

# MARIJUANA, COCAINE, AND OTHER ILLEGAL DRUG USE

In addition to morbidity and mortality due to injury, drug abuse is related to unwanted pregnancy, school failure, delinquency, and transmission of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection.<sup>3</sup>

## MARIJUANA USE

U.S. HEALTHY PEOPLE<sup>4</sup>

YEAR 2000 GOALS

4.6 Reduce the percentage of 12-17 year-olds who have used marijuana in the previous month to: 3.2%

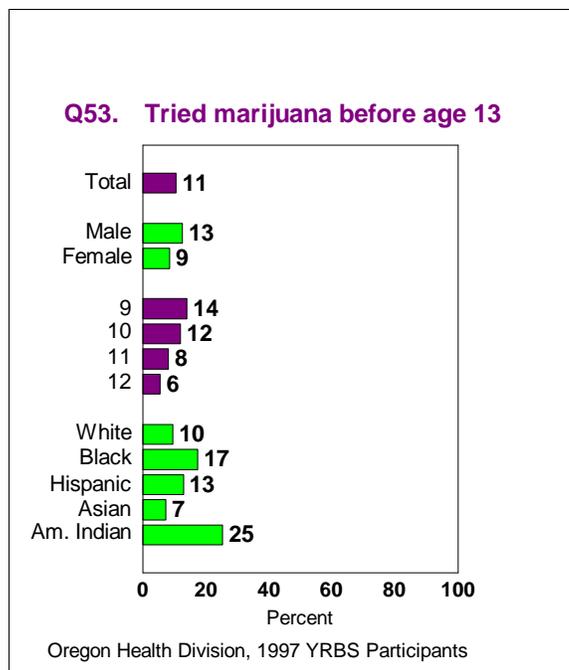
The next four questions measure the initiation, occurrence, and frequency of marijuana use among Oregon high school students.

## WHAT OREGON STUDENTS REPORTED

### Q53. How old were you when you tried marijuana for the first time?

Eleven percent of Oregon YRBS participants tried marijuana prior to age 13, including *significantly* more males (13%) than females (9%). As grade increased, the number of students who had tried marijuana before age 13 *significantly* decreased. *Significantly* more African American students (17%), Hispanic students (13%) and American Indian students (25%), tried marijuana before age 13.

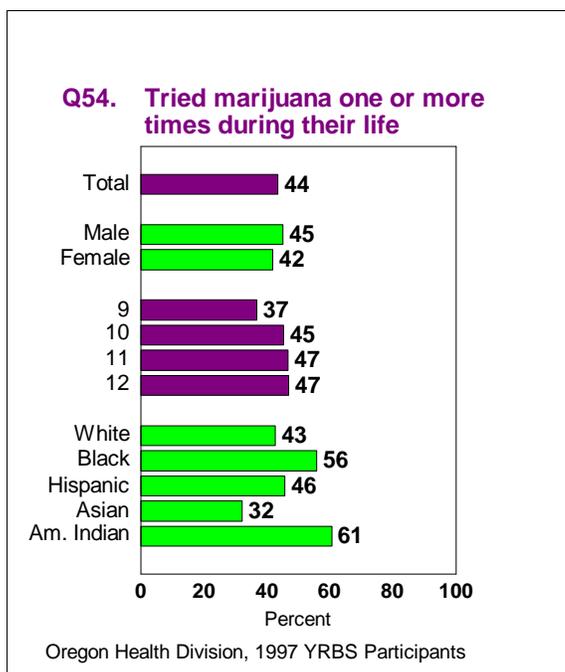
In 1995, eight percent of students participating in the national YRBS reported smoking marijuana for the first time before age 13.



**Q54. During your life, how many times have you used marijuana?**

Forty-four percent of Oregon YRBS participants ever used marijuana, including *significantly* more male students (45%) than female students (42%). As grade increased, the number of students who ever tried marijuana *significantly* increased. *Significantly* more African American students (56%) and American Indian students (61%), and *significantly* fewer Asian students (32%) ever tried marijuana.

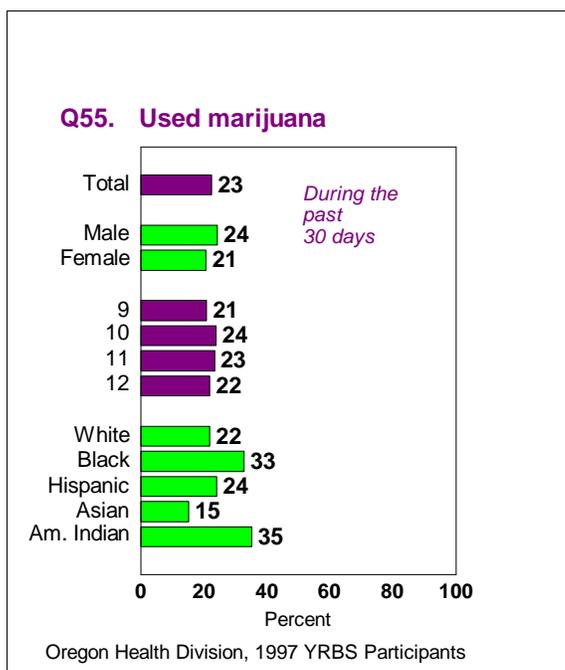
In 1995, 42 percent of students participating in the national YRBS reported using marijuana at least once in their life.



**Q55. During the past 30 days, how many times did you use marijuana?**

During the 30 days preceding the survey, 23 percent of Oregon YRBS participants used marijuana at least once, including *significantly* more males (24%) than females (21%). There was no statistical difference by grade level. *Significantly* fewer Asian students (15%) and *significantly* more African American (33%) and American Indian (35%) students used marijuana in the past 30 days.

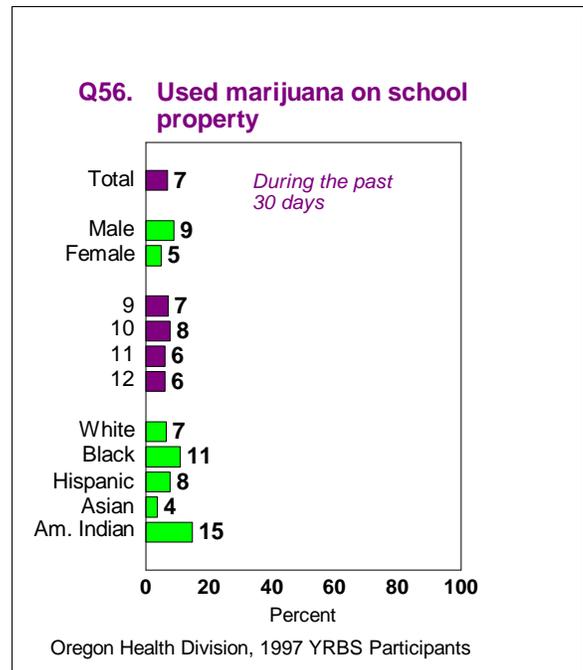
In 1995, 25 percent of students participating in the national YRBS reported using marijuana at least once in the 30 days prior to the survey.



**Q56. During the past 30 days, how many times did you use marijuana on school property?**

Seven percent of Oregon YRBS participants used marijuana on school property, during the 30 days prior to completing survey. *Significantly* more males (9%) than females (5%) students reported such marijuana use. As grade level increased, using marijuana on school property *significantly* decreased. *Significantly* fewer Asian students (4%) and *significantly* more African American (11%) and American Indian (15%) students used marijuana on school property.

In 1995, nine percent of students participating in the national YRBS reported using marijuana on school property.



# COCAINE USE

U.S. HEALTHY PEOPLE<sup>2</sup>

YEAR 2000 GOALS

4.6 Reduce the percentage of 12-17 year olds who have used cocaine in the previous month to: 0.6%

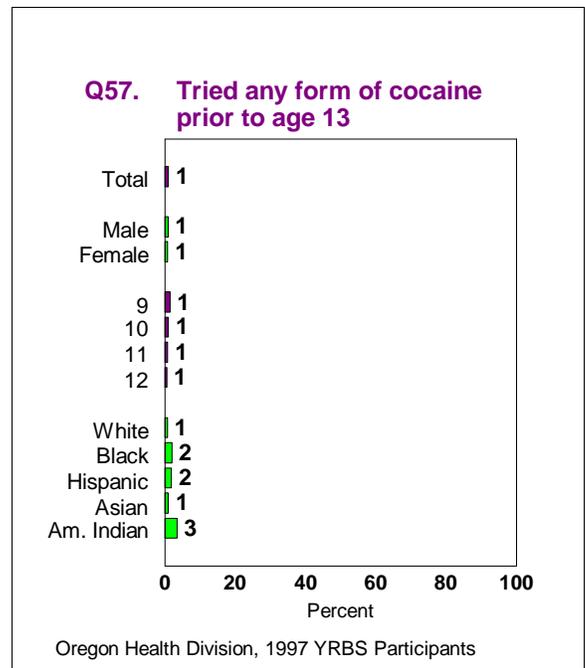
The next three questions measure the initiation, occurrence, and frequency of cocaine use among Oregon high school students.

## WHAT OREGON STUDENTS REPORTED

**Q57. How old were you when you tried any form of cocaine, including powder, crack, or freebase, for the first time?**

Overall, one percent of Oregon YRBS participants reported trying any form of cocaine prior to age 13. There was no statistically significant difference by gender. As grade increased, the percentage who had tried cocaine before the age of 13 *significantly* decreased. *Significantly* more Hispanic (2%) and American Indian (3%) students tried cocaine before the age of 13.

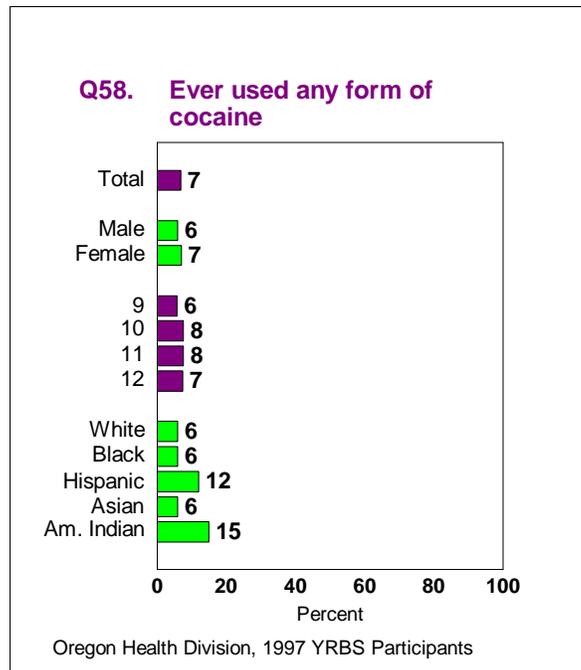
In 1995, one percent of students participating in the national YRBS reported trying some form of cocaine before the age 13.



**Q58. During your life, how many times have you used any form of cocaine, including powder, crack, or freebase?**

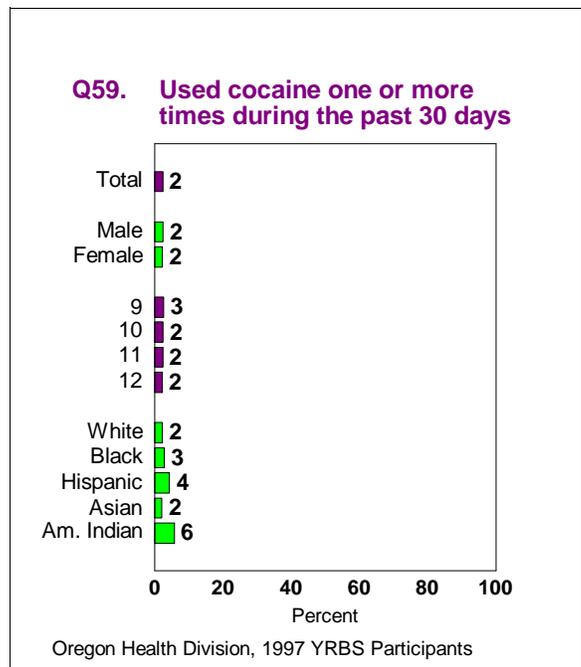
Seven percent of Oregon YRBS participants used any form of cocaine one or more times during their life. There was no statistically significant difference by gender, but as grade increased, students were *significantly* more likely to have tried cocaine. *Significantly* more Hispanic students (12%) and American Indian students (15%) ever used cocaine.

In 1995, seven percent of students participating in the national YRBS reported using some form of cocaine at least once in their life.



**Q59. During the past 30 days, how many times have you used any form of cocaine, including powder, crack, or freebase?**

Two percent of Oregon YRBS participants used any form of cocaine during the 30 days preceding the survey. There was no statistically significant difference by gender or grade. *Significantly* more Hispanic (4%) and American Indian (6%) students used cocaine in the past 30 days.



## OTHER ILLEGAL DRUG USE

U.S. HEALTHY PEOPLE<sup>2</sup>

YEAR 2000 GOALS

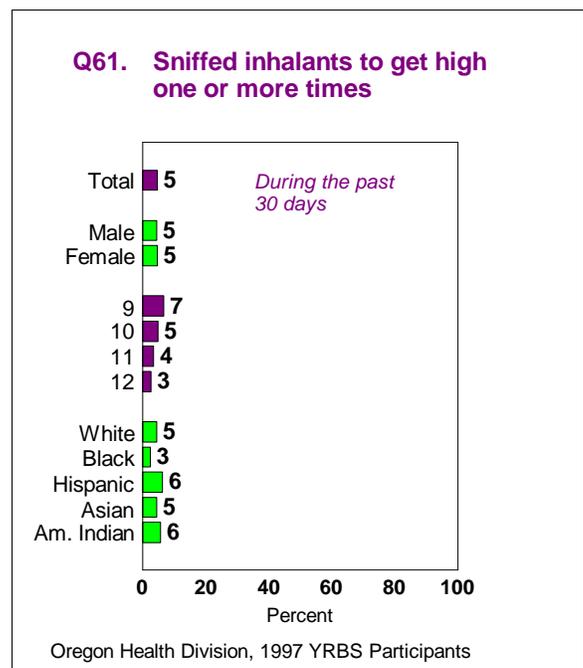
- 4.11 Reduce the percentage of male high school seniors who have used anabolic steroids to: no more than 3%

The next four questions measure the occurrence and frequency of other illegal drug use among Oregon high school students.

### WHAT OREGON STUDENTS REPORTED

**Q61. During the past 30 days, how many times have you sniffed glue, or breathed the contents of aerosol spray cans, or inhaled any paints or sprays to get high?**

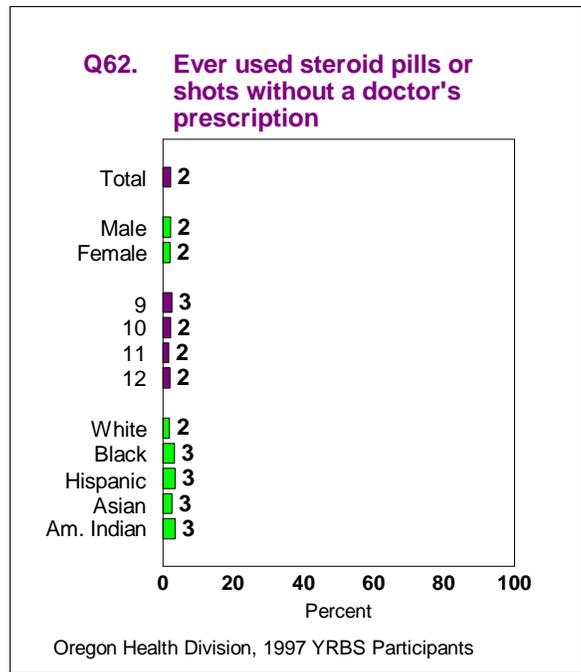
Five percent of Oregon YRBS participants had sniffed inhalants in the past thirty days. There were no significant differences by gender, but as grade increased, the percentage of students who sniffed inhalants *significantly* decreased. There was no statistical difference by race/ethnicity.



**Q62. During your life, how many times have you taken steroid pills or shots without a doctor's prescription?**

Two percent of Oregon YRBS participants had ever used steroid pills or shots without a doctor's prescription. There was no statistically significant difference by gender in reporting ever illegally taking steroid pills or shots. As grade increased, the report of steroid use without a prescription *significantly* decreased. *Significantly* more Hispanic students (3%) reported illegally taking steroids.

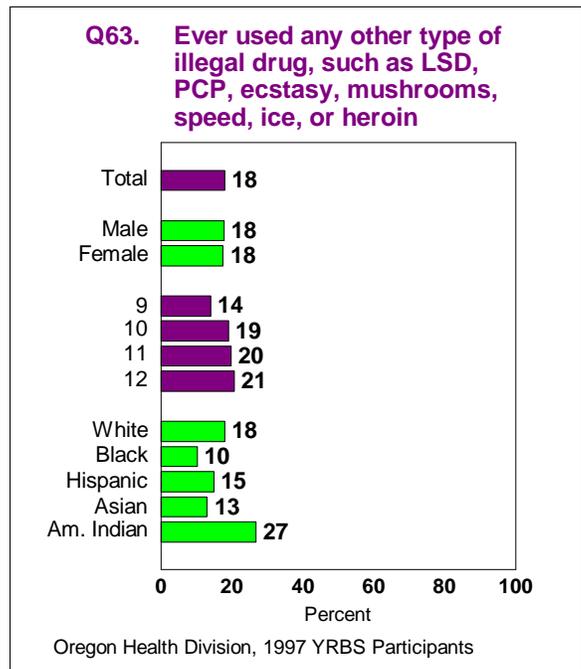
In 1995, four percent of students participating in the national YRBS reported using steroids without a doctor's prescription.



**Q63. During your life, how many times have you used any other type of illegal drug, such as LSD, PCP, ecstasy, mushrooms, speed, ice, or heroin?**

Eighteen percent of Oregon YRBS participants ever used any other illegal drug, such as LSD, PCP, ecstasy, mushroom, speed, ice, or heroin without a doctor's prescription. There was no statistically significant difference by gender. As grade increased, the report of other drug use *significantly* increased. *Significantly* fewer African American students (10%) and Asian students (13%) ever used other illegal drugs. *Significantly* more American Indian students (27%) ever used other illegal drugs.

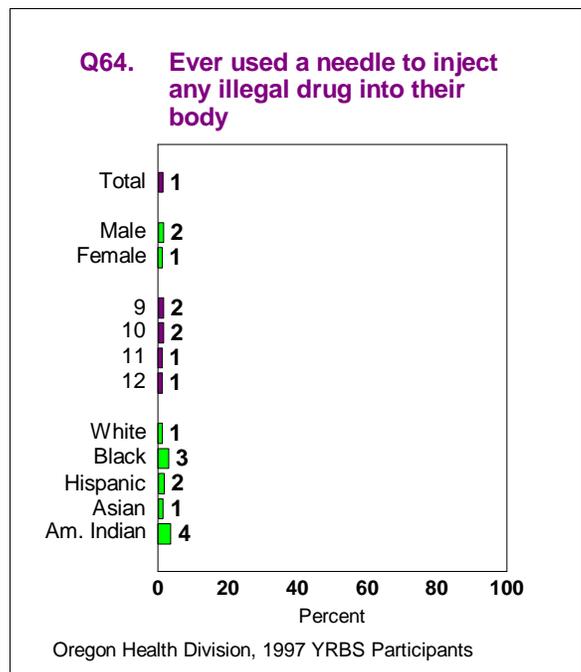
In 1995, 16 percent of students participating in the national YRBS reported using some other illegal drug.



**Q64. During your life, how many times have you used a needle to inject any illegal drug into your body?**

Overall, one percent of Oregon YRBS participants reported having ever injected an illegal drug. There was no statistically significant difference by gender. As grade level increased, the injection of an illegal drug *significantly* decreased. *Significantly* more American Indian students (4%) reported having injected illegal drugs. In this sample, 155 students reported ever injecting an illegal drug.

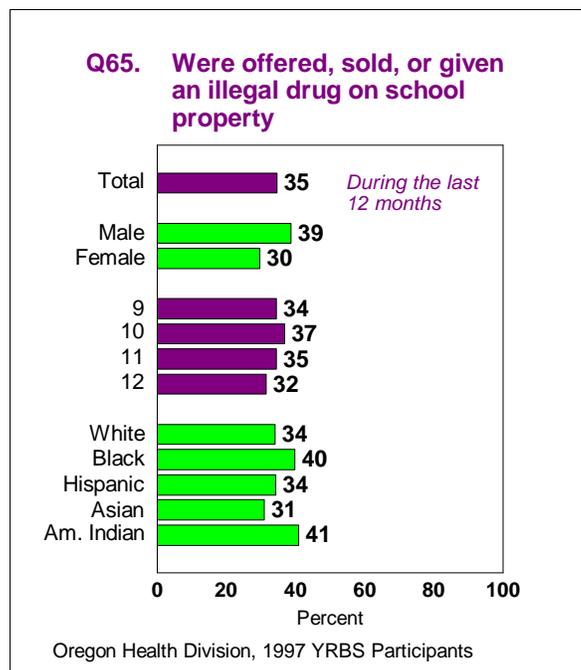
In 1995, two percent of students participating in the national YRBS reported injecting illegal drugs.



**Q65. During the past 12 months, has anyone offered, sold, or given you an illegal drug on school property?**

During the year prior to completing the YRBS, 35 percent of the participants had someone offer, sell, or give them an illegal drug on school property. *Significantly* more male students (39%) than female students (30%) were offered, given, or sold an illegal drug on school property. As grade increased, being offered drugs *significantly* decreased. *Significantly* more American Indian students (41%) were offered an illegal drug on school property.

In 1995, 32 percent of students participating in the national YRBS reported being offered, sold, or given illegal drugs on school property.



## WHAT OREGON STUDENTS WROTE

Many kids probably admitted to using drugs or alcohol, but I think that even though some kids may have a problem, a lot of others are just curious and experimenting. However, I have a younger sister and have been very concerned because it is obvious that every year kids are using drugs and getting into trouble at earlier ages.

Well I know my test has shown that I have used pot in the past. After taking a certain class in school, I have started exercising, stopped using drugs and eating meat. This teacher makes me feel like a winner all the time. I live where there is no violence. I am very lucky. Of all the states I have gone to school in I find Oregon (to be) the best because the teachers care. I am privileged to be able to go to school here.

At our school there are more drugs than most would expect. We live in a generally middle-class upscale suburb and our school is supposedly a good one, but most do not realize the risk behaviors that more and more students start practicing everyday. I myself am a drug user, a drinker, and I smoke cigarettes. I have tried to quit smoking, but I can't. I know I don't have to drink and I probably could do without using pot, too, but a lot of times that is my escape from this screwed up society. I know others feel that way, too. If I could go back a couple years, I wouldn't touch a cigarette, beer, or joint. I just wish those kids that are just beginning, like I did before, could see what I see -- reality.

I wish you would have added 'and never will' cause that's my philosophy of doing drugs and alcohol.

I don't use drugs or alcohol, but they are easily accessible at school. If I wanted them, I could get them within 10 minutes.

I think teens use drugs, alcohol and tobacco because they feel they have too much stress and no one to talk to!

I think that the school needs to stay by the bad kids. If the school doesn't help them no one else will. Their parents don't care, no one else cares. When the school gives up on them they just go out on the streets and do drugs. It makes the streets worse by not trying to be tough in the schools.

There's no longer a clique dubbed the "stoners" because everybody does it.

This survey is a good idea, but a lot of the kids who are having sex, skipping school and doing drugs and alcohol are the ones that didn't take the survey. If you're wondering about getting drugs, let me tell you how easy it is to get them around here. There's at least one person in every one of my eight classes that deals marijuana. And last year during finals, my cousin offered me speed. Half of my friends (who are just your average, everyday students) are interested in getting drunk and a few of them smoke.

I think its a good idea you're surveying us. You need to know what's going on and times are changing. I don't think your section on drugs was adequate, though. Kids my age smoke pot all the time. There's no longer a clique dubbed the "stoners" because everybody does it. We haven't got the inhibition or pressure from society to stay "clean" from drugs and sex that earlier generations had. Drugs and sex aren't bad anymore. They're more like party favors.

Even if my survey looks clean doesn't mean my school is.

Kids need to realize they are special, valuable and (need to) be accepted for who they are; not forced to do drugs, drink to feel accepted, have friends or be in the "in" group.

I think the programs at my school are very satisfactory, and I am very well educated on all subjects of this survey. Any risk behaviors that I choose to partake in are for my own reasons, not because I don't know the dangers and consequences. I am a straight A student [who] comes from a caring family.