



Macomb County Schools

2003

Alcohol and Other Drugs

SCHOOL SURVEY

Aggregate Summary Report

Summary report prepared by
Macomb Intermediate School District

ALCOHOL and OTHER DRUGS SCHOOL SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT 2003

Summary report prepared for

MACOMB COUNTY SCHOOLS

by

Macomb Intermediate School District

from 2001–02 and 2002–03 school survey data compiled by Dr. Thomas L. Van Valey,
Western Michigan University Kercher Center for Social Research

The Macomb County Schools 2003 Alcohol and Other Drugs School Survey
is available in a digital form on the Macomb Intermediate School District web site at
www.misd.net. Enter the SEARCH MISD box: 2003 Aggregate Report.
Click on it to enter the complete report.



Macomb Intermediate School District

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Macomb County Aggregate Summary Report *Michigan Alcohol and Other Drugs Survey*

Introduction

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND OTHER DRUG (ATOD) ABUSE problems continue to warrant local and national concern because of their negative impact on families and most social problems. This concern for the safety and welfare of Macomb County youth prompted the Macomb Intermediate School District, with the support of participating Macomb School Districts, to produce this fifth aggregate report.

This report represents the merging of the survey results from fourteen Macomb County School Districts whose eighth, tenth and twelfth grade students participated in the Michigan Alcohol and Other Drugs School Survey (MAODSS) during the 2001–2002 and 2002–03 school years. These 14 districts are spread geographically throughout Macomb County and provide a solid cross-representation of the county’s youth.

The Macomb Intermediate School District in cooperation with the Macomb County Office of Substance Abuse prepares this aggregate summary report to assist the community in reaching a better understanding of the ATOD abuse problem and to support school and community-based solutions that work to ensure a safe and drug-free environment for our youth.

The Michigan Alcohol and Other Drugs School Survey

The MAODSS is a statewide initiative of the Office of Drug Control Policy. The project was originally designed in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Education and Dr. Lloyd Johnston of the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan. Dr. Johnston has conducted national surveys of high school seniors annually since 1975 known as *Monitoring the Future**. The Michigan survey questionnaire was designed to closely parallel this national survey so that comparison of data is possible. In this report, the 2003 data are compared with four previous aggregate reports dating from 1995 and with 12th grade national data from 2002.

The MAODSS survey conducted by the 14 Macomb districts was analyzed by Dr. Thomas L. Van Valey, Western Michigan University, and merged into the Macomb County Aggregate Summary Report. It is not a random sample, but is representative of districts north and south, large and small, urban and rural of Macomb County.

* current survey information at www.MonitoringTheFuture.org

The Accuracy of the Results

Anonymity of responses was assured in several ways. Personnel from Western Michigan University administered the survey to the 8th, 10th and 12th grade Macomb County youth. School staff remained in the classrooms but did not circulate among the students. The questionnaires were self-administered and anonymous. After completing the survey, students returned them to WMU staff in random order. Completed surveys were then taken directly to WMU for analysis. Once the surveys were read onto a computer tape by an optical reader, the questionnaire response forms were destroyed.

Accuracy of the survey analysis was enhanced by computer software which flagged inconsistencies and exaggerations in the youths' answers. Questionnaires with four or more such inconsistencies, or three or more exaggerations were eliminated.

Proportion of Students Surveyed

The following table shows the numbers of Macomb County youth from the participating schools, by grade level, who participated in the surveys compiled in this aggregate report.

| | Response Rates - 2003 | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | Grade 8 | Grade 10 | Grade 12 |
| Students enrolled | 7134 | 6987 | 5892 |
| Students participating | 5938 | 5542 | 4072 |
| Response Rate | 83.2% | 79.3% | 69.1% |
| Usable Questionnaires | 5862 | 5356 | 3963 |
| Usable Questionnaires Rates | 98.7% | 96.6% | 97.3% |

An Overview of Alcohol and Other Drug Use

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND OTHER DRUG (ATOD) USE has gone through several phases in recent American history. Beginning in the late 1960s, the recreational use of illegal drugs was added to a pattern of alcohol and tobacco use by underage teenagers. Each year, a greater proportion of youth experimented with and used illegal drugs through most of the 1970s.

In 1978, that pattern began to reverse. As parent and community groups became more involved in the issue, and schools developed information, skill-building and education programs, the pattern of use declined. That decline lasted until 1991, when use began to increase again.

Alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, especially marijuana, increased significantly throughout the nineties until 1997 when a leveling off of this upward trend began. Currently national surveys contain clear decreases of ATOD use especially among the younger grades.

In the late 1990s, ecstasy and other “club drugs” became significant in the youth culture. Ecstasy showed a steep climb nationally between 1998–2001. Since that time, use has declined while peer disapproval against its use has sharply increased. Locally the use of ecstasy, methamphetamine and rohypnol was measured for the first time. Therefore, no trend data exists for these drugs.

Youth today show some major differences from those in the past. Young women, in particular, are more likely to be cigarette smokers than young men, which is a very different pattern from the male dominated use patterns of fifteen years ago. The growth of violence also makes the drug scene a higher risk environment than experienced by earlier generations.

In this report, highlights from the results of the 2003 aggregation of Macomb data are summarized in selected tables and graphs. The information reminds us that schools, parents and the community must continue to work together to overcome the terrible consequences of the illegal use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and violence in and out of school.

Key Findings from Comparison of Data

This survey is the fifth collection of data which allows us to plot trends among Macomb youth.

Gateway Drugs

The dramatic decline of tobacco use among all age groups found in this data is especially significant because it represents a change in the onset of tobacco use and therefore, the number of youth who smoke in adolescence. Alcohol use continues to decline. In addition, the trend data reveal a significant decline in drinking and driving behaviors among seniors. Marijuana use, however, appears to be leveling off. Finally, the data reveal a correlation between students' future educational plans and their use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

Among Eighth Grade Youth

- Tobacco experimentation declined 25%* while alcohol experimentation declined 15% since 1997.
- Alcohol use during the month before the survey declined 16% since 1995.
- Binge drinking declined by 10% since 1997.
- Marijuana use in the month before the survey leveled off in contrast to declines in preceding years.

Among Tenth Grade Youth

- Tobacco experimentation is down, declining by 15% since peak use in 1997, while alcohol experimentation fell 13% since 1995.
- Past month use of tobacco declined 13% since 1997.
- Daily smoking decreased by 12% since 1997.
- Binge drinking remains at its lowest point since 1997.

Among Twelfth Grade Youth

- Past month use of tobacco is down by 10% while daily use declined 9% since 1999.
- Drinking during the month prior to the survey has declined by 6% since 1995.
- Past month use of marijuana has essentially remained the same since 1995.
- Macomb seniors confirm that experimenting with gateway drugs increases significantly between the 7th and 10th grades.

Gender Issues

- Females continue to use tobacco at a slightly higher rate than boys do.
- Both 8th and 10th grade females and males continue to drink at similar levels.
- 12th grade boys reported significantly higher use of alcohol, marijuana and other illicit drugs than senior girls did.

Comparing Long Range Goals and Use

- Non-college bound 8th grade students use tobacco nearly four times more than classmates who report they are college bound.
- Non-college bound 8th grade students use alcohol more than twice as often, while marijuana use is five times more than those students who are college bound.

Settings Where Use Occurs

- Use of ATOD by all the surveyed grades declined dramatically in nearly every measured area of the community since 1997.
- Students are least likely to use at school and at a school function.
- Most use continues to happen at parties or at a friend's house.

Age of First Use

- Cigarette initiation starts early and peaks in grades 7 and 8.
- Alcohol use rises sharply, beginning in grade 7 and peaks in the 9th grade.
- Onset of marijuana use also rises sharply in the seventh grade and follows the increase in alcohol experimentation to a peak in grade 9.

Drinking and Driving

- Strong trend data reveal a significant decline in all reported drinking and driving behaviors by 12th graders since 1999.

Perceived Risk Since 1999

- More students in each grade reported that daily binge drinking is harmful.
- Increasing numbers of students at all grade levels believe that marijuana and/or steroid use does not harm them.
- Perceived risk in the use of other illicit drugs, including cocaine and heroin also declined significantly.

Peer Norms

- Peer disapproval of smoking has increased substantially.
- More students in the 8th, 10th & 12th grade feel pressure to try marijuana.

Safety At School

- The number of students who feel safe at school remains essentially the same since 1997.
- Fewer students in all grades were threatened physically since 1997.
- Twenty percent of 8th grade students report being bullied or repeatedly teased over the past year.

* Percentages stated on these two pages are actual percentage point changes, not calculated percent of change.

Students Who Have Ever Tried Alcohol and Other Drugs — 2003

This category of “ever tried” allows us to see how many of Macomb youth have used a drug even one time.

The data demonstrate the wide exposure of our community’s youth to alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and other drugs. The table includes national 12th grade data for comparison with Macomb youth.

TABLE 2

Students Who Have Ever Tried Alcohol and Other Drugs

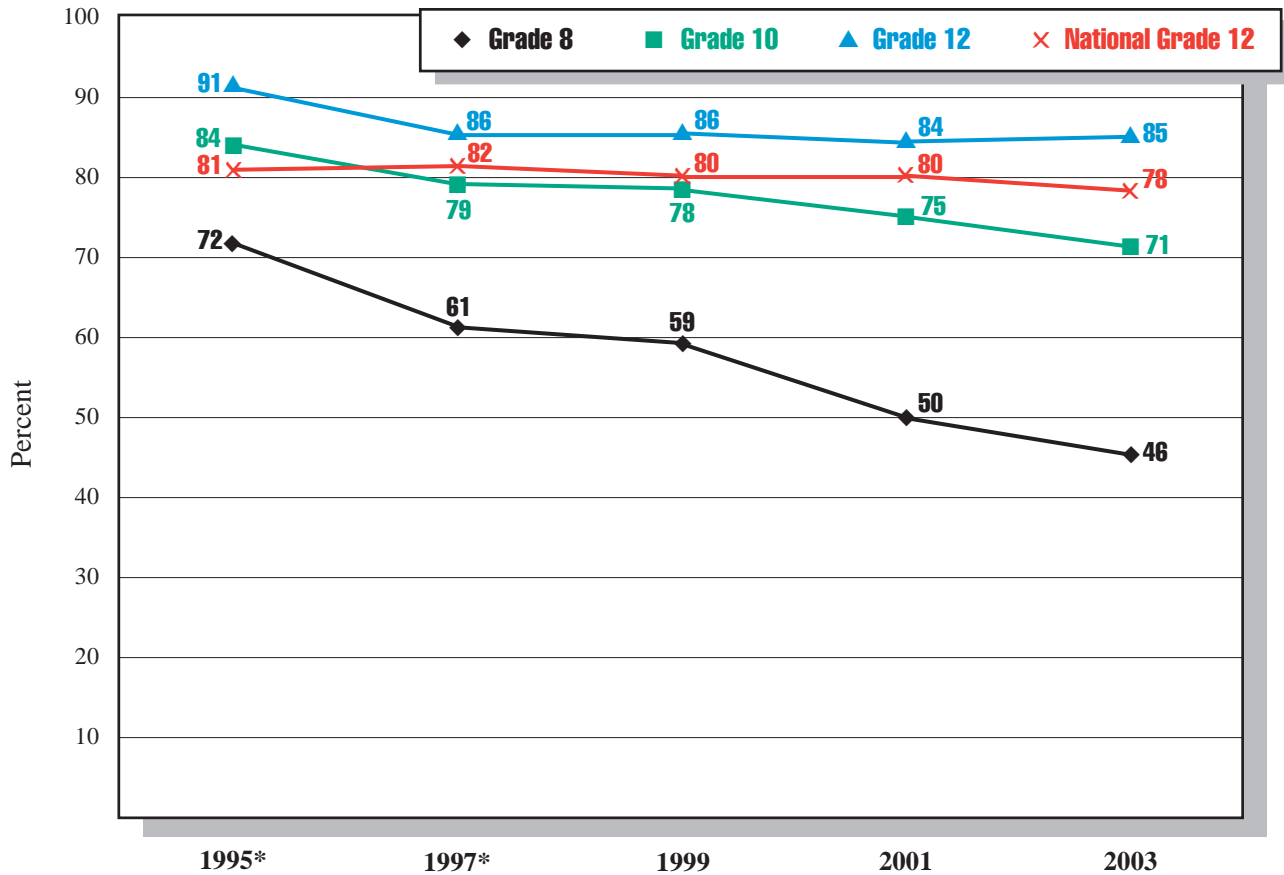
| | Grade 8 | Grade 10 | Grade 12 | 12th Grade National*** |
|--|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Alcohol | 46% | 71% | 85% | 78% |
| Cigarettes | 30 | 52 | 65 | 57 |
| Marijuana | 17 | 40 | 54 | 48 |
| Any illicit drug* | 23 | 48 | 59 | 53 |
| Any illicit drug* other than marijuana | 15 | 30 | 34 | 30 |
| Crack cocaine | 3 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| Cocaine (other than crack) | 3 | 8 | 10 | 8 |
| Heroin | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Other narcotics | 4 | 12 | 13 | 10 |
| Hallucinogens (LSD, PCP, etc.) | 3 | 9 | 13 | 12 |
| Tranquilizers** | 4 | 10 | 13 | 11 |
| Sedatives (barbituates)** | 6 | 13 | 13 | 10 |
| Stimulants (amphetamines)** | 8 | 19 | 20 | 17 |
| Methamphetamine | 4 | 8 | 7 | 7 |
| Ecstasy | 4 | 10 | 14 | 11 |
| Rohypnol | 2 | 3 | 2 | n.a. |
| Inhalants | 18 | 22 | 19 | 12 |
| Steroids | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 |

* “Any illicit drug” means the use of any substance on this chart, except alcohol, inhalants, steroids and tobacco.

** Use without a prescription.

*** National data from surveys conducted by the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, 2002.

TABLE 2a Students Who Have Ever Tried Alcohol Over Time



*Large differences in the rates of use between the 1995 and 1997 reports reflect a change in the survey question. Added words are “more than just a few sips.”

TABLE 2b Students Who Have Ever Tried Tobacco (Cigarettes) Over Time

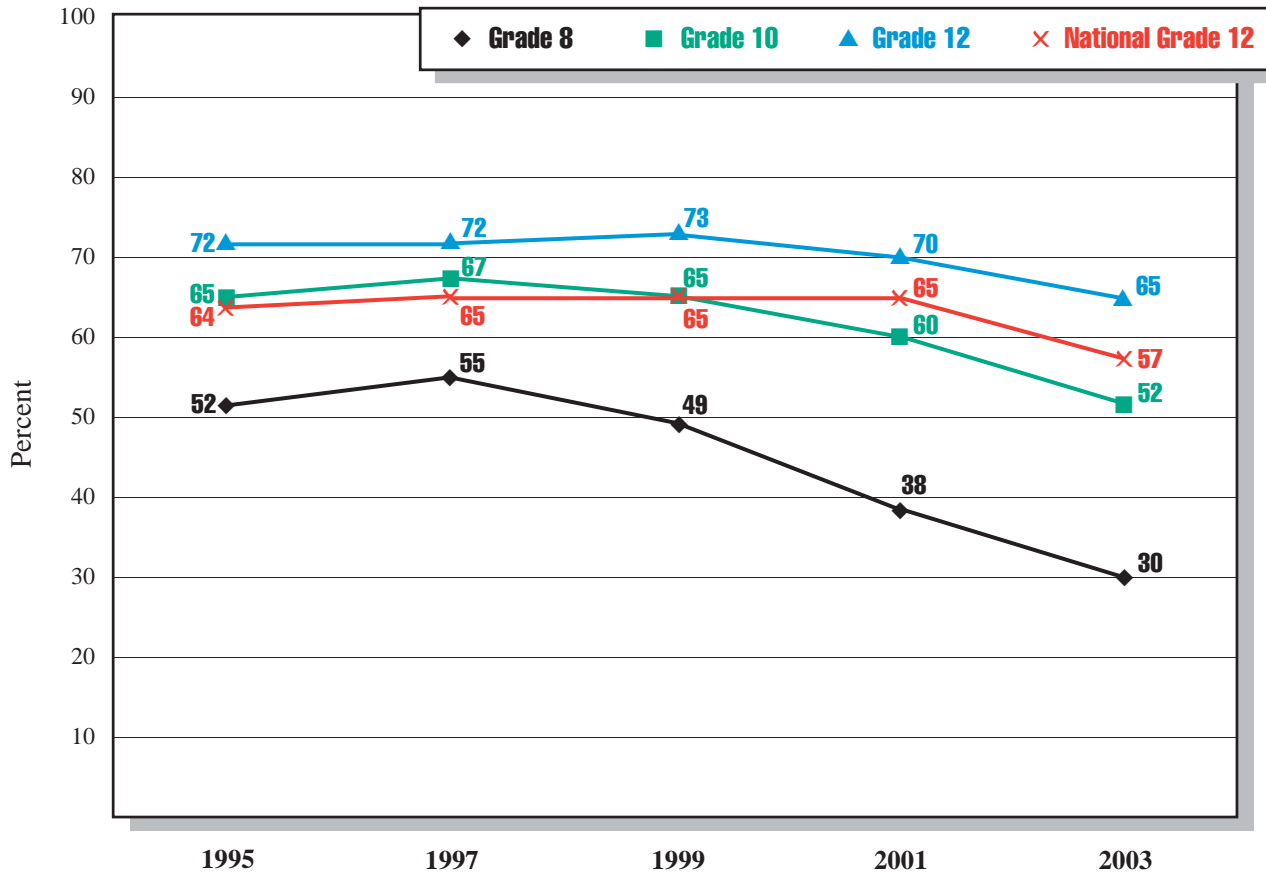
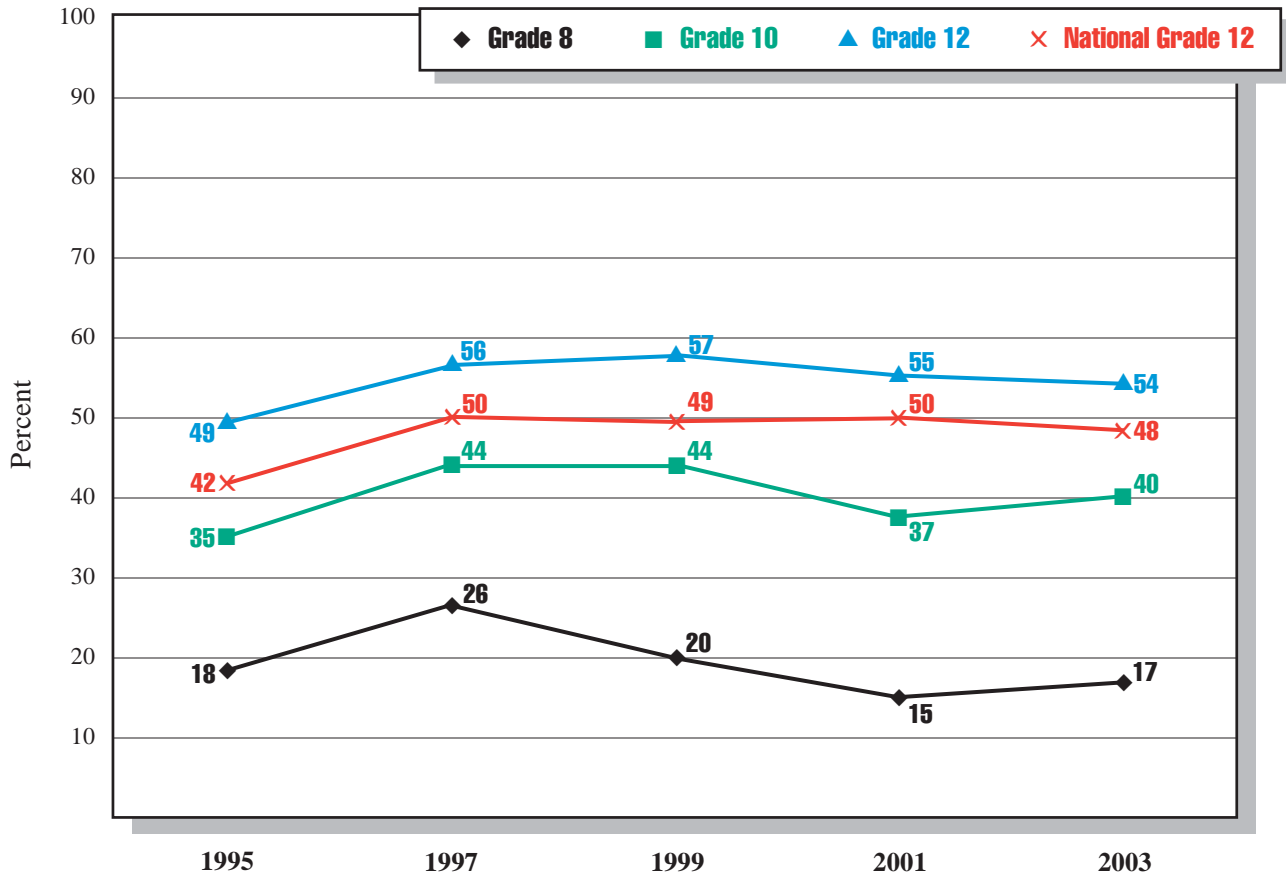


TABLE 2c Students Who Have Ever Tried Marijuana Over Time



Past Month Use of Alcohol and Other Drugs — 2003

Table 3 is a measure of the current ATOD use (last 30 days) by Macomb County youth. The table includes national 12th grade data for comparison. Reported use by youth in Macomb County remains significantly higher than use reported nationally.

| TABLE 3 Past Month Use of Alcohol and Other Drugs | | | | |
|--|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| | Grade 8 | Grade 10 | Grade 12 | 12th Grade National*** |
| Alcohol | 21% | 45% | 61% | 49% |
| Cigarettes | 10 | 25 | 36 | 27 |
| Marijuana | 8 | 24 | 30 | 22 |
| Any illicit drug* | 11 | 28 | 34 | 25 |
| Any illicit drug* other than marijuana | 7 | 16 | 17 | 11 |
| Crack cocaine | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Cocaine (other than crack) | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| Heroin | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Other narcotics | 1 | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| Hallucinogens (LSD, PCP, etc.) | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Tranquilizers** | 1 | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| Sedatives (barbituates)** | 2 | 5 | 6 | 3 |
| Stimulants (amphetamines)** | 3 | 9 | 9 | 6 |
| Methamphetamine | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Ecstasy | 1 | 4 | 4 | 2 |
| Rohypnol | 1 | 1 | 1 | NA |
| Inhalants | 6 | 7 | 4 | 2 |
| Steroids | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |

* "Any illicit drug" means the use of any substance on this chart, except alcohol, inhalants, steroids and tobacco.

** Use without a prescription.

*** National data from surveys conducted by the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, 2002.

TABLE 3a Past Month Use of Alcohol Over Time

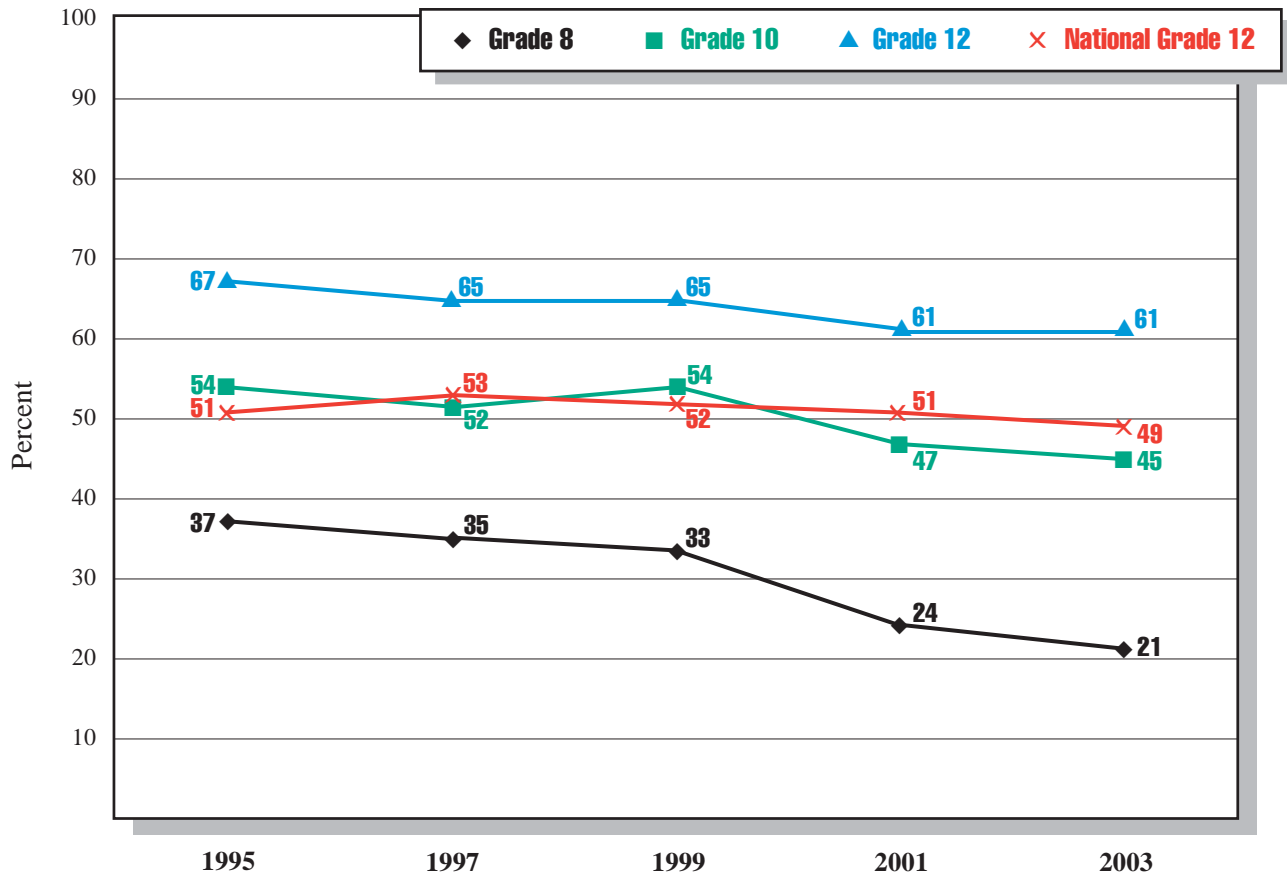


TABLE 3b Past Month Use of Tobacco (Cigarettes) Over Time

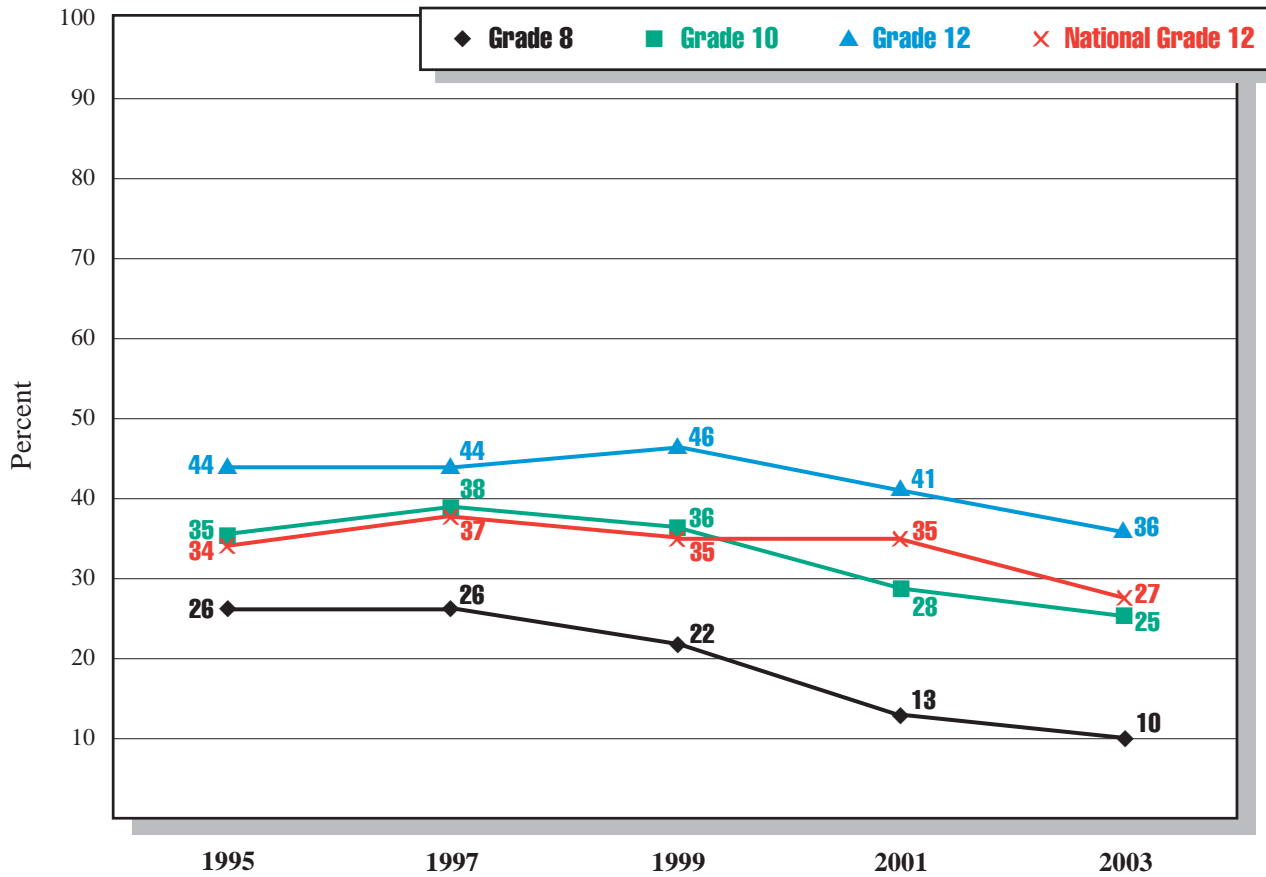
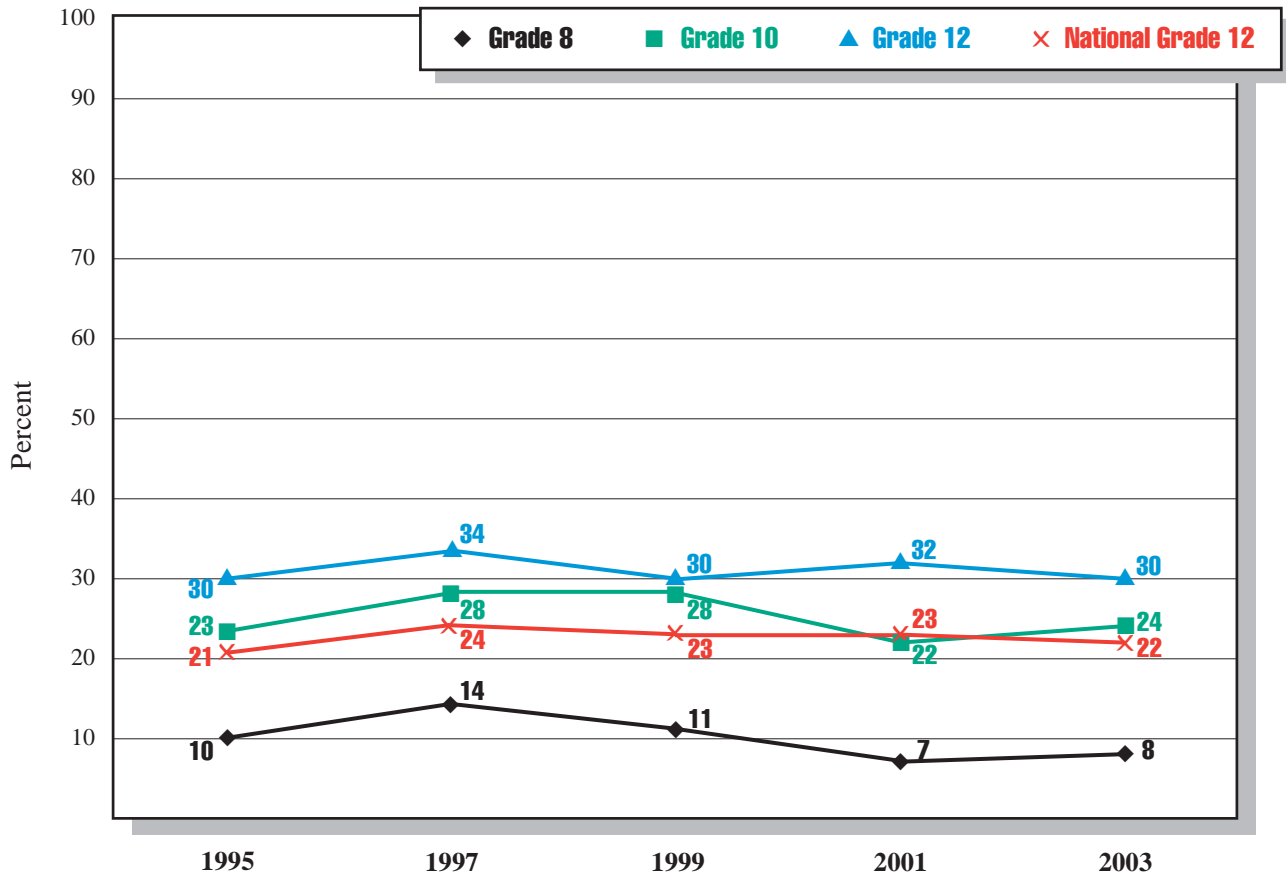


TABLE 3c Past Month Use of Marijuana Over Time



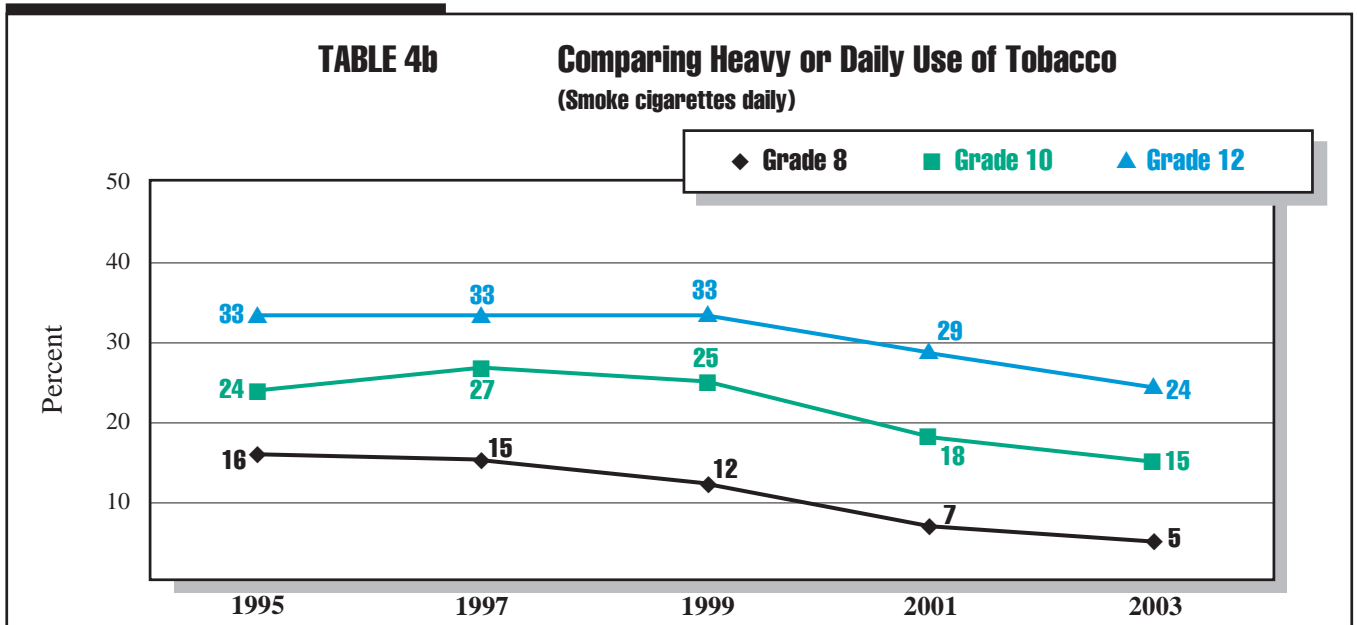
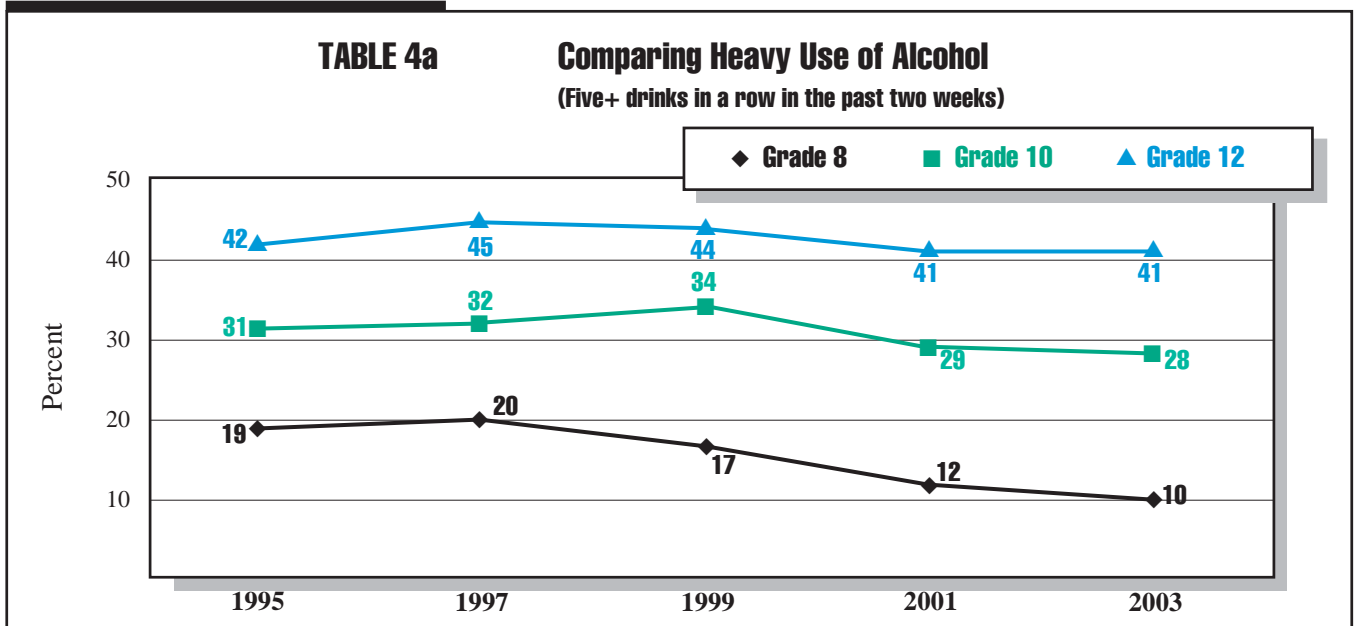
A Comparison of Heavy Alcohol and Other Drug Use

Table 4 compares heavy use of gateway drugs by 8th, 10th and 12th grade Macomb County youth and provides data that represent a dramatic change in heavy use. The survey defines daily use as “at least 20 times in the prior 30 days.” Declines of tobacco use is reported in all three grade levels.

TABLE 4 Heavy or Daily Use of Alcohol and Other Drugs

| | Grade 8 | | | | | Grade 10 | | | | | Grade 12 | | | | | 12th Grade National* | | |
|--|---------|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|----------------------|----|----|
| | 95 | 97 | 99 | 01 | 03 | 95 | 97 | 99 | 01 | 03 | 95 | 97 | 99 | 01 | 03 | 99 | 00 | 02 |
| Alcohol | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Daily | 2% | 2% | 2% | 1% | 1% | 3% | 3% | 3% | 2% | 3% | 7% | 7% | 5% | 4% | 4% | 4% | 3% | 4% |
| Five + drinks in a row in the past two weeks | 19 | 20 | 17 | 12 | 10 | 31 | 32 | 34 | 29 | 28 | 42 | 45 | 44 | 41 | 41 | 32 | 31 | 29 |
| Tobacco | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Smoke cigarettes daily | 16 | 15 | 12 | 7 | 5 | 24 | 27 | 25 | 18 | 15 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 29 | 24 | 22 | 23 | 17 |
| Half-pack or more daily | 8 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 15 | 17 | 16 | 11 | 9 | 23 | 24 | 23 | 19 | 15 | 13 | 13 | 9 |
| Use smokeless tobacco daily | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Marijuana | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Daily | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 6 |

*National data from surveys conducted by the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, 2002.



Gender Differences in Use — 2003

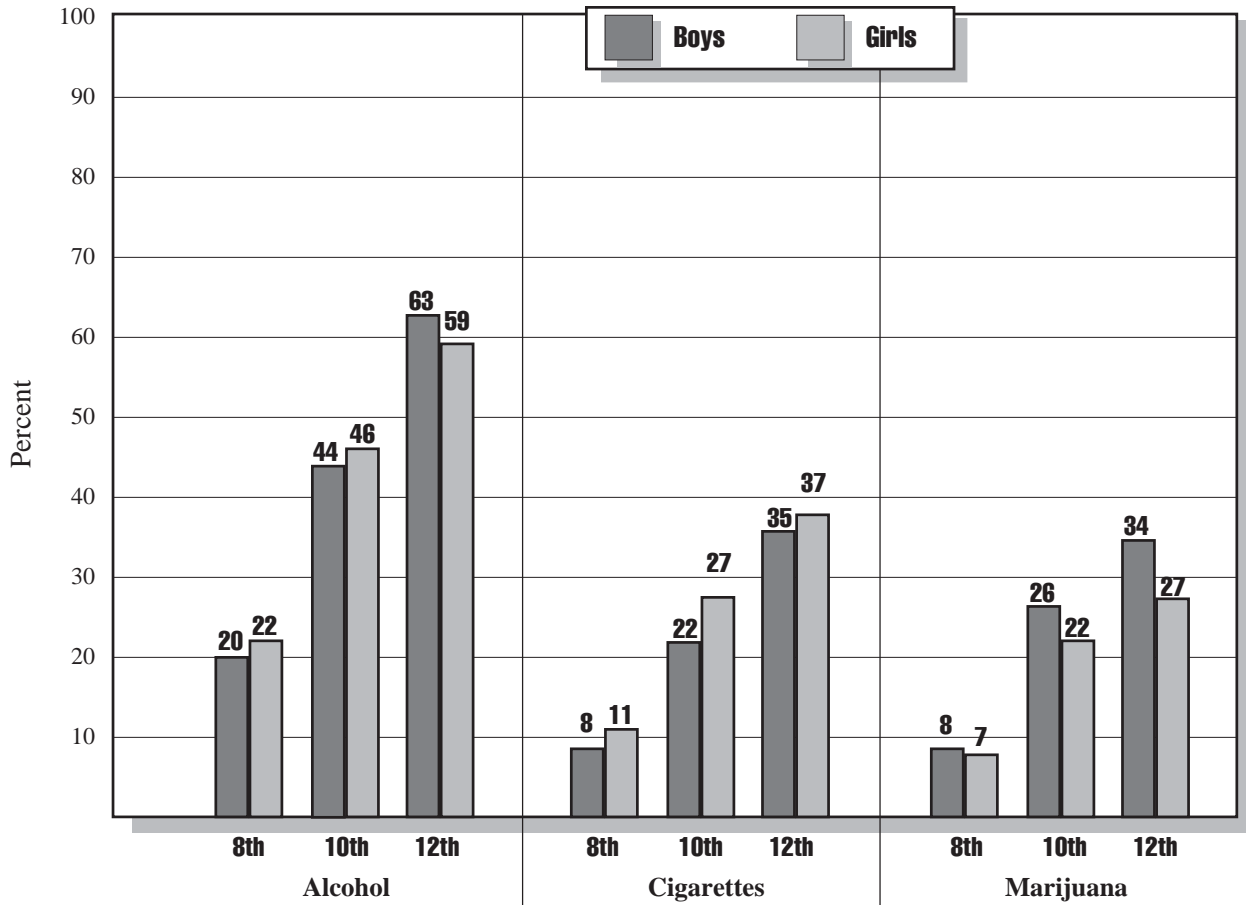
Table 5 shows the reported use by gender among Macomb youth. Females continue to use cigarettes at a slightly higher rate at all grade levels. Twelfth grade boys reported significantly higher rates of alcohol, marijuana, and other illicit drugs than senior girls.

TABLE 5 Gender Differences In The Past Month Use of Alcohol and Other Drugs - 2003

| (NUMBER OF CASES) | Grade 8 | | Grade 10 | | Grade 12 | |
|---------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| | Male (2998) | Female (2747) | Male (2542) | Female (2602) | Male (1859) | Female (2022) |
| Alcohol | 20% | 22% | 44% | 46% | 63% | 59% |
| Cigarettes | 8 | 11 | 22 | 27 | 35 | 37 |
| Marijuana | 8 | 7 | 26 | 22 | 34 | 27 |
| Crack cocaine | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Other cocaine | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 2 |
| Hallucingens | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| Tranquilizers* | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| Sedatives (barbituates)* | 2 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 5 |
| Stimulants (amphetamines) | 3 | 4 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 8 |
| Methamphetamine | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| Ecstasy | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| Rohypnol | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Inhalants | 6 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 3 |
| Heroin | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Steroids | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 |

* Use without prescription.

TABLE 5a Gender Differences in Use of Gateway Drugs – 2003
(PAST MONTH)



Long Range Goals and Use — 2003

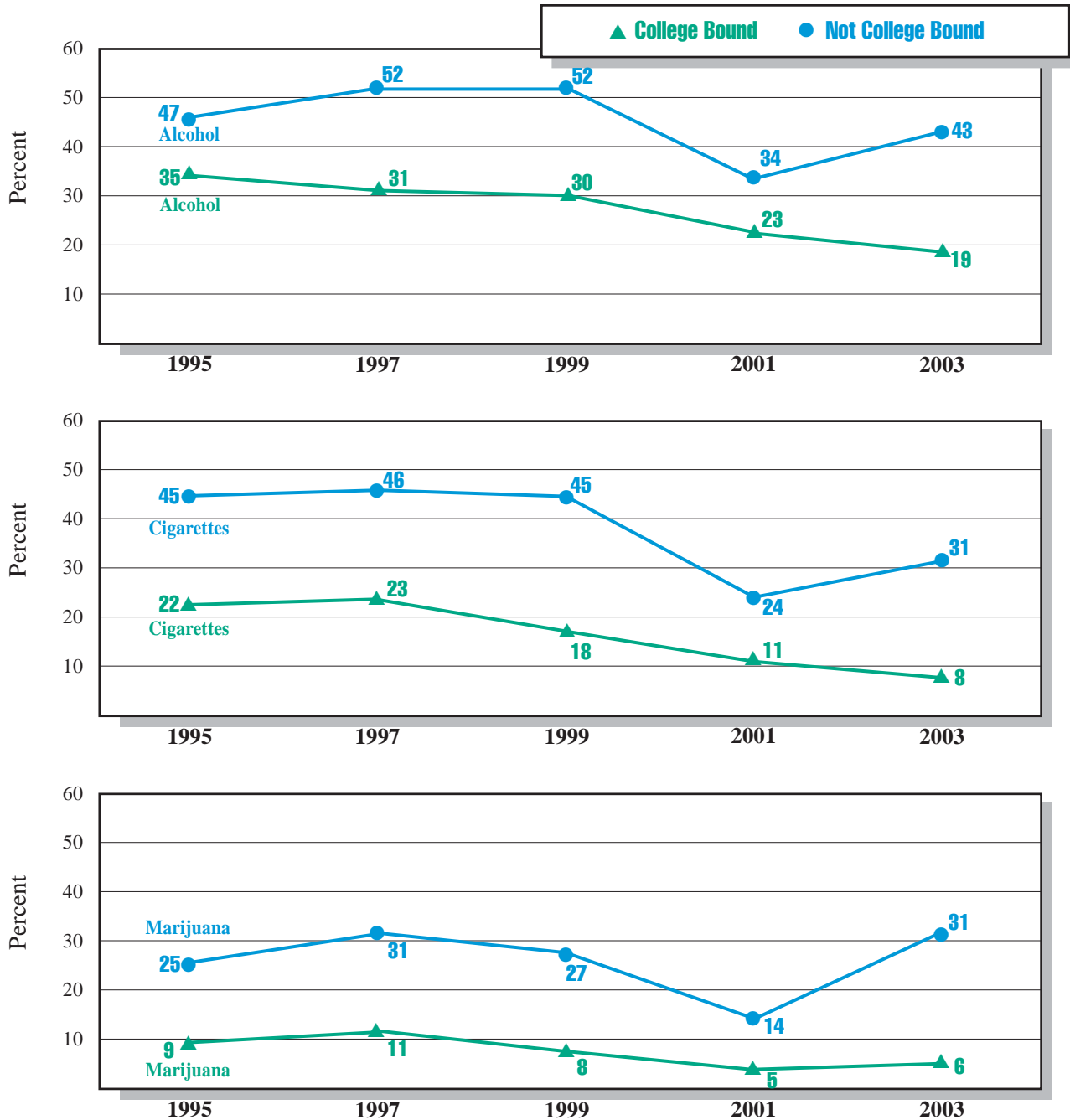
Table 6 contains data comparing students who state they “probably will” or “definitely will” graduate from college and those who reported they would not. College-bound students report significantly less use of all drugs, including the gateway drugs, within the past month.

TABLE 6 **LONG RANGE GOALS AND USE**
(USE DURING PAST MONTH)

| (NUMBER OF CASES) | College Bound | Not College Bound | College Bound | Not College Bound | College Bound | Not College Bound |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| | Grade 8 (5467) | Grade 8 (332) | Grade 10 (4900) | Grade 10 (424) | Grade 12 (3762) | Grade 12 (175) |
| Alcohol | 19% | 43% | 44% | 61% | 60% | 73% |
| Cigarettes | 8 | 31 | 22 | 50 | 35 | 59 |
| Marijuana | 6 | 31 | 22 | 51 | 30 | 49 |
| Any Illicit Drug Use ¹ | 10 | 38 | 26 | 55 | 33 | 59 |
| Cocaine | 1 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 2 | 8 |
| Hallucinogens (LSD, PCP, etc.) | 1 | 7 | 3 | 12 | 3 | 11 |
| Methamphetamines | 1 | 6 | 3 | 11 | 2 | 8 |
| Ecstasy | 1 | 6 | 3 | 14 | 3 | 14 |
| Inhalants | 6 | 16 | 6 | 16 | 3 | 12 |
| Heroin | 1 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 4 |

¹ Includes the use of any drug on this table except inhalants, steroids, alcohol, cigarettes.

TABLE 6a Comparing Long Range Goals and Use – 8th Grade
(PAST MONTH) 1995–2003



Settings in Which Use Occurs

Students continue to report that the lowest incidence of ATOD is at school. When comparing 1997 with 2003, trend data show declines in ATOD use in all settings. Use is most likely to occur at a party or at a friend's house.

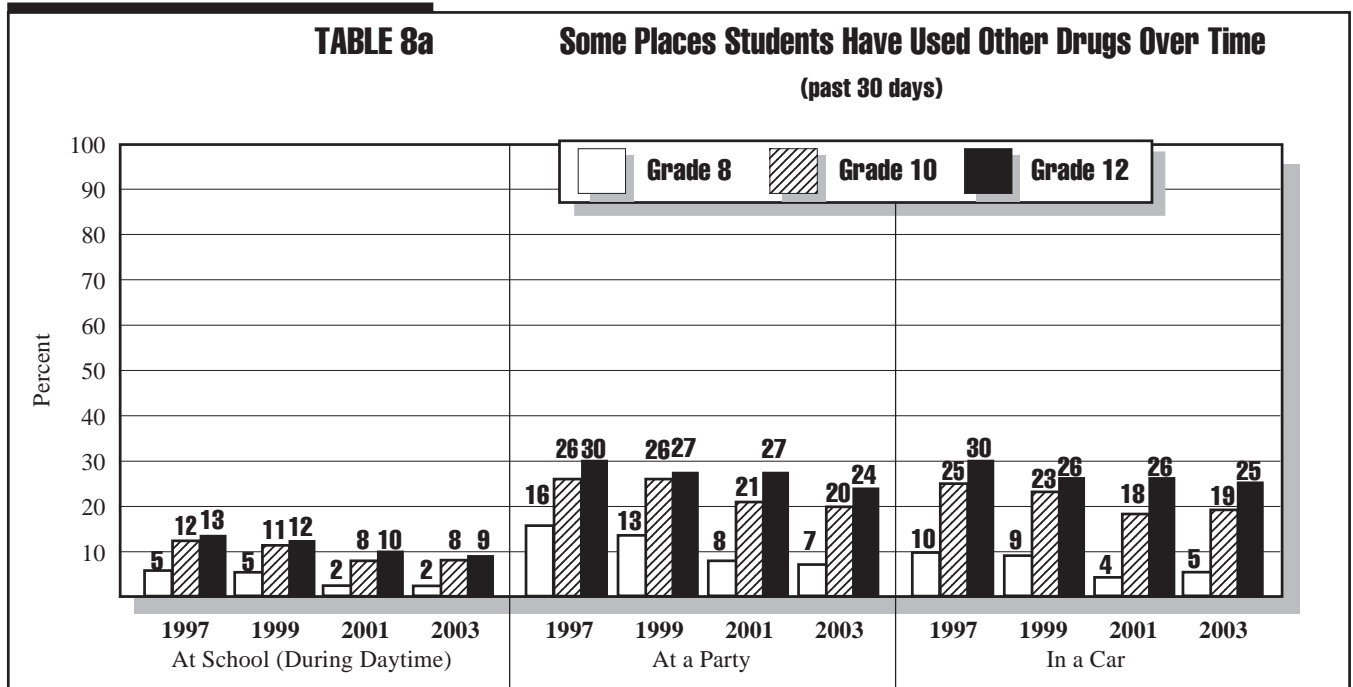
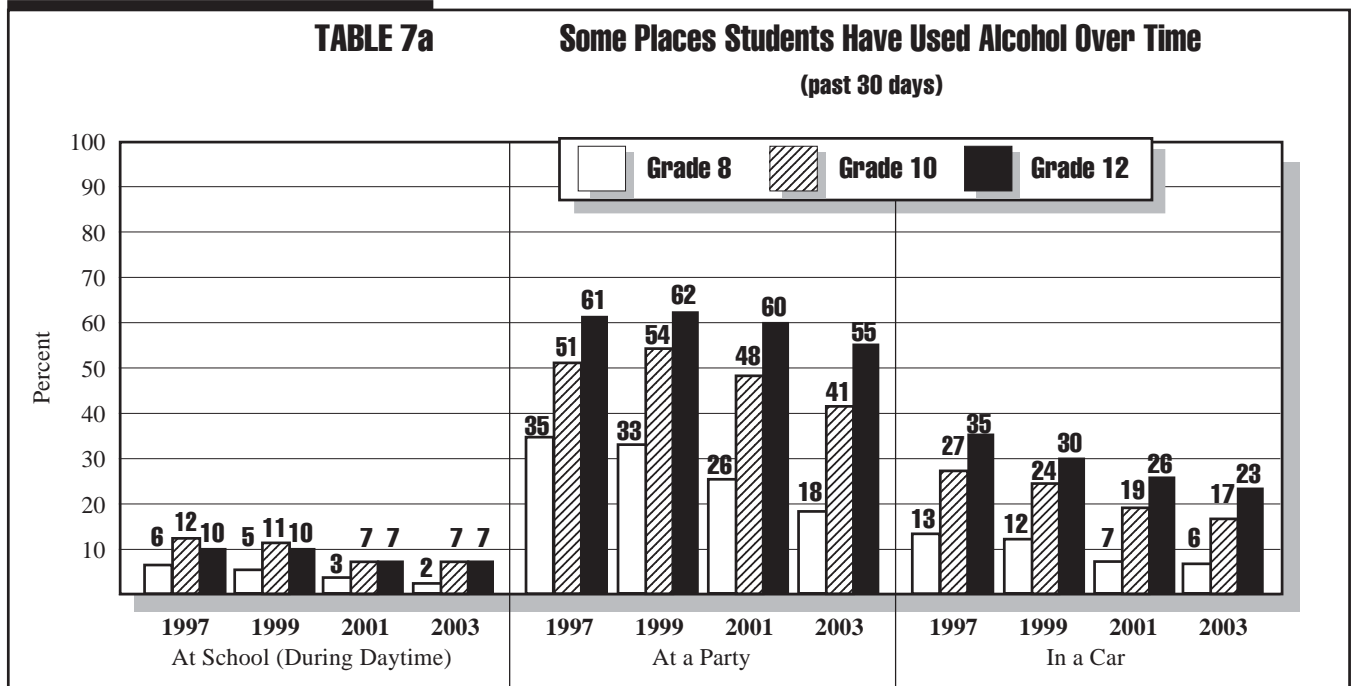
TABLE 7 Settings In Which Students Have Used Alcohol (DURING THE PAST 30 DAYS)

| | Grade 8 | | | | Grade 10 | | | | Grade 12 | | | |
|----------------------|---------|------|------|------|----------|------|------|------|----------|------|------|------|
| | 1997 | 1999 | 2001 | 2003 | 1997 | 1999 | 2001 | 2003 | 1997 | 1999 | 2001 | 2003 |
| At a party | 35% | 33% | 26% | 18% | 51% | 54% | 48% | 41% | 61% | 62% | 60% | 55% |
| At a friend's house | 33 | 30 | 22 | 17 | 51 | 52 | 46 | 42 | 59 | 61 | 58 | 55 |
| At home | 32 | 32 | 23 | 19 | 39 | 39 | 35 | 33 | 36 | 38 | 34 | 35 |
| In a car | 13 | 12 | 7 | 6 | 27 | 24 | 19 | 17 | 35 | 30 | 26 | 23 |
| At a school function | 11 | 10 | 7 | 5 | 20 | 19 | 18 | 14 | 22 | 20 | 21 | 16 |
| Near school | 11 | 10 | 6 | 5 | 18 | 16 | 13 | 11 | 16 | 15 | 13 | 11 |
| At school | 6 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 12 | 11 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| At a park or beach* | - | - | - | 6 | - | - | - | 13 | - | - | - | 13 |

TABLE 8 Settings In Which Students Have Used Other Drugs (DURING THE PAST 30 DAYS)

| | Grade 8 | | | | Grade 10 | | | | Grade 12 | | | |
|----------------------|---------|------|------|------|----------|------|------|------|----------|------|------|------|
| | 1997 | 1999 | 2001 | 2003 | 1997 | 1999 | 2001 | 2003 | 1997 | 1999 | 2001 | 2003 |
| At a friend's house | 17% | 14% | 8% | 9% | 28% | 28% | 22% | 24% | 31% | 28% | 29% | 28% |
| At a party | 16 | 13 | 8 | 7 | 26 | 26 | 21 | 20 | 30 | 27 | 27 | 24 |
| In a car | 10 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 25 | 23 | 18 | 19 | 30 | 26 | 26 | 25 |
| At home | 10 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 18 | 18 | 14 | 16 | 18 | 17 | 16 | 16 |
| Near school | 9 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 17 | 15 | 11 | 12 | 16 | 15 | 13 | 12 |
| At a school function | 6 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 12 | 11 | 9 | 10 | 12 | 10 | 11 | 10 |
| At school | 5 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 11 | 8 | 8 | 13 | 12 | 10 | 9 |
| At a park or beach* | - | - | - | 4 | - | - | - | 12 | - | - | - | 11 |

* New item added to the survey for the first time in 2002.



Experiences and Attitudes About Alcohol and Other Drugs

Availability of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs

IN TABLE 9 Macomb youth responded to the question, “How difficult do you think it would be for you to get each of the following types of drugs, if you wanted some?” This question asks about perceived availability in general and does not ask for identification of specific areas of the community.

Tobacco and alcohol are the most readily available drugs because they are legal drugs for adults. Other drugs are usually less accessible. In every community, at least some students perceive that nearly every drug is available. In 2003, eighth graders report a significant increase in the number who perceive they can obtain marijuana when compared to 2001.

TABLE 9 Comparing the Ease of Obtaining Alcohol and Other Drugs

| | Grade 8 | | | | Grade 10 | | | | Grade 12 | | | |
|---|---------|------|------|------|----------|------|------|------|----------|------|------|------|
| | 1997 | 1999 | 2001 | 2003 | 1997 | 1999 | 2001 | 2003 | 1997 | 1999 | 2001 | 2003 |
| Alcohol fairly / very easy | 90% | 88% | 82% | 80% | 96% | 96% | 95% | 92% | 98% | 98% | 97% | 96% |
| Cigarettes fairly / very easy | 91 | 87 | 79 | 75 | 97 | 96 | 95 | 91 | 98 | 98 | 98 | 97 |
| Marijuana fairly / very easy | 65 | 56 | 46 | 52 | 89 | 88 | 84 | 84 | 94 | 94 | 92 | 92 |
| Crack cocaine fairly / very easy | 33 | 32 | 28 | 30 | 38 | 38 | 39 | 39 | 39 | 39 | 37 | 36 |
| Heroin fairly / very easy | 21 | 20 | 17 | 19 | 26 | 25 | 25 | 22 | 27 | 26 | 24 | 20 |
| Steroids fairly / very easy | 33 | 33 | 33 | 36 | 47 | 45 | 48 | 48 | 50 | 50 | 52 | 56 |
| Ecstasy* fairly / very easy | - | - | - | 21 | - | - | - | 47 | - | - | - | 64 |
| Methamphetamine* fairly / very easy | - | - | - | 17 | - | - | - | 31 | - | - | - | 34 |

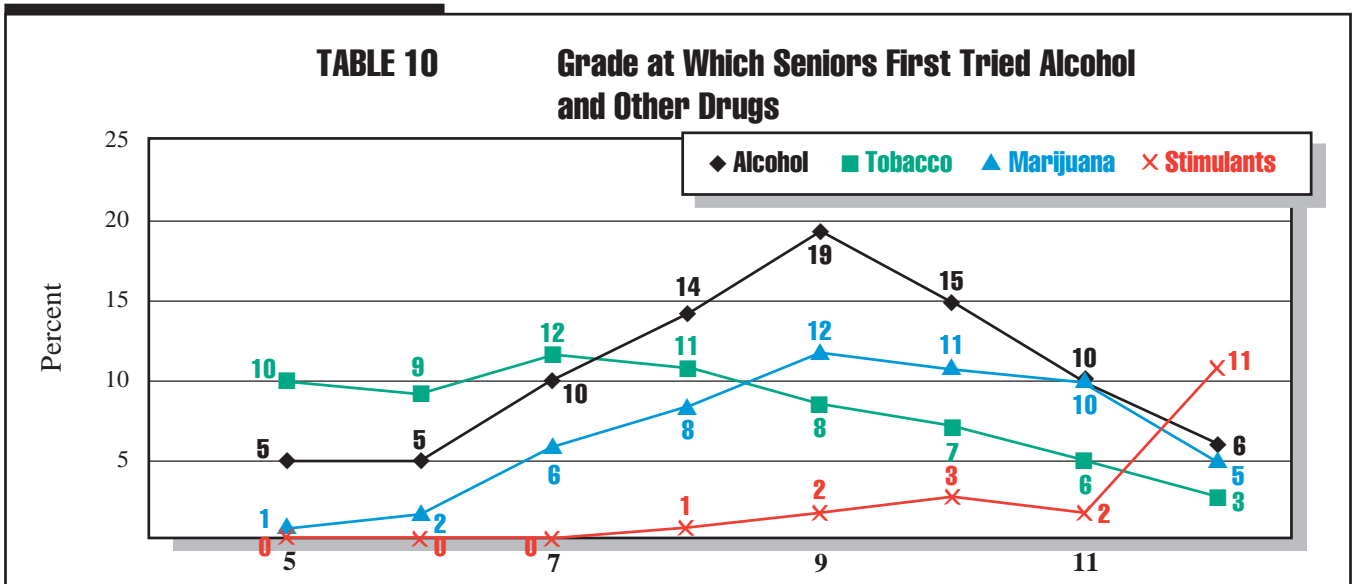
* New item added to the survey for the first time in 2002.

**Age of First Use
— 2003**

Table 10 shows the grade level at which seniors said they first engaged in the use of various substances. Though all three grade levels involved in the study were asked the question, responses of seniors alone are shown because their experience encompasses the entire range of possible responses. Experimentation of various drugs by Macomb youth increases significantly in the 7th grade and peak at grade nine.

TABLE 10 Grade at Which Seniors First Tried ATOD

| | Grade 5 or below | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|--------------------|------------------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Alcohol | | | | | | | | |
| more than a sip | 5% | 5% | 10% | 14% | 19% | 15% | 10% | 6% |
| felt drunk or high | 1 | 3 | 7 | 11 | 21 | 18 | 12 | 9 |
| Tobacco | | | | | | | | |
| tried cigarettes | 10 | 9 | 12 | 11 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 3 |
| smoked daily | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 9 |
| tried smokeless | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Marijuana | 1 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 5 |
| Cocaine | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Inhalants | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| LSD | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Ecstasy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| Stimulants | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 11 |



Comparing Drinking and Driving

Table 11 shows the percentage of Macomb youth who, during the two weeks prior to the survey, have either ridden in a motor vehicle with a driver who has been drinking, or who have operated such a vehicle themselves while under the influence of alcohol.

Behavior around drinking and driving continues to decline among 12th grade students.

TABLE 11 Comparing Student Drinking and Driving Behavior During Last Two Weeks*

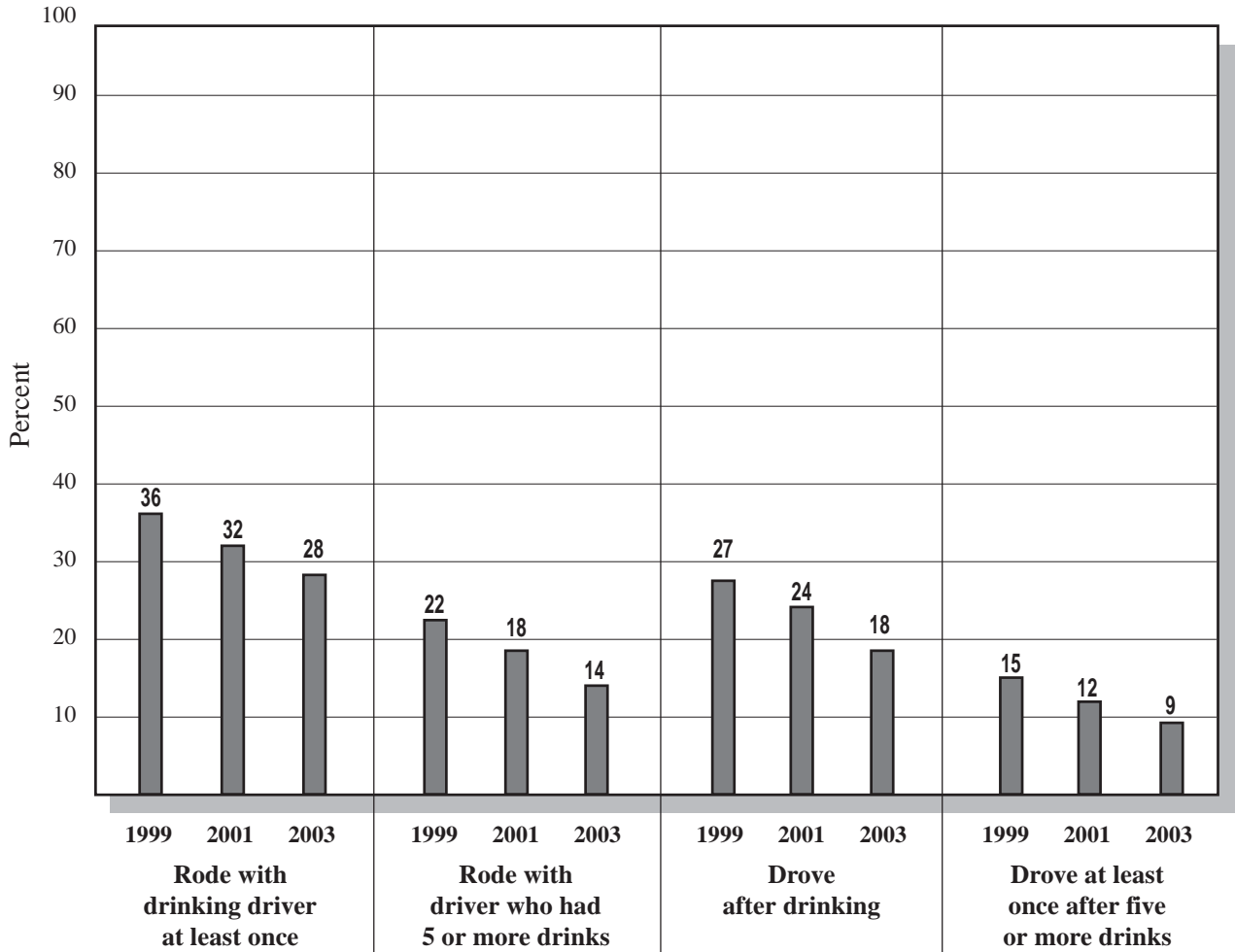
| | Grade 8 | | | Grade 10 | | | Grade 12 | | |
|---|---------|------|------|----------|------|------|----------|------|------|
| | 1999 | 2001 | 2003 | 1999 | 2001 | 2003 | 1999 | 2001 | 2003 |
| Rode with drinking driver at least once | 27% | 22% | 25% | 33% | 29% | 28% | 36% | 32% | 28% |
| Rode with driver who had 5 or more drinks | 15 | 11 | 12 | 19 | 16 | 14 | 22 | 18 | 14 |
| Drove after drinking** | 5 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 7 | 8 | 27 | 24 | 18 |
| Drove at least once** after five or more drinks | 3 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 15 | 12 | 9 |

* National data not available.

** Vehicle either a car, truck or motorcycle.

TABLE 11a

Comparing Drinking and Driving Behavior of 12th Grade Students During the Past Two Weeks – 1999-2003



Perceived Risk

According to Dr. Lloyd Johnston of the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, youth attitudes about the harm of using alcohol or other drugs shape their decisions about whether or not they will use.

Table 12 compares the assessment of harmful use. Youth report a greater fear of some drugs than they do others. Even for those drugs perceived to be more dangerous, there are still some who do not believe using them once or twice will lead to harm.

TABLE 12 Perceived Great Risk For Harm With Use Over Time

| | Grade 8 | | | Grade 10 | | | Grade 12 | | |
|--|---------|------|------|----------|------|------|----------|------|------|
| | 1999 | 2001 | 2003 | 1999 | 2001 | 2003 | 1999 | 2001 | 2003 |
| Alcohol | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 or 2 drinks almost daily | 16% | 15% | 16% | 12% | 14% | 14% | 12% | 14% | 15% |
| 4 or 5 drinks almost daily | 46 | 46 | 52 | 43 | 46 | 58 | 47 | 49 | 53 |
| 5 or more drinks, once or twice each weekend | 43 | 48 | 43 | 33 | 36 | 35 | 26 | 30 | 28 |
| Tobacco | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 or more packs of cigarettes daily | 49 | 56 | 56 | 50 | 55 | 58 | 55 | 59 | 62 |
| regular use of smokeless tobacco | 46 | 50 | 47 | 45 | 48 | 49 | 47 | 50 | 51 |
| Marijuana | | | | | | | | | |
| once or twice | 19 | 21 | 18 | 10 | 12 | 12 | 8 | 9 | 8 |
| regular use | 77 | 78 | 68 | 61 | 63 | 48 | 55 | 54 | 40 |
| Cocaine | | | | | | | | | |
| powder, once or twice | 34 | 33 | 33 | 42 | 40 | 38 | 52 | 47 | 45 |
| powder, regular use | 85 | 85 | 81 | 88 | 87 | 81 | 90 | 91 | 87 |
| crack, once or twice | 34 | 33 | 32 | 44 | 41 | 39 | 57 | 51 | 50 |
| crack, regular use | 85 | 85 | 81 | 88 | 87 | 82 | 92 | 92 | 89 |
| Heroin | | | | | | | | | |
| once or twice | 41 | 39 | 36 | 52 | 49 | 45 | 60 | 59 | 56 |
| Amphetamines | | | | | | | | | |
| once or twice | 23 | 23 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 23 | 25 | 25 | 25 |
| regular use | 58 | 56 | 53 | 61 | 60 | 59 | 66 | 66 | 66 |
| Methamphetamines | | | | | | | | | |
| regular use | - | - | 59 | - | - | 71 | - | - | 78 |
| Ecstasy | | | | | | | | | |
| once or twice | - | - | 34 | - | - | 36 | - | - | 37 |
| regular use | - | - | 68 | - | - | 75 | - | - | 81 |
| Steroids | | | | | | | | | |
| | 58 | 51 | 39 | 57 | 51 | 41 | 60 | 51 | 44 |

Peer Norms

Young people tend to form close knit friendship groups. This peer group might be two best friends, a couple or a small group. If this group uses alcohol, tobacco or other drugs, all tend to use the same drugs and to use them in the same amount and frequency. Those whose peer group does not use ATOD are likely to have friends who also do not use them.

Table 13 compares 1999, 2001 and 2003 data to show the percentage of students who reported feeling at least some pressure from friends and schoolmates to use each of the listed substances.

TABLE 13 Substances Students Feel Pressure To Try – 1999-2003

| | Grade 8 | | | Grade 10 | | | Grade 12 | | |
|---------------------|---------|------|------|----------|------|------|----------|------|------|
| | 1999 | 2001 | 2003 | 1999 | 2001 | 2003 | 1999 | 2001 | 2003 |
| Alcohol | 32% | 28% | 30% | 40% | 43% | 46% | 42% | 41% | 46% |
| Cigarettes | 33 | 27 | 24 | 26 | 24 | 27 | 19 | 18 | 20 |
| Marijuana | 18 | 15 | 20 | 26 | 26 | 33 | 25 | 25 | 31 |
| Other illegal drugs | 13 | 11 | 15 | 14 | 15 | 19 | 11 | 13 | 14 |

Peer group disapproval has been recognized as an important determinant of smoking, drinking and other forms of drug use. Table 14 shows to the extent Macomb youth report peer disapproval of the gateway drugs.

TABLE 14 Peer Disapproval – 1999-2003

| | | Grade 8 | | | Grade 10 | | | Grade 12 | | | National | | |
|------------|--------------------------------------|---------|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|
| | | 99 | 01 | 03 | 99 | 01 | 03 | 99 | 01 | 03 | 99 | 00 | 02* |
| Alcohol | Drink daily (1–2 drinks) | 69% | 76% | 83% | 63% | 67% | 68% | 64% | 66% | 69% | 72% | 72% | 69% |
| | 5 or more once or twice each weekend | 76 | 82 | 85 | 58 | 63 | 62 | 46 | 50 | 51 | 65 | 63 | 65 |
| Cigarettes | One or more packs per day | 73 | 81 | 89 | 64 | 70 | 78 | 60 | 65 | 75 | 69 | 71 | 75 |
| Marijuana | Trying once or twice | 72 | 78 | 82 | 52 | 58 | 59 | 46 | 47 | 49 | 54 | 55 | 52 |
| | Use regularly | 84 | 88 | 89 | 74 | 78 | 74 | 74 | 74 | 72 | 75 | 75 | 78 |

* National data from surveys conducted by the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, 2002.

Where Students Would Turn for Help

Knowing where students would turn for help with an ATOD abuse problem can be useful information for the prevention and intervention efforts of the community. Table 15 shows those survey results.

In Macomb County, alcohol, tobacco and other drug information and help is available through the non-profit agency CARE: (586) 541-0033. That agency provides a number of prevention services and is also available to assist individuals and families get help for developing alcohol and other drug problems. A Student Assistance Center at CARE (586) 541-0077 provides special assistance for schools and school-aged young people.

TABLE 15 **Where Students Said They Would Turn For Help**

| | Grade 8 | | | Grade 10 | | | Grade 12 | | |
|------------------|---------|------|------|----------|------|------|----------|------|------|
| | 1999 | 2001 | 2003 | 1999 | 2001 | 2003 | 1999 | 2001 | 2003 |
| Friends | 62% | 59% | 56% | 69% | 66% | 62% | 72% | 74% | 66% |
| Family | 39 | 45 | 45 | 34 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 35 | 37 |
| A drug clinic | 33 | 38 | 35 | 28 | 29 | 26 | 29 | 30 | 28 |
| A doctor | 28 | 33 | 31 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 24 |
| Clergy | 20 | 20 | 22 | 17 | 16 | 16 | 14 | 13 | 14 |
| School counselor | 18 | 23 | 21 | 12 | 13 | 13 | 11 | 11 | 10 |
| Teacher | 12 | 14 | 13 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 14 | 11 |

Safety and Violence in Schools

Student Safety at School

SCHOOLS HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY in creating a safe and positive school climate for learning. A safe environment within the larger community influences the feeling of safety within a school. A safe school is best accomplished with the support and assistance of the community.

The following tables give the results to questions of perceived safety, possession of weapons, and victimization at school as reported by Macomb 8th, 10th, and 12th graders.

TABLE 16 Comparing Student Safety At School

| | Grade 8 | | | | Grade 10 | | | | Grade 12 | | | | National 12th Grade | | | |
|---|---------|-----|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|-----|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| | 97 | 99 | 01 | 03 | 97 | 99 | 01 | 03 | 97 | 99 | 01 | 03 | 97 | 99 | 00 | 02* |
| Feels safe at school | 81% | 81% | 78% | 82% | 80% | 80% | 75% | 77% | 83% | 85% | 81% | 83% | 89% | 90% | 89% | 87% |
| Feels safe going to and from school | 81 | 82 | 80 | 82 | 82 | 83 | 81 | 81 | 86 | 86 | 86 | 84 | 90 | 91 | 91 | 90 |
| Felt unsafe enough to stay away one day or more | 6 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 3 |

* National data from surveys conducted by the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, 2002.

Weapons at School

Macomb County youth were asked how many days, if any, they had carried a weapon to school in the past four weeks. Tables 17 compares the responses of 2003 with 1997, 1999 and 2001 data.

TABLE 17a

Have NOT Carried Weapons to School In The Past Month Over Time

| | Grade 8 | | | | Grade 10 | | | | Grade 12 | | | | National 12th Grade |
|----------------------|---------|-----|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|-----|------------------------|
| | 97 | 99 | 01 | 03 | 97 | 99 | 01 | 03 | 97 | 99 | 01 | 03 | (NA)* |
| Gun or knife | 92% | 91% | 96% | 97% | 89% | 91% | 92% | 93% | 93% | 93% | 95% | 94% | |
| Club or other weapon | 94 | 94 | 98 | 97 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 94 | 94 | 96 | 95 | |

TABLE 17b

Have Carried Weapons to School In The Past Month Over Time

| | Grade 8 | | | | Grade 10 | | | | Grade 12 | | | | National 12th Grade |
|----------------------|---------|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|------------------------|
| | 97 | 99 | 01 | 03 | 97 | 99 | 01 | 03 | 97 | 99 | 01 | 03 | (NA)* |
| Gun or knife | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| one day | 2% | 3% | 2% | 1% | 2% | 2% | 1% | 2% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 1% | |
| two–nine days | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | |
| 10 or more | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | |
| Club or other weapon | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| one day | 2% | 2% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 2% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 1% | |
| two–nine days | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| 10 or more | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | |

* NA because of differences in the wording of the questions.

Student Victimization

Table 18 reflects the reported level of victimization by Macomb youth in 2003 as compared with previous data gathered in 1999 and 2001.

TABLE 18 Comparing Student Victimization During the Past Year¹

| | Grade 8 | | | Grade 10 | | | Grade 12 | | | National Grade 12 | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|------|------|----------|------|------|----------|------|------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | 1999 | 2001 | 2003 | 1999 | 2001 | 2003 | 1999 | 2001 | 2003 | 1999 | 2000 | 2002** |
| Threatened | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| with a weapon | 12% | 11% | 13% | 12% | 13% | 14% | 10% | 9% | 9% | 11% | 12% | 10% |
| without a weapon | 40 | 36 | 31 | 36 | 37 | 30 | 27 | 26 | 22 | 21 | 23 | 19 |
| Injured | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| with a weapon | 6 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| without a weapon | 25 | 23 | 22 | 16 | 19 | 18 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 11 | 10 | 11 |
| Theft of property | 53 | 48 | 48 | 52 | 52 | 50 | 44 | 45 | 44 | NA ² | NA ² | NA ² |
| Vandalism of property | 31 | 26 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 26 | 26 | 27 | 27 | 25 | 26 | 23 |
| Bullied or repeatedly teased* | | | 20 | | | 16 | | | 9 | | | NA |

¹ Reported to have occurred at least one time.

² NA because of differences in wording of question.

* New item added to the survey for the first time in 2002.

** National data from surveys conducted by the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, 2002.



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