

Study shows high drug, alcohol use among students

In 1979 a survey of 855 students indicated the extent of student drug and alcohol abuse in the 509-J school district. Conducted by a task force committee the surveys information was compiled and recommendations made.

Students completing the survey were in grades 7-12. Sixty-two percent of those surveyed responded that they have smoked marijuana. Eighty-five percent have used alcohol.

Comparison of the local 509-J school district was made with similar survey taken statewide of students between 15-18 years of age. The facts from this 1978 survey show: 1. It appears that locally more high school students drink, 84 percent, than students statewide, 78 percent. 2. Locally more students smoke marijuana, 69 percent, than students statewide, 64 percent. 3. Locally more students have ridden in cars with drivers under the influence of alcohol, 75 percent, and marijuana, 64 percent, than students statewide. 4. Locally less students, take uppers and downers, 20 percent, than students statewide, 28 percent. 5. Locally less students take cocaine, 13 percent, than students statewide, 17 percent. 6. Locally 27 percent of the students sell drugs, about the same as students statewide. 7. More students locally live with their natural parents, (66 percent compared with 56

percent 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 percent, than statewide students, 41 percent. Many more local students feel that their parents would hassle and punish them if they knew about their drinking, than statewide students.

Seventeen and 18 year olds were found to have the highest drug and alcohol usage. The study indicates:

A. Marijuana: 1. 80 percent of the 17-18 year olds have smoked marijuana. 2. 56 percent of the 17-18 year olds have driven a car while under the influence of marijuana. 3. 72 percent of the 17-18 year olds have ridden with someone who was driving under the influence of marijuana. 4. 32 percent of the 17-18 year olds have sold marijuana or other drugs. 5. 22 percent of the 17-18 year olds parents know they smoke marijuana. 6. 58 percent of the 17-18 year olds said the use of marijuana is harmful to ones health.

B. Alcohol: 1. 96 percent of the 17-18 year olds have used alcohol. 2. 62 percent of the 17-18 year olds have driven under the influence of alcohol. 3. 80 percent of the 17-18 year olds have been passengers in a

car where the driver was under the influence of alcohol. 4. 85 percent of the 17-18 year olds responded that they have gotten drunk. 5. 47 percent of the 17-18 year olds parents know they drink. 6. 29 percent of the 17-18 year olds have gotten into a fight while drinking. 8. 12 percent of the 17-18 year olds have had an accident while drinking and driving. 9. 75 percent of the 17-18 year olds said the use of alcohol was harmful to ones health.

C. Other Drugs: 1. 25 percent of the 17-18 year olds have used amphetamines or barbituates. 2. 17 percent of the 17-18 year olds have used PCP. 3. 40 percent of the 17-18 year olds have used Hashish. 4. Four percent of the 17-18 year olds have used Heroin. 5. 18 percent of the 17-18 year olds have used Cocaine. 6. 13 percent of the 17-18 year olds have used inhalants. 7. 75 percent of the 17-18 year olds said the use of other drugs was harmful to ones health. 8. 76 percent of the 17-18 year olds said the use of tobacco was harmful to ones health. 9. Zero percent of the 11-12 year olds have used, PCP, heroin, or Cocaine.

D. Impact on Schools: 1. 31 percent of the 17-18 year olds have used alcohol or marijuana during school hours. 2. 50 percent of the 17-18 year olds have gone to school under the influence of alcohol or drugs or marijuana. 3. 20

percent of the 17-18 year olds said that marijuana gets in the way of school. 4. 14 percent of the 17-18 year olds said that the use of other drugs gets in the way of school. 5. 18 percent of the 17-18 year olds said the use of alcohol gets in the way of school. 6. 23 percent of the 17-18 year olds have missed school because of their use of marijuana. 7. 10 percent of the 17-18 year olds have missed school because of their use of other drugs.

White American were compared with Indian Americans due to the fact that approximately 30 percent of the students of 509-J are made up of Indian American students. 1. Indian American students report more drug usage than white students. 2. The biggest difference in drug usage questions is in regard to inhalants. 22 percent of the Indian American students have used inhalants as opposed to six percent of the White American students. 3. 17 percent of the Indian American students drink because of friends as opposed to 11 percent of the White American students. 4. Attitudes about family and school and drug education are similar among Indian American students and White American students.

Conclusions: A. Students that use drugs tend to use more than one type of drug. B. Alcohol users tend to use marijuana. C. Marijuana users

tend to use Alcohol. D. Of those who use marijuana often, 51 percent have used alcohol or marijuana often, 51 percent have used alcohol or marijuana during school hours. E. Of those who use marijuana often, 60 percent have gone to school under the influence of alcohol or drugs or marijuana. F. Of those who use marijuana often, 34 percent have missed school because of their use of marijuana. G. Alcohol and marijuana are the drugs of choice in 509-J, although, there is strong indication of inhalant use (102 students). H. 509-J students follow the general national patterns of recognizing that tobacco is harmful to their health but continue to use tobacco. I. Students who started school has helped them feel good about themselves, to express themselves, and to get along with others are less likely to use drugs. J. The survey pointed to the fact that the students felt that drug education should begin at the elementary level. K. The older the student, the less valuable he finds the drug education.

Some of the suggestions made by the task force committee as a result of the student survey included the need for drug education of faculty members, cooperation between school and community and the strengthening of family activities.

Survey outlines problems

A telephone survey conducted by the Madras Juvenile Commission outlined the problems the community faces. 350 persons were surveyed.

Q. Most important problem facing youth today-in our community? 313 responses. 47%-Alcohol & drug abuse 26%-Lack of activities 17%-Lack of parental involvement/skills

Q. What can be done to solve the problem? 322 responses. 29%-Community activities and a recreation center

19%-More parental involvement and/or education 8%-stricter law enforcement and improvement of schools

Q. What is the second most important problem? 162 responses.

40%-Alcohol and drug abuse 24%-Lack of youth activities 9%-Teen-age pregnancies-lack of jobs

Q. What do you think can be

done to solve the problem? 151 responses

30%-Prevention/education 15%-More community activities

14%-More parental involvement

Q. Do you think the County should place more or less on the same emphasis on juvenile problems? 261 responses

74%-More

13%-Same

12%-Don't know

1%-Less

Q. Should the County spend more, less, or the same for the above? 261 responses.

59%-More

23%-Don't Know

16%-Same

2%-Less

Q. Would you place more emphasis on stricter enforcement detention, or more emphasis on preventative programs? 289 responses

71%-Prevention

49%-Enforcement-detention

10%-Same

Denial is major problem

"Denial of the community to admit there is a problem" is the greatest hindrance to elimination of alcohol and drug abuse in the 509-J community. Oregon State Patrolman John Granby was one of several speakers to affirm that there is such a problem in this community.

Local experts on the subject of drug and alcohol abuse spoke to parents during an awareness clinic held January 20 at Madras Jr. High. Sponsored by the MJH parent's club the meeting evolved through a group of parents who wanted communication between school, parents and children concerning drug and alcohol use.

Strict Oregon laws, it was

pointed out, attempt to keep drinking drivers off the road. Unfortunately the high death rate due to drunken drivers make it evident that many ignore the laws.

Three million youth under the age of 17 years of age in the nation have a drinking problem. Ninety-six percent of the nation's high school seniors have used alcohol; 62 percent have driven a car under the influence of alcohol.

In the Jefferson County community seven youth between the ages of 13 and 17 have entered treatment programs as chronic alcoholics.

Besides marijuana the use of amphetamines and LSD is also used by youth in the community. Unfortunately

much money is made off of these young users by dealers of drugs, says Warm Springs BIA investigator Rick Souers. "Parents should remember that there is a profit motive behind someone's dealing in drugs," he adds.

As a community the drug and alcohol problem can be eliminated. Denial of the problem is of no help. Ridding of abuse problems in the 509-J district demands an acceptance that there is a problem and work by all to make it a thing of the past.

The next parent drug and alcohol awareness meeting will be held at Madras Jr. High, February 19, 1984.



Spilyay Tymoo photo by Shewczyk

Alcohol and drug awareness meetings provide an opportunity for community members to learn the fact about their community and work on alleviating alcohol and drug abuse problems.

**Warm Springs
Catholic Church
fund raising
Mexican Dinner
Sunday, February 5, 1984
1 to 5 p.m.
Community Center Social Hall**