

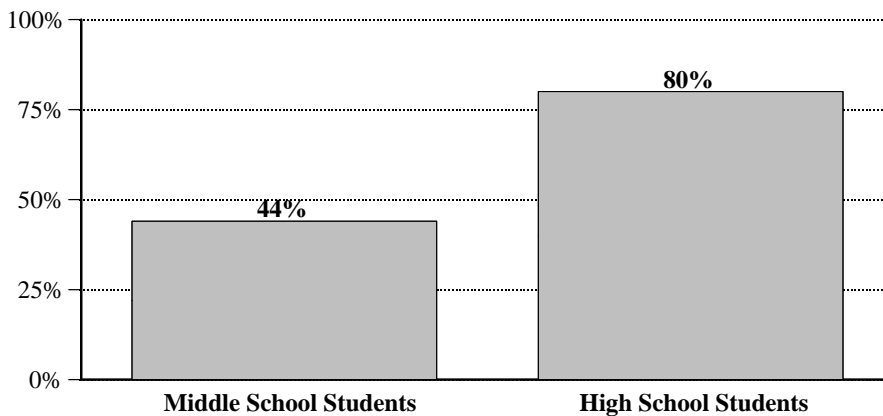
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

80% of High School and 44% of Middle School Students Report Drugs Are Used, Kept, or Sold at Their School

The majority of high school students report that they have personally witnessed drug-related activity at their school, according to a recent survey conducted by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA). Eighty percent of high school students and 44% of middle school students reported that they personally had witnessed one or more of the following on the grounds of their school: 1) illegal drugs used; 2) illegal drugs sold; 3) illegal drugs in the possession of students (either on them or in their lockers); 4) students high on drugs; 5) students who were drunk (see figure below). Furthermore, 31% of high school students and 9% of middle school students reported seeing such conduct at least once a week (data not shown). The authors suggest that “until we rid our children’s middle and high schools of drugs, we will never be able to achieve the improvements in academic achievements (and test scores) considered essential to maintain our global competitiveness” (p. iii).

Percentage of Middle and High School Students Reporting That They Had Witnessed One or More Drug-Related Activities on School Grounds, 2007



NOTE: Telephone interviews with 1,063 youths were conducted between April 2 and May 13, 2007, with a random sample of U.S. households who had a youth 12- to 17-years old living in the household.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, *National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse XII: Teens and Parents*, August 2007. Available online at <http://www.casacolumbia.org/supportcasa/item.asp?CID=12&PID=160>.

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