



1998 TEXAS SCHOOL SURVEY OF SUBSTANCE USE AMONG STUDENTS ON THE BORDER: GRADES 4-12

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Texas Commission on
Alcohol and Drug Abuse

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BY

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Texas School Survey of Border Students, conducted for the first time in 1998, represents an offshoot of the larger survey of students statewide, which has been conducted every two years since 1988. Because of the scope of the school surveys, preparing this acknowledgement involves more than just thanking the people who were involved in the production of this one publication. We would first like to thank the 2.5 million students and 693 school districts who have participated in the school surveys since their inception. Our special thanks go to the 107,207 border students and 179,541 non-border students in 93 school districts who participated in the 1998 elementary and secondary school surveys.

We would also like to thank the Texas Education Agency and all the drug education and crime prevention staff in the central office and in the regional Education Service Centers who have supported this project from the beginning. Special thanks should go to Kay Beth Stavely for her support of the school surveys.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

In the spring of 1998, the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, in conjunction with the Public Policy Research Institute (PPRI) at Texas A&M University, conducted the sixth statewide survey of drug and alcohol use among students in secondary and elementary schools. As part of this 1998 survey, for the first time, students in 15 counties along the Texas-Mexico border were oversampled so that substance use among border students could be looked at in detail. A total of 63,292 students in grades seven through twelve (referred to as *secondary students*) and 43,915 students in grades four through six (*elementary students*) were sampled from 40 school districts located in border counties. A list of the school districts included can be found in Appendix A.

In the analysis, students from border school districts were compared with students from elsewhere in Texas. The comparison group of students were the 117,153 secondary students and 62,388 elementary students who were interviewed as part of the statewide sample and who did not live in border school districts, but who lived in one of the other 53 districts participating in the 1998 statewide survey.

OVERVIEW OF SUBSTANCE USE

- ◆ Elementary students were asked about their use of tobacco (cigarettes, smokeless tobacco), alcohol (beer, wine coolers, wine and liquor), inhalants and marijuana. Secondary students were asked, in addition, about their use of several other illicit drugs, including cocaine, crack, uppers, downers, hallucinogens, Rohypnol, Ecstasy and heroin.
- ◆ For elementary students, prevalence rates are reported for lifetime and past-year use. For secondary students, among whom current substance use is much higher, rates are reported for lifetime and past-month use.
- ◆ In general, rates of use of most substances were similar for border and non-border students. However, border secondary students were significantly more likely than non-border students to use cocaine and Rohypnol, and less likely to use marijuana. Border students, both secondary and elementary, were also somewhat more likely than non-border students to drink alcohol.
- ◆ Thirty-eight percent of all border elementary students (36 percent of non-border students) had tried tobacco, alcohol, inhalants and/or marijuana in their lifetime.
- ◆ Twenty-nine percent of border elementary students (26 percent of non-border students) had used one or more of those substances in the past year (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Past-Year Use of Any Substance (Tobacco, Alcohol, Inhalants or Illicit Drugs) for Elementary and Secondary Students, by Border/Non-Border Location, 1998

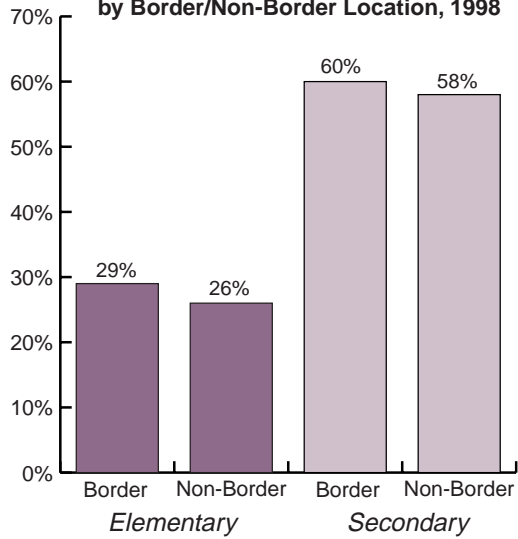
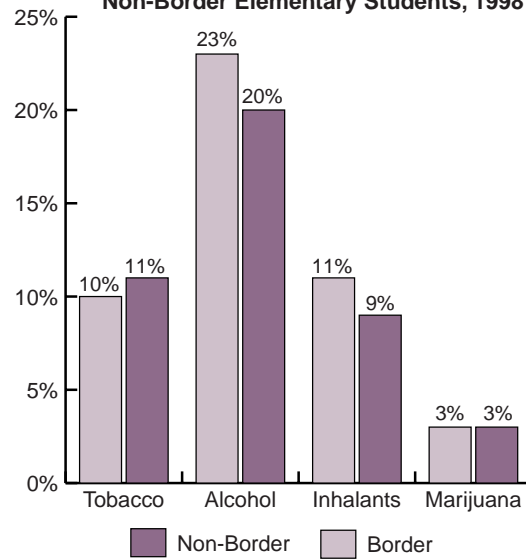


Figure 2. Past-Year Use of Tobacco, Alcohol, Inhalants and Marijuana: Texas Border and Non-Border Elementary Students, 1998



- ◆ Seventy-eight percent of border secondary students (76 percent of non-border students) had used tobacco, alcohol, inhalants and/or an illicit drug in their lifetime.
- ◆ Sixty percent of border secondary students (58 percent of non-border students) had used tobacco, alcohol, inhalants and/or an illicit drug during the past school year.
- ◆ Forty-nine percent of border secondary students (45 percent of non-border students) had used one or more of these substances during the past month.

Tables B1 through B4 in Appendix B present full prevalence rates for border and non-border elementary and secondary students on a substance-by-substance basis.

TOBACCO

- ◆ Fifteen percent of border elementary students (17 percent of non-border students) had ever used a tobacco product (cigarettes or smokeless tobacco).
- ◆ Ten percent of border and 11 percent of non-border elementary students had used tobacco in the past year (Figure 2).
- ◆ Fifty-six percent of border secondary students (54 percent of non-border students) had ever used a tobacco product.
- ◆ Twenty-six percent of both border and non-border secondary students had used tobacco during the past month (Figure 3).
- ◆ Smoking cigarettes was much more prevalent than use of smokeless tobacco. Only 2 percent of border elementary students (4 percent of non-border students) and 10 percent of border secondary students (15 percent of non-border students) had ever used smokeless tobacco.

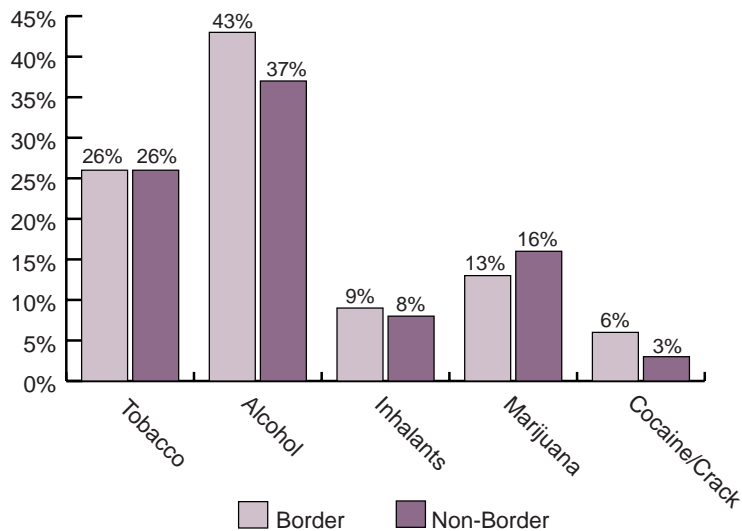
ALCOHOL

- ◆ Thirty-two percent of border elementary students (29 percent of non-border students) had drunk alcohol (beer, wine coolers, wine, or liquor) in their lifetime.
- ◆ Twenty-three percent of border elementary students (20 percent of non-border students) had drunk alcohol in the past year.
- ◆ Seventy-five percent of border secondary students (72 percent of non-border students) had drunk alcohol in their lifetime.
- ◆ Forty-three percent of border secondary students (37 percent of non-border students) had drunk alcohol during the past month.
- ◆ Beer and wine coolers were the most prevalent alcoholic beverages as well as the ones usually tried the earliest. Wine and liquor were used by fewer students.
- ◆ Ten percent of border secondary students (5 percent of non-border students) “normally” drank beer once a week or more often.
- ◆ Heavy or binge drinking was defined for elementary students as having consumed two drinks in a row at least once in the past year, and for secondary students as “usually” drinking five or more drinks at one time. About 19 percent of border elementary students (14 percent of non-border students) and 19 percent of border secondary students (16 percent of non-border students) were heavy beer drinkers, according to this definition.

INHALANTS

- ◆ The term inhalants refers to hundreds of different household and commercial products which can be abused by sniffing or “huffing” (inhaling through the mouth). Inhalants include such products as gasoline, glue, paint, correction fluid, ether, and hair spray.
- ◆ Fourteen percent of border elementary students (12 percent of non-border students) had ever used inhalants.

Figure 3. Past-Month Use of Tobacco, Alcohol, Inhalants, Marijuana and Cocaine/Crack: Texas Border and Non-Border Secondary Students, 1998



- ◆ Eleven percent of border elementary students (9 percent of non-border students) had used inhalants in the past year.
- ◆ Twenty-one percent of border secondary students (22 percent of non-border students) had used inhalants in their lifetime.
- ◆ Nine percent of border secondary students (8 percent of non-border students) had used inhalants in the past month.
- ◆ Inhalant abuse is more common among students in elementary and middle school, and is less often found among students in high school, probably because inhalant abusers disproportionately drop out of school early on.
- ◆ Correction fluid, paint and glue were the inhalants most commonly abused by elementary and secondary students.
- ◆ About half of all inhalant users had used at least two different types of inhalant products in their lifetimes.

MARIJUANA

- ◆ Four percent of both border and non-border elementary students had ever tried marijuana.
- ◆ Three percent of both border and non-border elementary students had used marijuana during the past year.
- ◆ Thirty percent of border secondary students (35 percent of non-border students) had used marijuana in their lifetime.
- ◆ Thirteen percent of border secondary students (16 percent of non-border students) had used marijuana in the past month.

OTHER ILLICIT DRUGS

- ◆ Twenty-one percent of border secondary students (17 percent of non-border students) had used an illicit drug other than marijuana in their lifetime, and 10 percent of border students (7 percent of non-border students) had used one in the past month.

Figure 4. Percentage of Texas Secondary Students Who Had Ever Used Powder Cocaine and Crack, by Grade, 1998

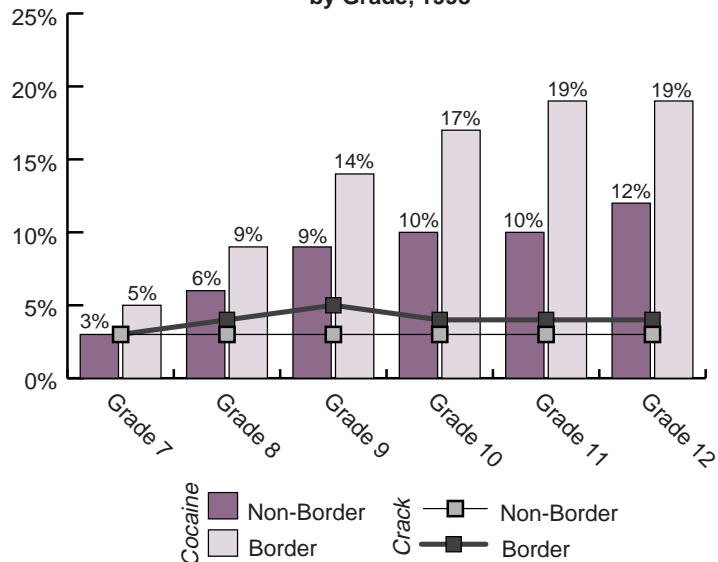
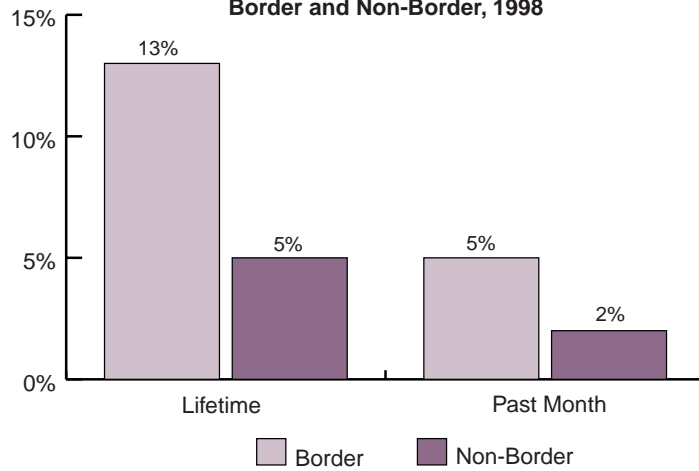
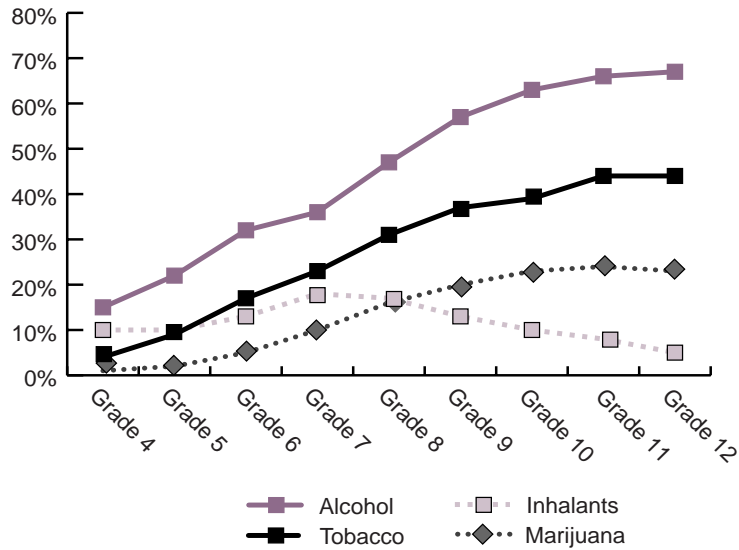


Figure 5. Percentage of Texas Secondary Students Who Had Ever Used Rohypnol and Who Had Used It in the Past Month, Border and Non-Border, 1998



- ◆ Fourteen percent of border secondary students (8 percent of non-border students) had used powder cocaine during their lifetime, and 6 percent of border students (3 percent of non-border students) had used it during the past month.
- ◆ Use of powder cocaine was much higher among border students, while use of crack cocaine was similar for both groups (Figure 4).
- ◆ Four percent of border secondary students (3 percent of non-border students) had ever used crack (a form of cocaine that is usually smoked), and about 1 percent of both border and non-border students were current (past-month) users.
- ◆ Seven percent of border secondary students (8 percent of non-border students) had used uppers such as amphetamines and other stimulants in their lifetime, and current use was at 3 percent among both border and non-border students.
- ◆ Eight percent of border secondary students (6 percent of non-border students) had used downers such as sedatives and barbiturates during their lives, and 3 percent of border students (2 percent of non-border students) currently used them.
- ◆ Rohypnol is a sedative-tranquilizer illegally imported across the Texas-Mexico border that is sometimes abused to get high or used as a hypnotic in order to commit sexual assault. Lifetime use of Rohypnol among secondary students was reported by 13 percent of border students (5 percent of non-border students), and past-month use was at 5 percent among border students (2 percent among non-border students) (Figure 5).
- ◆ Four percent of border secondary students (8 percent of non-border students) had ever used hallucinogens such as LSD, PCP, peyote or “magic mushrooms,” and 1 percent of border students (3 percent of non-border students) were current users.
- ◆ Ecstasy, also known as MDMA, acts as a hallucinogenic stimulant and is popular in night clubs and all-night rave parties. Some 2 percent of border secondary students (5 percent of non-border students) had used Ecstasy

Figure 6. Percentage of Border Elementary and Secondary Students Who Used Selected Substances in the Past School Year, by Grade, 1998



during their lifetime, while past-month use was at 1 percent for border students (2 percent for non-border students).

- ◆ Two percent of secondary border and 3 percent of non-border students reported lifetime use of heroin, and less than 1 percent of border and non-border students reported past-month use. Research has found that heroin use is significantly underreported by general population surveys.
- ◆ Steroids are a prescription drug that are sometimes abused for body-building purposes. About 2 percent of border and non-border secondary students alike had ever used them for purposes other than those medically prescribed, and about 1 percent of both border and non-border students had used them in the past month.

**DEMOGRAPHIC
CORRELATES OF
SUBSTANCE USE**

Classroom Grade in School

- ◆ Figure 6 shows the prevalence of past-year substance use among border students in fourth through twelfth grades. Use of tobacco and alcohol increases steadily from fourth through eleventh grade, with alcohol use increasing especially rapidly between seventh and eighth grade. Tobacco and alcohol use seem to level off between eleventh and twelfth grade.
- ◆ Use of marijuana also increases from fourth through tenth grade and then levels off in late high school. Inhalants are the only substance whose use increases to a peak in middle school and then declines to elementary school levels after ninth grade. This may be in part because some heavy inhalant users drop out of school after middle school and therefore do not participate in later school surveys.
- ◆ The patterns of use among non-border students are essentially the same as those noted above. The only difference is that, while for border students, use of tobacco and alcohol reached a peak in eleventh grade and then leveled off, among non-border students, they continued to rise into twelfth grade.

Gender

- ◆ In fourth and fifth grades, boys' use of substances is substantially higher than girls'. By middle school and through early high school, rates of tobacco, alcohol and inhalant use among border students become more similar for boys and girls, but the excess of male over female use shows up again in late high school.
- ◆ Rates of marijuana use are about two to three times higher for boys than for girls in elementary school, and remain about one-and-a-half times higher throughout high school. Gender differences were similar in the non-border areas of the state, as well.

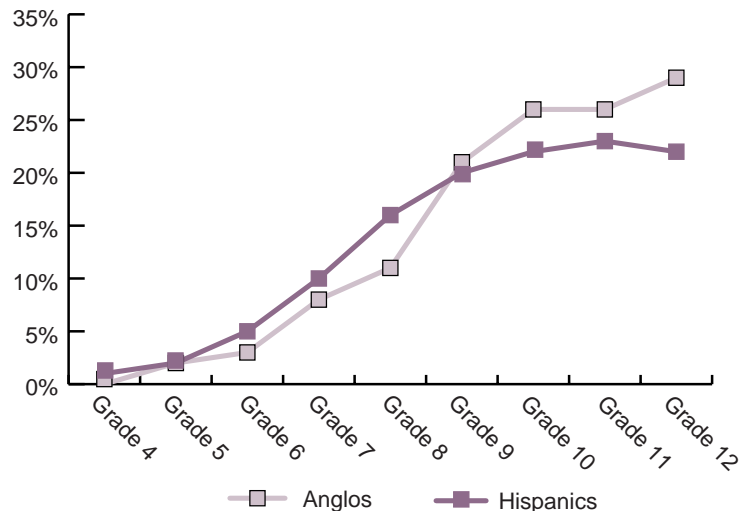
Ethnicity

- ◆ The ethnic patterns of use found in elementary school were different from those found in secondary school. While Hispanic students were somewhat more likely than Anglo students to use substances in elementary and middle school, by late high school their use was lower than that of Anglo students. The reversal to higher use by Anglos occurred by seventh grade for tobacco, and at about ninth grade for alcohol, inhalants, and marijuana (Figure 7).
- ◆ Elsewhere in the state, substance use by Hispanic students remained higher than that of Anglo students for a longer time, although eventually use by Anglo students did surpass that of Hispanics. However, this reversal occurred later among non-border students: at about ninth grade for tobacco use, tenth grade for alcohol use, and eleventh grade for inhalant and marijuana use.

Age at First Use of Substances

- ◆ Border students in twelfth grade who had ever used substances had begun to use tobacco, alcohol and inhalants at about age 14 on average, and had begun marijuana and other illicit drug use about one or two years later (at about 15 for marijuana, uppers, downers and Rohypnol, and about 16 for cocaine, crack, hallucinogens, steroids, Ecstasy and heroin).

Figure 7. Percentage of Border Elementary and Secondary Students Who Used Marijuana in the Past School Year, by Grade and Ethnicity, 1998



- ◆ With only a few exceptions, non-border students had begun using most drugs about half a year earlier than border students.

Parents' Education and Income

- ◆ Border students in grades four through eight whose parents did not attend college were more likely to use substances, but this association reversed in high school, where students whose parents were college educated were more likely to use substances.
- ◆ Among border students, there was no important difference in substance use by income in the elementary grades. However, a difference became evident by middle school and gradually increased, so that by twelfth grade, students from higher-income families were notably more likely to have used substances than students from lower-income families.
- ◆ It has been suggested that the environmental pressures associated with poverty might be reflected in increased substance use. The fact that, in the upper grades, substance use was found to be higher among youth from economically better-off families may be partially due to higher dropout rates among substance users as well as among those from lower-income families generally. Students from lower-income families who remain in school seem less likely to use substances than higher-income students in school.

Other Factors

- ◆ Other socio-demographic factors that were found to be associated with higher substance use included not living with both parents, making lower academic grades in school, and holding a job outside of school.

PROTECTIVE AND RISK FACTORS RELATED TO SUBSTANCE USE

School Misconduct

- ◆ Students who had behavioral problems in school were more likely than those who did not have such problems to have used substances. Some 59 percent of elementary border students who had skipped school for some reason, and 38 percent of those who had been sent to the principal, had used alcohol in the past year, as compared to only 16 percent of students who had not been in either situation. A similar pattern was found among secondary students.

Peers' Substance Use

- ◆ Both elementary and secondary students whose friends used substances were much more likely to use them personally. Levels of reported peer use were similar to levels reported for students' own use.

Peers' Values and Behaviors

- ◆ Secondary students who reported that at least some of their peers carried weapons, belonged to a gang or wished they could drop out of school were more likely to have used substances than those who did not have any friends in those categories. Conversely, students who said that most or all of their friends felt close to their parents and cared about making good

grades were less likely to use substances than those who had few or no such friends.

- ◆ Students in border schools were more likely than those elsewhere in the state to say that at least some of their friends belonged to a gang or wanted to be a gang member. On the other hand, they were less likely than non-border students to say that their friends sometimes carried weapons.

Substance Use at Parties

- ◆ Sixty-one percent of border secondary students (57 percent of non-border students) reported that alcohol was used at at least some of the parties they attended during the past school year, and 41 percent of border students (44 percent of non-border students) said that marijuana or other illicit drugs were used.

Availability of Substances

- ◆ The opportunity to experiment with tobacco, alcohol and other drugs was clearly present for elementary as well as secondary students. About 34 percent of border elementary students (32 percent of non-border students) reported that they had been offered alcohol and 10 percent of both border and non-border elementary students said they had been offered marijuana. In secondary school, border students were more likely than non-border students to report that alcohol, cocaine, crack and Rohypnol were easy to obtain.

Perceived Danger of Substance Use

- ◆ As students got older, their perception of the danger of using most substances declined. For instance, 67 percent of elementary students believed that drinking alcohol was very dangerous, as compared to only 44 percent of secondary students. There was no difference in the percentage of border and non-border students who believed alcohol was very dangerous.
- ◆ Seventy-nine percent of border and non-border elementary students thought that marijuana was very dangerous to use, and 66 percent of border secondary students (57 percent of non-border students) believed it to be very dangerous.
- ◆ Border students who believed that substances were dangerous were nevertheless more likely to use them than non-border students who believed that they were dangerous.

Parents' Attitudes

- ◆ A majority of students said that their parents disapproved of youth their age using substances such as cigarettes, beer or marijuana. There was little difference between border and non-border students in the proportion who reported parental disapproval.
- ◆ Students who said that their parents disapproved were less likely than others to actually use substances.
- ◆ Some 11 to 17 percent of elementary and secondary students said that they did not know what their parents' attitudes were. Elementary students who did not know how their parents felt were more likely to use substances than those who knew that their parents disapproved of it.

- ◆ Perceived parental disapproval of tobacco and beer use declined as students got older. In contrast, parental disapproval of marijuana use increased by grade. This was true among border and non-border students alike.

Parental Involvement in School

- ◆ Border students were more likely than non-border students to report that their parents usually attended school-sponsored open houses or PTA meetings. Students, both on the border and elsewhere, who reported that their parents attended such functions were considerably less likely to have used substances than those whose parents did not attend such events.

Perceived Safety of the Environment

- ◆ Border and non-border secondary students equally reported feeling safe in their homes and at school, but border students reported feeling less safe in their neighborhood than non-border students.
- ◆ Feeling very safe in their homes and at school was associated with lower substance use for students. There was no association between perceived neighborhood safety and whether or not a student used substances.

Gambling Behavior

- ◆ Thirty-six percent of border secondary school students (28 percent of non-border students) under the age of 18 said they had bought a lottery ticket in the past year, even though state law requires that tickets be sold only to those aged 18 or over.
- ◆ Sixty-one percent of border secondary students aged 18 and over (56 percent of non-border students) also reported buying a lottery ticket in the past year.
- ◆ Thirty-seven percent of border secondary students (39 percent of non-border students) said they had participated in other kinds of activities which involved gambling for money, besides lottery play.
- ◆ Students who gambled were more likely to use substances, especially tobacco and alcohol. For instance, 37 percent of border student lottery players drank beer in the past month, compared to 27 percent of those who had not bought lottery tickets.

Extracurricular Activities

- ◆ Secondary students in border schools were less likely to participate in extracurricular activities than were students in non-border schools, and those who did so participated in a smaller number of activities, on average.
- ◆ Among border students, participation in extracurricular activities was not related to alcohol use but it was associated with lower marijuana use. Among non-border students, participation in extracurricular activities was associated with both lower alcohol use and lower marijuana use.
- ◆ Participation in particular activities was more strongly associated with a reduction in substance use than other activities. The lowest rates of alcohol and illicit drug use were found among students who participated in band, orchestra, and academic clubs. Students who participated in drill team/cheerleading and service clubs also had low rates of illicit drug use.

- ◆ Students who participated in athletics, the most popular extracurricular activity, had about average rates of substance use as compared to all students. Among athletes, 43 percent were current alcohol users, 15 percent reported use of illicit drugs, and 25 percent were current users of tobacco products.

**ALCOHOL- AND
DRUG-RELATED
PROBLEMS**

- ◆ Eight percent of border and non-border secondary students said they had been criticized by their friends, and about the same percentage said they had been criticized by someone they were dating, because of their own drinking behavior.
- ◆ Six to seven percent of secondary students had experienced problems with their friends or dates because of their use of illicit drugs.
- ◆ Four percent of secondary students had gotten into trouble with the police because of drinking and 3 percent had gotten into trouble because of drug use.
- ◆ One to two percent of students had gotten into trouble with their teachers due to their drinking or drug use.
- ◆ School absence and conduct problems were also related to students' substance use. Students who had used substances were absent on more days and were more likely to have been sent to the principal or to have someone from home called to school because of their misconduct, as compared to those who had not used substances.
- ◆ Eleven to twelve percent of secondary students said that they had attended class while drunk, and 12 to 13 percent said they had done so while high on marijuana. While most students who went to class drunk did so on only one to three days during the year, the greater proportion of students who went to school high on marijuana did so on four or more occasions.
- ◆ About 25 percent of border and non-border seniors admitted they had driven a car after having had "a good bit to drink" at least once in the past year. About one-third of these students (8 percent of all seniors) had done so four or more times during that year.
- ◆ Twelve percent of border seniors and 19 percent of non-border seniors reported having driven when they were high from drugs.

**SOURCES OF
INFORMATION
ABOUT ALCOHOL
AND DRUGS**

- ◆ Ninety-three percent of border elementary students (92 percent of non-border students) said that they had gotten some kind of information about drugs or alcohol from a school source during the past school year.
- ◆ Sixty-seven percent of border secondary students (64 percent of non-border students) reported receiving substance-related information through their school in the past year.
- ◆ Border students reported having received information from a wider variety of school sources (e.g. assembly programs, guidance counselors, outside visitors) than did non-border students.

**HELP-SEEKING
BEHAVIOR**

- ◆ Slightly over 80 percent of border and non-border secondary students said they would seek help from an adult if they were to have a drug or alcohol problem.
- ◆ Border students seemed more willing than non-border students to seek help from a counselor or program in school or from another adult in their school.
- ◆ Students who were already using drugs or alcohol were less likely than non-users to say that they would turn to an adult for help if they needed it. This was true of border and non-border students alike.
- ◆ Nine percent of border secondary students (7 percent of non-border students) said they had already sought help since school began for problems related to their use of drugs or alcohol. Students who had used more illicit drugs and those who reported more substance-related problems were the most likely to have sought help. Students with problems who had sought help were also more likely to be younger than those who had not sought help.

**CONCLUSIONS
AND
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Although the flow of drugs from Central America and Mexico across the border into Texas is one of the nation's largest problems, this survey found that Texas elementary and secondary students who live on the border appear to be remarkably resilient. Their use of most illicit drugs was similar to, or lower, than use by non-border students. The only exceptions were Rohypnol, which is legal and readily available in Mexico, and powder cocaine. Increased use of both of these substances by Mexican youth is also being reported by Mexican researchers,¹ and the use of these drugs may be the main indicator of abuse which sets border students off from their peers elsewhere in the state. Communities on both sides of the border should join together to make these substances less available to all our youth.

Border students, both elementary and secondary, were also somewhat more likely than students living elsewhere to drink alcohol, and the younger border students (grades four through seven) were more likely than their non-border peers to use inhalants. These facts may reflect the greater availability of these substances because of easier access by young people to sources on the other side of the border.

Life on the border reflects the significant socio-economic challenges that come from poverty, unemployment, and lack of health care and social services. However, this study found that lower-income students who remained in school had lower substance use rates than did students from higher-income families, and border families were more likely to be involved with their children's education than were non-border families. Increased efforts to keep youngsters in school will result not only in educational and economic benefits, but in decreased drug use, as well.

Seventy-one percent of elementary and 40 percent of secondary students on the border had not used any tobacco, alcohol, inhalants, or illicit drugs during the past school year, and their drug-free status should be celebrated. Parents, schools, and communities must address the risk and resiliency factors that they can affect so that even more students will be found to be drug-free in the next survey.

Because of the flow of drugs across the border and the easy access to alcohol and drugs in Mexico, protecting youth is especially difficult on the border. Yet the 1996

survey of border adults found that Hispanics who had not become acculturated to “American” ways were much less likely to use drugs. The strengths of the Mexican family culture should be built upon in creating strategies to help border youth remain drug free.

In addition, 100 percent of border students in grades K-12 should receive comprehensive alcohol, tobacco, and other drug education that has been proven to be effective. The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) has released research showing the protective impact of scientifically proven and effective prevention programs. NIDA’s *Preventing Drug Use Among Children and Adolescents*² provides information on prevention principles for communities, schools, and families.

The Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse provides resources and information to help counselors, addiction professionals, educators, and parents who are interested in finding out more about substances of abuse and ways to prevent substance abuse among Texas youth. The TCADA Web site is accessible 24-hours a day at www.tcada.state.tx.us and it includes recent information on prevention, drugs of abuse, research and epidemiology, library and LitCenter services, and training opportunities.

ENDNOTES

¹ R. Tapia-Conyer, P. Cravioto, P. Kuri et al., “Update of the Epidemiological Surveillance System of Addictions (SISVEA) in Mexico,” and J. A. Villatoro-Velasquez, E. Medina-Mora, et al., “Trends and Evolution of Drug Use in Adolescents of Mexico City: 1989-97,” *Community Epidemiology Work Group*, December 1998, Vol. II, Rockville, MD: National Institute on Drug Abuse, 1999.

² Z. L. Sloboda and Susan David, *Preventing Drug Use Among Children and Adolescents*, Rockville, MD: National Institute on Drug Abuse, 1997, pp. 19-29.

APPENDIX A

Independent school districts along the Texas/Mexico border participating in the 1998 Texas School Survey of Substance Use

Alpine ISD
Brooks ISD
Benavides ISD
Brackett ISD
Brownsville ISD
Comstock ISD
Dell City ISD - secondary only
Donna ISD
Edcouch-Elsa ISD
Edinburg ISD
Fabens ISD - elementary only
Freer ISD
Harlingen ISD
Hidalgo ISD
Iraan-Sheffield ISD
Jim Hogg ISD
La Feria ISD
La Joya ISD
Laredo ISD
Los Fresnos ISD
Marfa ISD
McAllen ISD
Mercedes ISD
Mission CISD
Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD
Point Isabel ISD - secondary only
Presidio ISD
Progreso ISD
Raymondville ISD
Rio Grande City ISD
Rio Hondo ISD
Roma ISD
San Diego ISD
San Perlita ISD - secondary only
Santa Rosa ISD
Socorro ISD
Tornillo ISD
United ISD
Valley View ISD
Ysleta ISD

APPENDIX B

PREVALENCE OF SUBSTANCE USE

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

Table B1. Prevalence and Recency of Substance Use, by Grade, Texas Border Elementary Students, 1998

| | Ever Used | School Year | Not Past Year | Never Used |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| TOBACCO | 15.3% | 9.9% | 5.3% | 84.7% |
| Grade 4 | 7.5% | 4.4% | 3.0% | 92.5% |
| Grade 5 | 13.8% | 8.6% | 5.2% | 86.2% |
| Grade 6 | 24.4% | 16.6% | 7.8% | 75.6% |
| ALCOHOL | 31.5% | 22.8% | 8.7% | 68.5% |
| Grade 4 | 21.0% | 14.7% | 6.3% | 79.0% |
| Grade 5 | 30.4% | 21.7% | 8.7% | 69.6% |
| Grade 6 | 43.1% | 32.1% | 11.0% | 56.9% |
| INHALANTS | 14.2% | 10.9% | 3.3% | 85.8% |
| Grade 4 | 13.3% | 9.9% | 3.3% | 86.7% |
| Grade 5 | 12.6% | 9.6% | 3.1% | 87.4% |
| Grade 6 | 16.7% | 13.2% | 3.5% | 83.3% |
| MARIJUANA | 3.6% | 2.7% | 0.9% | 96.4% |
| Grade 4 | 1.2% | 0.7% | 0.4% | 98.8% |
| Grade 5 | 2.5% | 2.0% | 0.5% | 97.5% |
| Grade 6 | 7.1% | 5.2% | 1.9% | 92.9% |

Table B2. Prevalence and Recency of Substance Use, by Grade, Texas Non-Border Elementary Students, 1998

| | Ever Used | School Year | Not Past Year | Never Used |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| TOBACCO | 16.6% | 10.5% | 6.1% | 83.4% |
| Grade 4 | 9.8% | 6.2% | 3.5% | 90.2% |
| Grade 5 | 15.1% | 8.9% | 6.2% | 84.9% |
| Grade 6 | 24.9% | 16.3% | 8.5% | 75.1% |
| ALCOHOL | 28.8% | 19.5% | 9.3% | 71.2% |
| Grade 4 | 21.0% | 13.9% | 7.0% | 79.0% |
| Grade 5 | 27.4% | 17.8% | 9.5% | 72.6% |
| Grade 6 | 37.9% | 26.6% | 11.2% | 62.1% |
| INHALANTS | 11.9% | 8.9% | 3.0% | 88.1% |
| Grade 4 | 10.2% | 7.6% | 2.6% | 89.8% |
| Grade 5 | 10.6% | 7.8% | 2.8% | 89.4% |
| Grade 6 | 14.7% | 11.2% | 3.5% | 85.3% |
| MARIJUANA | 3.7% | 2.6% | 1.0% | 96.3% |
| Grade 4 | 1.2% | 0.9% | 0.4% | 98.8% |
| Grade 5 | 2.5% | 1.7% | 0.8% | 97.5% |
| Grade 6 | 7.1% | 5.2% | 1.9% | 92.9% |

SECONDARY STUDENTS

Table B3. Prevalence and Recency of Use of Selected Substances, by Grade, Border Secondary Students, 1998

| | Past Month | School Year | Ever Used | Never Used |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| TOBACCO | 26.1% | 35.6% | 55.5% | 44.5% |
| Grade 7 | 16.1% | 22.9% | 41.0% | 59.0% |
| Grade 8 | 21.8% | 31.4% | 51.2% | 48.8% |
| Grade 9 | 27.6% | 37.0% | 57.5% | 42.5% |
| Grade 10 | 28.1% | 38.6% | 59.4% | 40.6% |
| Grade 11 | 32.7% | 43.8% | 65.3% | 34.7% |
| Grade 12 | 33.1% | 43.5% | 62.1% | 37.9% |
| ALCOHOL | 42.6% | 55.1% | 74.6% | 25.4% |
| Grade 7 | 26.9% | 35.6% | 58.3% | 41.7% |
| Grade 8 | 35.9% | 47.2% | 69.5% | 30.5% |
| Grade 9 | 44.6% | 57.4% | 75.9% | 24.1% |
| Grade 10 | 48.0% | 62.8% | 80.7% | 19.3% |
| Grade 11 | 52.6% | 66.0% | 84.9% | 15.1% |
| Grade 12 | 52.2% | 66.7% | 82.6% | 17.4% |
| INHALANTS | 8.9% | 12.4% | 21.0% | 79.0% |
| Grade 7 | 13.9% | 17.8% | 26.8% | 73.2% |
| Grade 8 | 12.7% | 17.2% | 26.4% | 73.6% |
| Grade 9 | 9.4% | 13.1% | 22.3% | 77.7% |
| Grade 10 | 5.8% | 9.7% | 17.5% | 82.5% |
| Grade 11 | 5.6% | 8.1% | 17.7% | 82.3% |
| Grade 12 | 3.6% | 5.4% | 11.8% | 88.2% |
| ANY ILLICIT DRUG | 15.6% | 21.8% | 33.3% | 66.7% |
| Grade 7 | 9.8% | 12.6% | 19.2% | 80.8% |
| Grade 8 | 13.4% | 18.2% | 27.9% | 72.1% |
| Grade 9 | 17.0% | 23.2% | 34.9% | 65.1% |
| Grade 10 | 18.2% | 26.5% | 39.9% | 60.1% |
| Grade 11 | 18.8% | 26.8% | 41.7% | 58.3% |
| Grade 12 | 17.4% | 25.2% | 39.1% | 60.9% |
| MARIJUANA | 12.7% | 18.8% | 30.2% | 69.8% |
| Grade 7 | 7.4% | 10.2% | 16.2% | 83.8% |
| Grade 8 | 11.0% | 15.8% | 24.9% | 75.1% |
| Grade 9 | 13.8% | 20.1% | 31.3% | 68.7% |
| Grade 10 | 14.9% | 22.5% | 36.3% | 63.7% |
| Grade 11 | 15.6% | 23.7% | 38.9% | 61.1% |
| Grade 12 | 14.3% | 22.6% | 36.9% | 63.1% |
| MARIJUANA ONLY | 3.6% | 5.8% | 12.0% | 88.0% |
| Grade 7 | 2.8% | 3.8% | 7.4% | 92.6% |
| Grade 8 | 3.6% | 5.5% | 10.7% | 89.3% |
| Grade 9 | 3.5% | 5.9% | 12.2% | 87.8% |
| Grade 10 | 4.1% | 6.7% | 14.1% | 85.9% |
| Grade 11 | 3.9% | 6.8% | 14.6% | 85.4% |
| Grade 12 | 3.5% | 6.8% | 14.0% | 86.0% |
| COCAINE OR CRACK | 6.0% | 8.8% | 13.7% | 86.3% |
| Grade 7 | 2.8% | 4.1% | 6.2% | 93.8% |
| Grade 8 | 4.0% | 6.2% | 9.9% | 90.1% |
| Grade 9 | 6.2% | 9.0% | 14.0% | 86.0% |
| Grade 10 | 7.3% | 10.9% | 16.8% | 83.2% |
| Grade 11 | 8.1% | 12.1% | 19.4% | 80.6% |
| Grade 12 | 8.4% | 11.8% | 19.0% | 81.0% |
| COCAINE | 5.7% | 8.5% | 13.5% | 86.5% |
| Grade 7 | 2.2% | 3.5% | 5.4% | 94.6% |
| Grade 8 | 3.6% | 5.9% | 9.4% | 90.6% |
| Grade 9 | 6.0% | 8.8% | 13.7% | 86.3% |
| Grade 10 | 7.2% | 10.7% | 16.7% | 83.3% |
| Grade 11 | 8.1% | 12.0% | 19.4% | 80.6% |
| Grade 12 | 8.5% | 11.9% | 19.1% | 80.9% |

Table B3. Prevalence and Recency of Use of Selected Substances, by Grade, Border Secondary Students, 1998 (continued)

| | Past Month | School Year | Ever Used | Never Used |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| CRACK | 1.5% | 2.3% | 3.9% | 96.1% |
| Grade 7 | 1.2% | 1.7% | 2.8% | 97.2% |
| Grade 8 | 1.5% | 2.3% | 3.9% | 96.1% |
| Grade 9 | 1.7% | 2.7% | 4.6% | 95.4% |
| Grade 10 | 1.5% | 2.4% | 3.8% | 96.2% |
| Grade 11 | 1.6% | 2.2% | 4.0% | 96.0% |
| Grade 12 | 1.4% | 2.0% | 3.9% | 96.1% |
| HALLUCINOGENS | 1.4% | 2.2% | 4.0% | 96.0% |
| Grade 7 | 0.8% | 1.2% | 1.9% | 98.1% |
| Grade 8 | 1.0% | 1.4% | 2.5% | 97.5% |
| Grade 9 | 1.6% | 2.3% | 4.1% | 95.9% |
| Grade 10 | 1.4% | 2.5% | 4.4% | 95.6% |
| Grade 11 | 1.6% | 3.1% | 6.1% | 93.9% |
| Grade 12 | 1.9% | 2.8% | 5.7% | 94.3% |
| UPPERS | 2.8% | 4.3% | 7.1% | 92.9% |
| Grade 7 | 1.5% | 2.1% | 3.2% | 96.8% |
| Grade 8 | 2.0% | 3.2% | 5.1% | 94.9% |
| Grade 9 | 3.5% | 5.0% | 7.9% | 92.1% |
| Grade 10 | 3.1% | 5.4% | 8.7% | 91.3% |
| Grade 11 | 3.4% | 5.8% | 9.8% | 90.2% |
| Grade 12 | 3.0% | 4.6% | 8.8% | 91.2% |
| DOWNERS | 3.0% | 4.8% | 7.7% | 92.3% |
| Grade 7 | 1.3% | 2.0% | 3.0% | 97.0% |
| Grade 8 | 2.1% | 3.3% | 5.2% | 94.8% |
| Grade 9 | 3.8% | 5.5% | 8.5% | 91.5% |
| Grade 10 | 3.8% | 6.4% | 9.9% | 90.1% |
| Grade 11 | 3.9% | 6.7% | 11.0% | 89.0% |
| Grade 12 | 2.9% | 4.9% | 9.6% | 90.4% |
| ROHYPNOL | 5.0% | 8.2% | 13.4% | 86.6% |
| Grade 7 | 3.3% | 4.8% | 7.4% | 92.6% |
| Grade 8 | 4.8% | 7.4% | 11.5% | 88.5% |
| Grade 9 | 6.4% | 9.7% | 15.5% | 84.5% |
| Grade 10 | 5.6% | 10.3% | 16.6% | 83.4% |
| Grade 11 | 4.8% | 9.0% | 16.3% | 83.7% |
| Grade 12 | 4.7% | 7.4% | 13.2% | 86.8% |
| STEROIDS | 0.6% | 1.0% | 1.8% | 98.2% |
| Grade 7 | 0.7% | 1.1% | 2.0% | 98.0% |
| Grade 8 | 0.9% | 1.3% | 2.3% | 97.7% |
| Grade 9 | 0.6% | 0.9% | 1.5% | 98.5% |
| Grade 10 | 0.5% | 0.7% | 1.4% | 98.6% |
| Grade 11 | 0.4% | 0.6% | 1.4% | 98.6% |
| Grade 12 | 0.8% | 1.2% | 2.1% | 97.9% |
| ECSTASY | 0.7% | 1.1% | 2.1% | 97.9% |
| Grade 7 | 0.3% | 0.6% | 0.9% | 99.1% |
| Grade 8 | 0.6% | 0.8% | 1.3% | 98.7% |
| Grade 9 | 1.0% | 1.4% | 2.3% | 97.7% |
| Grade 10 | 0.9% | 1.3% | 2.4% | 97.6% |
| Grade 11 | 0.7% | 1.2% | 3.6% | 96.4% |
| Grade 12 | 0.6% | 1.1% | 2.4% | 97.6% |
| HEROIN | 0.6% | 1.0% | 1.9% | 98.1% |
| Grade 7 | 0.7% | 1.1% | 2.3% | 97.7% |
| Grade 8 | 0.9% | 1.5% | 2.7% | 97.3% |
| Grade 9 | 0.8% | 1.2% | 1.9% | 98.1% |
| Grade 10 | 0.5% | 0.7% | 1.5% | 98.5% |
| Grade 11 | 0.4% | 0.5% | 1.6% | 98.4% |
| Grade 12 | 0.5% | 0.6% | 1.2% | 98.8% |

Table B4. Prevalence and Recency of Use of Selected Substances, by Grade, Non-Border Secondary Students, 1998

| | Past Month | School Year | Ever Used | Never Used |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Tobacco | 26.2% | 35.5% | 54.4% | 45.6% |
| Grade 7 | 15.3% | 22.7% | 39.9% | 60.1% |
| Grade 8 | 21.1% | 30.7% | 50.2% | 49.8% |
| Grade 9 | 26.9% | 37.3% | 56.5% | 43.5% |
| Grade 10 | 30.1% | 40.0% | 59.8% | 40.2% |
| Grade 11 | 32.2% | 41.5% | 60.9% | 39.1% |
| Grade 12 | 36.0% | 45.3% | 63.5% | 36.5% |
| Alcohol | 37.3% | 51.6% | 71.8% | 28.2% |
| Grade 7 | 21.7% | 31.4% | 54.1% | 45.9% |
| Grade 8 | 29.8% | 43.3% | 66.6% | 33.4% |
| Grade 9 | 38.1% | 53.4% | 73.9% | 26.1% |
| Grade 10 | 43.4% | 59.3% | 78.2% | 21.8% |
| Grade 11 | 45.3% | 61.5% | 80.5% | 19.5% |
| Grade 12 | 51.5% | 67.7% | 82.9% | 17.1% |
| Inhalants | 7.9% | 12.2% | 22.1% | 77.9% |
| Grade 7 | 11.1% | 15.3% | 24.6% | 75.4% |
| Grade 8 | 11.0% | 16.2% | 26.2% | 73.8% |
| Grade 9 | 8.0% | 12.6% | 23.1% | 76.9% |
| Grade 10 | 6.2% | 10.3% | 20.7% | 79.3% |
| Grade 11 | 5.3% | 8.9% | 18.4% | 81.6% |
| Grade 12 | 4.3% | 7.8% | 17.2% | 82.8% |
| Any Illicit Drug | 17.1% | 24.9% | 36.5% | 63.5% |
| Grade 7 | 8.2% | 11.6% | 18.2% | 81.8% |
| Grade 8 | 14.2% | 20.1% | 29.2% | 70.8% |
| Grade 9 | 18.8% | 27.3% | 38.9% | 61.1% |
| Grade 10 | 21.3% | 30.9% | 44.7% | 55.3% |
| Grade 11 | 20.9% | 31.0% | 45.5% | 54.5% |
| Grade 12 | 21.0% | 32.4% | 47.9% | 52.1% |
| Marijuana | 15.5% | 23.5% | 35.1% | 64.9% |
| Grade 7 | 6.9% | 10.3% | 16.6% | 83.4% |
| Grade 8 | 12.5% | 18.4% | 27.4% | 72.6% |
| Grade 9 | 17.3% | 25.9% | 37.5% | 62.5% |
| Grade 10 | 19.7% | 29.4% | 43.3% | 56.7% |
| Grade 11 | 19.2% | 29.9% | 44.6% | 55.4% |
| Grade 12 | 19.3% | 30.8% | 46.9% | 53.1% |
| Marijuana Only | 6.4% | 11.0% | 19.3% | 80.7% |
| Grade 7 | 3.2% | 5.0% | 9.4% | 90.6% |
| Grade 8 | 5.4% | 8.9% | 15.5% | 84.5% |
| Grade 9 | 7.3% | 12.1% | 20.7% | 79.3% |
| Grade 10 | 8.0% | 13.6% | 23.7% | 76.3% |
| Grade 11 | 7.6% | 14.2% | 25.0% | 75.0% |
| Grade 12 | 7.1% | 14.0% | 24.7% | 75.3% |
| Cocaine or Crack | 3.1% | 5.2% | 8.6% | 91.4% |
| Grade 7 | 1.6% | 2.5% | 4.2% | 95.8% |
| Grade 8 | 2.7% | 4.1% | 6.8% | 93.2% |
| Grade 9 | 3.4% | 5.4% | 9.1% | 90.9% |
| Grade 10 | 3.8% | 6.3% | 10.3% | 89.7% |
| Grade 11 | 3.8% | 6.3% | 10.5% | 89.5% |
| Grade 12 | 3.8% | 7.2% | 12.1% | 87.9% |
| Cocaine | 2.8% | 4.7% | 7.9% | 92.1% |
| Grade 7 | 1.2% | 1.9% | 3.4% | 96.6% |
| Grade 8 | 2.1% | 3.3% | 5.8% | 94.2% |
| Grade 9 | 3.1% | 5.0% | 8.5% | 91.5% |
| Grade 10 | 3.5% | 5.9% | 9.6% | 90.4% |
| Grade 11 | 3.6% | 6.1% | 10.0% | 90.0% |
| Grade 12 | 3.7% | 6.9% | 11.6% | 88.4% |

Table B4. Prevalence and Recency of Use of Selected Substances, by Grade, Non-Border Secondary Students, 1998 (continued)

| | Past Month | School Year | Ever Used | Never Used |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Crack | 0.9% | 1.6% | 3.1% | 96.9% |
| Grade 7 | 0.8% | 1.4% | 2.6% | 97.4% |
| Grade 8 | 1.1% | 1.8% | 3.2% | 96.8% |
| Grade 9 | 1.0% | 1.7% | 3.3% | 96.7% |
| Grade 10 | 0.9% | 1.7% | 3.2% | 96.8% |
| Grade 11 | 0.7% | 1.4% | 3.3% | 96.7% |
| Grade 12 | 0.7% | 1.3% | 3.0% | 97.0% |
| Hallucinogens | 2.7% | 4.6% | 7.9% | 92.1% |
| Grade 7 | 1.0% | 1.6% | 2.6% | 97.4% |
| Grade 8 | 1.7% | 2.6% | 4.4% | 95.6% |
| Grade 9 | 3.1% | 5.0% | 8.1% | 91.9% |
| Grade 10 | 3.6% | 6.2% | 9.9% | 90.1% |
| Grade 11 | 3.8% | 6.5% | 11.3% | 88.7% |
| Grade 12 | 3.6% | 6.9% | 13.1% | 86.9% |
| Uppers | 3.2% | 5.2% | 8.4% | 91.6% |
| Grade 7 | 1.3% | 1.9% | 3.0% | 97.0% |
| Grade 8 | 2.1% | 3.5% | 5.5% | 94.5% |
| Grade 9 | 3.5% | 5.6% | 8.8% | 91.2% |
| Grade 10 | 4.3% | 7.0% | 11.1% | 88.9% |
| Grade 11 | 4.2% | 6.8% | 11.0% | 89.0% |
| Grade 12 | 3.9% | 7.0% | 12.4% | 87.6% |
| Downers | 2.4% | 3.9% | 6.3% | 93.7% |
| Grade 7 | 0.9% | 1.3% | 2.4% | 97.6% |
| Grade 8 | 1.6% | 2.6% | 4.1% | 95.9% |
| Grade 9 | 2.7% | 4.3% | 6.9% | 93.1% |
| Grade 10 | 3.3% | 5.3% | 8.4% | 91.6% |
| Grade 11 | 3.3% | 5.3% | 8.5% | 91.5% |
| Grade 12 | 3.2% | 5.2% | 9.0% | 91.0% |
| Rohypnol | 2.0% | 3.2% | 5.3% | 94.7% |
| Grade 7 | 1.6% | 2.3% | 3.6% | 96.4% |
| Grade 8 | 2.3% | 3.2% | 4.8% | 95.2% |
| Grade 9 | 2.4% | 3.6% | 5.7% | 94.3% |
| Grade 10 | 2.3% | 3.7% | 6.0% | 94.0% |
| Grade 11 | 1.7% | 3.1% | 5.5% | 94.5% |
| Grade 12 | 1.8% | 3.5% | 6.3% | 93.7% |
| Steroids | 0.7% | 1.0% | 2.2% | 97.8% |
| Grade 7 | 0.7% | 1.1% | 2.3% | 97.7% |
| Grade 8 | 0.7% | 1.1% | 2.4% | 97.6% |
| Grade 9 | 0.6% | 1.0% | 2.0% | 98.0% |
| Grade 10 | 0.6% | 1.0% | 2.0% | 98.0% |
| Grade 11 | 0.8% | 1.1% | 2.2% | 97.8% |
| Grade 12 | 0.7% | 1.0% | 2.2% | 97.8% |
| Ecstasy | 1.6% | 2.6% | 4.9% | 95.1% |
| Grade 7 | 0.6% | 1.0% | 1.6% | 98.4% |
| Grade 8 | 1.1% | 1.7% | 3.0% | 97.0% |
| Grade 9 | 1.7% | 2.7% | 4.7% | 95.3% |
| Grade 10 | 1.8% | 3.3% | 5.9% | 94.1% |
| Grade 11 | 2.2% | 3.6% | 6.9% | 93.1% |
| Grade 12 | 2.2% | 4.0% | 8.4% | 91.6% |
| Heroin | 0.7% | 1.2% | 2.5% | 97.5% |
| Grade 7 | 0.9% | 1.4% | 2.6% | 97.4% |
| Grade 8 | 0.9% | 1.4% | 2.8% | 97.2% |
| Grade 9 | 0.6% | 1.1% | 2.4% | 97.6% |
| Grade 10 | 0.7% | 1.2% | 2.2% | 97.8% |
| Grade 11 | 0.7% | 1.0% | 2.3% | 97.7% |
| Grade 12 | 0.6% | 1.0% | 2.5% | 97.5% |