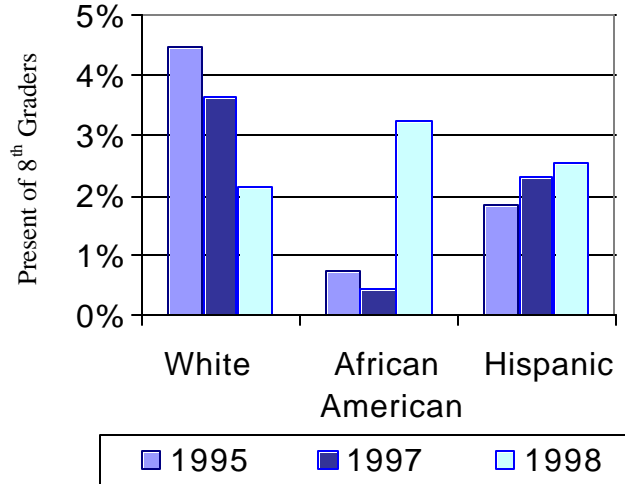
Smokeless tobacco use was highest among rural males, followed by other males. Past month smokeless tobacco use decreased significantly from 1995 to 1998 for urban male, rural male and rural female students. Less than two percent of female students from any region used smokeless tobacco in the past month.



Cook County African American female students showed a significant increase in past month use of smokeless tobacco, but use remained below 2% in 1998. The changes for White and Hispanic students were not significant.



Cook County African American 8th grade students increased past month use of smokeless tobacco in 1998. The changes for White and Hispanic students were not significant.



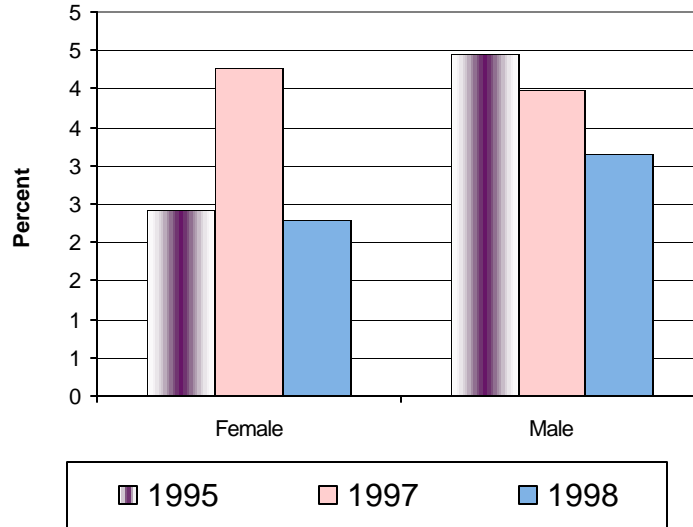
Chapter 5

Inhalants

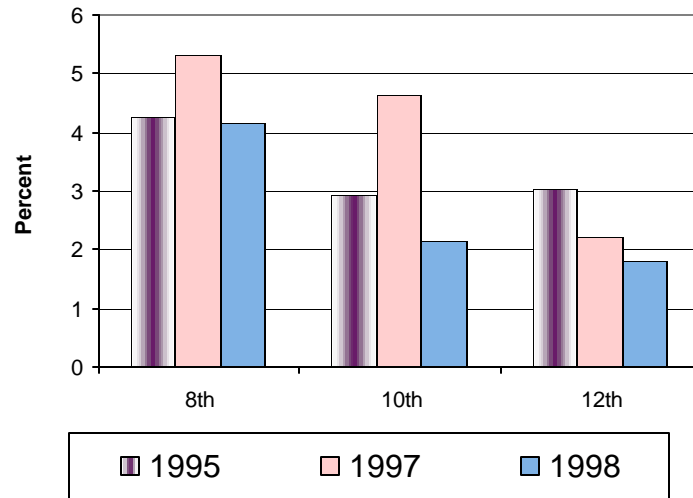
Table 5-1 shows the percent of 8th, 10th and 12th grade students who had used inhalants in the past month for the 1995, 1997 and 1998 *DASA/DHS Studies*.

Table 5-1			
<i>Per Cent of Students Using Inhalants in the Past Month</i>			
	Survey Year		
	1995	1997	1998
GENDER			
Female	2.4	4.3	2.3
Male	4.5	4.0	3.2
GRADE IN SCHOOL			
8th	4.2	5.3	4.1
10th	2.9	4.6	2.1
12th	3.0	2.2	1.8
REGION			
Cook County	3.6	4.1	2.4
Chicago Public	2.4	4.0	2.0
Cook/Non-CPS	4.4	4.2	2.6
Non-Cook Counties	3.3	4.1	3.0
Urban	3.9	4.4	2.8
Rural	3.0	3.9	3.1
Cook County Race Groups			
White	4.9	7.5	3.4
African American	1.1	0.8	0.6
Hispanic	5.3	4.4	3.4
Other*	2.3	1.9	3.1
Native American*	12.5	0.0	3.8
OVERALL	3.4	4.1	2.7
*Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.			

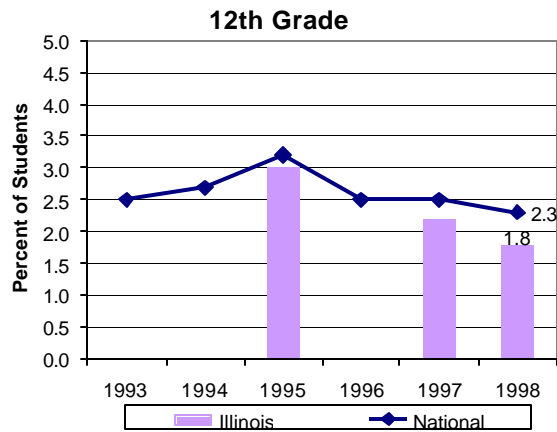
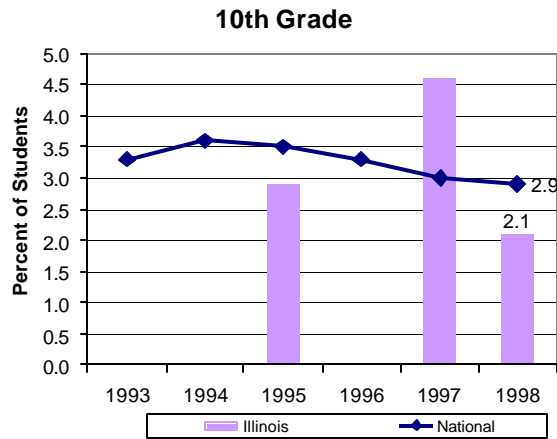
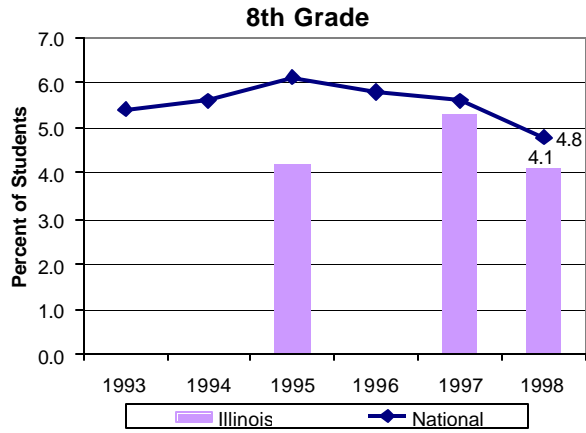
Use of inhalants by male students continued to decrease for a second year. Females showed a 1997 peak followed by a return to 1995 levels of use.



Tenth grade students use of inhalants in 1998 returned to 1995 levels. Twelfth grade student use continued to decline (non-significantly).

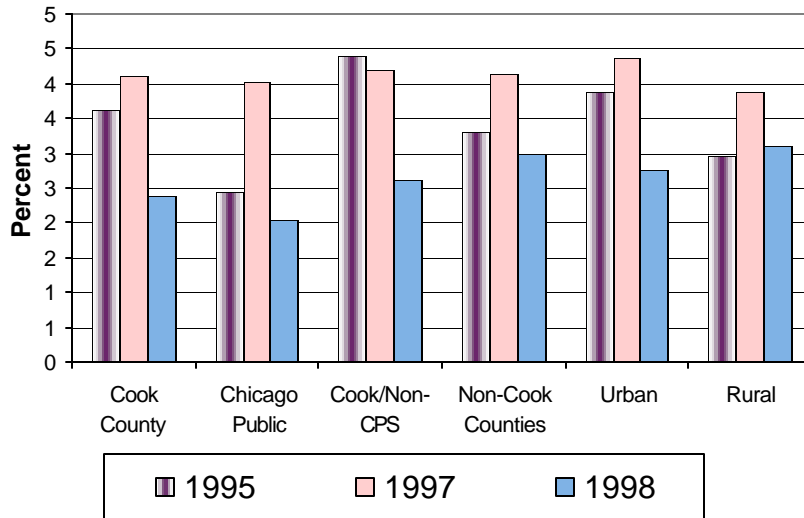


Illinois students were somewhat less likely than students nationally⁴ to have used inhalants in the past month. Twelfth grade Illinois use most closely parallels the national pattern.

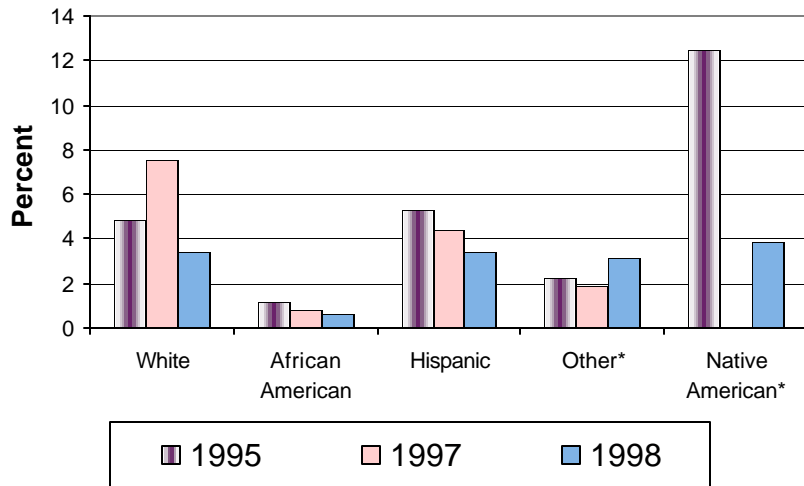


⁴ Source *Monitoring the Future 1998*.

Past month inhalant use among students from both Cook and non-Cook Counties decreased in 1998. (Decreases for CPS, Non-CPS, Urban and Rural were non-significant).

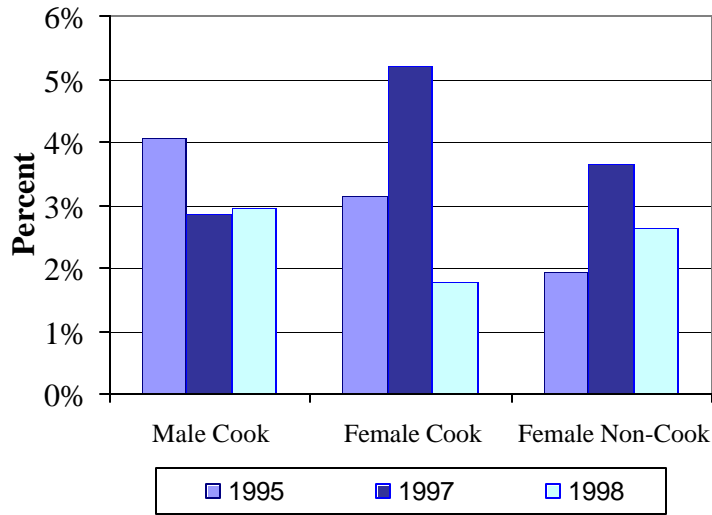


Inhalant use decreased more among White Cook County students than among African American or Hispanic students. Inhalant use by African American students continues to be lower than use by other racial groups in Cook County.

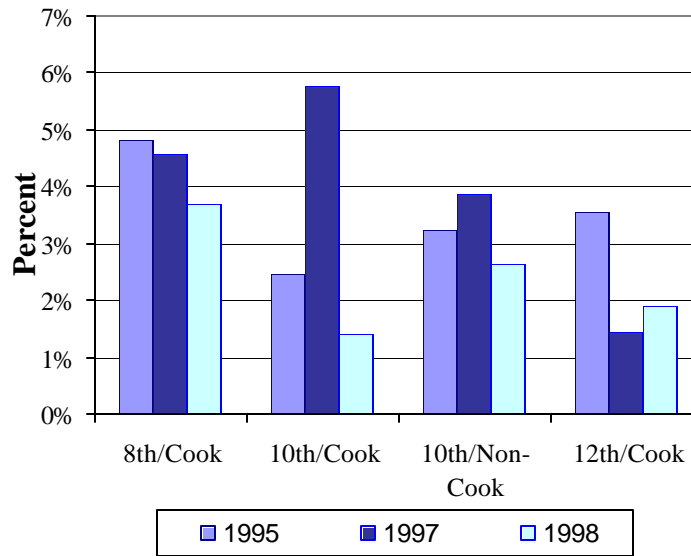


*Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.

Most of the 1998 decrease in females' inhalant use was in Cook County and all of the 1998 Cook County decrease was among females.



Most of the 1998 decrease in Cook County was also among 10th grade students. Most of the decrease among 10th grades students was within Cook County.



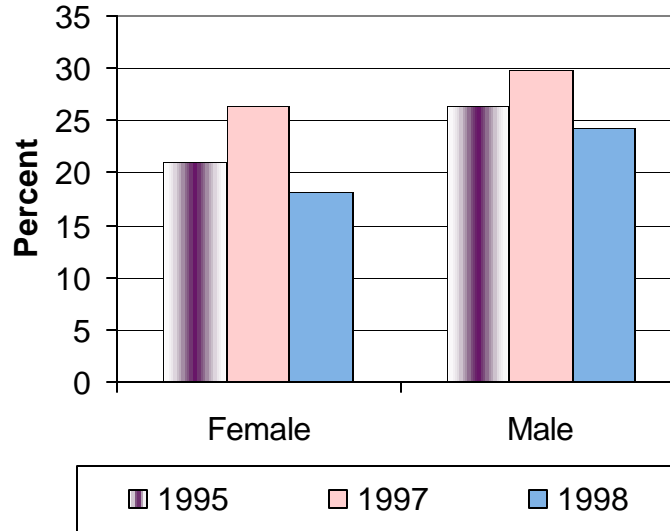
Chapter 6

Illicit Substance

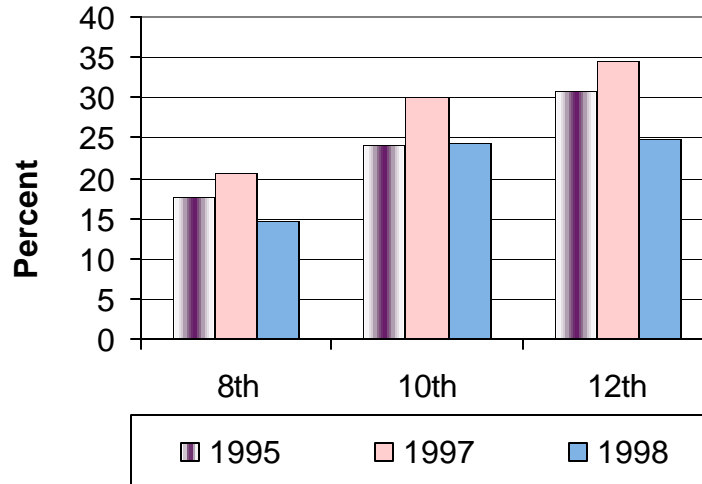
Table 6-1 shows the percent of 8th, 10th and 12th grade students who had used any illicit substance in the past month for the 1995, 1997 and 1998 DASA/DHS Studies.

Table 6-1			
<i>Per Cent of Students Using Any Illicit Substance* in the Past Month</i>			
	Survey Year		
	1995	1997	1998
GENDER			
Female	21.1	26.5	18.2
Male	26.4	29.9	24.3
GRADE IN SCHOOL			
8th	17.6	20.6	14.6
10th	24.1	30.1	24.4
12th	30.9	34.6	24.8
REGION			
Cook County	25.3	29.1	23.5
Chicago Public	24.9	25.9	21.1
Cook/Non-CPS	25.7	31.2	25.1
Non-Cook Counties	22.5	27.5	19.6
Urban	27.5	30.8	24.9
Rural	19.5	23.7	16.6
Cook County Race Groups			
White	28.0	31.9	25.1
African American	24.8	25.7	22.1
Hispanic	22.7	31.0	22.8
Other**	16.5	23.8	25.9
Native American**	34.3	42.0	12.5
OVERALL	23.7	28.1	21.1
*Marijuana, Cocaine/Crack, Hallucinogens, Other Drugs			
**Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.			

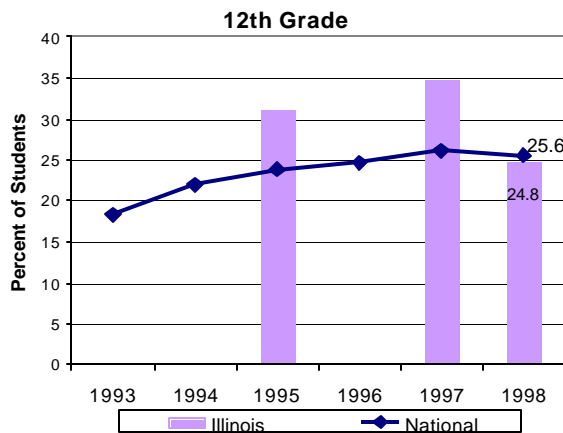
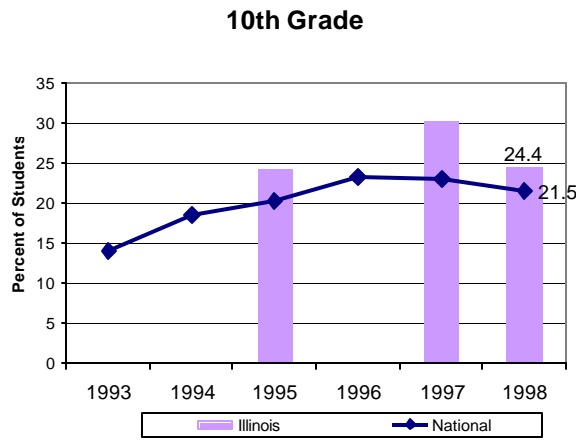
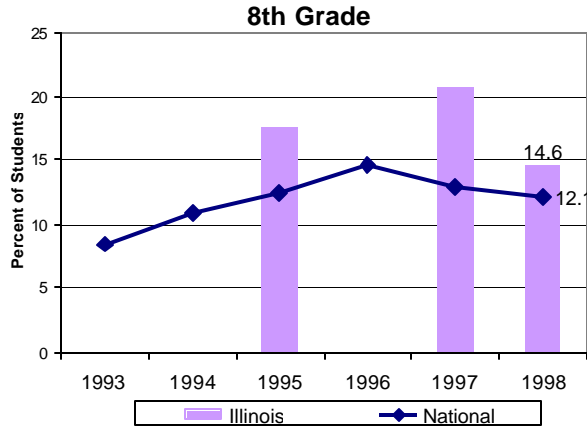
Use of illicit substances showed a 1997 peak followed by a 1998 drop to levels below the 1995 figures for both male and female students. The drop was slightly larger for female students.



In 1998, students in all three grades reported decreases to 1995 levels or below, following a 1997 peak in use rates. Eighth and twelfth grade students reported the greatest reductions.

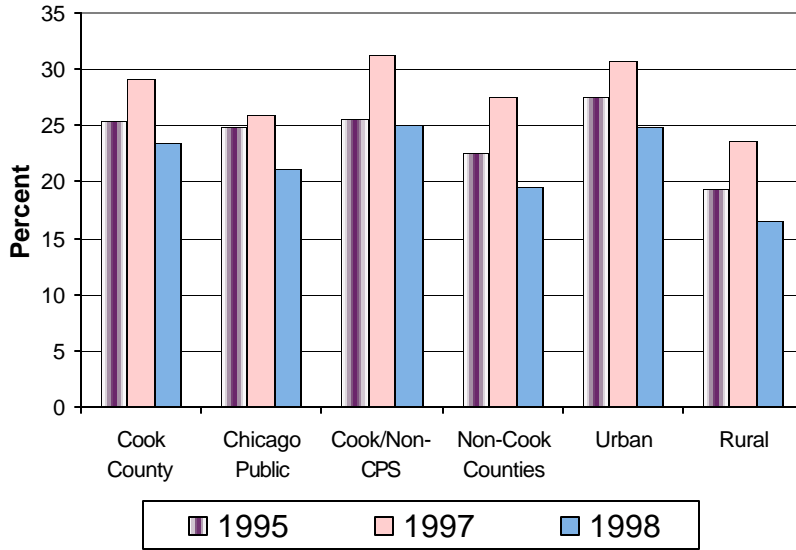


Despite decreases, Illinois 8th and 10th grade students remained somewhat more likely than students nationally⁵ to have used any illicit substance in the past month. Twelfth grade Illinois use in 1998 was closest to the national rate.

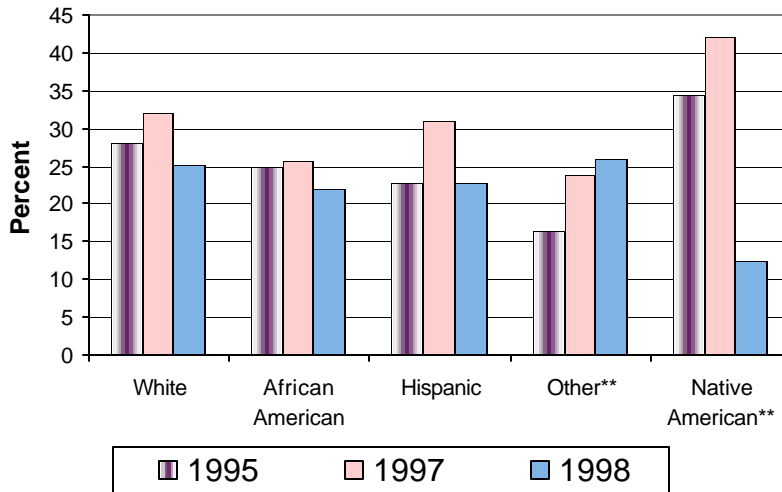


⁵ Source *Monitoring the Future 1998*.

Past month illicit substance use among students from both Cook and non-Cook Counties decreased in 1998 following an 1997 peak in use. In most regional groups 1998 rates were similar to or lower than 1995 rates.

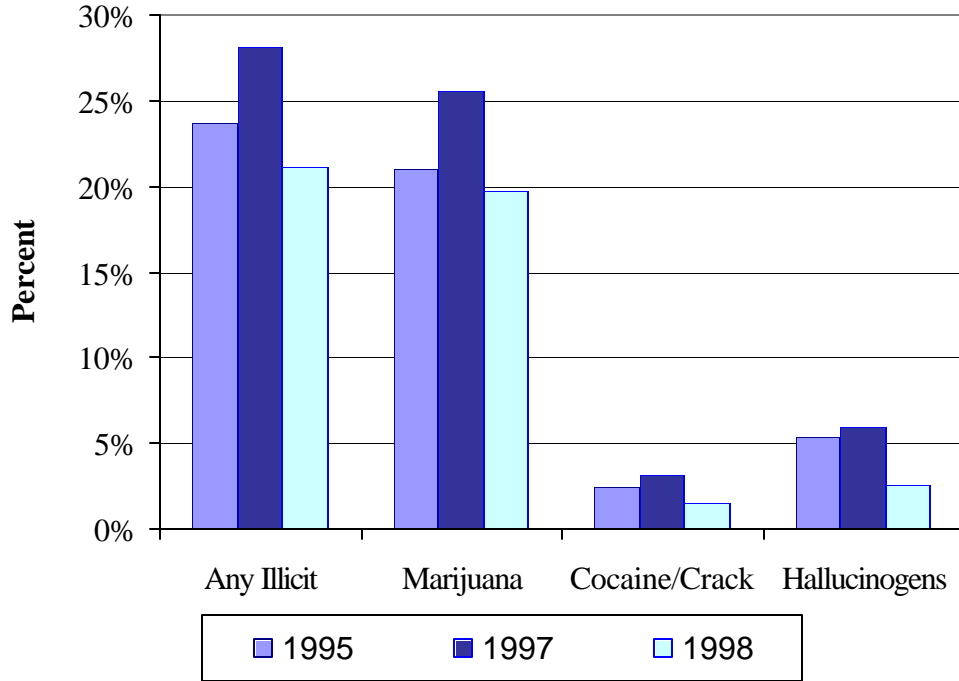


Illicit substance use decreased more among White and Hispanic Cook County students than among African-American Cook County students.



**Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.

Though youth use rates for many illicit substances decreased in 1998, 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 use of other illicit drugs.⁶



⁶ Since use of ‘other drugs’ (e.g., heroin, uppers, downers) were listed separately in 1995 and 1997 and combined in 1998, it was not possible to include these rates in this graph.

Chapter 7

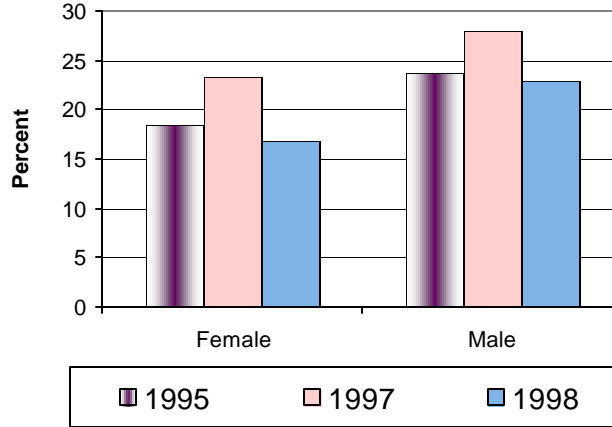
Marijuana

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

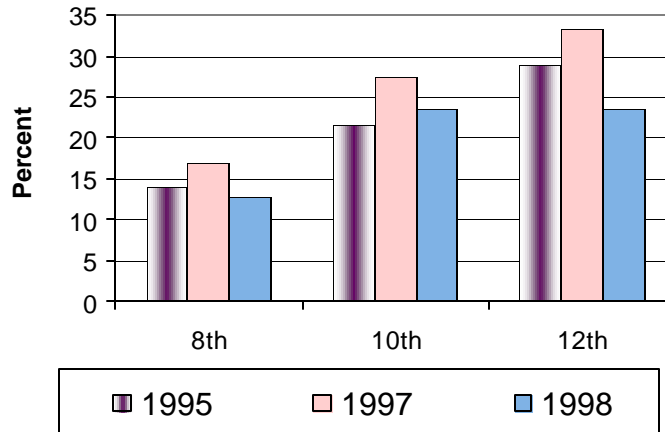
Table 7-1				
Per Cent of Students Using Marijuana in the Past Month				
		Survey Year		
		1995	1997	1998
GENDER				
Female		18.5	23.3	16.8
Male		23.6	28.0	22.9
GRADE IN SCHOOL				
8th		14.1	17.0	12.7
10th		21.6	27.5	23.5
12th		28.9	33.2	23.6
REGION				
Cook County		22.9	26.9	22.6
Chicago Public		23.5	23.7	20.9
Cook/Non-CPS		22.5	29.0	23.7
Non-Cook Counties		19.7	24.8	17.9
Urban		24.9	27.4	23.2
Rural		16.5	21.6	15.0
Cook County Race Groups				
White		24.8	27.5	23.7
African American		24.3	25.7	21.6
Hispanic		18.5	28.1	22.2
Other*		15.4	23.3	24.6
Native American*		28.4	42.0	12.2
OVERALL		21.0	25.6	19.7

*Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.

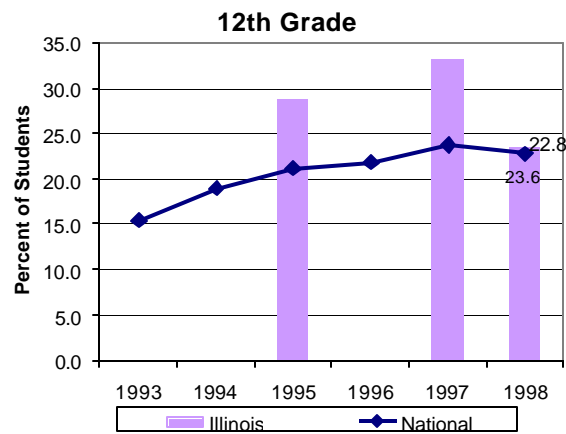
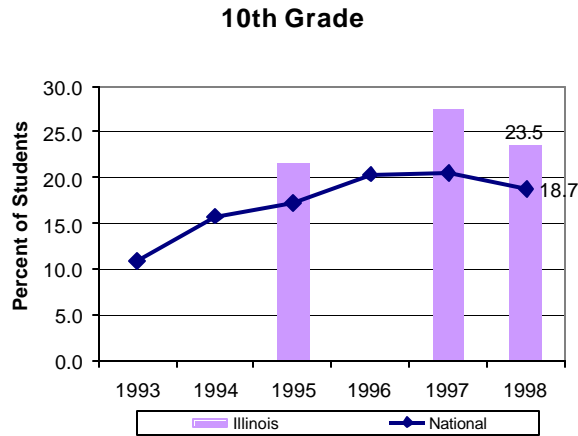
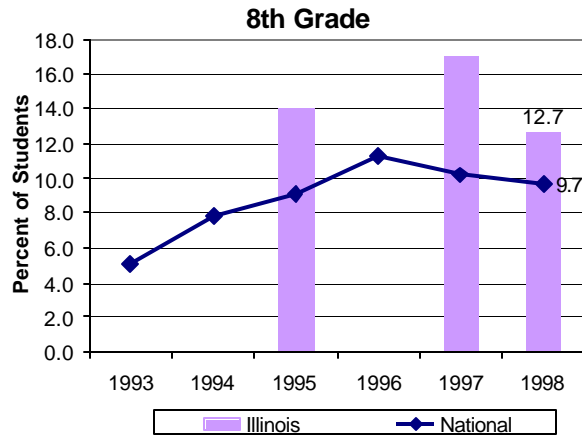
Use of marijuana showed a 1997 peak followed by a 1998 drop to levels at or below the 1995 figures for both male and female students. The drop was slightly larger for female students.



In 1998, students in all three grades reported decrease to 1995 levels or below, following a 1997 peak in use rates. Eighth and twelfth grade students reported the greatest reductions.

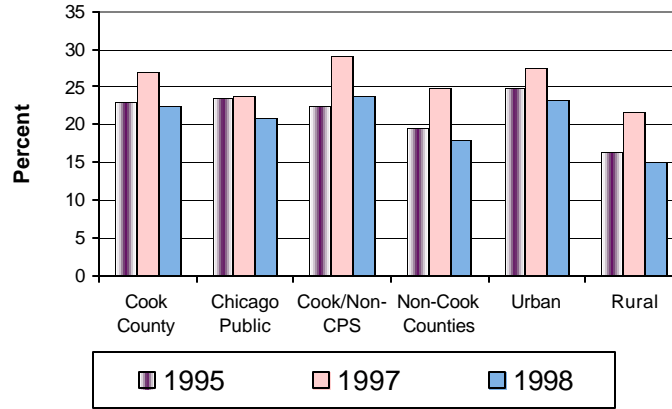


Despite decreases, Illinois 8th and 10th grade students remained somewhat more likely than students nationally⁷ to have used marijuana in the past month. Twelfth grade Illinois use in 1998 was closest to the national rate.

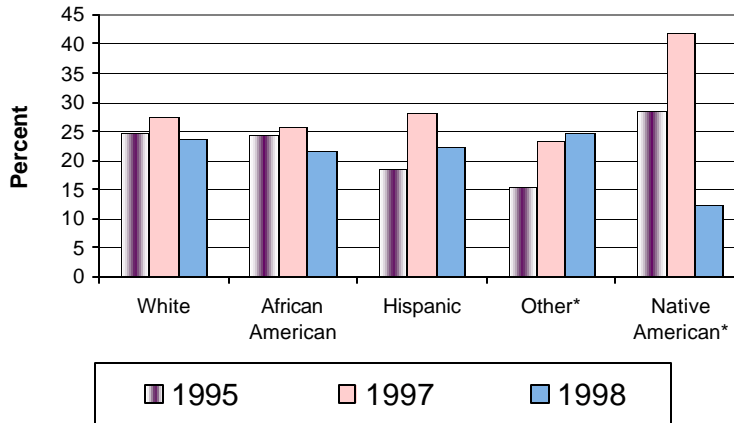


⁷ Source *Monitoring the Future 1998*.

Past month marijuana use among students from both Cook and non-Cook Counties decreased in 1998 following an 1997 peak in use. In most regional groups, 1998 rates were similar to or lower than 1995 rates.

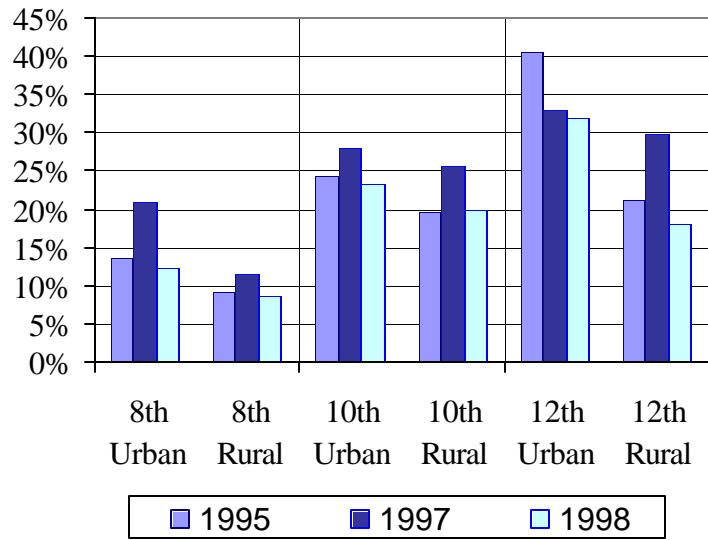


Marijuana use decreased in 1998 following a 1997 peak for each of the three major racial groups.



*Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.

The magnitude of 1998 decreases in past month marijuana use among non-Cook County students varied by grade and region.



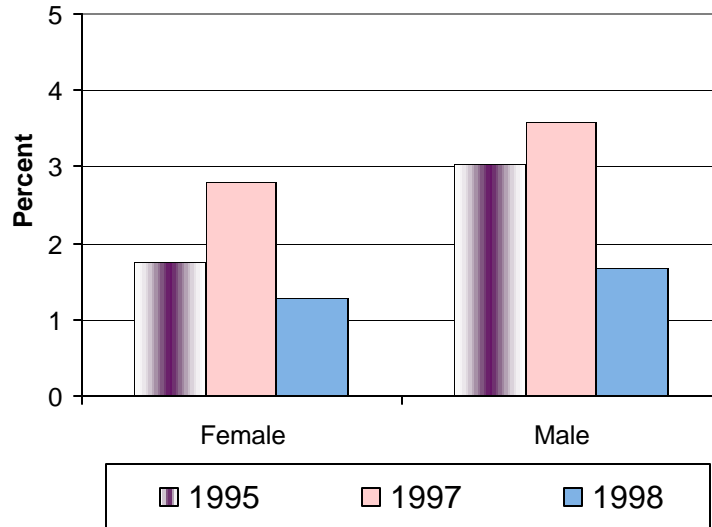
Chapter 8 **Cocaine and/or Crack**

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

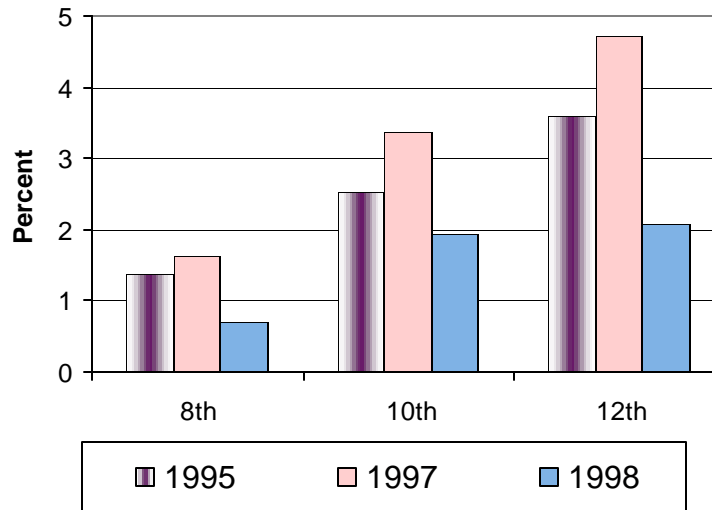
Table 8-1			
Per Cent of Students Using Cocaine/Crack in the Past Month			
	Survey Year		
	1995	1997	1998
GENDER			
Female	1.8	2.8	1.3
Male	3.0	3.6	1.7
GRADE IN SCHOOL			
8th	1.4	1.6	0.7
10th	2.5	3.4	1.9
12th	3.6	4.7	2.1
REGION			
Cook County	3.1	2.7	0.9
Chicago Public	2.1	1.4	0.3
Cook/Non-CPS	3.7	3.5	1.3
Non-Cook Counties	2.0	3.5	1.9
Urban	1.9	3.8	1.8
Rural	2.0	3.1	2.0
Cook County Race Groups			
White	4.1	5.0	1.5
African American	1.1	0.6	0.2
Hispanic	3.3	2.7	0.9
Other*	6.7	1.3	2.2
Native American*	11.4	0.0	0.0
OVERALL			
	2.4	3.3	1.5

*Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.

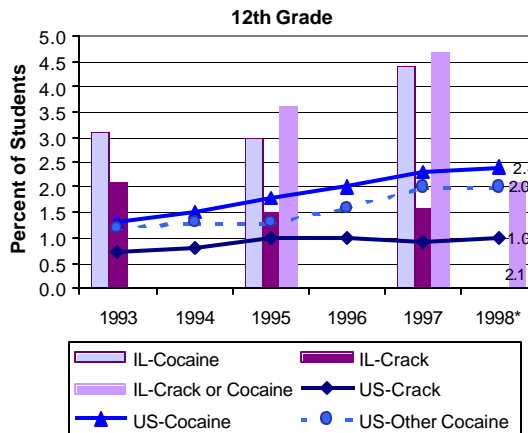
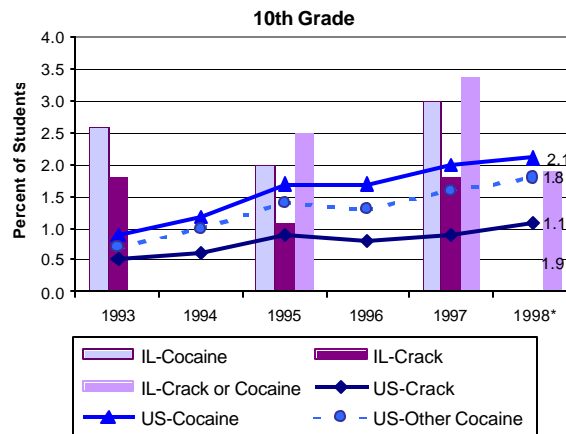
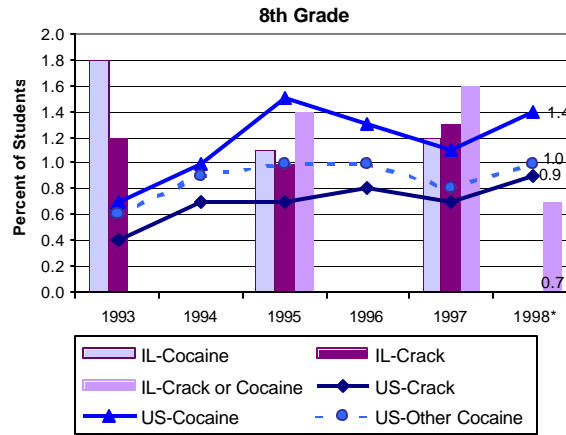
Past month use of cocaine/crack dropped to less than 2% for both male and female students.



In 1998, 2% or less of students in all three grades reported past month use of cocaine/crack. Twelfth grade students reported the greatest reductions.



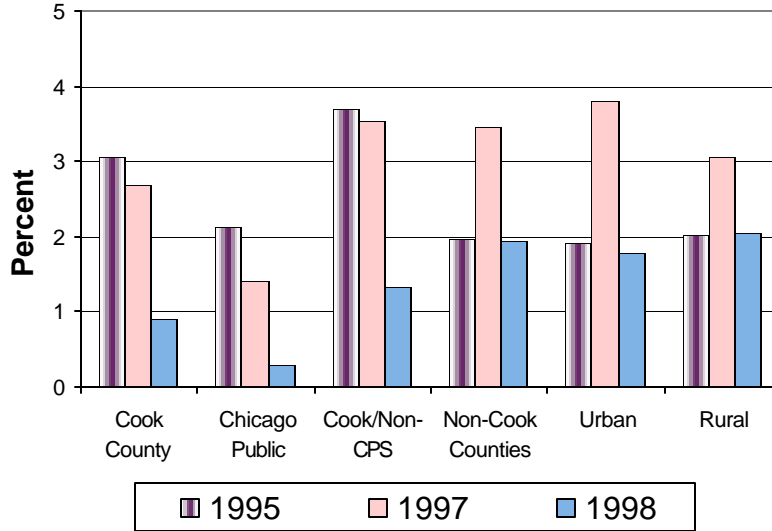
While national rates⁸ of past month cocaine/crack use increased or remained stable, rates for Illinois students have decreased.⁹



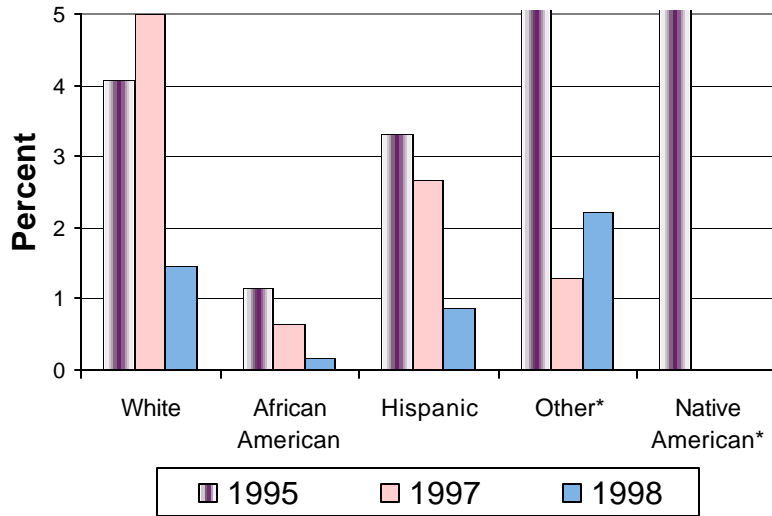
⁸ Source *Monitoring the Future 1998*.

⁹ Note that Crack and Cocaine were combined in the 1998 survey. The combined form was not available for the 1993 survey. Crack and Cocaine are reported separately in the national data.

Past month cocaine/crack use among students from Cook County dropped for the second time to less than 1% overall. Rates for students from non-Cook Counties decreased in 1998 to 2% or less following a 1997 peak in use.

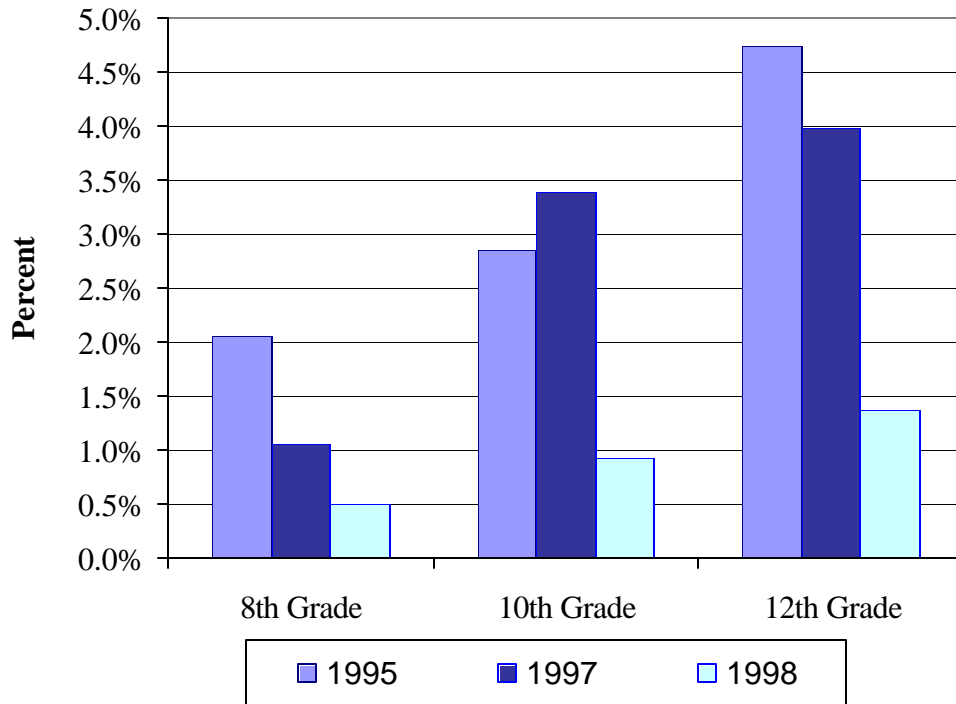


Cocaine/Crack use decreased in 1998 for each of the three major racial groups. For African-American and Hispanic students the 1998 drop was the second decrease.



*Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.

The number of Cook County youths using cocaine or crack decreased in 1998. Tenth grade use peaked in 1997, while eighth and twelfth grade figures continued to decline from 1995 rates.



Chapter 9

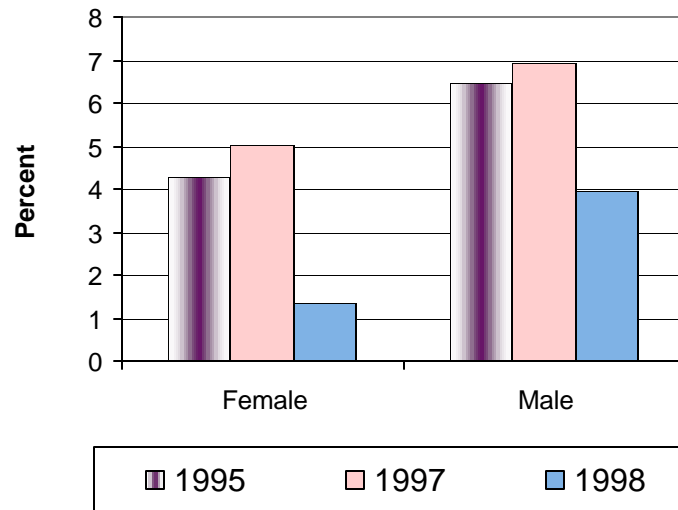
Any Hallucinogen

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

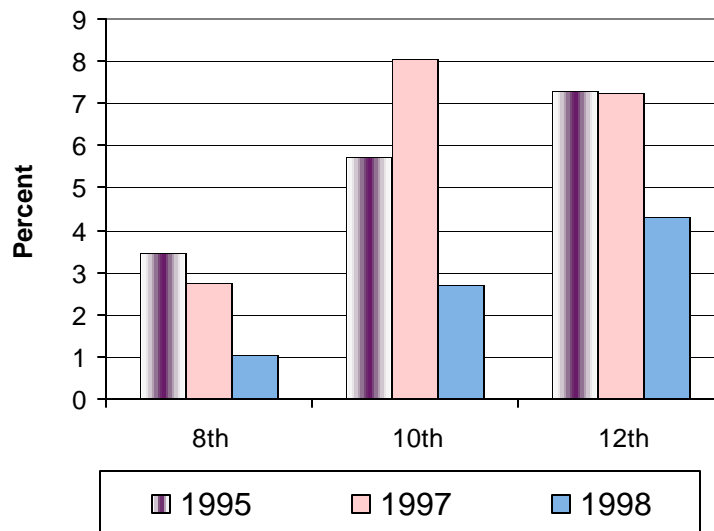
	Survey Year		
	1995	1997	1998
GENDER			
Female	4.3	5.0	1.3
Male	6.5	6.9	4.0
GRADE IN SCHOOL			
8th	3.5	2.8	1.0
10th	5.7	8.0	2.7
12th	7.3	7.3	4.3
REGION			
Cook County	5.2	5.5	1.3
Chicago Public	4.1	4.1	0.9
Cook/Non-CPS	6.0	6.4	1.5
Non-Cook Counties	5.4	6.3	3.5
Urban	5.9	7.3	4.5
Rural	5.1	5.0	2.9
Cook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

*Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.

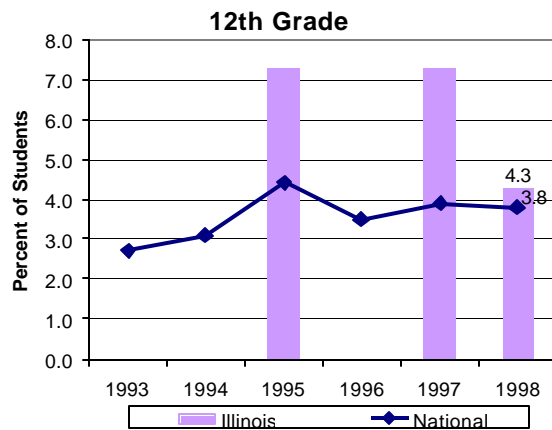
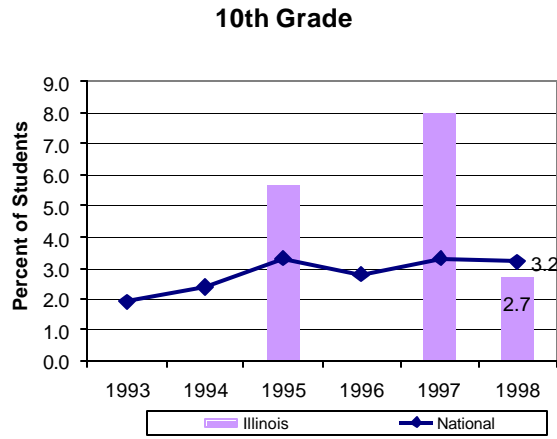
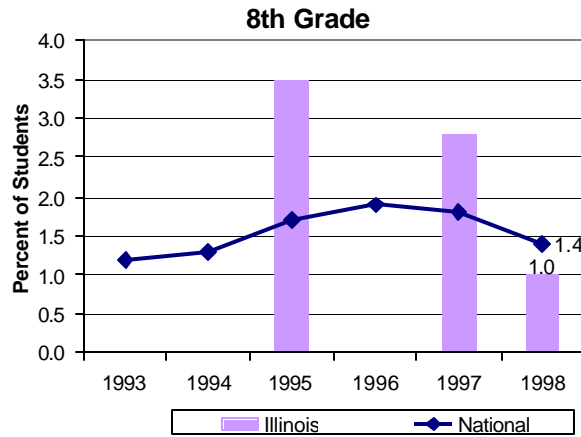
Past month hallucinogen use showed a 1997 peak followed by a 1998 drop well below the 1995 rates for both male and female students. The drop was larger for female students, whose 1998 use rates were less than half the rate of male students.



In 1998, students in all three grades reported decreased hallucinogen use.

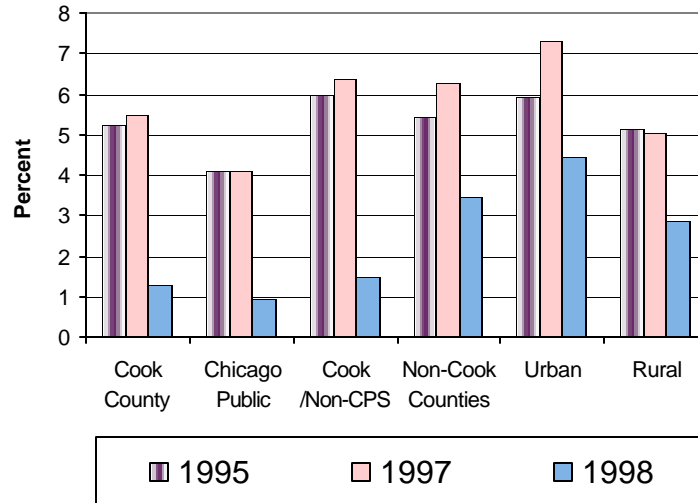


Past month hallucinogen use among Illinois 8th and 10th grade students dropped below national¹⁰ rates in 1998. Among Illinois 12th grade use dropped to a level only slightly higher than nationally.

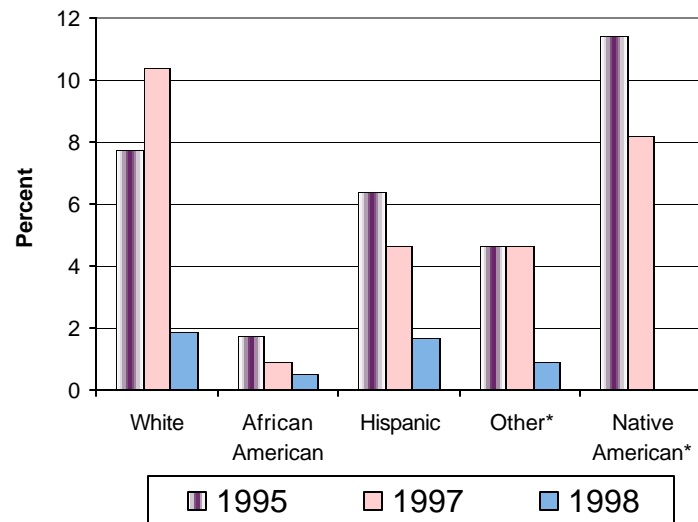


¹⁰ Source *Monitoring the Future 1998*.

Past month hallucinogen use among students from Cook County decreased to 1.5% or less. Use among non-Cook County students also decreased in 1998, but rates were higher.

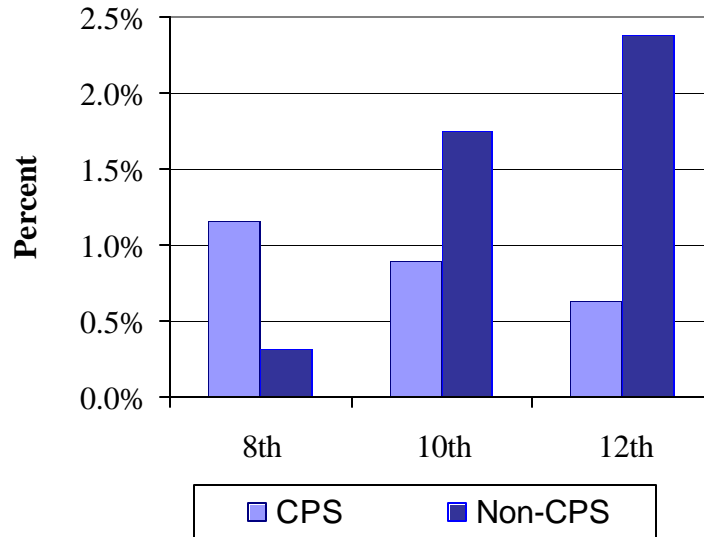


Past month hallucinogen use decreased in 1998 to less than 2% for each of the three major racial groups. This is a second decrease for African-American and Hispanic students.

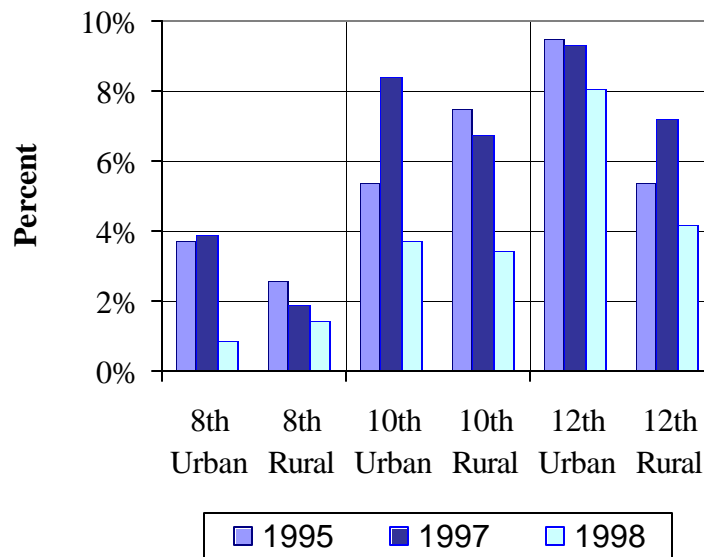


*Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.

In 1998, the percent of Chicago Public School students who used hallucinogens in the past month was four times the percent of other Cook County students in 8th grade, but only half the rate of use by non-CPS students in 10th grade and only one-fourth of the rate in 12th grade.



The difference between urban and rural rates of hallucinogen use among non-Cook County students, and the amount of decrease in those rates in 1998 varied by grade.

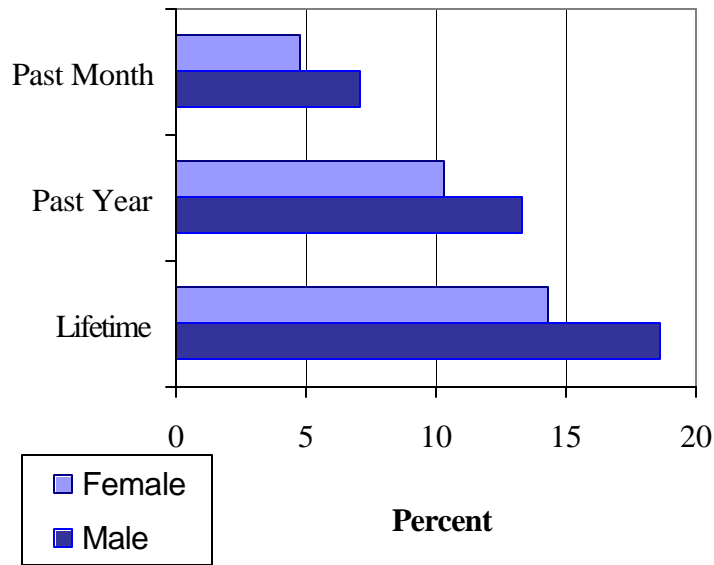


**Chapter 10
Other Drugs**

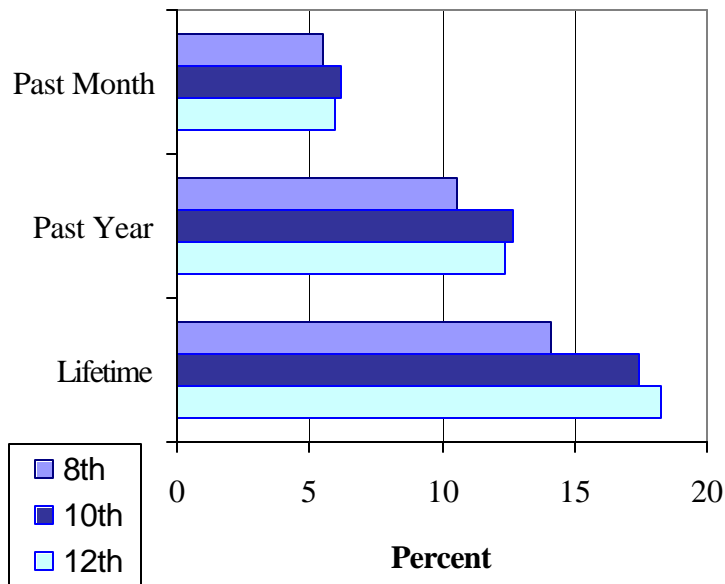
Table 10-1 shows the percent of 8th, 10th and 12th grade students who had used any “other drugs” in the past month, past year and lifetime for the 1998 *DASA/DHS Study* only. The term “other drugs” did not exist in the 1995 and 1997 surveys. It was not defined in the 1998 survey, but is expected to include heroin, stimulants, tranquilizers, and barbiturates.

	1998		
	Past Month	Past Year	Lifetime
GENDER			
Female	4.8	10.3	14.3
Male	7.0	13.3	18.6
GRADE IN SCHOOL			
8th	5.5	10.6	14.1
10th	6.2	12.7	17.4
12th	5.9	12.4	18.2
REGION			
Cook County	4.7	10.0	14.8
Chicago Public	3.2	7.1	10.2
Cook/Non-CPS	5.7	12.0	18.0
Non-Cook Counties	6.6	13.0	17.6
Urban	8.3	16.3	22.2
Rural	5.6	11.1	15.0
Cook County Race Groups			
White	5.9	13.8	19.6
African American	2.6	5.0	8.1
Hispanic	6.2	11.7	17.0
Other**	4.1	11.6	17.0
Native American**	6.6	13.1	25.5
OVERALL	5.1	10.6	15.1
*Includes heroin, uppers, downers and other substances not listed in a separate chapter in this report.			
**Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.			

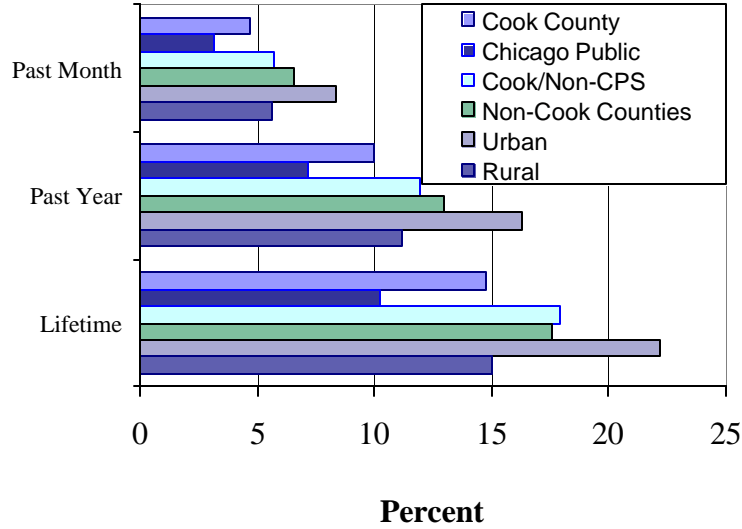
Use of other drugs in 1998 was consistently higher for male students than for female students.



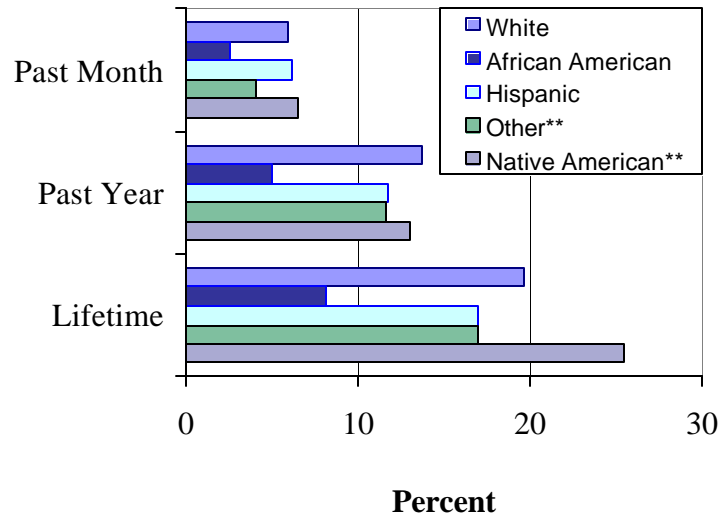
Past month and past year use of other drugs did not differ by grade in 1998. Lifetime use was lower for 8th grade students, but was not significantly different for 10th and 12th grade students.



Non-Cook County students used other drugs more frequently than Cook County students did. Urban students in the non-Cook counties reported the highest rates of other drug use in 1998. Chicago Public School students reported the lowest rates of other drug use.



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



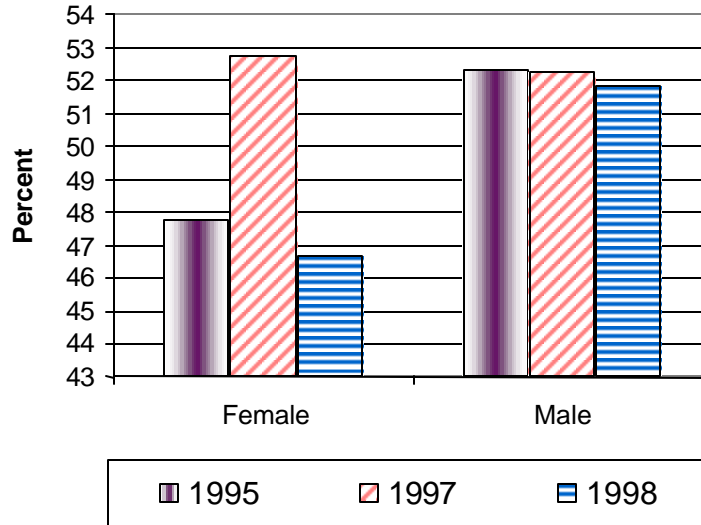
**Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.

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

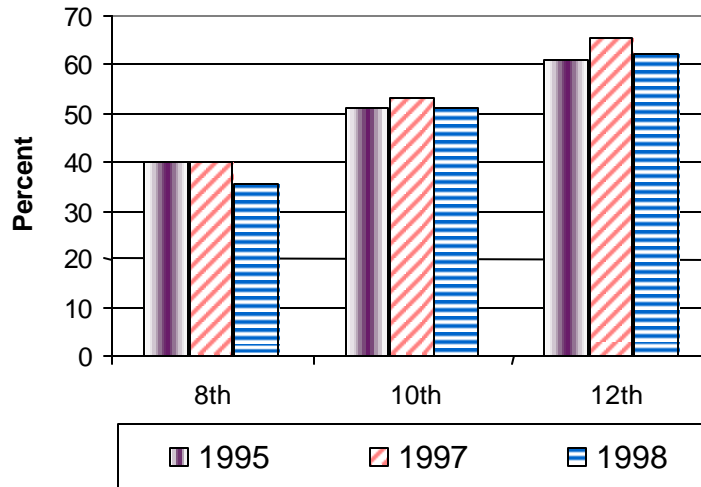
Table 10-1 shows the percent of 8th, 10th and 12th grade students who had used any gateway substance in the past month for the 1995, 1997 and 1998 DASA/DHS Studies.

<i>Table 11-1</i>			
<i>Per Cent of Students Using</i>			
<i>Gateway Substances* in the Past Month</i>			
	Survey Year		
	1995	1997	1998
GENDER			
Female	47.7	52.7	46.7
Male	52.3	52.2	51.8
GRADE IN SCHOOL			
8th	40.1	40.3	35.6
10th	51.2	53.4	51.1
12th	60.9	65.6	62.3
REGION			
Cook County	49.0	48.9	47.2
Chicago Public	41.4	38.1	38.9
Cook/Non-CPS	54.0	56.1	52.7
Non-Cook Counties	50.6	54.8	50.3
Urban	53.1	57.5	55.4
Rural	49.1	51.5	47.4
Cook County Race Groups			
White	60.6	59.6	57.8
African American	36.8	37.8	35.5
Hispanic	51.0	50.6	47.8
Other**	30.0	44.3	50.0
Native American**	69.1	46.7	54.0
OVERALL	49.9	52.5	49.1
*Alcohol, Tobacco and Marijuana			
**Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.			

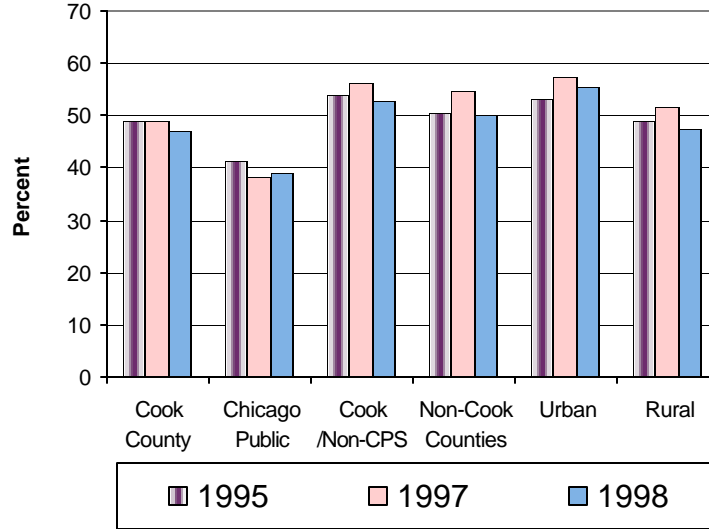
Use of gateway substances peaked in 1997 for female students and returned to 1995 levels in 1998. Use by male students has remained stable across surveys.



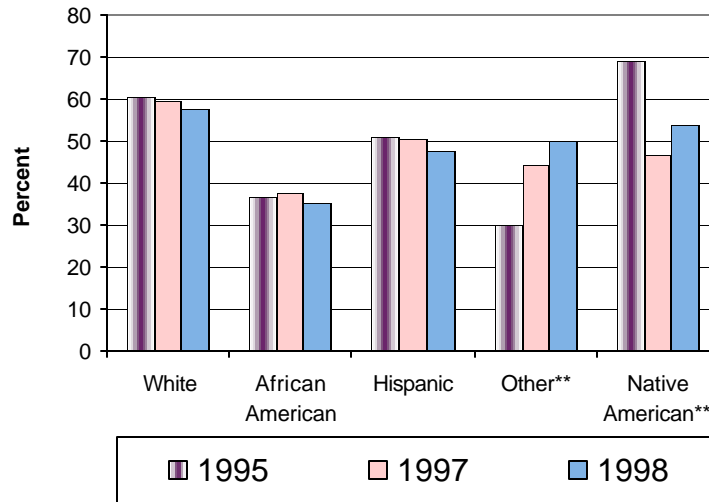
Past month use of gateway substances decreased significantly for 8th grade students, but remained stable for 10th and 12th grade students.



The combined decreases of urban and rural students, while not significant of themselves, created a significant decrease from 1997 to 1998 among all non-Cook County students.

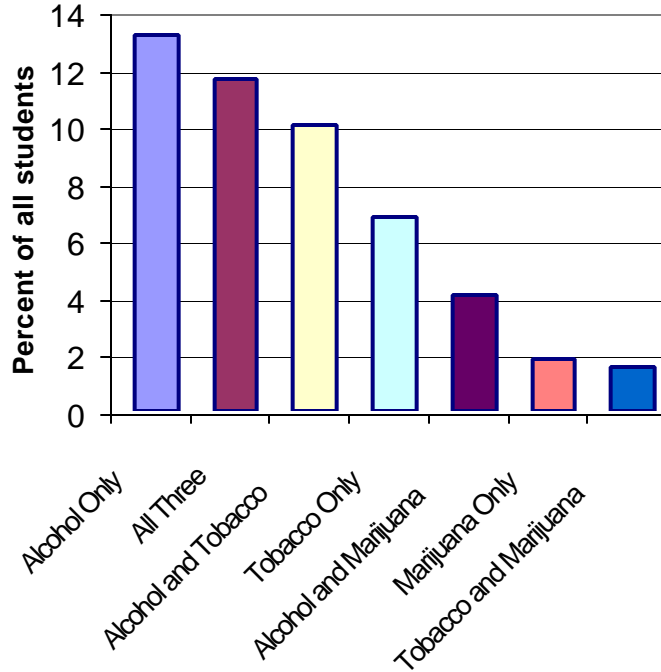


Past month gateway use remained stable for the three major racial groups in Cook County.

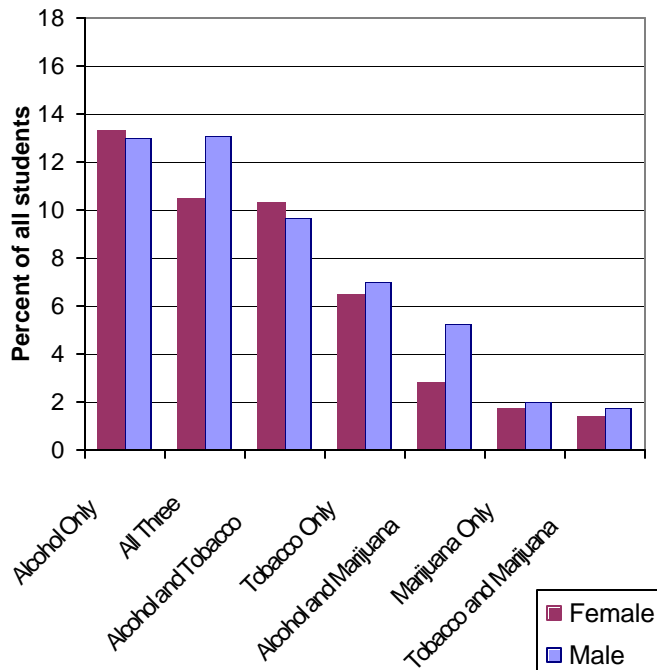


**Group size is too small for meaningful interpretation.

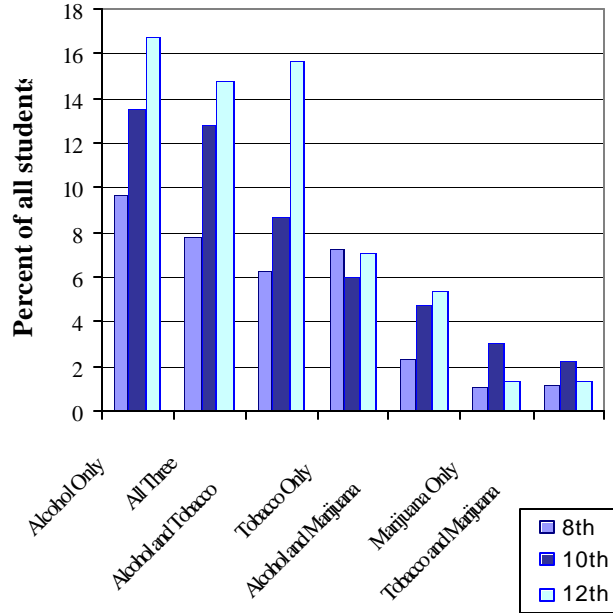
Alcohol alone is the most commonly used gateway substance, followed by a combination of alcohol, tobacco and marijuana.



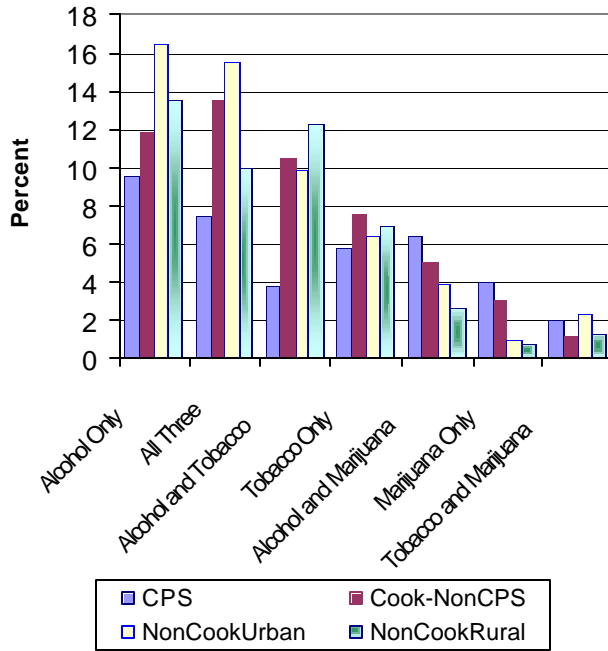
Male students used all three gateway substances and a combination of alcohol and marijuana more frequently than female students did.



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.



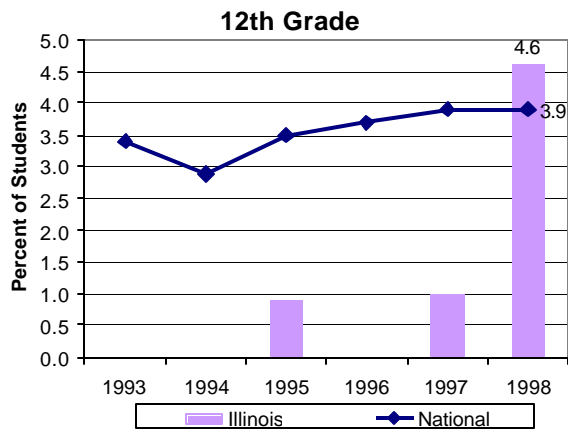
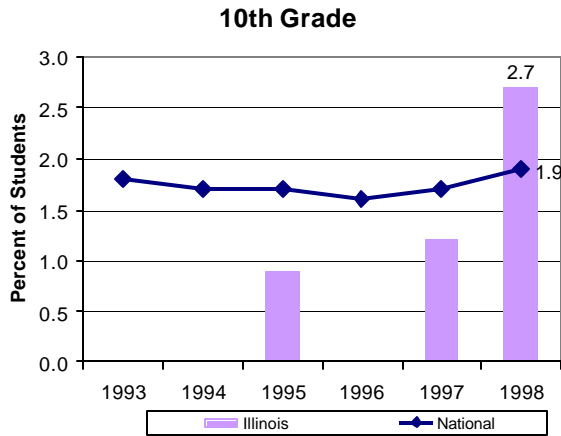
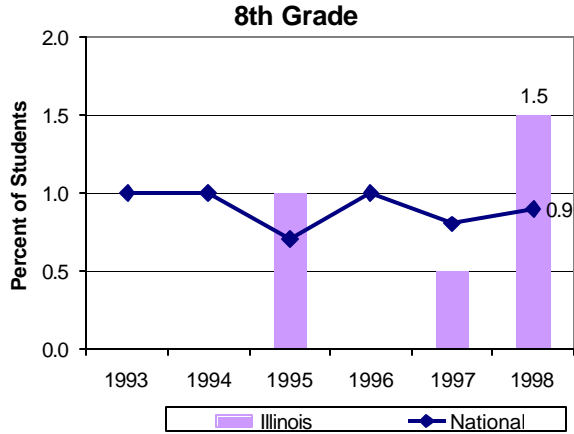
Regional differences in gateway combinations are also evident. Urban non-Cook county students report the highest rates of Alcohol only, all three substances or tobacco and marijuana in combination. Rural non-Cook County students report the highest rates of alcohol and tobacco. Chicago Public School students reported the highest rates of alcohol and marijuana in combination and marijuana only. Other Cook County students reported the highest rates of tobacco only.



Chapter 12
Daily Use of Selected Substances

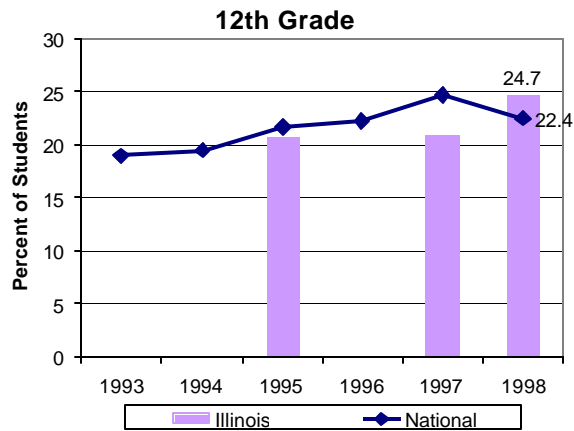
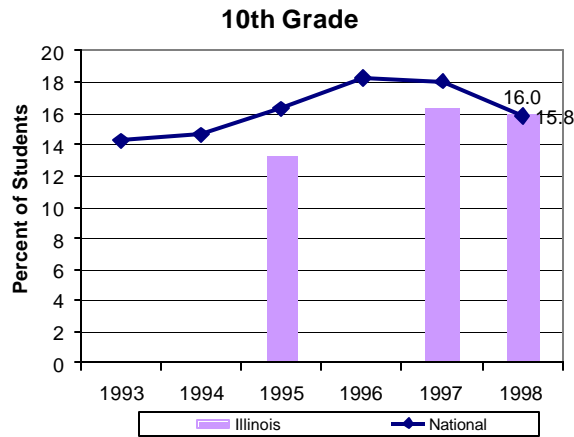
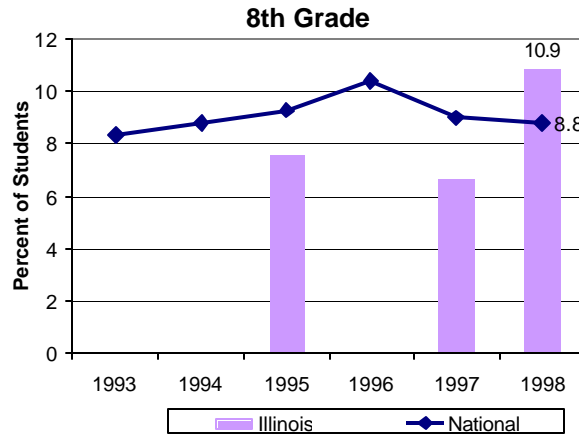
Alcohol

In 1998, daily use of alcohol was higher for each grade in Illinois than nationally.



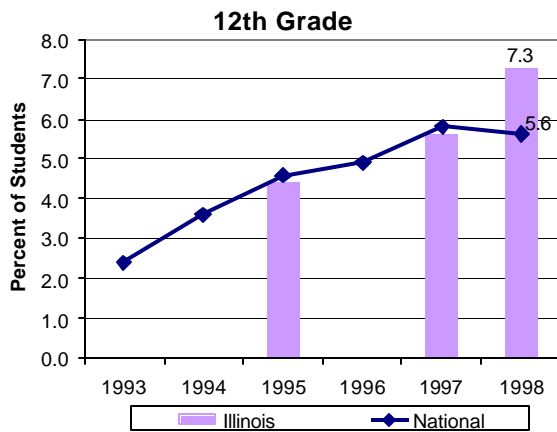
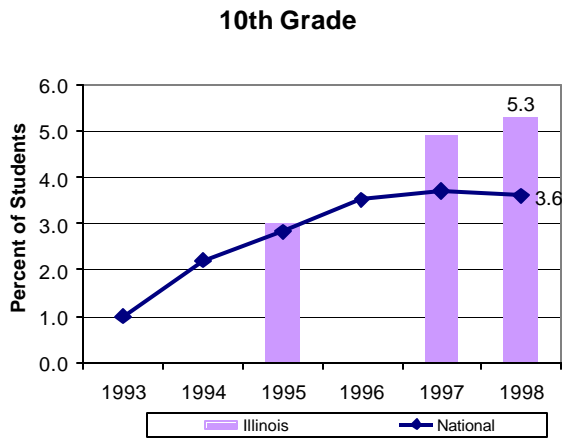
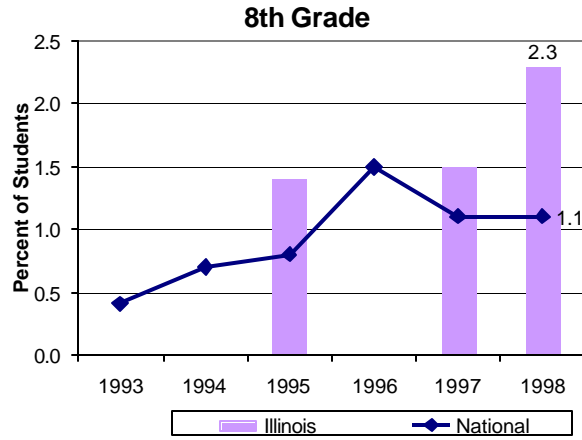
Tobacco

In 1998, daily use of tobacco was higher for 8th and 12th grade students in Illinois than nationally. Daily use of tobacco was similar for 10th grade students in Illinois and their national counterparts.



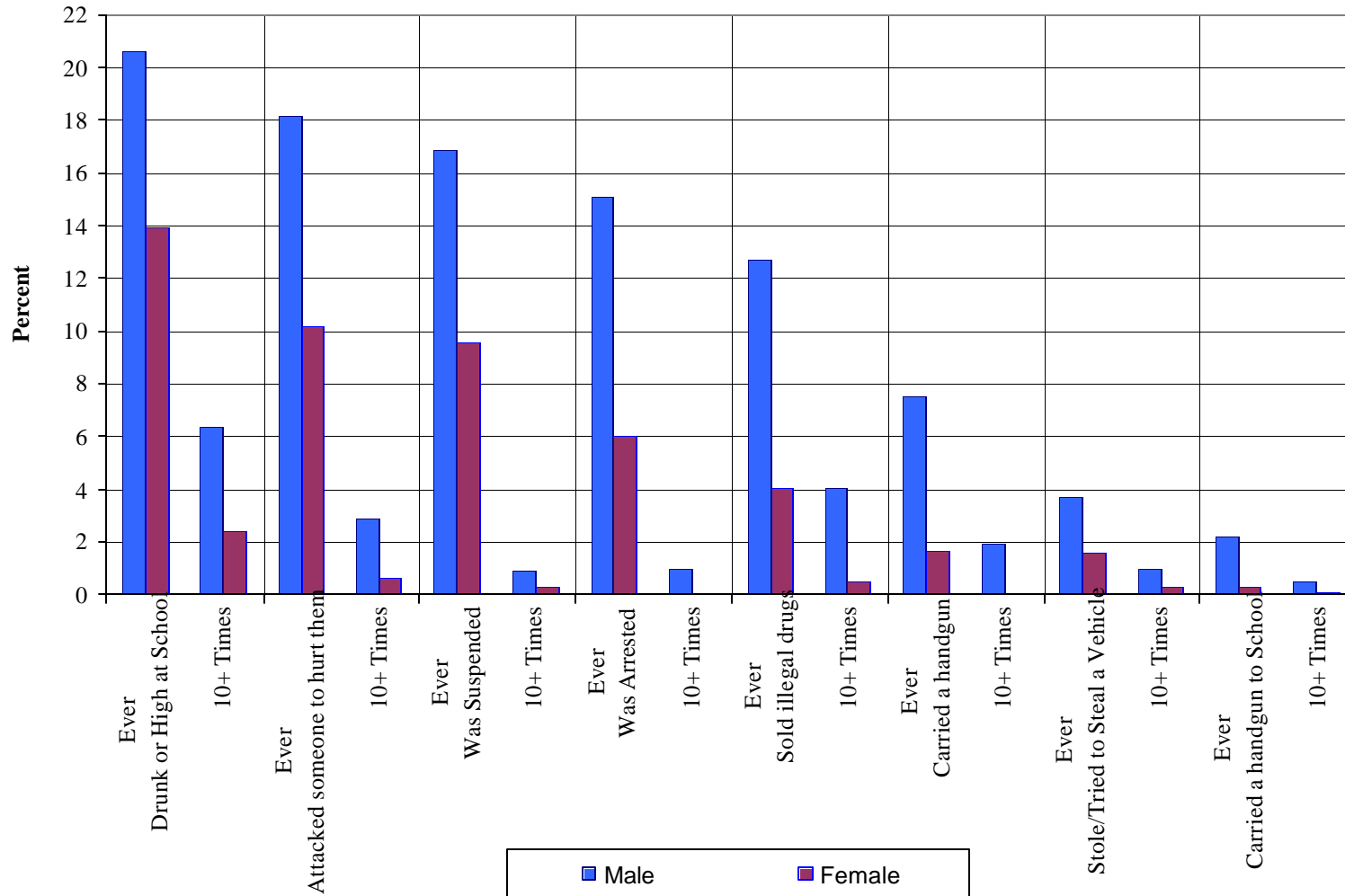
Marijuana

In 1998, daily use of marijuana was higher for each grade in Illinois than nationally.

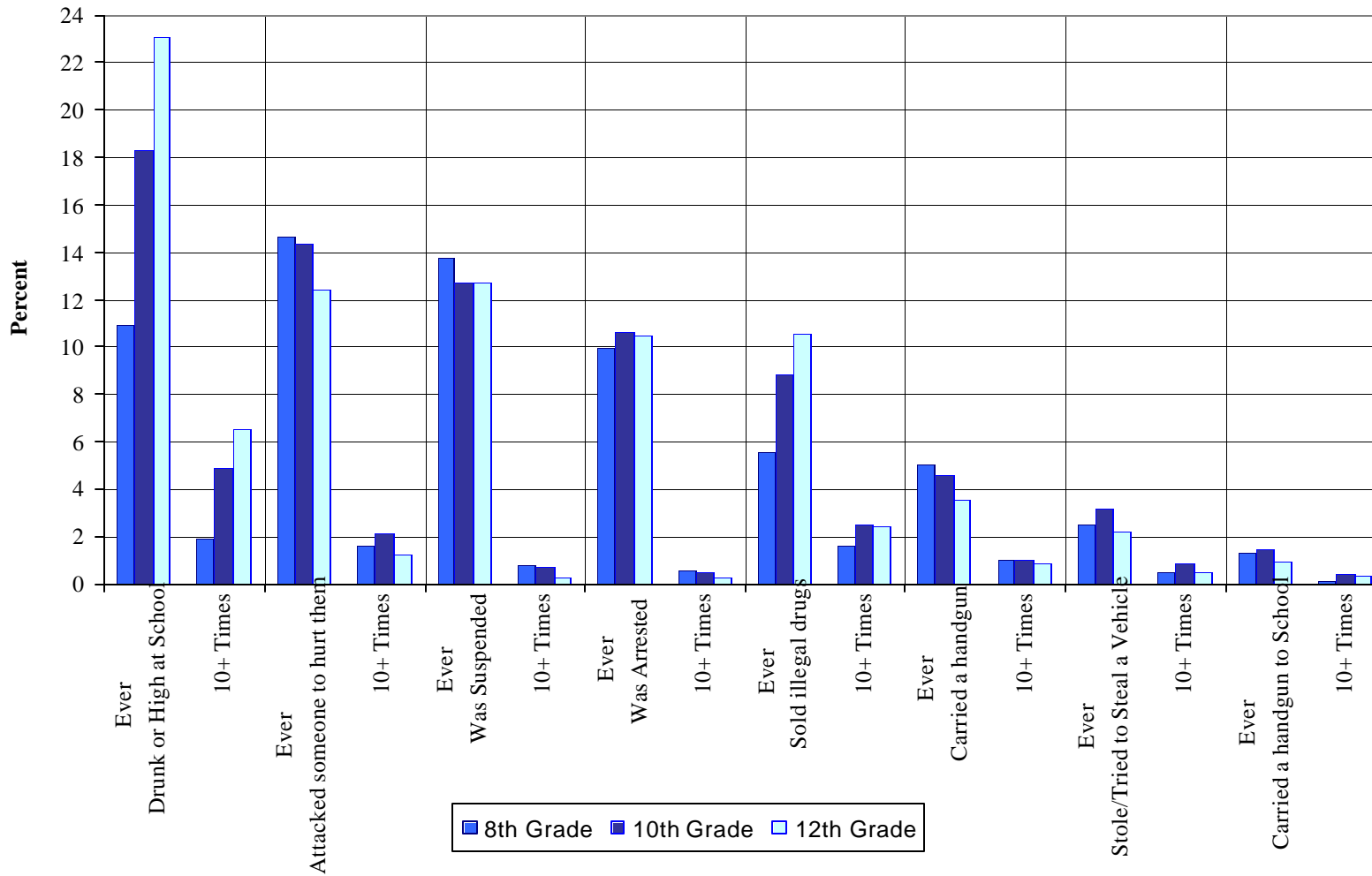


Chapter 13 Problems and Risk Behaviors

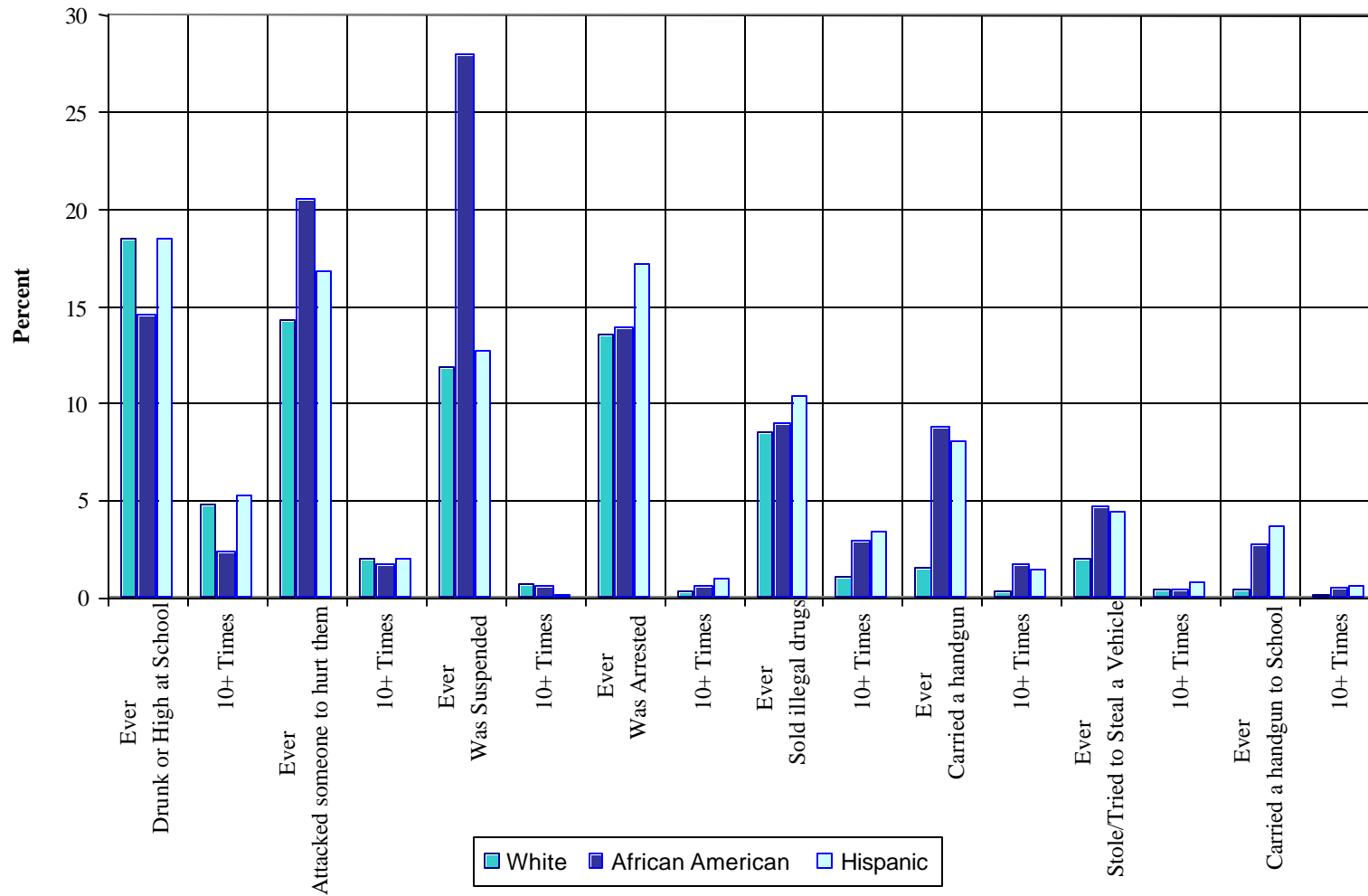
Risk behaviors are more prevalent among male students. There is a different pattern for students reporting ever engaging in a risk behavior and reporting frequently (10 or more times) engaging in a risk behavior.



While many risk behaviors increase with grade, two, ever attacked someone to hurt them, and ever carried a handgun, decreased with grade. Suspension from school showed a drop from 8th to 10th grade as well.



Among Cook County students, there are racial differences for ever or frequently engaging in risk behaviors. For example, African American students report ever having been suspended at more than twice the rate of White or Hispanic students.

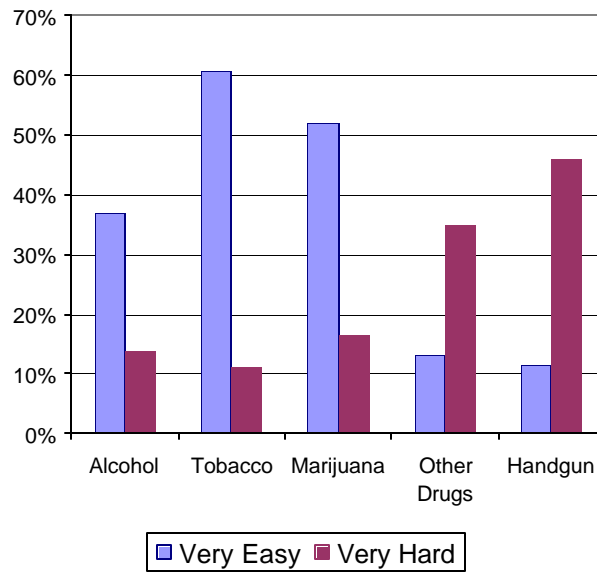


Chapter 14 Initiation and Quitting

Access

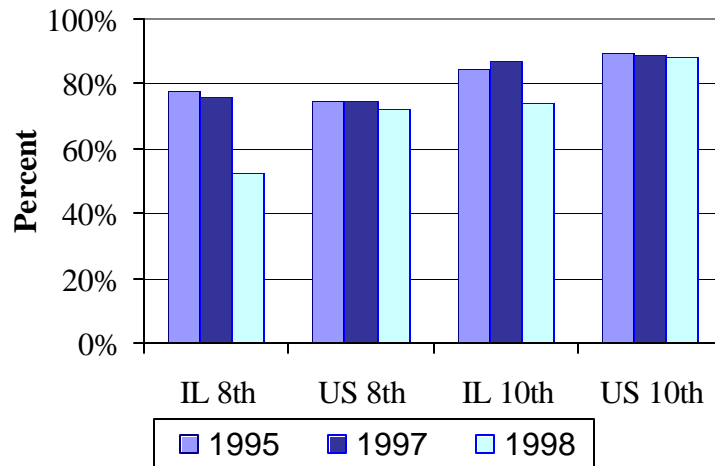
More than 50% of all students surveyed in 1998 believed that it was “Very Easy” to obtain tobacco or marijuana. Alcohol was viewed as somewhat harder to obtain while other drugs and handguns were generally considered hard to obtain, However fewer than 50% thought that either other drugs or handguns would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

Difficulty of obtaining various substances or guns

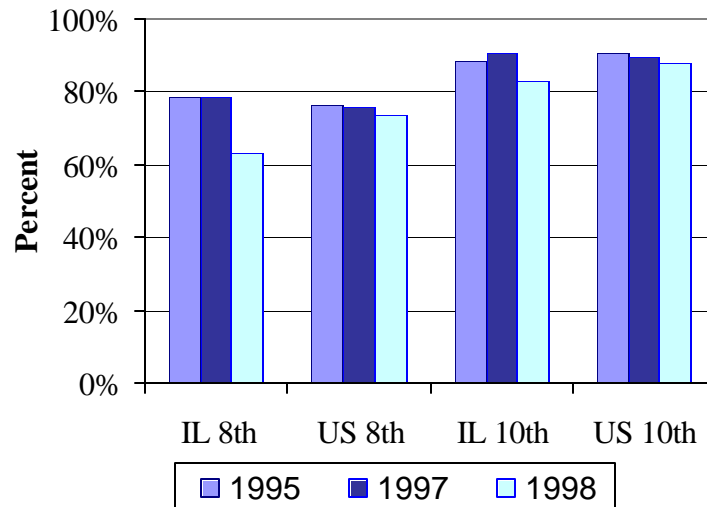


Compared to students nationally, ease of access to alcohol and tobacco for Illinois students in the 8th and 10th grades (*Monitoring the Future* did not include data for 12th graders.) decreased from 1997 to 1998.

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

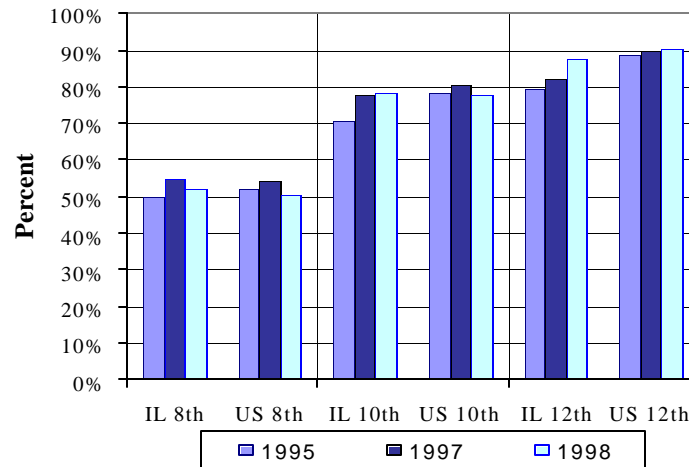


Percent of students reporting that cigarettes Were Very Easy or Sort of/Fairly Easy to get



A similar percentage of Illinois students reported it was easy to get marijuana. However, for Illinois seniors, this reflected an increase in perceived ease.

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

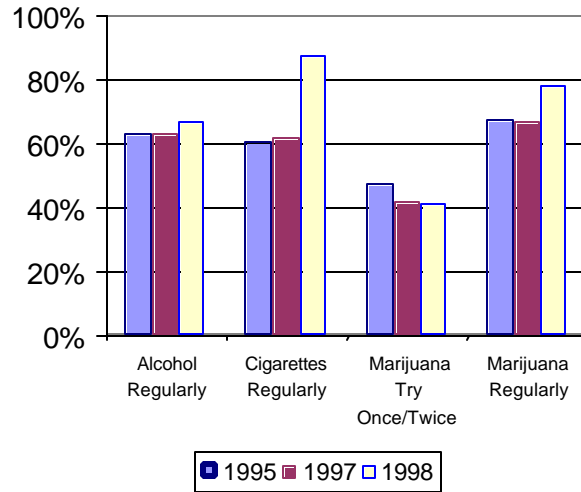


Perception of harm

There was a dramatic increase in the percent of students who believed that regular use of cigarettes involved “great” or “moderate” risk of harm. A greater percentage of students also saw regular use of marijuana as risky in 1998 than in earlier years. Perception of harm did not change for regular use of alcohol or trying marijuana.¹¹

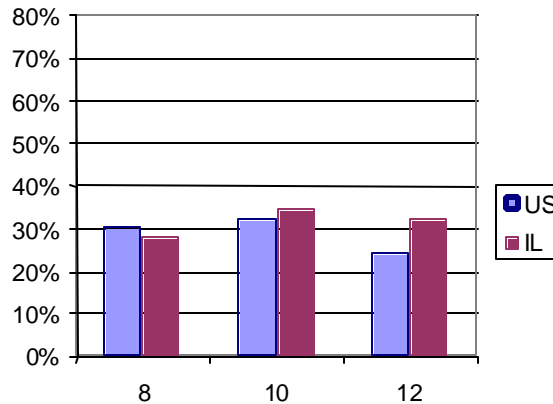
¹¹ It should be noted that the 1998 survey included harm questions for only those substances listed, and that the 1995 and 1997 responses for these questions were slightly different than those in 1998. In this figure, the 1995 and 1997 results represent the percent who believed use was “very likely to harm someone who uses it”.

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



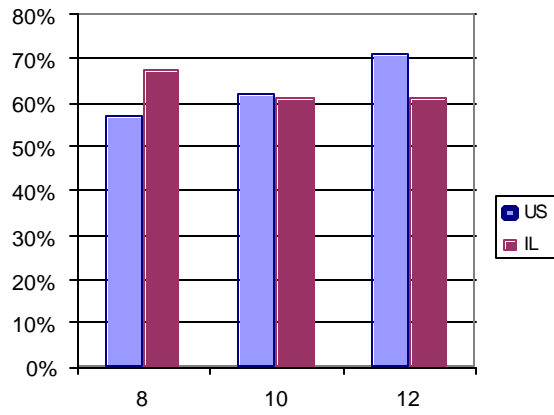
While Illinois 8th and 10th graders are similar to their national counterparts, Illinois seniors are somewhat more likely to perceive great risk associated with regular use of alcohol.

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



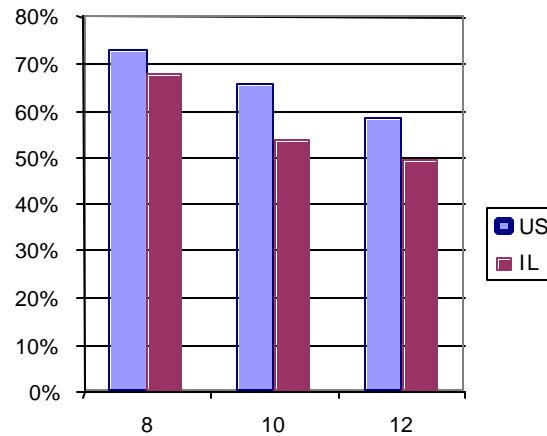
While 8th graders in Illinois are more likely than national 8th graders to perceive great risk with regular tobacco use, this was completely reversed for 12th graders.

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



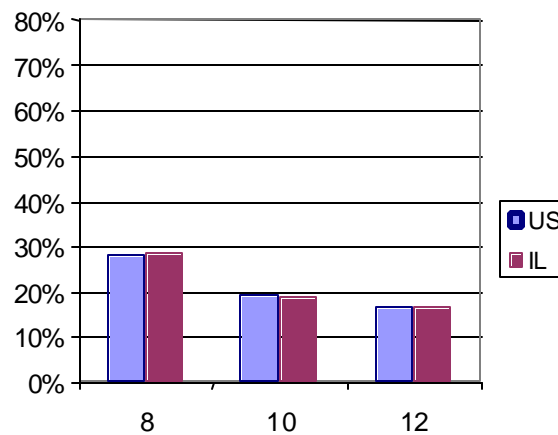
Illinois students are less likely than students nationally to see great risk in regular use of marijuana. This is particularly true for 10th graders, 54% of whom perceive great risk, compared to 66% of students nationally.

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



There was little difference between Illinois students and students nationally for the risk of using marijuana once or twice. Between 15% and 30% of students believed using marijuana once or twice involved great risk. At the same time, more than 50% of the 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**



Source of ATOD Information

In 1997, more than half (56%) of the 8th 10th and 12th grade students obtained most of their information about drugs from other children including friends and siblings. At the same time, approximately one third of these students (34%) obtained most drug information from an adult including parents, teachers and other adults. Additionally, almost 10% obtained this information from the television or radio.

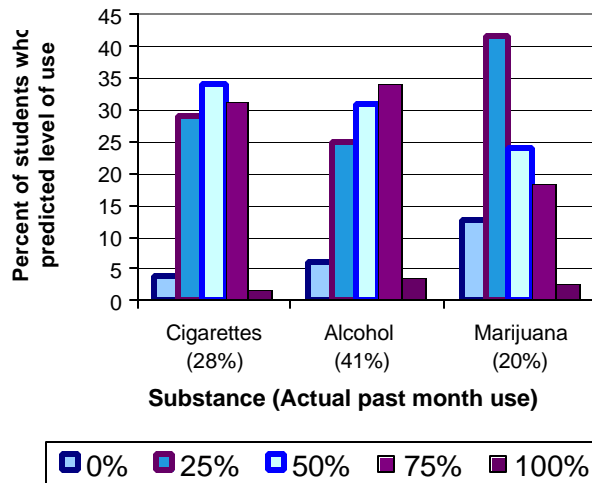
The question about source of information in 1998 requested the students' single source for most information about drugs. However, 13% of the students indicated multiple sources. Thus, it is difficult to make a direct comparison between the two years. In addition, the option "Teachers" as a source of 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 from other children while attending school.

In 1998, 56% of the students reported getting their drug information from another child (friends or siblings). This is similar to the 1997 figure. Similarly, approximately 34% of the students reported getting their information from adults (school, parents, other adults). Most of these students (18%) reported school as a source of information more than parents (7%) and other adults (2%). A large number of students (40%) reported getting drug information from either the media, school or other sources (rather than family, friends or other adults).

Peer Substance Use

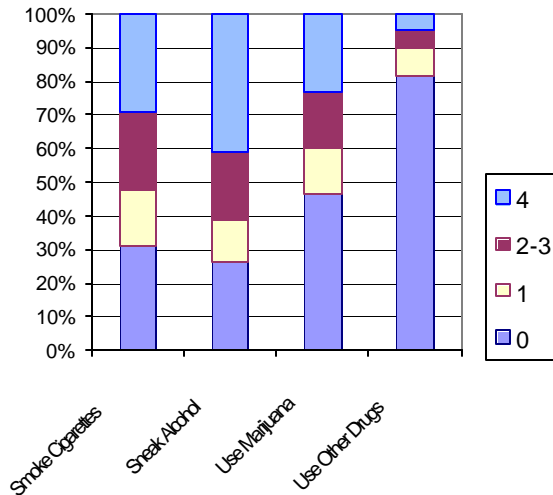
Students in 1998 were asked to indicate the number of students out of 100 who used various substances. The figure below shows their responses to these questions. As can be seen, students tended to overestimate the percent of peers who use substances, particularly cigarettes and alcohol. The percent listed 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



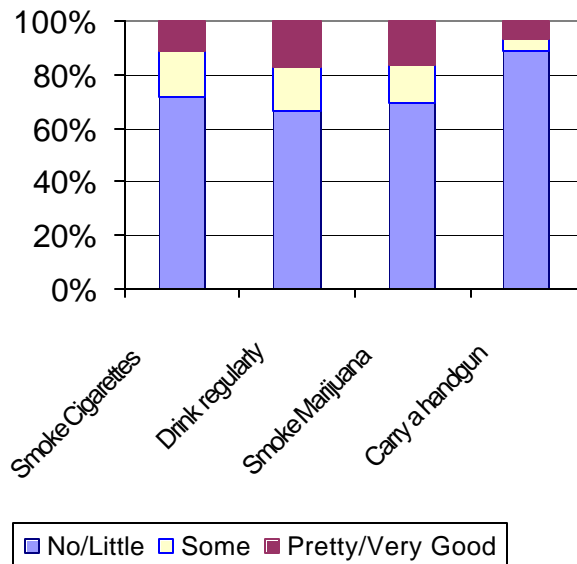
A large percentage of students reported that none of their 4 closest friends had used other drugs (90%) or marijuana (60%). A large percentage (41%) had reported that all of their 4 closest friends had tried alcohol 'when their parents didn't know about it'.

Number of 4 best friends who:



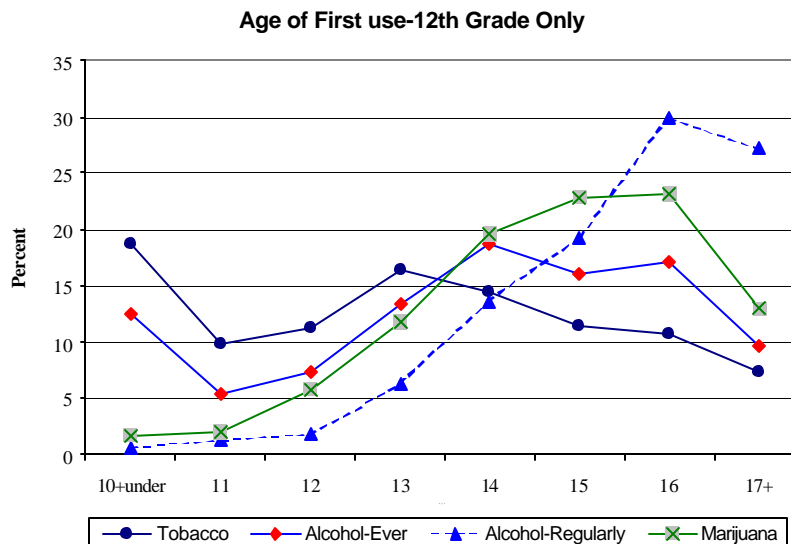
The majority of students reported that there was little or no chance of being seen as cool if they smoked cigarettes, drank regularly, smoked marijuana or carried a handgun. Drinking and smoking marijuana were associated with the greatest chances of being seen as cool.

Chance of being seen as cool if you:

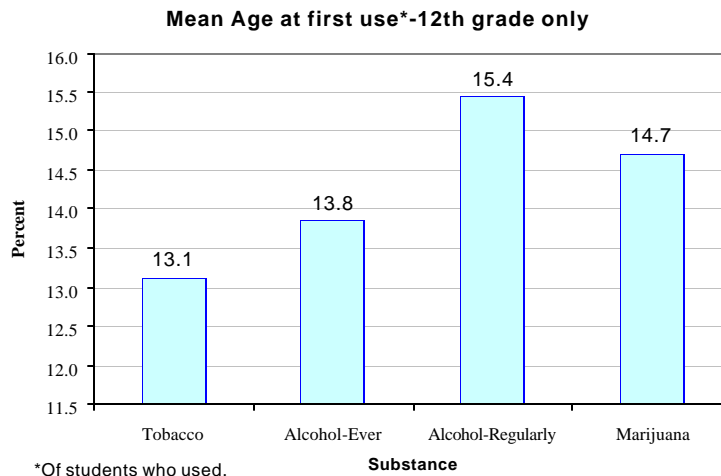


Age of Initiation

Twelfth grade students had initiated tobacco use at age 10 or under to a greater degree than alcohol or marijuana. Initiation of tobacco by twelfth graders had peaked by about age 13. Initiation of alcohol peaked at age 14, while initiation of marijuana peaked at age 16. A large proportion of twelfth graders initiated regular alcohol use at age 16.



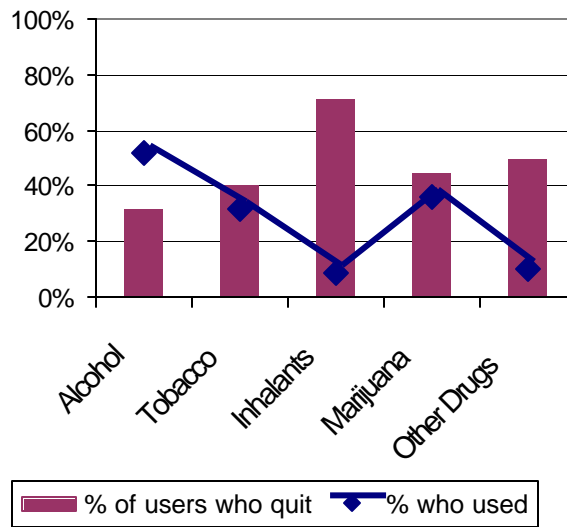
The mean age of initiation among twelfth grade students was highest for regular alcohol use and lowest for tobacco use.



Percent Quitting

Of those who had used alcohol (52% of all students had used alcohol), 31% 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 who reported a reason for quitting (71%) and the lowest continued use (29%).

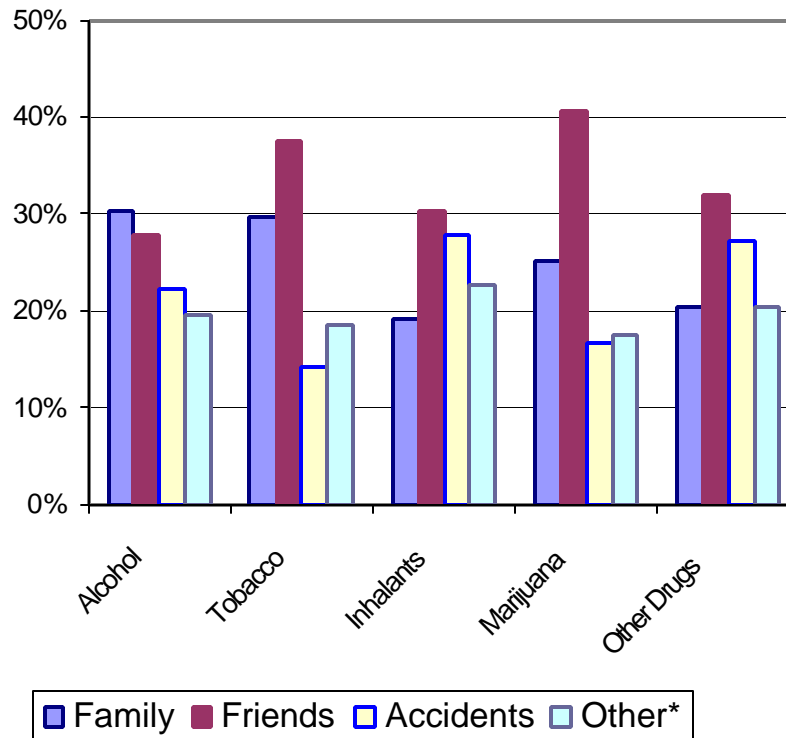
Percent who quit using various substances as a percentage of those who used



Reasons for Quitting

For students who used substances, the three key influences on quitting were family, friends, and substance-related deaths, accidents or stories. Family was the strongest influence for those who used alcohol, while friends were the strongest influence among those who used tobacco (cigarettes or smokeless), inhalants, marijuana or other drugs.

Reason for quitting various substances



*Includes Drug Ed, Church, Law Enforcement, TV/Radio

Chapter 15

Sixth Grade Students (Unweighted)

This chapter explores the characteristics and use patterns of the 6th grade students. Data are available this year due to inclusion of 6th grade students for another study. Data reported here are unweighted and represent 662 students with valid responses from seven schools 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 6th grade students in Illinois.

Sixth grade students were evenly split by gender with 325 males and 330 females surveyed. The majority were white (77%), with African American students representing the largest minority group (15%). Most students were from rural settings (97%).

Schools were categorized by the grades they served. The first group, elementary schools, where schools served only sixth grade and younger represented 80% of the students. The second group, middle schools or junior high schools, where schools served sixth grade and older represented the remaining 20% of the students.

Table 15-1 shows the percent of students endorsing various risk behaviors. 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 endorsing zero

behaviors or one behavior. A small number (3.5%) reported endorsing all eight behaviors.

Table 15-1
Percent of students
Endorsing Risk Behaviors

Behavior	Ever	3+ Times
Attacked someone to hurt them	10.7	3.8
Been suspended from school	10.0	2.6
Been arrested	4.1	1.7
Carried a handgun	3.1	1.5
Been drunk/high at school	2.8	0.9
Sold illicit drugs	1.6	1.1
Stolen/tried to steal a motor vehicle	1.1	0.5
Taken a handgun to school	0.6	0.3

Table 15-2 shows the source of information about drugs reported by students. Most sixth graders get their information from school or their parents. A small percentage (9%) did not report a source of information about drugs.

Table 15-2
Where students
get information about drugs

Source	N	%
School	280	42.3
Parents	84	12.7
Multiple sources*	80	12.1
Friends	73	11.0
Other	54	8.2
TV/ Radio	41	6.2
Other Adults	32	4.8
No One	9	1.4
Siblings	9	1.4

*All combined sources include TV/Radio

Table 15-3 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.

<i>Table 15-3 Use of Various Substances by Sixth Grade Students Per Cent of Students</i>										
	Any Substance	Alcohol	Smoke-less	Tobacco	Marijuana	Any Illicit	Inhalants	Cocaine/Crack	Hallucinogens	Other Drugs
Percent with Lifetime Use										
Gender										
Female (n=330)	37.3	26.7	2.4	23.6	2.5	6.1	7.6	0.3	0.3	5.3
Male (n=325)	50.0	36.8	8.2	30.7	5.4	14.5	12.2	1.3	1.9	11.8
School										
Elementary (n=531)	42.9	31.2	4.6	25.9	3.1	8.7	9.2	0.6	0.8	6.9
Middle/Jr (n=130)	46.2	34.6	7.9	31.3	6.9	16.2	13.5	1.6	2.3	15.0
Non-Cook Cty										
Urban (n=17)	47.1	47.1	5.9	29.4	17.6	23.5	23.5	-	5.9	17.6
Rural (n=644)	43.5	31.5	5.2	26.9	3.5	9.8	9.7	0.8	1.0	8.2
Total (n=662)	43.6	31.9	5.2	27.0	3.9	10.2	10.1	0.8	1.1	8.5
Percent with Past Year Use										
Gender										
Female	23.3	17.8	0.6	10.0	2.2	4.9	4.7	0.3	0.3	4.0
Male	35.2	27.0	4.7	14.3	4.4	10.2	8.3	1.3	1.6	6.5
School										
Elementary	28.1	21.9	1.7	11.4	2.5	6.0	6.0	0.6	0.8	4.2
Middle/Jr	33.1	23.8	6.2	15.5	6.2	13.1	8.5	1.6	1.5	9.3
Non-Cook Cty										
Urban	47.1	41.2	-	17.6	17.6	17.6	23.5	-	5.9	5.9
Rural	28.6	21.8	2.6	12.0	2.9	7.2	6.1	0.8	0.8	5.2
Total	29.0	22.3	2.6	12.2	3.2	7.4	6.5	0.8	0.9	5.2
Percent with Past Month Use										
Gender										
Female	12.1	6.4	0.6	5.5	0.3	2.1	2.5	-	-	2.1
Male	17.0	10.1	0.9	7.5	3.5	6.2	3.2	0.9	1.3	2.5
School										
Elementary	13.0	7.1	0.8	6.0	1.2	2.8	2.3	0.4	0.4	1.3
Middle/Jr	20.8	12.4	0.8	8.5	4.6	9.2	4.6	0.8	1.5	6.2
Non-Cook Cty										
Urban	29.4	23.5	-	17.6	11.8	11.8	11.8	-	5.9	-
Rural	14.1	7.7	0.8	6.2	1.6	3.9	2.6	0.5	0.5	2.3
Total	14.5	8.1	0.8	6.5	1.9	4.1	2.8	0.5	0.6	2.3
Significance Using Likelihood Ratio										
<i>Bold/Italics means P<=.01</i> Bold means P<=.05 Plain means NS										