Fairfax County Results from the Virginia Community Youth Survey Administered November 2003

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Fairfax County Results from the Virginia Community Youth Survey

Fairfax County Results from the Virginia Community Youth Survey includes data collected as part of the Virginia Community Youth Survey initiative sponsored by the Commonwealth of Virginia. The goal of the study is to provide information about youth behaviors – those that are positive as well as those that are harmful. These data are often referred to as risk and asset data and provide insight into the prevalence and frequency of substance abuse, antisocial behaviors and positive behaviors. These data provide Fairfax County with a barometer of the effectiveness of our community in fostering healthy choices in our youth.

The 2003 survey queried Fairfax County Public School students in 8th, 10th and 12th grade. Classes were randomly selected by grade from English classes. The target sample represented approximately 15 percent of the student membership in the grades sampled. The survey was administered in classroom settings and took approximately one class period to complete. Students were informed that the study was voluntary and that they could opt out of the entire study or skip individual answers they did not feel comfortable answering. Both teacher and written instructions on the front of the questionnaire assured students that their answers would be kept strictly confidential.

A total of 4,239 questionnaires were completed by students, representing nearly 13 percent of the total student membership in grades 8th, 10th and 12th grade as of January 2004. The data set received from the state contained 4,092 survey observations. The state deleted 147 observations based on the validity checks they conducted (missing grade, wrong grade, derbisol use, etc.) An additional 18 observations were deleted by Fairfax County based on validity checks conducted bringing the valid number of observations to 4,074. Table 1 provides detail on how many students were removed from the study based on validity checks and shows some of the demographic characteristics of the students participating in the survey. How these validity checks were conducted are discussed in greater detail in the survey validation section.

The survey measured a variety of demographic characteristics. Throughout this report, results are presented individually for each grade level, gender and ethnicity. Also note that percentages may not equal 100 percent because not all students responded to all questions.

For Fairfax County, a slightly higher percentage of the respondents were male (47.1 percent male compared to 45.4 percent female). Table 1 shows the racial/ethnic breakdown of the surveyed population of Fairfax County. A majority of students identified themselves as not Hispanic White (52.7 percent). The largest minority population is Asian or Pacific Islander (17.7 percent). Hispanics or Latinos make up 12.2 percent of the respondents, not Hispanic Blacks or African Americans are 9.5 percent, and the remaining 7.9 percent are other races, multiracial or did not respond to the racial/ethnicity questions.

Survey Validation

The 2003 survey instrument was similar to that used for the 2001 Fairfax County *Communities That Care® Youth Survey.* These survey instruments are based on research funded by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and follow nationally set protocols and standards. The surveys provide extremely valuable information, but users of this information need to be aware of issues that may affect the interpretation and comparison the findings from these surveys. These issues can be loosely categorized into three areas – differences between the two survey instruments, challenges associated with collecting data on sensitive topics and sampling issues. See Appendix A for details.

Table 1. Selected demographic characteristics of surveyed youth.

	Fairfax County	
	Number of Students	**Percent of Students**
Overall		
Valid Cases	4,074	100.0%
Grade		
8th	1,474	36.2%
10th	1,457	35.8%
12th	1,143	28.1%
Did Not Respond	--	--
Sex		
Female	1,851	45.4%
Male	1,918	47.1%
Did Not Respond	305	7.5%
Ethnicity		
White	2,145	52.7%
African American	389	9.5%
Hispanic or Latino	496	12.2%
Asian/Pacific Islander	721	17.7%
Other/Multiple	226	5.5%
Did Not Respond	97	2.4%
Ineligible		
Ineligible Students- Total	165	3.9%
Derbisol	64	1.5%
Honesty	23	0.5%
High Use	20	0.5%
No Grade or Wrong Grade	20	0.5%
Too Much Missing Data	63	1.5%

Notes: "Number of Students: represents the number of students that participated in the Fairfax County survey, by grade, sex, and ethnicity. "Percent of students" indicates the percentage of the overall population represented by students in that category.

Five strategies are used to assess the validity of the surveys. The "Ineligible" section shows the percentage of students who were eliminated under each disqualifying criteria and the total number of students who were removed from the data analysis.

A total number of participating students can be obtained from adding "overall valid cases" and "ineligible students- total."

Table 2. Selected characteristics of the home life of surveyed youth, by grade, sex, and ethnicity.

Fairfax County

	Primary Language Spoken at Home			*Urbanicity of Primary Residence*			Average Number of Adults Living in Household
	English %	Spanish %	Other %	Farm %	Country %	City %	
Overall							
Valid Cases	79.5	7.2	13.2	0.6	1.3	98.0	2.0
Grade							
8th	79.3	8.4	12.2	0.5	1.5	98.0	2.0
10th	81.3	5.9	12.9	1.0	1.1	97.8	2.0
12th	77.5	7.5	15.0	0.4	1.3	98.3	1.9
Sex							
Female	80.3	6.6	13.0	0.2	1.4	98.4	2.0
Male	79.1	7.6	13.3	1.0	1.1	97.9	2.0
Ethnicity							
White	97.0	0.1	3.0	0.6	0.7	98.7	1.9
African American	88.3	--	11.7	0.3	1.6	98.2	1.8
Hispanic or Latino	36.8	60.9	2.3	0.8	2.4	96.7	2.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	47.8	0.1	52.0	0.3	2.4	97.3	2.2
Other/Multiple	92.8	--	7.2	2.2	0.4	97.3	2.0

Notes: In the Urbanicity of Primary Residence section, the “city” category includes “city, town or suburb.” Racial categories do not include Hispanic persons as they are treated as a separate category in this table.

Table 3. Lifetime use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, by grade, Fairfax County students, 2001 and 2003.

	Fairfax County 2001						Fairfax County 2003					
	8th Grade		10th Grade		12th Grade		8th Grade		10th Grade		12th Grade	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Alcohol[1]	1,621	42.0%	2,271	61.3%	2,585	76.5%	520	35.8%	861	59.8%	822	72.4%
Cigarettes[1]	1,064	27.1%	1,630	43.3%	2,048	60.1%	235	16.2%	478	33.2%	577	50.8%
Smokeless Tobacco[1]	204	5.2%	341	9.0%	507	14.9%	56	3.9%	108	7.5%	133	11.7%
Marijuana[1]	386	10.0%	958	25.7%	1,512	44.7%	79	5.4%	346	24.1%	468	41.3%
Inhalants	485	12.5%	315	8.5%	309	9.1%	209	14.4%	131	9.1%	100	8.8%
Methamphetamines	44	1.2%	122	3.3%	228	6.8%	10	0.7%	30	2.1%	67	5.9%
Cocaine or Crack	70	1.8%	110	3.0%	227	6.7%	18	1.2%	35	2.4%	66	5.8%
LSD or Other Psychedelics[1]	77	2.0%	169	4.6%	412	12.2%	9	0.6%	49	3.4%	88	7.8%

Notes: Percents may not sum to 100% due to rounding. 'N' represents the valid number of cases, by category, that reported use for a given survey item, and '%' represents the percentage of valid cases, by category, that reported use for a given survey item. The question on cocaine differs in the two surveys. The 2003 survey asks 'have you used cocaine or crack' while the 2001 survey asks only about cocaine.

[1] Based on the Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel chi-square statistic, an association exists between year and usage levels controlling for the effects of grade and gender. (a=0.001 level of significance).

Table 4. Thirty-day use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, by grade, Fairfax County students, 2001 and 2003.

	Fairfax County 2001						Fairfax County 2003					
	8th Grade		10th Grade		12th Grade		8th Grade		10th Grade		12th Grade	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Alcohol[1]	809	21.0%	1,338	36.0%	1,803	53.4%	186	12.8%	478	33.2%	518	45.8%
Binge Drinking[1]	288	7.5%	640	17.3%	1,045	31.0%	47	3.2%	228	15.9%	313	27.6%
Cigarettes[1]	364	9.3%	579	15.4%	1,006	29.6%	60	4.1%	179	12.4%	303	26.7%
Smokeless Tobacco	85	2.2%	119	3.2%	160	4.7%	21	1.4%	40	2.8%	57	5.0%
Marijuana[1]	196	5.1%	494	13.3%	758	22.4%	40	2.8%	167	11.6%	235	20.8%
Inhalants	181	4.7%	81	2.2%	44	1.3%	94	6.5%	39	2.7%	15	1.3%
Methamphetamines	22	0.6%	48	1.3%	70	2.1%	5	0.3%	9	0.6%	22	2.0%
Cocaine or Crack	30	0.8%	32	0.9%	60	1.8%	7	0.5%	9	0.6%	18	1.6%
LSD or Other Psychedelics[1]	32	0.8%	69	1.9%	149	4.4%	4	0.3%	13	0.9%	18	1.6%

Notes: Percents may not sum to 100% due to rounding. 'N' represents the valid number of cases, by category, that reported use for a given survey item, and '%' represents the percentage of valid cases, by category, that reported use for a given survey item. The question on cocaine differs in the two surveys. The 2003 survey asks 'have you used cocaine or crack' while the 2001 survey asks only about cocaine. Binge drinking is defined as five or more drinks in a row in the last two weeks.

[1] Based on the Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel chi-square statistic, an association exists between year and usage levels controlling for the effects of grade and gender. (a=0.001 level of significance).

Table 5. Lifetime and thirty-day use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, by grade, Monitoring the Future, 2001 and 2003.

Lifetime Use

	Monitoring the Future 2001			Monitoring the Future 2003		
	8th Grade	10th Grade	12th Grade	8th Grade	10th Grade	12th Grade
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Alcohol	50.5	70.1	79.7	45.6	66.0	76.6
Cigarettes	36.6	52.8	61.0	28.4	43.0	53.7
Smokeless Tobacco	11.7	19.5	19.7	11.3	14.6	17.0
Marijuana/Hashish	20.4	40.1	49.0	17.5	36.4	46.1
Inhalants	17.1	15.2	13.0	15.8	12.7	11.2

Thirty-day Use

	Monitoring the Future 2001			Monitoring the Future 2003		
	8th Grade	10th Grade	12th Grade	8th Grade	10th Grade	12th Grade
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Alcohol	21.5	39.0	49.8	19.7	35.4	47.5
Cigarettes	12.2	21.3	29.5	10.2	16.7	24.4
Smokeless Tobacco	4.0	6.9	7.8	4.1	5.3	6.7
Marijuana/Hashish	9.2	19.8	22.4	7.5	17.0	21.2
Inhalants	4.0	2.4	1.7	4.1	2.2	1.5

Sources: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan, 2001 and 2003.
Notes: Percents may not sum to 100% due to rounding. '%' represents the percentage of valid cases, by grade, that reported use for a given survey item.

Table 6. 2001-2003 Percentage point change in lifetime and thirty-day use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, by grade, Fairfax County and Monitoring the Future.

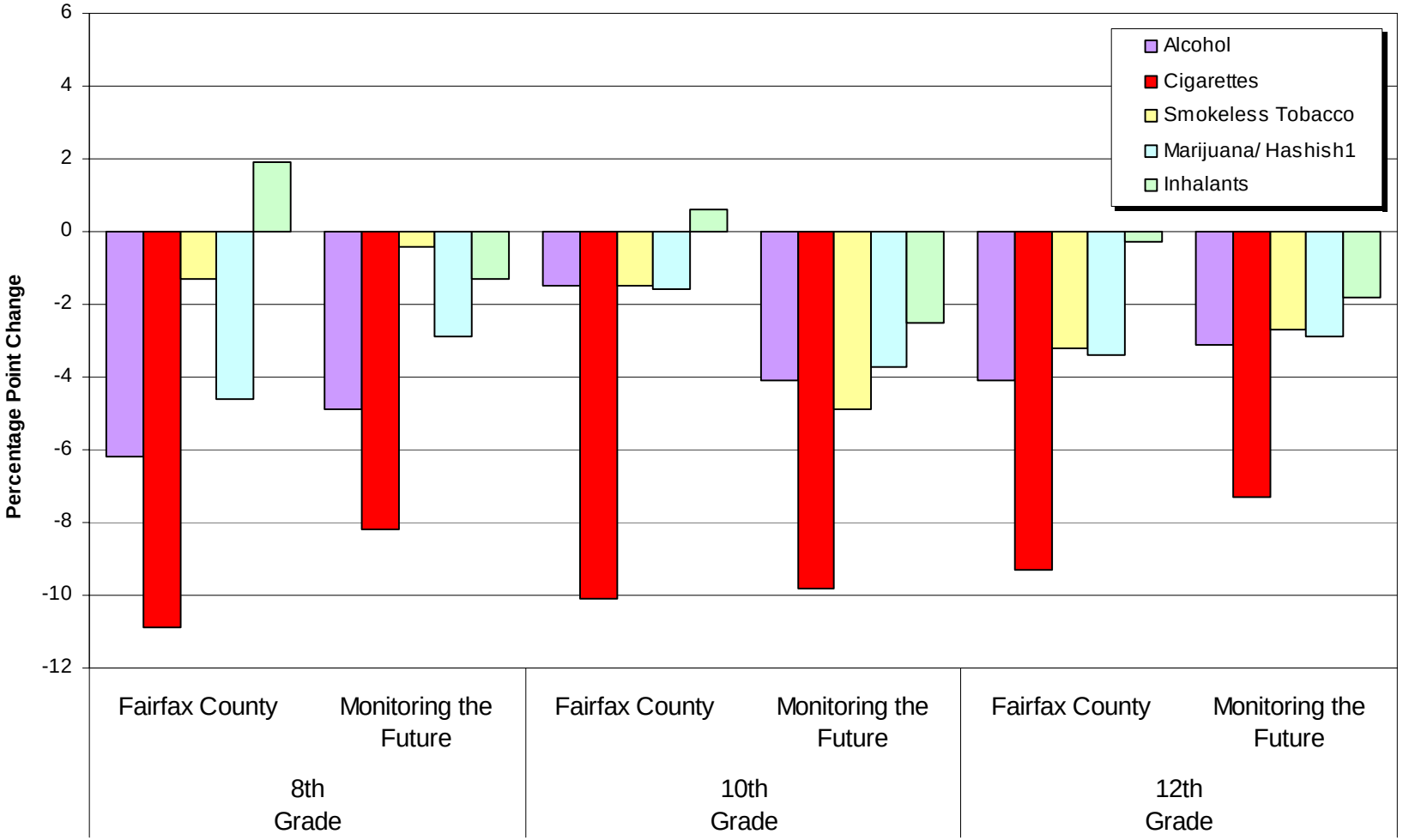
	Lifetime Use						Thirty-day Use					
	8th Grade		10th Grade		12th Grade		8th Grade		10th Grade		12th Grade	
	Fairfax County	Monitoring the Future	Fairfax County	Monitoring the Future	Fairfax County	Monitoring the Future	Fairfax County	Monitoring the Future	Fairfax County	Monitoring the Future	Fairfax County	Monitoring the Future
Alcohol	-6.2	-4.9	-1.5	-4.1	-4.1	-3.1	-8.2	-1.8	-2.8	-3.6	-7.6	-2.3
Binge Drinking/ Being Drunk[1]							-4.3		-1.4		-3.4	
Cigarettes	-10.9	-8.2	-10.1	-9.8	-9.3	-7.3	-5.2	-2.0	-3.0	-4.6	-2.9	-5.1
Smokeless Tobacco	-1.3	-0.4	-1.5	-4.9	-3.2	-2.7	-0.8	0.1	-0.4	-1.6	0.3	-1.1
Marijuana/Hashish[2]	-4.6	-2.9	-1.6	-3.7	-3.4	-2.9	-2.3	-1.7	-1.7	-2.8	-1.6	-1.2
Inhalants	1.9	-1.3	0.6	-2.5	-0.3	-1.8	1.8	0.1	0.5	-0.2	--	-0.2

Sources: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan, 2001 and 2003; Fairfax County Communities that Care, 2001, and Fairfax County 2003 Community Youth Survey.

[1]Binge drinking is defined as five or more drinks in a row in the last two weeks. The Monitoring the Future survey asked about binge drinking over the past two weeks in 2001 but changed the question to 'have been drunk or very high from drinking in the past 30 days' in 2002. The different wording of the questions give different results and are not comparable.

[2]The Monitoring the Future surveys asked about both marijuana and hashish whereas the Fairfax surveys asked only about marijuana.

Figure 1. 2001-2003 Percentage point change in lifetime use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, by grade, Fairfax County and Monitoring the Future.



Sources: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan, 2001 and 2003; Fairfax County Communities that Care, 2001, and Fairfax County 2003 Community Youth Survey.
[1]The Monitoring the Future surveys asked about both marijuana and hashish whereas the Fairfax surveys asked only about marijuana.

Figure 2. 2001-2003 Percentage point change in thirty-day use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, by grade, Fairfax County and Monitoring the Future.

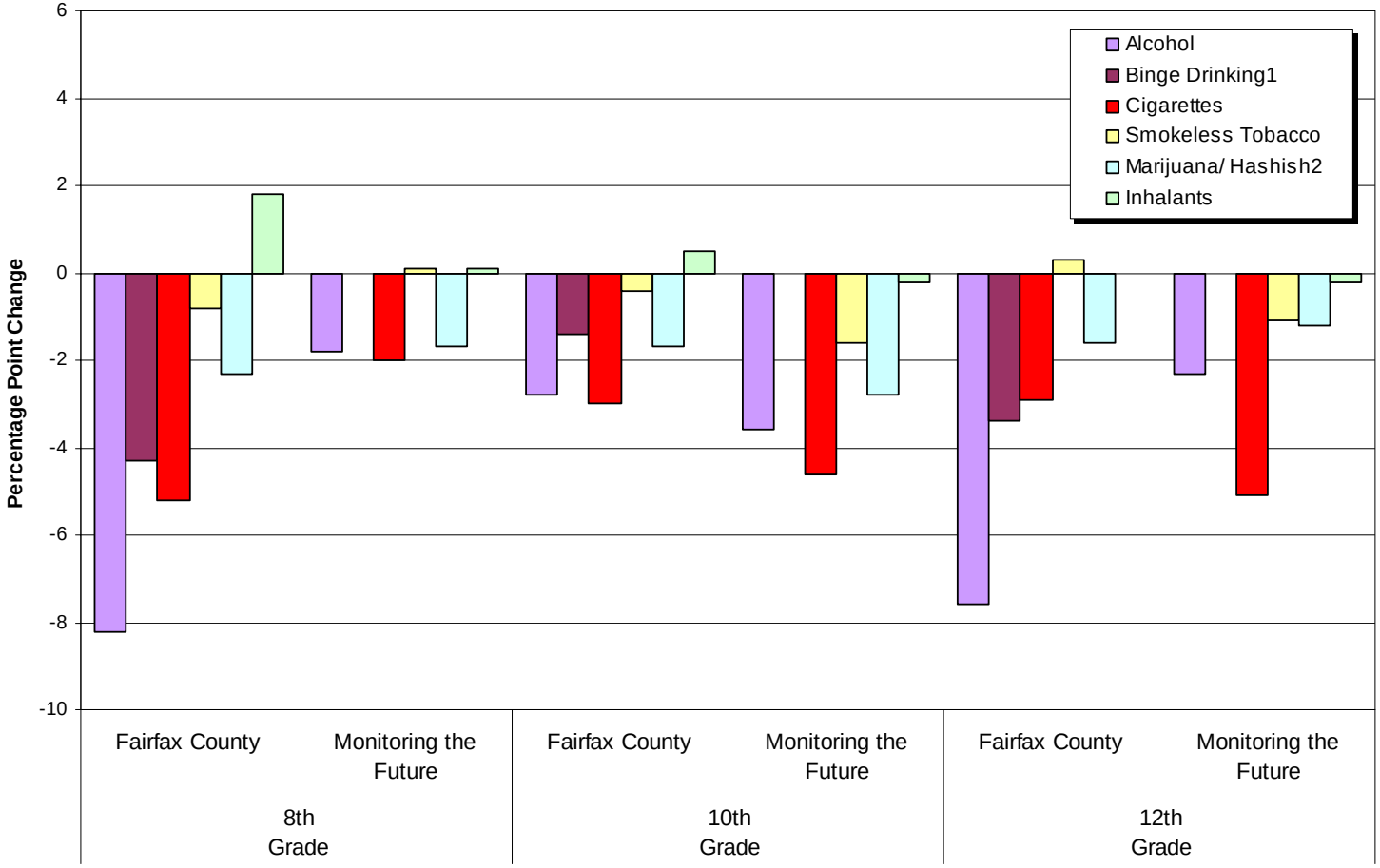


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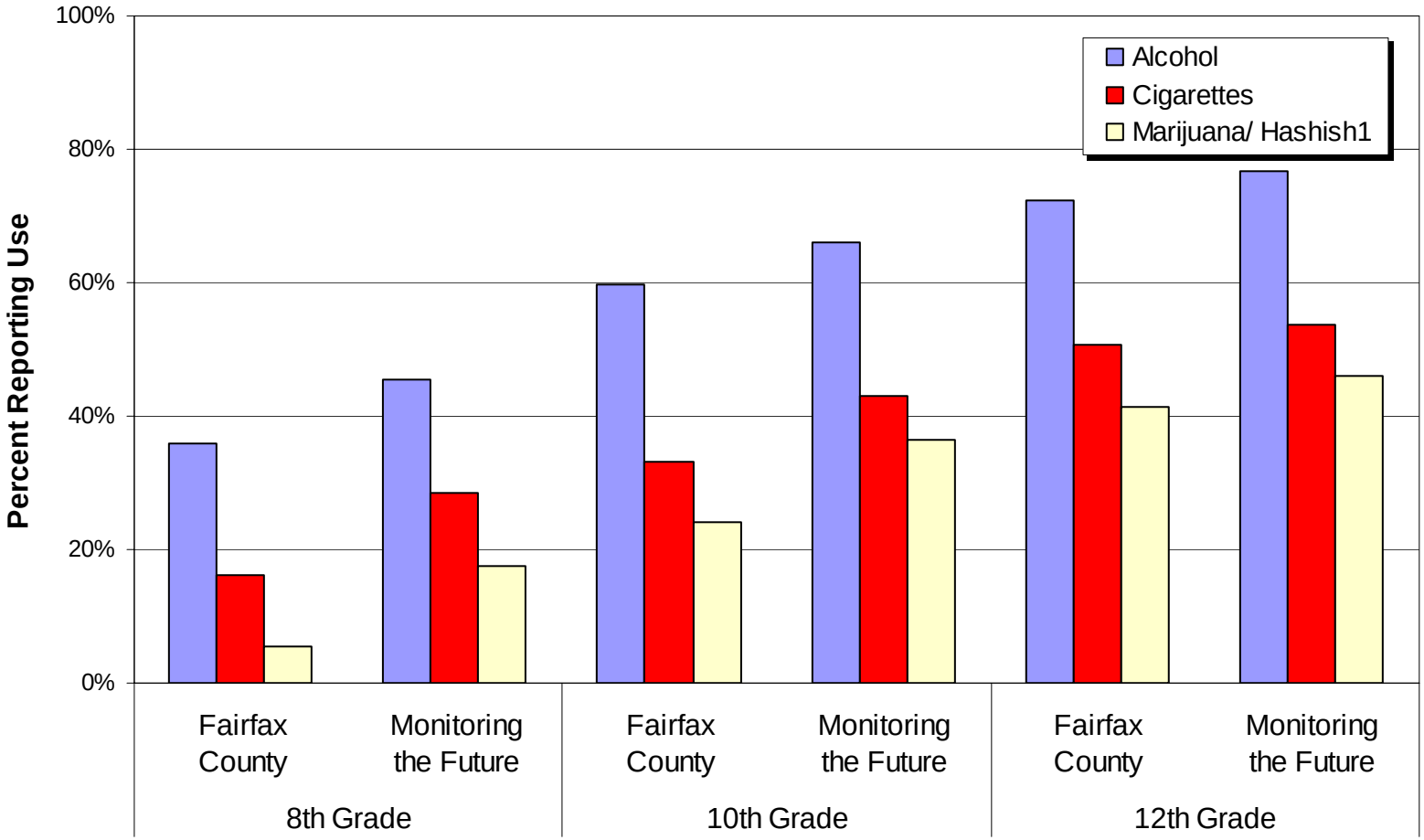
Figure 3. Lifetime use of alcohol, cigarettes and marijuana: Fairfax County respondents compared to Monitoring the Future.



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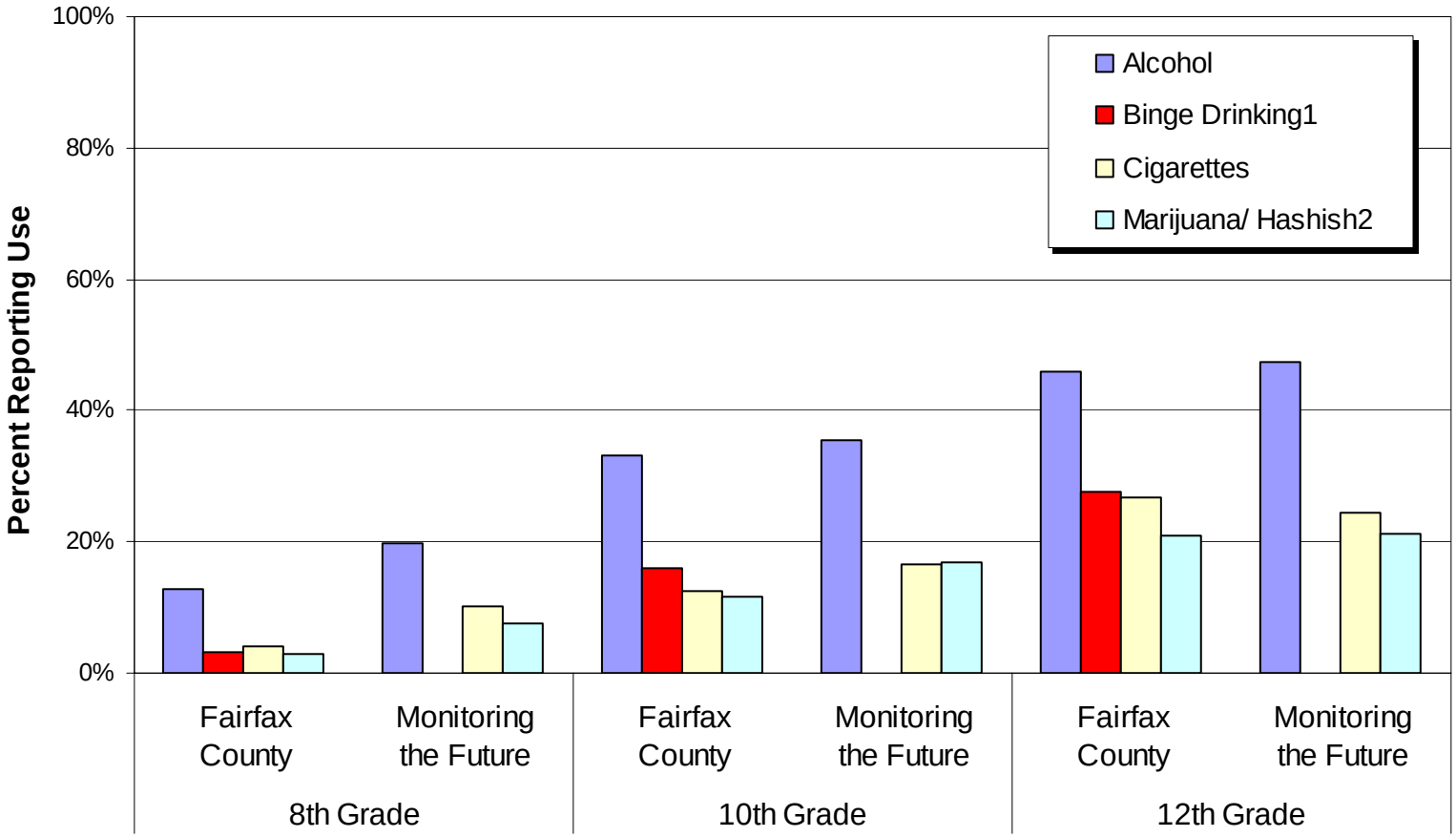

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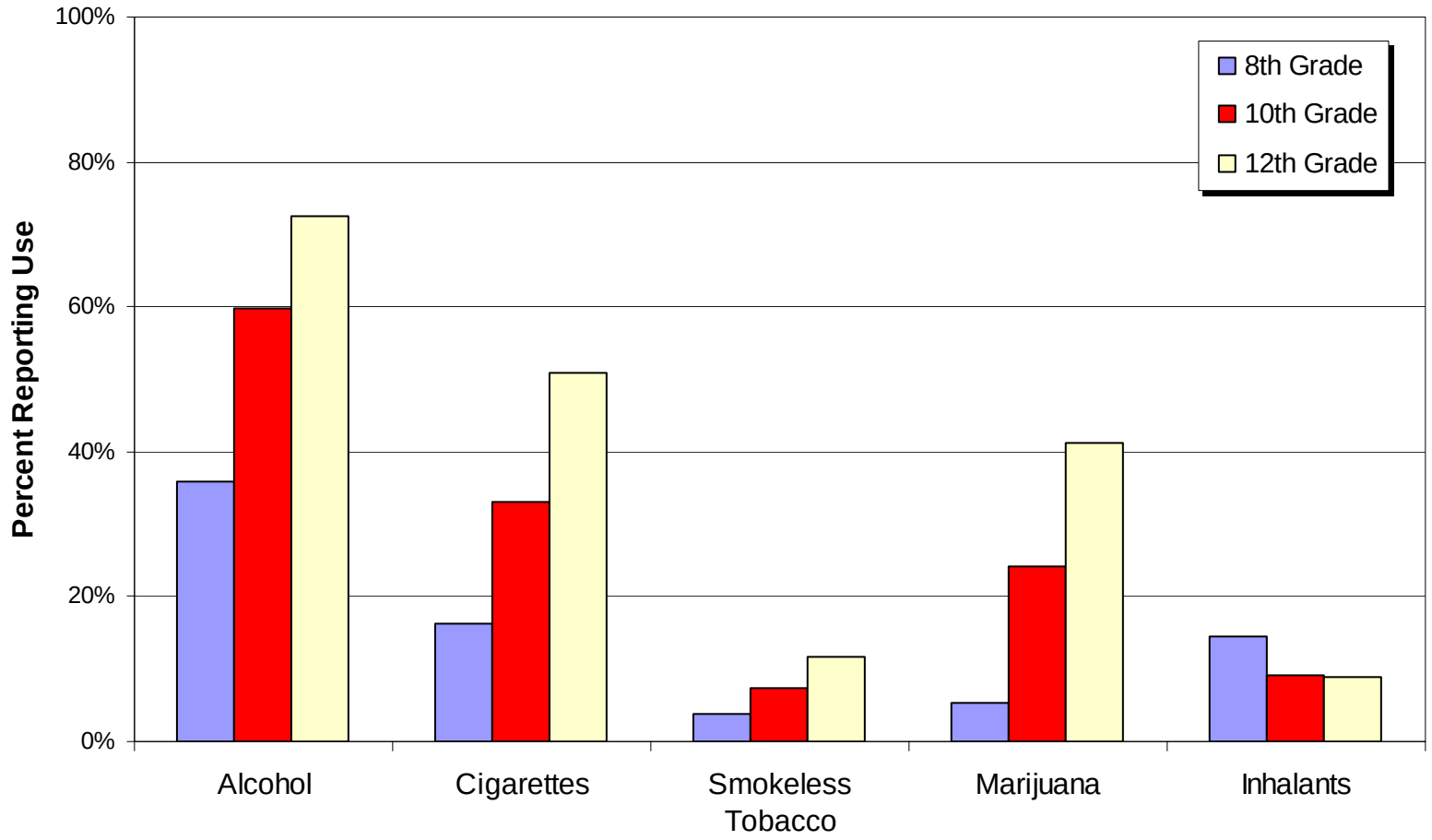
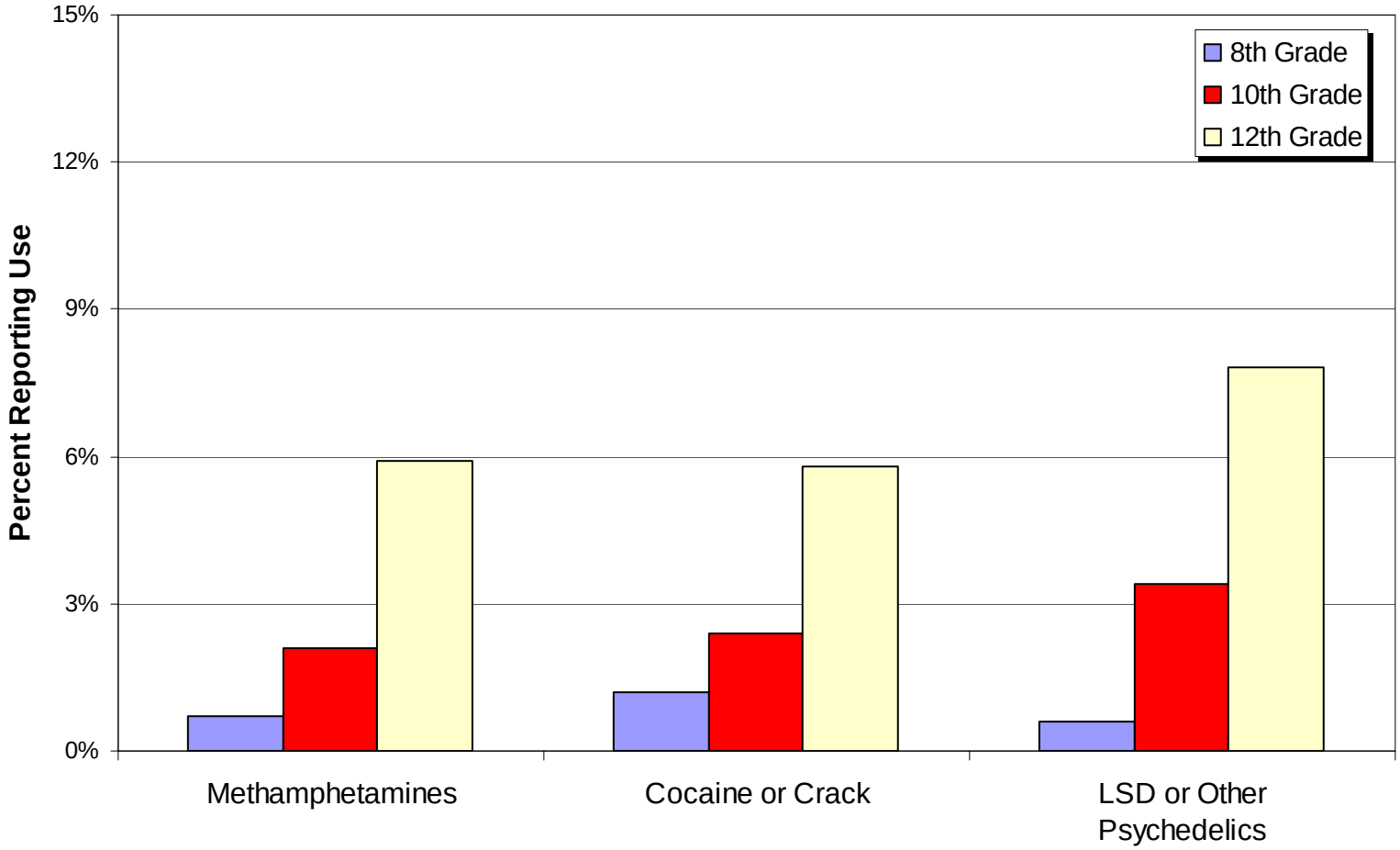
[2]The Monitoring the Future survey asked about both marijuana and hashish whereas the Fairfax survey asked only about marijuana.

Figure 5. Lifetime prevalence of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and inhalants, for Fairfax County respondents.



Source: Fairfax County 2003 Community Youth Survey.

Figure 6. Lifetime prevalence of other illicit drugs, for Fairfax County respondents, by grade.



Source: Fairfax County 2003 Community Youth Survey.

Table 7. Lifetime and thirty-day prevalence for alcohol by selected demographic characteristics.

	Lifetime N	Lifetime %	30-Day N	30-Day %
Overall Valid Cases	2,203	54.7%	1,182	29.4%
Grade				
8th	520	35.8%	186	12.8%
10th	861	59.8%	478	33.2%
12th	822	72.4%	518	45.8%
Sex				
Female	1,011	55.1%	540	29.4%
Male	1,020	53.9%	540	28.5%
Ethnicity				
White	1,222	57.4%	738	34.7%
African American	202	52.6%	91	23.8%
Hispanic or Latino	324	66.1%	155	31.7%
Asian/ Pacific Islander	305	42.8%	128	18.0%
Other/Multiple	112	50.5%	52	23.3%

Notes: Percents may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Racial categories do not include Hispanic persons as they are treated as a separate category in this table. 'N' represents the valid number of cases, by category, that reported use for a given survey item, and '%' represents the percentage of valid cases, by category, that reported use for a given survey item.

Table 8. Frequency of alcohol use during past thirty days, by selected demographic characteristics.

	Prevalence		*Number of Occasions*						Average Number of Occasions*
	Never %	Any Occasion %	1-2 %	3-5 %	6-9 %	10-19 %	20-39 %	40+ %	
Overall									
Valid Cases	70.6	29.4	16.2	6.4	3.3	2.3	0.6	0.5	5.0
Grade									
8th	87.2	12.8	9.6	2.1	0.3	0.5	--	0.3	3.4
10th	66.8	33.2	19.5	7.3	3.8	1.9	0.6	0.3	4.3
12th	54.2	45.8	20.6	10.9	6.6	5.1	1.3	1.2	6.3
Sex									
Female	70.6	29.4	17.3	6.2	3.4	1.7	0.4	0.4	4.4
Male	71.5	28.5	14.6	6.5	3.2	2.6	0.8	0.8	5.8
Ethnicity									
White	65.3	34.7	18.8	7.8	4.4	2.6	0.7	0.5	4.9
African American	76.2	23.8	15.4	3.7	2.1	1.6	0.5	0.5	4.7
Hispanic or Latino	68.3	31.7	17.2	7.8	2.7	2.5	1.0	0.6	5.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	82.1	18.0	10.4	3.4	1.7	1.5	0.3	0.7	5.6
Other/Multiple	76.7	23.3	11.2	6.3	2.7	2.7	--	0.4	5.1

Notes: Percents may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Sample sizes on distributions and means are frequently small and may not be representative. Racial categories do not include Hispanic persons as they are treated as a separate category in this table.
* The "Average Number of Occasions" column shows the average number of times that a group reported involvement during the past 30 days and includes only those who indicated at least one occasion of the behavior. The two prevalence categories ("Never" and "Any Occasion") sum to 100% and represent the total number of valid cases for the survey question. The "Number of Occasions" categories sum to the "Any Occasion" category.

Table 9. Frequency of binge drinking during the past two weeks, by selected demographic characteristics.

	Prevalence		*Number of Occasions*					Average Number of Occasions*
	Never %	Any Occasion %	1 %	2 %	3-5 %	6-9 %	10+ %	
Overall								
Valid Cases	85.4	14.6	5.6	4.0	3.6	0.7	0.7	2.8
Grade								
8th	96.8	3.2	1.6	0.8	0.7	0.1	0.1	2.2
10th	84.1	15.9	6.9	4.3	3.5	0.8	0.4	2.5
12th	72.4	27.6	9.0	7.8	7.4	1.5	1.9	3.1
Sex								
Female	86.3	13.7	6.0	3.9	3.2	0.4	0.3	2.3
Male	85.0	15.0	4.9	3.9	3.9	1.1	1.2	3.3
Ethnicity								
White	82.0	18.0	6.8	4.9	4.6	0.9	0.8	2.8
African American	90.8	9.2	3.1	2.4	2.9	0.3	0.5	2.9
Hispanic or Latino	84.1	15.9	6.5	4.5	3.7	1.0	0.2	2.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	91.7	8.3	3.4	2.0	1.7	0.1	1.1	3.2
Other/Multiple	88.8	11.2	3.1	4.5	1.8	1.3	0.4	3.0

Notes: Percents may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Sample sizes on distributions and means are frequently small and may not be representative. Racial categories do not include Hispanic persons as they are treated as a separate category in this table. Binge drinking is defined as five or more drinks in a row in the last two weeks.
* The "Average Number of Occasions" column shows the average number of times that a group reported involvement during the past 2 weeks and includes only those who indicated at least one occasion of the behavior. The two prevalence categories ("Never" and "Any Occasion") sum to 100% and represent the total number of valid cases for the survey question. The "Number of Occasions" categories sum to the "Any Occasion" category.

Table 10. Lifetime and thirty-day prevalence for cigarettes, by selected demographic characteristics.

	Lifetime N	Lifetime %	30-Day N	30-Day %
Overall Valid Cases	1,290	32.1%	542	13.5%
Grade				
8th	235	16.2%	60	4.1%
10th	478	33.2%	179	12.4%
12th	577	50.8%	303	26.7%
Sex				
Female	571	31.1%	233	12.7%
Male	606	32.1%	264	14.0%
Ethnicity				
White	639	30.0%	298	14.0%
African American	126	33.3%	42	11.1%
Hispanic or Latino	236	48.4%	90	18.4%
Asian/ Pacific Islander	197	27.6%	78	10.9%
Other/Multiple	66	29.3%	23	10.3%

Notes: Percents may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Racial categories do not include Hispanic persons as they are treated as a separate category in this table. 'N' represents the valid number of cases, by category, that reported use for a given survey item, and '%' represents the percentage of valid cases, by category, that reported use for a given survey item.

Table 11. Frequency of cigarette use during the past thirty days, by selected demographic characteristics.

	Prevalence		*Cigarettes Per Day*						Average Number of Cigarettes*
	Never %	Any Occasion %	< 1 %	1-5 %	½ Pack (10) %	1 Pack (20) %	1½Packs (30) %	>2Packs (40) %	
Overall									
Valid Cases	86.5	13.5	6.9	4.0	1.6	0.7	0.1	--	4.2
Grade									
8th	95.9	4.1	2.6	1.0	0.3	0.2	--	--	3.2
10th	87.6	12.4	7.1	3.8	1.0	0.3	0.1	0.1	3.2
12th	73.3	26.7	12.2	8.2	3.9	1.9	0.4	0.1	4.9
Sex									
Female	87.3	12.7	7.0	3.8	1.1	0.5	0.2	0.1	3.8
Male	86.0	14.0	6.6	4.3	2.2	0.7	0.2	0.1	4.5
Ethnicity									
White	86.0	14.0	6.8	3.9	1.9	1.0	0.2	--	4.8
African American	88.9	11.1	8.2	2.4	0.3	0.3	--	--	2.1
Hispanic or Latino	81.6	18.4	10.8	6.1	1.0	0.4	--	--	2.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	89.1	10.9	3.8	4.5	2.0	0.4	0.1	0.1	5.0
Other/Multiple	89.7	10.3	6.3	3.1	--	0.9	--	--	3.3

Notes: Percents may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Sample sizes on distributions and means are frequently small and may not be representative. Racial categories do not include Hispanic persons as they are treated as a separate category in this table.
* The "Average Number of Cigarettes" column shows the average number of cigarettes that a group reported smoking per day during the past 30 days and includes only those who indicated smoking any cigarettes. The two prevalence categories ("Never" and "Any Occasion") sum to 100% and represent the total number of valid cases for the survey question. The "Cigarettes per Day" categories sum to the "Any Occasion" category.

Table 12. Lifetime and thirty-day prevalence for smokeless (chewing) tobacco by selected demographic characteristics.

	Lifetime N	Lifetime %	30-Day N	30-Day %
Overall				
Valid Cases	297	7.4%	118	2.9%
Grade				
8th	56	3.9%	21	1.4%
10th	108	7.5%	40	2.8%
12th	133	11.7%	57	5.0%
Sex				
Female	66	3.6%	25	1.4%
Male	207	10.9%	85	4.5%
Ethnicity				
White	177	8.3%	74	3.5%
African American	23	6.0%	8	2.1%
Hispanic or Latino	44	9.0%	22	4.5%
Asian/ Pacific Islander	31	4.3%	9	1.3%
Other/Multiple	16	7.1%	5	2.2%

Notes: Percents may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Racial categories do not include Hispanic persons as they are treated as a separate category in this table. 'N' represents the valid number of cases, by category, that reported use for a given survey item, and '%' represents the percentage of valid cases, by category, that reported use for a given survey item.

Table 13. Lifetime and thirty-day prevalence for marijuana, by selected demographic characteristics.

	Lifetime N	Lifetime %	30-Day N	30-Day %
Overall				
Valid Cases	893	22.2%	442	11.0%
Grade				
8th	79	5.4%	40	2.8%
10th	346	24.1%	167	11.6%
12th	468	41.3%	235	20.8%
Sex				
Female	370	20.2%	165	9.0%
Male	449	23.8%	237	12.5%
Ethnicity				
White	508	23.9%	261	12.3%
African American	98	25.7%	43	11.2%
Hispanic or Latino	140	28.7%	68	13.9%
Asian/ Pacific Islander	77	10.8%	36	5.0%
Other/Multiple	54	24.0%	26	11.6%

Notes: Percents may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Racial categories do not include Hispanic persons as they are treated as a separate category in this table. 'N' represents the valid number of cases, by category, that reported use for a given survey item, and '%' represents the percentage of valid cases, by category, that reported use for a given survey item.

Table 14. Frequency of marijuana use during the past thirty days, by selected demographic characteristics.

	Prevalence		*Number of Occasions*						Average Number of Occasions*
	Never %	Any Occasion %	1-2 %	3-5 %	6-9 %	10-19 %	20-39 %	40+ %	
Overall									
Valid Cases	89.0	11.0	4.6	2.1	1.3	1.3	0.7	0.9	9.2
Grade									
8th	97.2	2.8	1.8	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	5.3
10th	88.4	11.6	5.6	2.4	1.5	1.0	0.6	0.5	6.9
12th	79.2	20.8	7.1	3.8	2.7	3.1	1.6	2.6	11.6
Sex									
Female	91.0	9.0	4.2	2.0	1.1	1.2	0.3	0.2	6.3
Male	87.5	12.5	5.1	2.0	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.6	11.2
Ethnicity									
White	87.7	12.3	4.7	2.2	1.5	1.6	0.9	1.3	10.7
African American	88.8	11.2	5.5	2.3	1.6	0.8	0.3	0.8	7.1
Hispanic or Latino	86.1	13.9	5.7	3.3	2.0	1.6	0.6	0.6	7.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	95.0	5.0	2.5	1.0	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	8.3
Other/Multiple	88.4	11.6	6.3	2.7	1.3	0.4	0.9	--	5.4

Notes: Percents may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Sample sizes on distributions and means are frequently small and may not be representative. Racial categories do not include Hispanic persons as they are treated as a separate category in this table.

* The "Average Number of Occasions" column shows the average number of times that a group reported involvement during the past 30 days and includes only those who indicated at least one occasion of the behavior. The two prevalence categories ("Never" and "Any Occasion") sum to 100% and represent the total number of valid cases for the survey question. The "Number of Occasions" categories sum to the "Any Occasion" category.

Table 15. Lifetime and thirty-day prevalence for inhalants, by selected demographic characteristics.

	Lifetime N	Lifetime %	30-Day N	30-Day %
Overall				
Valid Cases	440	10.9%	148	3.7%
Grade				
8th	209	14.4%	94	6.5%
10th	131	9.1%	39	2.7%
12th	100	8.8%	15	1.3%
Sex				
Female	198	10.8%	75	4.1%
Male	210	11.1%	61	3.2%
Ethnicity				
White	230	10.8%	65	3.1%
African American	30	7.8%	12	3.1%
Hispanic or Latino	71	14.6%	30	6.2%
Asian/ Pacific Islander	60	8.4%	20	2.8%
Other/Multiple	36	16.1%	16	7.1%

Notes: Percents may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Racial categories do not include Hispanic persons as they are treated as a separate category in this table. 'N' represents the valid number of cases, by category, that reported use for a given survey item, and '%' represents the percentage of valid cases, by category, that reported use for a given survey item.

Table 16. Frequency of inhalant use during the past thirty days, by selected demographic characteristics.

	Prevalence		*Number of Occasions*						Average Number of Occasions*
	Never %	Any Occasion %	1-2 %	3-5 %	6-9 %	10-19 %	20-39 %	40+ %	
Overall									
Valid Cases	96.3	3.7	2.7	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	4.8
Grade									
8th	93.5	6.5	4.9	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1	3.9
10th	97.3	2.7	1.8	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	6.0
12th	98.7	1.3	0.9	0.2	0.1	--	--	0.2	7.4
Sex									
Female	95.9	4.1	3.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	4.3
Male	96.8	3.2	2.1	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	4.9
Ethnicity									
White	96.9	3.1	2.3	0.4	0.2	--	0.1	--	3.8
African American	96.9	3.1	1.8	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.3	--	6.1
Hispanic or Latino	93.8	6.2	4.9	0.6	0.4	0.2	--	--	2.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	97.2	2.8	2.2	0.1	--	0.3	--	0.1	4.9
Other/Multiple	92.9	7.1	4.0	0.4	1.8	--	--	0.9	8.0

Notes: Percents may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Sample sizes on distributions and means are frequently small and may not be representative. Racial categories do not include Hispanic persons as they are treated as a separate category in this table.

* The "Average Number of Occasions" column shows the average number of times that a group reported involvement during the past 30 days and includes only those who indicated at least one occasion of the behavior. The two prevalence categories ("Never" and "Any Occasion") sum to 100% and represent the total number of valid cases for the survey question. The "Number of Occasions" categories sum to the "Any Occasion" category.

Table 17. Lifetime and thirty-day prevalence for methamphetamines, by selected demographic characteristics.

	Lifetime N	Lifetime %	30-Day N	30-Day %
Overall				
Valid Cases	107	2.7%	36	0.9%
Grade				
8th	10	0.7%	5	0.3%
10th	30	2.1%	9	0.6%
12th	67	5.9%	22	2.0%
Sex				
Female	44	2.4%	15	0.8%
Male	57	3.0%	20	1.1%
Ethnicity				
White	71	3.4%	23	1.1%
African American	3	0.8%	1	0.3%
Hispanic or Latino	10	2.1%	5	1.0%
Asian/ Pacific Islander	15	2.1%	5	0.7%
Other/Multiple	7	3.2%	1	0.4%

Notes: Percents may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Racial categories do not include Hispanic persons as they are treated as a separate category in this table. 'N' represents the valid number of cases, by category, that reported use for a given survey item, and '%' represents the percentage of valid cases, by category, that reported use for a given survey item.

Table 18. Lifetime and thirty-day prevalence for cocaine and crack by selected demographic characteristics.

	Lifetime N	Lifetime %	30-Day N	30-Day %
Overall				
Valid Cases	119	3.0%	34	0.8%
Grade				
8th	18	1.2%	7	0.5%
10th	35	2.4%	9	0.6%
12th	66	5.8%	18	1.6%
Sex				
Female	58	3.2%	14	0.8%
Male	57	3.0%	18	1.0%
Ethnicity				
White	73	3.4%	22	1.0%
African American	4	1.0%	1	0.3%
Hispanic or Latino	25	5.2%	8	1.6%
Asian/ Pacific Islander	8	1.1%	0	--
Other/Multiple	7	3.1%	3	1.3%

Notes: Percents may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Racial categories do not include Hispanic persons as they are treated as a separate category in this table. 'N' represents the valid number of cases, by category, that reported use for a given survey item, and '%' represents the percentage of valid cases, by category, that reported use for a given survey item. The question on cocaine differs in the two surveys. The 2003 survey asks 'have you used cocaine or crack' while the 2001 survey asks only about cocaine.

Table 19. Lifetime and thirty-day prevalence for LSD and other psychedelics by selected demographic characteristics.

	Lifetime N	Lifetime %	30-Day N	30-Day %
Overall				
Valid Cases	146	3.6%	35	0.9%
Grade				
8th	9	0.6%	4	0.3%
10th	49	3.4%	13	0.9%
12th	88	7.8%	18	1.6%
Sex				
Female	57	3.1%	10	0.5%
Male	85	4.5%	23	1.2%
Ethnicity				
White	99	4.7%	23	1.1%
African American	7	1.8%	1	0.3%
Hispanic or Latino	18	3.7%	5	1.0%
Asian/ Pacific Islander	15	2.1%	4	0.6%
Other/Multiple	7	3.1%	2	0.9%

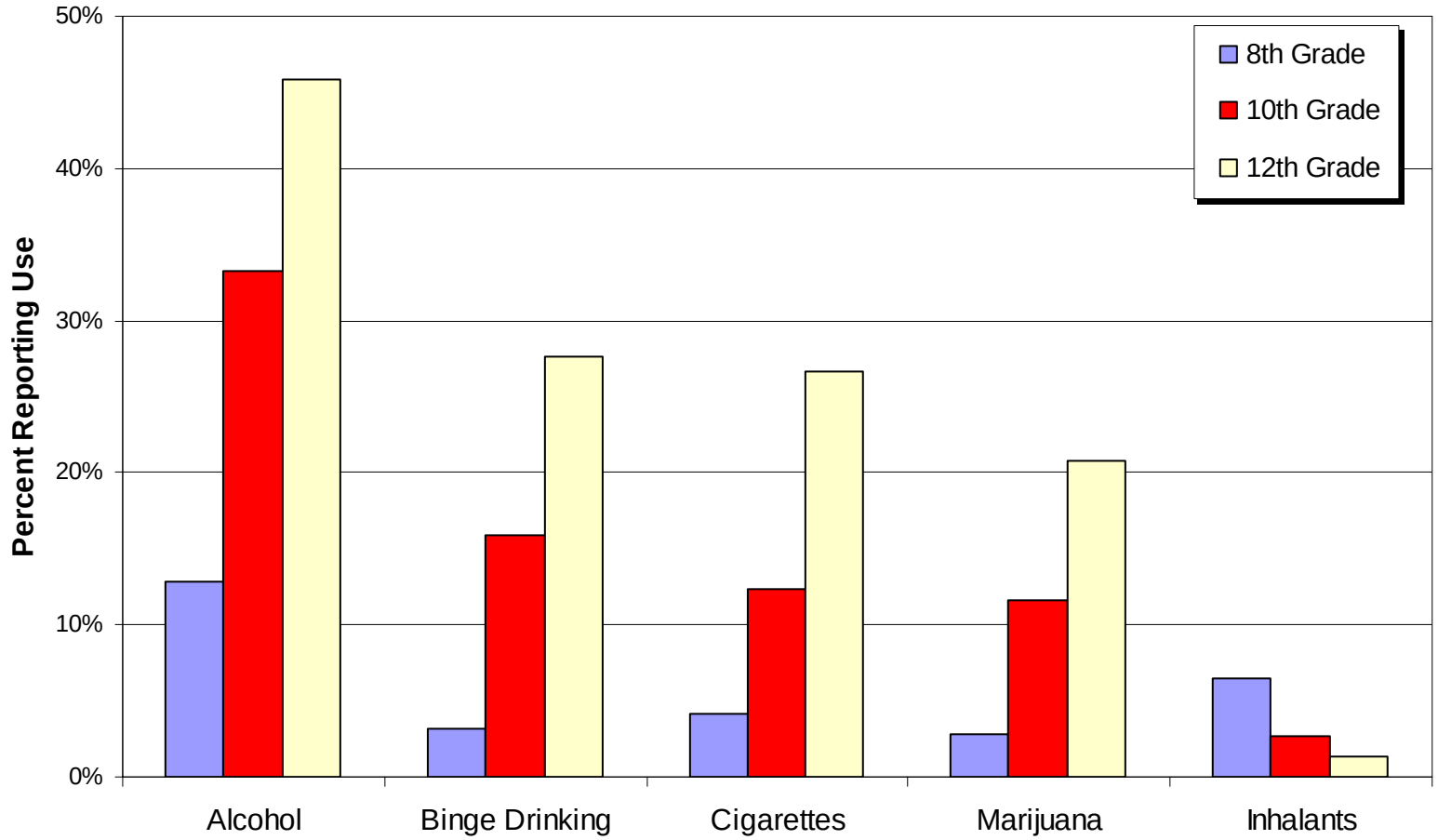
Notes: Percents may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Racial categories do not include Hispanic persons as they are treated as a separate category in this table. 'N' represents the valid number of cases, by category, that reported use for a given survey item, and '%' represents the percentage of valid cases, by category, that reported use for a given survey item.

Table 20. Lifetime and thirty-day prevalence for other drugs by selected demographic characteristics.

	Lifetime N	Lifetime %	30-Day N	30-Day %
Overall				
Valid Cases	441	11.0%	201	5.0%
Grade				
8th	95	6.6%	44	3.1%
10th	157	11.0%	76	5.3%
12th	189	16.7%	81	7.2%
Sex				
Female	187	10.3%	76	4.2%
Male	217	11.5%	101	5.4%
Ethnicity				
White	239	11.3%	114	5.4%
African American	35	9.2%	17	4.5%
Hispanic or Latino	66	13.6%	28	5.8%
Asian/ Pacific Islander	65	9.2%	25	3.5%
Other/Multiple	28	12.6%	15	6.7%

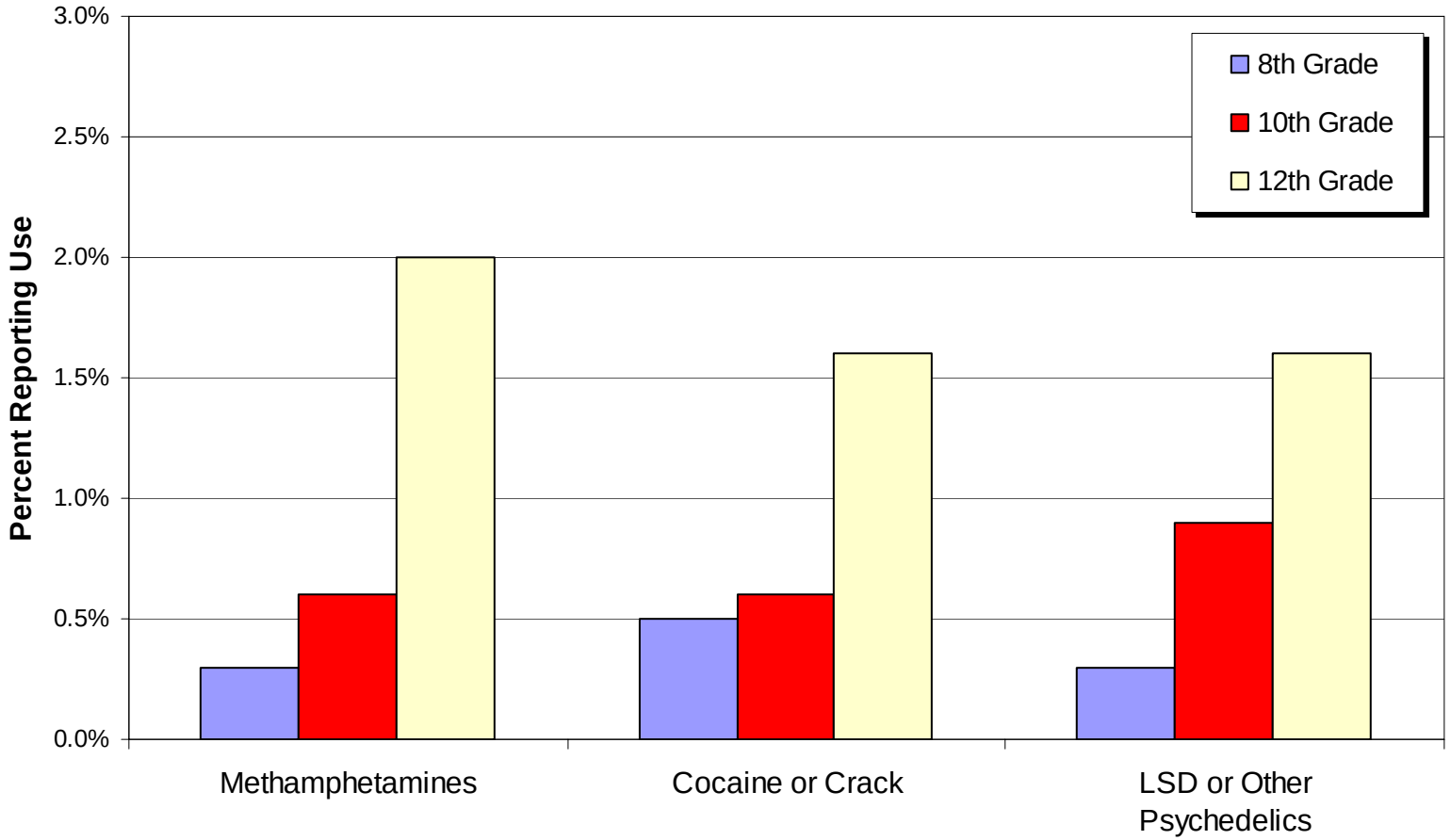
Notes: Percents may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Racial categories do not include Hispanic persons as they are treated as a separate category in this table. The "Other" drug category comprises different items, and is not comparable to 2001 data. 'N' represents the valid number of cases, by category, that reported use for a given survey item, and '%' represents the percentage of valid cases, by category, that reported use for a given survey item.

Figure 7. Thirty-day prevalence of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and inhalants, for Fairfax County respondents, by grade.



Source: Fairfax County 2003 Community Youth Survey.

Figure 8. Thirty-day prevalence of other illicit drugs, for Fairfax County respondents, by grade.



Source: Fairfax County 2003 Community Youth Survey.

Table 21. Frequency of involvement in delinquent behavior during the past twelve months, by selected demographic characteristics.

Attacking Someone with Intent to Harm

	Prevalence		*Number of Occasions*							Average Number of Occasions*
	Never %	Any Occasion %	1-2 %	3-5 %	6-9 %	10-19 %	20-29 %	30-39 %	40+ %	
Overall										
Valid Cases	89.3	10.7	7.6	1.5	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.4	4.9
Grade										
8th	87.4	12.6	8.9	1.8	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	4.8
10th	88.7	11.3	7.7	1.7	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.5	4.9
12th	92.3	7.7	5.8	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.4	4.9
Sex										
Female	93.3	6.7	4.6	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	6.0
Male	85.4	14.6	10.4	2.0	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.4	4.5
Ethnicity										
White	92.6	7.4	5.3	1.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	4.6
African American	81.3	18.7	13.8	2.1	1.3	0.8	--	0.3	0.5	4.3
Hispanic or Latino	84.6	15.4	9.7	2.7	1.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	5.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	90.1	9.9	7.3	1.1	0.6	0.3	0.1	--	0.4	4.5
Other/Multiple	81.0	19.0	13.3	1.8	1.8	0.4	0.4	--	1.3	5.8

Notes: Percents may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Sample sizes on distributions and means are frequently small and may not be representative. Racial categories do not include Hispanic persons as they are treated as a separate category in this table.

* The "Average Number of Occasions" column shows the average number of times that a group reported involvement during the past 12 months and includes only those who indicated at least one occasion of the behavior. The two prevalence categories ("Never" and "Any Occasion") sum to 100% and represent the total number of valid cases for the survey question. The "Number of Occasions" categories sum to the "Any Occasion" category.

Table 22. Frequency of involvement in delinquent behavior during the past twelve months, by selected demographic characteristics.

Been Arrested

	Prevalence		*Number of Occasions*							Average Number of Occasions*
	Never %	Any Occasion %	1-2 %	3-5 %	6-9 %	10-19 %	20-29 %	30-39 %	40+ %	
Overall										
Valid Cases	96.7	3.3	2.9	0.3	--	--	--	--	--	2.2
Grade										
8th	98.0	2.0	1.6	0.3	0.1	--	--	--	--	2.1
10th	96.5	3.5	3.0	0.3	0.1	--	--	--	0.1	2.6
12th	95.3	4.7	4.1	0.4	--	0.1	--	--	--	2.0
Sex										
Female	98.1	1.9	1.5	0.2	0.1	0.1	--	--	0.1	3.4
Male	95.5	4.5	4.1	0.4	0.1	--	--	--	--	1.8
Ethnicity										
White	96.9	3.1	2.8	0.2	--	--	--	--	--	1.8
African American	97.1	2.9	2.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	--	--	--	3.5
Hispanic or Latino	93.9	6.1	5.1	1.0	--	--	--	--	--	1.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	98.2	1.8	1.7	--	--	--	--	--	0.1	4.5
Other/Multiple	96.0	4.0	3.1	0.9	--	--	--	--	--	2.1

Notes: Percents may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Sample sizes on distributions and means are frequently small and may not be representative. Racial categories do not include Hispanic persons as they are treated as a separate category in this table.

* The "Average Number of Occasions" column shows the average number of times that a group reported involvement during the past 12 months and includes only those who indicated at least one occasion of the behavior. The two prevalence categories ("Never" and "Any Occasion") sum to 100% and represent the total number of valid cases for the survey question. The "Number of Occasions" categories sum to the "Any Occasion" category.

Table 23. Frequency of involvement in delinquent behavior during the past twelve months, by selected demographic characteristics.

Carrying a Handgun

	Prevalence		*Number of Occasions*							Average Number of Occasions*
	Never %	Any Occasion %	1-2 %	3-5 %	6-9 %	10-19 %	20-29 %	30-39 %	40+ %	
Overall										
Valid Cases	97.4	2.6	1.2	0.3	0.4	--	0.1	0.1	0.3	9.6
Grade										
8th	97.4	2.6	1.3	0.3	0.6	0.1	0.1	--	0.1	6.6
10th	97.4	2.6	1.3	0.3	0.3	--	0.1	0.1	0.4	11.5
12th	97.5	2.5	1.1	0.4	0.4	--	0.2	0.1	0.4	11.3
Sex										
Female	99.3	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.2	--	--	--	0.1	9.6
Male	95.5	4.5	2.1	0.7	0.8	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.5	9.8
Ethnicity										
White	97.9	2.1	1.1	0.4	0.4	--	--	--	0.1	6.4
African American	97.7	2.3	0.5	0.8	0.5	--	0.3	--	0.3	10.5
Hispanic or Latino	95.7	4.3	2.2	0.2	0.6	--	0.2	0.2	0.8	12.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	97.6	2.4	1.1	--	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	13.4
Other/Multiple	96.9	3.1	1.3	0.4	0.9	--	--	--	0.4	9.1

Notes: Percents may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Sample sizes on distributions and means are frequently small and may not be representative. Racial categories do not include Hispanic persons as they are treated as a separate category in this table.

* The "Average Number of Occasions" column shows the average number of times that a group reported involvement during the past 12 months and includes only those who indicated at least one occasion of the behavior. The two prevalence categories ("Never" and "Any Occasion") sum to 100% and represent the total number of valid cases for the survey question. The "Number of Occasions" categories sum to the "Any Occasion" category.

Table 24. Frequency of involvement in delinquent behavior during the past twelve months, by selected demographic characteristics.

Drunk or High at School

	Prevalence		*Number of Occasions*							Average Number of Occasions*
	Never %	Any Occasion %	1-2 %	3-5 %	6-9 %	10-19 %	20-29 %	30-39 %	40+ %	
Overall										
Valid Cases	89.9	10.1	5.2	1.7	0.9	0.8	0.3	0.1	1.0	8.7
Grade										
8th	96.2	3.8	2.6	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	4.4
10th	89.4	10.6	5.8	1.3	0.8	1.2	0.2	0.2	1.0	8.4
12th	82.3	17.7	7.7	3.5	1.9	1.1	0.9	0.2	2.4	10.2
Sex										
Female	91.6	8.4	5.0	1.4	0.7	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.4	6.1
Male	88.2	11.8	5.5	2.0	1.2	0.8	0.5	0.3	1.6	10.4
Ethnicity										
White	88.3	11.7	5.9	2.0	1.2	0.9	0.4	0.2	1.1	8.6
African American	91.7	8.3	4.4	1.0	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.3	1.0	9.8
Hispanic or Latino	86.6	13.4	7.1	2.9	0.2	1.0	0.4	--	1.8	9.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	95.9	4.1	1.7	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.1	--	0.4	9.1
Other/Multiple	88.5	11.5	7.5	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.4	0.4	0.9	8.0

Notes: Percents may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Sample sizes on distributions and means are frequently small and may not be representative. Racial categories do not include Hispanic persons as they are treated as a separate category in this table.

* The "Average Number of Occasions" column shows the average number of times that a group reported involvement during the past 12 months and includes only those who indicated at least one occasion of the behavior. The two prevalence categories ("Never" and "Any Occasion") sum to 100% and represent the total number of valid cases for the survey question. The "Number of Occasions" categories sum to the "Any Occasion" category.

Table 25. Frequency of involvement in delinquent behavior during the past twelve months, by selected demographic characteristics.

Selling Drugs

	Prevalence		*Number of Occasions*							Average Number of Occasions*
	Never %	Any Occasion %	1-2 %	3-5 %	6-9 %	10-19 %	20-29 %	30-39 %	40+ %	
Overall										
Valid Cases	94.7	5.3	2.2	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.8	11.7
Grade										
8th	99.0	1.0	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	--	--	0.1	5.7
10th	94.9	5.1	2.1	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.4	9.2
12th	88.9	11.1	4.3	1.4	1.3	0.7	0.7	0.5	2.1	13.8
Sex										
Female	96.9	3.1	1.8	0.4	0.4	0.1	--	0.1	0.2	6.4
Male	92.2	7.8	2.6	1.1	1.1	0.8	0.4	0.3	1.4	13.8
Ethnicity										
White	94.1	5.9	2.6	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.6	10.1
African American	95.3	4.7	1.3	0.5	1.0	0.5	--	0.3	1.0	14.9
Hispanic or Latino	92.8	7.2	2.3	1.8	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.4	1.0	12.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	96.9	3.1	1.7	--	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.6	12.5
Other/Multiple	95.6	4.4	1.8	0.4	0.4	0.4	--	--	1.3	15.2

Notes: Percents may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Sample sizes on distributions and means are frequently small and may not be representative. Racial categories do not include Hispanic persons as they are treated as a separate category in this table.

* The "Average Number of Occasions" column shows the average number of times that a group reported involvement during the past 12 months and includes only those who indicated at least one occasion of the behavior. The two prevalence categories ("Never" and "Any Occasion") sum to 100% and represent the total number of valid cases for the survey question. The "Number of Occasions" categories sum to the "Any Occasion" category.

Table 26. Frequency of involvement in delinquent behavior during the past twelve months, by selected demographic characteristics.

Suspension

	Prevalence		*Number of Occasions*							Average Number of Occasions*
	Never %	Any Occasion %	1-2 %	3-5 %	6-9 %	10-19 %	20-29 %	30-39 %	40+ %	
Overall										
Valid Cases	92.7	7.3	6.2	0.6	0.3	0.1	--	--	0.1	2.6
Grade										
8th	92.3	7.7	6.2	1.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	--	0.1	2.7
10th	93.4	6.6	5.9	0.3	0.2	0.1	--	--	0.1	2.5
12th	92.3	7.7	6.5	0.5	0.4	0.2	--	--	0.1	2.7
Sex										
Female	95.6	4.4	3.9	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	--	0.1	2.7
Male	90.2	9.8	8.1	0.9	0.5	0.2	--	--	0.1	2.7
Ethnicity										
White	95.3	4.7	4.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	--	--	--	2.2
African American	86.2	13.8	11.7	1.0	0.5	--	--	--	0.5	3.4
Hispanic or Latino	85.8	14.2	11.8	1.6	0.6	--	0.2	--	--	2.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	94.1	5.9	5.0	0.4	0.3	--	--	--	0.1	2.9
Other/Multiple	91.6	8.4	6.6	0.9	--	0.9	--	--	--	3.1

Notes: Percents may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Sample sizes on distributions and means are frequently small and may not be representative. Racial categories do not include Hispanic persons as they are treated as a separate category in this table.

* The "Average Number of Occasions" column shows the average number of times that a group reported involvement during the past 12 months and includes only those who indicated at least one occasion of the behavior. The two prevalence categories ("Never" and "Any Occasion") sum to 100% and represent the total number of valid cases for the survey question. The "Number of Occasions" categories sum to the "Any Occasion" category.

Table 27. Frequency of involvement in delinquent behavior during the past twelve months, by selected demographic characteristics.

Taking a Handgun to School

	Prevalence		*Number of Occasions*							Average Number of Occasions*
	Never %	Any Occasion %	1-2 %	3-5 %	6-9 %	10-19 %	20-29 %	30-39 %	40+ %	
Overall										
Valid Cases	99.7	0.3	0.1	--	0.1	--	--	--	0.1	12.0
Grade										
8th	99.7	0.3	0.1	--	0.1	--	--	--	0.1	12.6
10th	99.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	--	--	--	0.1	14.6
12th	99.8	0.2	0.2	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.5
Sex										
Female	99.9	0.1	0.1	--	--	--	--	--	0.1	20.8
Male	99.5	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.1	--	--	--	0.1	7.4
Ethnicity										
White	100.0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.5
African American	99.5	0.5	0.3	--	0.3	--	--	--	--	4.5
Hispanic or Latino	99.4	0.6	0.2	--	0.2	--	--	--	0.2	16.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	99.3	0.7	0.4	0.1	--	--	--	--	0.1	9.7
Other/Multiple	99.1	0.9	--	--	0.4	--	--	--	0.4	23.8

Notes: Percents may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Sample sizes on distributions and means are frequently small and may not be representative. Racial categories do not include Hispanic persons as they are treated as a separate category in this table.

* The "Average Number of Occasions" column shows the average number of times that a group reported involvement during the past 12 months and includes only those who indicated at least one occasion of the behavior. The two prevalence categories ("Never" and "Any Occasion") sum to 100% and represent the total number of valid cases for the survey question. The "Number of Occasions" categories sum to the "Any Occasion" category.

Table 28. Frequency of involvement in delinquent behavior during the past twelve months, by selected demographic characteristics:

Vehicle Theft

	Prevalence		*Number of Occasions*							Average Number of Occasions*
	Never %	Any Occasion %	1-2 %	3-5 %	6-9 %	10-19 %	20-29 %	30-39 %	40+ %	
Overall										
Valid Cases	98.1	1.9	1.3	0.3	0.1	--	--	--	0.1	4.5
Grade										
8th	98.6	1.4	0.8	0.4	--	0.1	--	--	0.1	6.8
10th	97.6	2.4	1.7	0.3	0.1	0.1	--	--	0.1	4.8
12th	98.1	1.9	1.6	0.2	0.1	--	--	--	--	2.0
Sex										
Female	98.2	1.8	1.3	0.3	--	0.1	--	--	0.2	5.8
Male	97.9	2.1	1.5	0.4	0.2	--	--	--	0.1	3.4
Ethnicity										
White	98.7	1.3	0.8	0.4	--	--	--	--	--	4.3
African American	98.2	1.8	1.8	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.5
Hispanic or Latino	95.1	4.9	4.3	--	0.2	0.2	--	--	0.2	3.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	98.9	1.1	0.8	--	0.1	--	--	--	0.1	7.1
Other/Multiple	98.2	1.8	0.4	0.9	--	--	--	--	0.4	12.4

Notes: Percents may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Sample sizes on distributions and means are frequently small and may not be representative. Racial categories do not include Hispanic persons as they are treated as a separate category in this table.

* The "Average Number of Occasions" column shows the average number of times that a group reported involvement during the past 12 months and includes only those who indicated at least one occasion of the behavior. The two prevalence categories ("Never" and "Any Occasion") sum to 100% and represent the total number of valid cases for the survey question. The "Number of Occasions" categories sum to the "Any Occasion" category.

Appendix A. Survey validation.

Survey Instrument Differences – Not all of the questions on the 2001 questionnaire were included on the 2003 questionnaire. Wording, layout and instructions, although similar, were not always identical between the two instruments. Therefore, some variation beyond what might be statistically expected may be due to students interpreting answer categories and questions differently between the two years. Examples of some of these differences include:

- The 2001 instrument gave explicit instructions on how to interpret the 'YES,' 'yes,' 'no,' 'NO' answer format; the 2003 instrument did not provide these instructions.
- Many of the questions with Likert scale answer categories (i.e. very important, quite important, fairly important, slightly important, not at all important) on the 2003 instrument have a mixed horizontal and vertical layout that makes it difficult to determine the flow of the answer categories.
- Questions have wording differences – 'On how many occasions (if any) have you used cocaine *or crack* in your lifetime?' (2003) compared to 'On how many occasions (if any) have you used cocaine in your lifetime?' 'My teachers praise me when I *have done well* in school (2003).' compared to 'My teachers praise me when I *work hard* in school (2002).'

Sensitive Topics – Most people feel some degree of discomfort when asked to respond to highly sensitive topic areas such as substance abuse and antisocial behaviors. Therefore, it is not unusual to have some degree of ambiguity in the results of surveys that measure these types of behaviors. Even when respondents are assured confidentiality, they are often reluctant to tell the truth or may feel pressure to respond in a socially acceptable manner. The cleaning and validation protocols associated with the 2003 instrument help reduce some of these inconsistencies. The protocols used to assess validity on the 2003 data are similar to those used on the 2001 data. These protocols can be grouped into those that determine the validity of individual surveys and those that correct inconsistencies between questions of an individual survey.

- The following protocols were used to determine the validity of individual surveys.
    - Students who reported they were in a grade other than 8^{th}, 10^{th} or 12^{th} grade or did not answer the grade question were deleted from the data set and not included in the analysis of findings.
    - Students who reported using the fictitious drug derbisol were deleted from the data set and were not included in the analysis of findings.
    - Students who indicated an unrealistic use of substances during a 30 day period were removed from the data set. Specifically, the strategy was to identify surveys with an unrealistic past 30-day use of marijuana, LSD or other psychedelics, cocaine or crack, and inhalants (alcohol, tobacco, and methamphetamines were not included in this strategy). If the survey indicated past 30-day use on 40 or more occasions, the category of greatest use, on three or more questions, the survey was considered invalid.
    - Students who answered the final question (How honest were you in filling out this survey?) with the most extreme response (I was not honest at all) were removed from the analysis data set.
    - Students who had missing data on all of the questions on which validity checks were performed were removed from the analysis data set.
- The following protocols were used to correct inconsistencies between answers within an individual survey.

- Students who reported a greater 30-day use than lifetime use of a substance had their lifetime use recoded to equal the 30-day use. This is a standard practice in resolving consistency between short-term and long-term memory items and has been incorporated into the data cleaning process for this instrument in other CSAP-funded needs assessment states.
- Students who answered that they had never belonged to a gang in both questions 30 and 38 but indicated their gang had no name in question 39 had their answers to question 39 recoded to 'I have never belonged to a gang.'

In addition other inconsistencies between questions were identified but no attempt was made to resolve these inconsistencies because no national protocols have been established. The inconsistencies identified include:

- Students who had inconsistent answers to whether they had siblings on question 5 (Think of where you live most of the time. Which of the following people live there with you?), question 6 (How many brothers and sisters including stepbrothers and stepsisters do you have that are older than you?), question 7 (How many brothers and sisters including stepbrothers and stepsisters do you have that are younger than you?), and question 103 (Have any of your brothers or sisters ever…?). For example indicating that they lived with a sibling on question 5, but reporting no siblings older or younger than themselves on questions 6 and 7. Some of this inconsistency may occur because perhaps twins consider themselves the same age as their sibling and the answer categories on the survey do not allow for this option.
- Students who had inconsistent answers to question 30 (How old were you when you first…?) and question 40 (How many times in the past year have you…?) on the following items – suspension from school, carried a handgun, taken a handgun to school, got arrested, and/or attacked someone with the idea of seriously hurting them. For example in question 40 they indicated being suspended from school one or more times but answered question 30 that they 'Never Have' been suspended from school.
- Students who answered inconsistently between question 30 (How old were you when you first belonged to a gang?) and question 38 (Have you ever belonged to a gang?).
- Students who answered inconsistently between question 30 (How old were you when you first smoked a cigarette, even just a puff?) and question 55 (Have you ever smoked cigarettes?). Some of this inconsistency may be due to the phrase '*even just a puff*' in question 30 because students may not associate a puff or two with cigarette smoking in question 55.
- Students who answered inconsistently between question 30 (How old were you when you first smoked marijuana?) and question 60 (On how many occasions, if any, have you used marijuana in your lifetime?). Some of this inconsistency may be due to question wording – question 30 asks about *smoking* while question 60 asks about *use*.

- Students who answered inconsistently on one or more of the alcohol questions.
    - Question 30C (How old were you when you first had more than a sip or two of beer, wine, or hard liquor),
    - Question 30D (How old were you when you first began drinking alcoholic beverages regularly, that is, at least once or twice a month?),
    - Question 57 (On how many occasions have you had beer, wine, or hard liquor to drink in your lifetime, more than just a few sips?), and
    - Question 59 (Think back over the last two weeks. How many times have you had five or more alcoholic drinks in a row?).

Excluding the sibling inconsistencies, 654 surveys or 16 percent contained one or more of these inconsistencies with the vast majority containing only one inconsistency (586 surveys). In comparison, 19 percent of the 2001 surveys were affected by one or more of these internal inconsistencies. Thus, the level of inconsistency has been relatively constant from 2001 to 2003. It is not possible to easily measure the direct effect these inconsistencies have on the survey estimates but it is important to keep these limitations in mind when interpreting the data. That is, the results from these surveys are estimates and provide barometers for detecting trends.

Sampling Issues – Care must be taken when comparing the results between the 2001 and 2003 surveys. Two surveys of the same items on samples of the same population will rarely yield exactly the same results, but repeated measurements should be consistent from measurement to measurement if the data are reliable. When studies are repeated on different populations, such as in this case, comparisons are made more difficult as characteristics which influence the results may change in the populations over time. Grade level and gender are two of the stronger influences tied to substance abuse and antisocial behavior. The 2003 survey population contains a higher proportion of 8^{th} and 10^{th} graders than the 2001 survey population and the 2003 survey population contains a slightly greater proportion of males. Thus on the gang membership question and the lifetime and 30-day usage questions, statistical tests have been conducted to determine which of these items show statistical differences between the two survey years when controlling for grade and gender.[1] In conducting and interpreting these statistical tests, it is assumed that the changes in the survey instruments (wording, layout and instructions) have no effect on the results. Given that assumption, there was no association between year and gang membership (α=0.001 level of significance). Tables 3 and 4, showing the 2001 and 2003 results for the lifetime and 30-day usage items, contain notes indicating if there is an association between year and usage levels for these items.

[1] Tests of association controlling for gender and grade level were conducted using the Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel statistic. The Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel procedure produces statistics for categorical data that detect general association controlling for strata. It removes the confounding influence of the explanatory variables that comprise the stratification and provides a gain of power for detecting association by comparing like subjects.