

HEALTH

Survey Shows Youth Drug Abuse Up

The use of marijuana among 8th, 10th and 12th graders has continued to increase, according to the most recent Monitoring the Future Survey, funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Some other categories of drug use also rose and anti-drug attitudes deteriorated, according to the survey data.

The survey found that among 1994 high school seniors, 30.7 percent said they had tried marijuana at least once in the past year, compared to 26 percent of 1993 seniors and 21.9 percent of 1992 seniors.

However, the figures remain lower than most past years measured by the survey: In 1979, 50.8 percent of seniors had tried marijuana and the percentage was over 40 percent from 1975 through 1985.

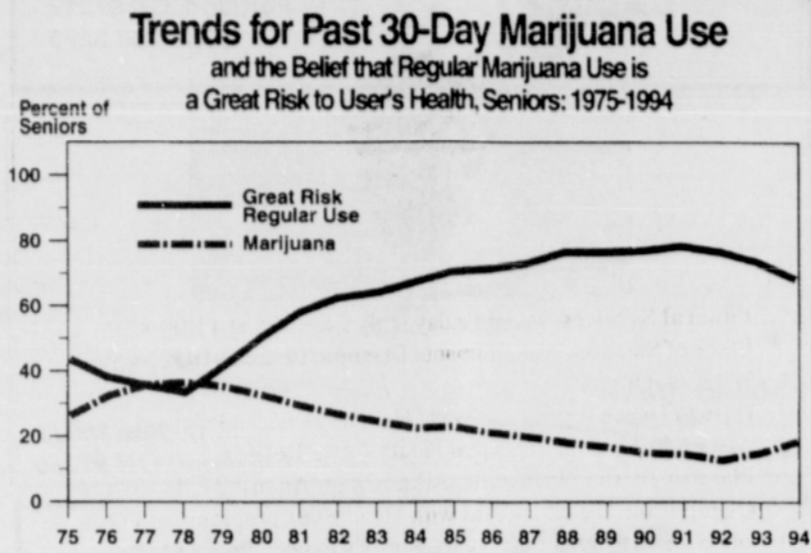
The high school survey showed increases in the daily, current, past year and lifetime use of marijuana by 8th, 10th and 12th grade students. This is the third year in a row in which marijuana use has increased among 8th graders and the second year for 10th and 12th grade students. There was also a small but

significant increase in cocaine use among 8th and 10th graders (9th and 11th grade students were not surveyed).

At the same time use is increasing, the survey also found that the erosion of anti-drug attitudes observed in 1993 continued in 1994. Fewer students in all three grades said trying marijuana once or twice, smoking marijuana occasionally or even smoking marijuana regularly is harmful to their health. In addition, there was continuing decline in the percentage of students who perceived cocaine in the powder or crack form to be harmful.

In 1994, 45.6 percent of high school seniors had used an illicit drug at least once in their lifetime. This was up from 42.9 percent in 1993, but less than the 65.6 percent in the peak year of 1981. When the survey was first conducted in 1975, 55.2 percent of high school seniors reported lifetime use of any illicit drug.

After remaining level between 1992 and 1993, lifetime cocaine use increased among 8th and 10th graders. For 8th graders, lifetime use of cocaine increased from 2.9 percent



in 1993 to 3.6 percent in 1994; and for 10th graders, from 3.6 percent to 4.3 percent.

There were also increases in the use of crack cocaine by 8th graders between 1993 and 1994. Lifetime use increased from 1.7 percent to 2.4 percent, annual use increased from 1 percent to 1.3 percent and current use increased from 0.4 percent to 0.7 percent. Annual use of crack by 10th graders also increased from 1.1 percent to 1.4 percent.

The 1994 survey showed a con-

tinuing decline in the percentage of students who perceived cocaine in the powder or crack form to be harmful. In 1991, 62.8 percent of 8th graders said there was a great risk in trying crack once or twice. That estimate increased each year, down to 54.4 percent in 1994. There was also a decrease in the percentage of 8th graders reporting great risk in trying cocaine powder once or twice and in taking crack and cocaine powder occasionally.

Lifetime use of hallucinogens

among 10th graders increased from 6.8 percent in 1993 to 8.1 percent in 1994. Annual use of hallucinogens among 10th graders increased between 1993 and 1994 from 4.7 percent to 5.8 percent. Annual use of LSD among 10th graders increased significantly from 4.2 percent in 1993 to 5.2 percent in 1994.

Between 1993 and 1994, there was a decrease in perceived harmfulness of taking LSD once or twice by 8th graders and among 10th graders who say there is great risk in taking LSD regularly.

The percentage of 12th graders who perceive great risk in taking LSD was at the lowest level since the survey began in 1975. At the same time, the percentage of seniors saying it is fairly or very easy to get LSD is at its highest level ever reported during the study.

The 1994 survey showed an increase in lifetime use of heroin among 8th graders (from 1.4 percent in 1993 to 2 percent in 1994), also in annual use (from 0.7 percent to 1.2 percent) and current use (from 0.4 percent to 0.6 percent).

Alcohol use among seniors remained stable in 1994. Rates of alco-

hol use among 8th and 10th graders remained level between 1993 and 1994; however, they are still high with 25.4 percent of 8th graders and 39.2 percent of 10th graders have tried alcohol in the past month. Almost 9 percent of 8th graders and 20.3 percent of 10th graders have been drunk at least once in the past month.

The Monitoring the Future survey was conducted under a grant to the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research under the direction of Dr. Lloyd Johnston.

A national probability sample of 15,929 high school seniors, 16,080 10th graders and 17,708 8th graders in public and private schools nationwide were surveyed during the spring of 1994.

The study has been conducted annually since 1975, with 1994 representing the 20th annual survey of high school seniors. Data on 8th and 10th grade students have been collected since 1991.

For further information on the survey, contact Mona Brown or Sheryl Massaro at the National Institute on Drug Abuse at (303) 443-6245.

Lions Hearing Aid Bank Expands

A renovated and enlarged hearing aid clinic to help needy adults and children was dedicated Saturday with a grand opening celebration on the campus of Portland State University.

The PSU-Oregon Lions Hearing Aid Bank provides reconditioned hearing aids to low-income residents throughout Oregon.

The expansion was made possible by a \$21,600 grant from the Or-

egon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation. The hearing aid bank will also apply for additional grants to obtain new equipment.

The remodel is the first phase of an expansion that gives PSU stu-

dents the capability to repair and re-use used hearing aids. After students repair and recondition the devices, they are refitted for hearing-impaired people.

While new hearing aids can cost

as much as \$500 to \$1,000, reconditioned ones cost no more than \$150, according to Thomas Dolan, who operates the hearing aid bank as PSU associate professor of communication and audiology. Qualifying patients usually pay only a nominal amount.

"This program not only provides service to the needy, but enhances our graduate program in audiology and speech pathology," Dolan said.

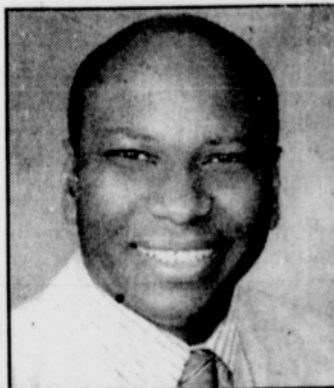
"It's a tremendous training opportunity for the students. They get experience they couldn't get anywhere else."

The hearing bank opened at PSU in 1978 as the first hearing bank of its kind in Oregon. The facility is located in room 85 in the basement of Neuberger Hall, 724 S.W. Harrison St.

For more information call 725-3264.

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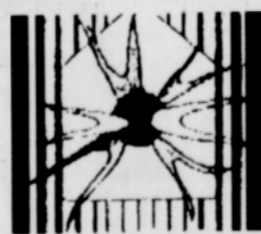
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Albina Youth Opportunity School, INC Memorandum

To: Parents, Guardians, Students
To: High School Placement Professionals
From: Albina Youth Opportunity School (AYOS)
Subject: 1995 - 1996 Enrollment Procedures

Several forms must be signed and/or completed prior to enrollment in AYOS. To receive an AYOS enrollment packet, prospective and returning students and their parents/guardians should do the following between July 1st and September 4th:

- 1 - Call AYOS at 288-5813.
- 2 - Leave a message with names, address AND phone number on AYOS Executive Director, Rance Spruill's voice mail. (203-9618)
- 3 - Students, Parent/Guardians attend the MANDATORY enrollment meeting at AYOS on September 5th at 9 am. Bring a current transcript (new students only), and any other pertinent information.
- 4 - Also, on September 5th schedule an individual intake interview with AYOS counselor, Faith Love.
- 5 - Attend the intake interview as scheduled. Parent/guardians must attend this interview.

PLEASE BE ON TIME.

Placement at AYOS is limited. Enrollment will be on a first come first served basis. Students who do not attend the September 5th enrollment and intake interview are not guaranteed placement.