

Indian students sniff more

Drug, alcohol abuse common in 509-J schools

- ★ Warm Springs students use drugs more than non-Indians students.
- ★ Twenty-two percent of Indian students have used inhalants compared to six percent of white students.
- ★ Locally, more students drink than students statewide.
- ★ Locally, more students smoke marijuana than students statewide.
- ★ Students who use marijuana feel more negative about family relationships than those who do not use drugs.
- ★ Drug usage increases to high percentages as a student gets older.



YOUNG DRINKER - A local survey of 855 students in grades 7-12 reveals that a high percentage of youths drink—84% of all high school students and 96% of the 17-18 year olds. Most of those said they have gotten drunk and have ridden with someone who was under the influence of alcohol or marijuana.

Spillyay Tymoo Photo by Rangila

These are some of the findings of a 1979 Youth Survey conducted in April by the local Task Force on Student Drug and Alcohol Abuse. The survey was completed by 855 students in grades 7-12 and a report of the findings, conclusions and recommendations was presented to and accepted by the 509-J school board last week.

The survey was intended to provide a "yardstick" to measure the extent of the drug and alcohol problem in the school district. The 19-member task force, headed by District Attorney Michael Sullivan, noted that their group was under no pressure from any group to come up with a particular set of facts.

Of the 855 students surveyed, 62 percent responded that they have smoked marijuana. Eighty-five percent said that they have used alcohol. And the survey indicates that drug usage is only slightly higher among male students than female students.

Of special interest to the people of the reservation is a section on ethnic comparisons. Because about 30 percent of the 509-J students are of American Indian heritage, their answers were compared to those of white students.

In general, Indian students appear to be more involved in the usage of drugs and particularly with inhalants as compared with non-Indian students.

The survey found: (1) Indian students report more drug usage than white students, (2) The biggest difference in drug usage questions is in regard to inhalants. Twenty-two percent of the Indian students have used inhalants as opposed to six percent of the white students.

Compared to a statewide survey of 955 students in 1978, the local study indicates the following facts:

- 1) It appears that locally more high school students drink (84%) than students statewide (78%).
- 2) Locally more students smoke marijuana (69%) than students statewide (64%).
- 3) Locally more students have ridden in cars with drivers under the influence of alcohol (75%) and marijuana, (64%), than students statewide.
- 4) Locally less students take uppers and downers (20%) than students statewide (28%).
- 5) Locally less students take cocaine, (13%), than students

statewide, (17%).

6) Locally 27% of the students sell drugs, about the same as students statewide.

7) More students locally live with their natural parents, (66% compared with 56% statewide); students also seem to indicate stronger family relationships than statewide students.

8) Even though family relationships appear stronger locally, less students feel their parents know they drink, 28%, than statewide students, 41%. Many more local students feel that their parents would hassle and punish them if they knew about their drinking, than statewide students.

Age: 17-18 year olds were selected for comparing questions as they represent students who have gone through the school system and would represent experiences to that point. The highest usage is among the 17-18 year olds.

Marijuana

1) 80% of the 17-18 year-olds have smoked marijuana.

2) 56% have driven a car while under the influence of marijuana.

3) 72% have ridden with someone who was driving under the influence of marijuana.

4) 32% have sold marijuana or other drugs.

5) 22% of the 17-18 year olds' parents know they smoke marijuana.

6) 58% said the use of marijuana is harmful to one's health.

Alcohol

1) 96% of the 17-18 year olds have used alcohol.

2) 62% have driven under the influence of alcohol.

3) 80% have been passengers in a car where the driver was under the influence of alcohol.

4) 85% responded that they have gotten drunk.

5) 47% of the 17-18 years olds' parents know they drink.

6) 23% have destroyed property while drinking.

7) 29% have gotten into a fight while drinking.

8) 12% have had an accident while drinking and driving.

9) 75% said the use of alcohol was harmful to one's health.

Other Drugs

1) 25% of the 17-18 year olds have used amphetamines or barbituates.

(2) 17% of the 17-18 year olds have used PCP

(3) 40% of the 17-18 year olds have used Hashish.

(4) 4% of the 17-18 year olds have used Heroin.

(5) 18% of the 17-18 year olds have used Cocaine.

(6) 13% of the 17-18 year olds have used inhalants

(7) 75% of the 17-18 year olds said the use of other drugs was harmful to one's health.

(9) 0% of the 11-12 year olds have used PCP, Heroin, or Cocaine.

Impact on Schools

(1) 31% of the 17-18 year olds have used alcohol or marijuana during school hours.

(2) 50% of the 17-18 year olds have gone to school under the influence of alcohol or drugs or marijuana.

(3) 20% of the 17-18 year olds said that marijuana gets in the way of school.

(4) 14% of the 17-18 year olds said that the use of other drugs gets in the way of school.

(5) 18% of the 17-18 year olds said the use of alcohol gets in the way of school.

(6) 23% of the 17-18 year olds have missed school because of their use of marijuana.

(7) 10% of the 17-18 year olds have missed school because of their use of other drugs.

General comments: Usage increases as a student gets older to high percentages. Although PCP, Heroin, Cocaine have not reached 11-12 year olds, other drugs have (which include alcohol, Tobacco, Marijuana, barbituates, amphetamines).

Family Relationship

Age --Younger children have a

more positive attitude about family relationships. As they get older, they respond less positively about the family. The 17-18 year old group is more critical of family relationships.

Family Structure

(1) Children living with other than both natural parents tended to respond yes to drug usage questions more often than children living with natural parents.

(2) Children living with other than both natural parents expressed more negative attitudes about school.

(3) Children living with other than both natural parents express more feelings of boredom and tended to favor dropping out of school.

Marijuana Users

Those students who responded yes on marijuana usage questions responded more negatively about family relationships in comparison with those students who responded that they have never used marijuana.

Alcohol Users

Those students that don't live with natural parents tended to respond yes in higher percentages to alcohol usage questions.

Inhalant Users

Less positive attitudes about family relationships are given by those students who have used inhalants (two to one ratio) as opposed to those students who don't use inhalants.

General Comment: Overall, the family plays an important role in a student's attitude.

Those students who live with natural parents respond more positively about school. Those students living in other than that type of environment, respond yes in usage questions in high percentages.

Conclusions

Students that use drugs tend to use more than one type of drug.

Alcohol users tend to use marijuana.

Marijuana users tend to use alcohol.

Of those who use marijuana often, 51% have used alcohol or marijuana during school hours.

Of those who use marijuana often, 60% have gone to school under the influence of alcohol or drugs or marijuana.

Of those who use marijuana often, 34% have missed school because of their use of marijuana.

Alcohol and marijuana are the drugs of choice in 509-J, although, there is strong indication of inhalant use (102 students).

509-J students follow the general national patterns of recognizing that tobacco is harmful to their health but continue to use tobacco.

Students who state that school has helped them feel good about themselves, to express themselves, and to get along with other are less likely to use drugs.

The survey pointed to the fact that the students felt that drug education should begin at the elementary level.

The older the student, the less valuable he finds the drug education.

Gerard dispels rumors that he is resigning

To: Tribal Leadership, Intertribal and Indian Organizations, and Native American Media.

I am writing directly to you to dispel the widespread rumor that I intend to submit my resignation to the President on July 1, 1979. This is not true. Like most speculation, however, this has some pertinent basis in fact. It is true that I, along with other political appointees, have closely examined the new Ethics-in-Government Act which is scheduled to go into effect on the first day of July. This legislation places certain restrictions on post-federal service employment, most directly affecting scientists and those of us in specialized fields.

After carefully analyzing the legislation and assessing my personal and professional commitments and priorities, I have concluded that my resignation at this time would be inappropriate and would not benefit the field I have the good fortune to represent as Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs.

This is an important era of change for American Indian and Alaska Native tribes, nations and peoples. Through-

out Indian country we see our Native governments strengthening their internal structures and mechanisms to respond to ever-increasing challenges, populations, and demands. The Native organizations, too, are reassessing their operations in order to better serve the needs of tribal governments and their citizenry. Indeed, the Bureau of Indian Affairs is organizing and actively engaged in a management improvement program to work in partnership with Indian governments to meet the pressing and long-term needs of the Native people.

These are crucial times when we need to maintain continuity of direction. Before us are major issues requiring serious attention and a stable approach - implementation of treaty fishing, hunting, and gathering rights; land and natural resources protection; economic advancement; major reform and improvement of the Bureau's program delivery system; and advancement of the Indian Self-Determination policy.

I thank those of you who have given me good counsel on these vital issues and for your continued and invaluable advice.

Forrest Gerard