

Archived Information

Objective 1.3: Schools are strong, safe, disciplined, and drug-free.

Our Role. Through the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (SDFSCA), the Education Department supports programs to prevent violence in and around schools and strengthen programs that prevent the illegal use of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs. The SDFSCA State Grants Program provides funds to governors and state education agencies to support a broad range of drug and violence prevention strategies. Governors' program funds go to local grantees, mainly community groups and organizations, and the state education agency funds flow to school districts, primarily determined by using a formula based on enrollment. All states and more than 97 percent of school districts participate in the program. SDFSCA also has a National Programs component, a broad discretionary authority that funds programs to prevent drug use and violence, such as training, demonstrations, direct services to districts with severe drug and violence problems, information dissemination, and program evaluation. The Education Department also makes grants to postsecondary institutions to fund prevention programs on their campuses.

In FY 2000, the Education Department pursued various strategies to foster school safety and drug prevention, including efforts to identify, evaluate, and disseminate effective approaches; technical assistance to states and school districts; support for after-school programs; and the hiring of staff to assist schools with implementing effective programs. Together with the Department of Justice, the Education Department issued the *2000 Annual Report on School Safety* to encourage awareness of school safety issues and improvement of prevention efforts.

Our Performance

How We Measure. The Education Department is monitoring progress on this objective in terms of national trends in student drug and alcohol use, including in-school use, as well as national trends in student victimization and violent incidents in schools. Generally, the Education Department selected indicators from existing nationally representative data sets that could be used without incurring additional costs or imposing an additional data collection burden. "In-school drug use" has been selected as an indicator because it is most directly related to conditions that SDFSCA grant recipients are most likely to be able to change. The 30-day youth drug use indicator was selected because it aligns with a comparable indicator in the National Drug Control Strategy's Performance Measures of Effectiveness. Serious violent crime is included as an indicator because, although rare, these events are of great concern and have significant implications for public policy. Rates of fighting are included as an indicator as the best available proxy for school disorder and discipline problems. Generally, the list of indicators for the program has been streamlined over the past two years to focus on indicators with existing, nationally representative data sources.

Indicator 1.3.a. By 2000, the prevalence of past-month use of illicit drugs and alcohol among school-aged children will decrease by 20 percent as measured against the 1996 base year [Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) goal].

Assessment of Progress. The 2000 goal for past-month alcohol use was not met for 8th, 10th, or 12th graders. Rates of alcohol use for all grade levels have remained relatively steady for many years. This

indicator provides a national context for the school-based prevention efforts supported by the Education Department.

The 2000 goal for past-month illicit drug use was met for 8th graders; it was not met for 10th or 12th graders. In general, drug use rates have recently been relatively steady and may have leveled off. This indicator provides a national context for the school-based prevention efforts supported by the Education Department.

Figure 1.3.a.1

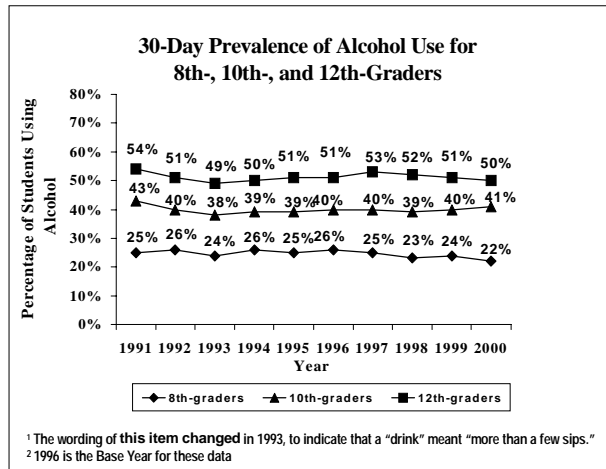
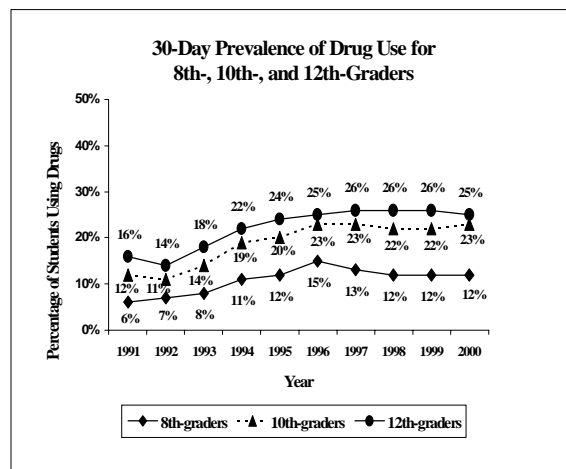


Figure 1.3.a.2



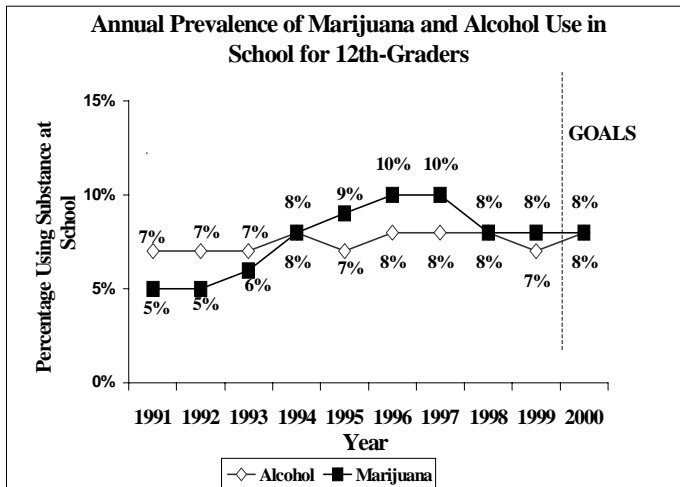
Source: Monitoring the Future (MTF), 2000. **Frequency:** Annual. **Next Update:** 2001. **Validation Procedure:** Data validated by University of Michigan Institute for Social Research and National Institute on Drug Abuse procedures. **Limitations of data and planned improvements:** According to NCES calculations, the total response rate for this survey has varied between 46 percent and 67 percent since 1976.

Indicator 1.3.b. In schools, rates of alcohol and drug use will begin to fall by 2001.

Assessment of Progress. The 2000 goal for reducing in-school drug use is likely to be met. The measure used for this indicator for in-school drug use is annual marijuana use by 12th graders. The 2000 goal for marijuana use in schools was eight percent. The 1999 goal was ten percent; the actual rate was eight percent, not only meeting the goal but also going beyond it. However, the data for 2000 are not available. Rates of drug use in schools parallel, but are much lower than, overall use rates (i.e., use in any location), and have remained relatively steady for years.

The 2000 goal for reducing in-school alcohol use is likely to be met. The measure used for this indicator for in-school alcohol use is annual use by 12th graders. The 2000 goal for alcohol use in schools was eight percent. The 1999 goal was also eight percent; the actual rate was seven percent, not only meeting the goal but going beyond it. However, the data for 2000 are not available. Rates of alcohol use in schools parallel, but are much lower than, overall use rates (i.e., use in any location), and have remained steady for years.

Figure 1.3.b.1

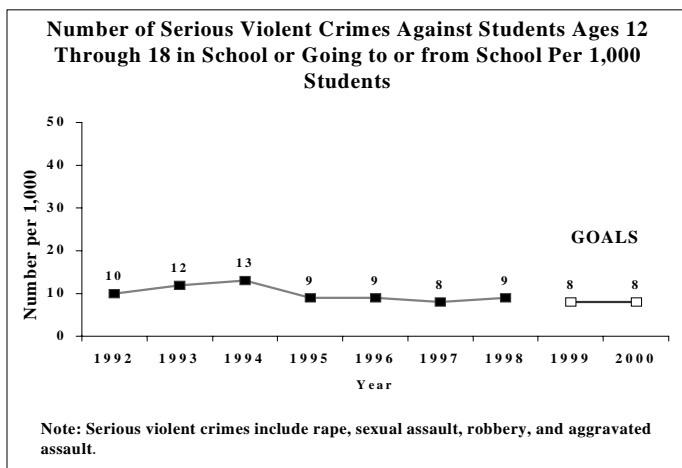


Source: *Monitoring the Future (MTF)*, 1999 (special analysis, 2000). *Frequency:* Annual. *Next Update:* 2000 (special analysis, 2001). **Validation procedure:** Data validated by University of Michigan Institute for Social Research and National Institute on Drug Abuse procedures. **Limitations of data and planned improvements:** Figure 1.3.b.1 shows annual use rates, which are not comparable with the 30-day rates shown in Figures 1.3.a.1 and 1.3.a.2. According to NCES calculations, the total response rate for this survey has varied between 46 percent and 67 percent since 1976. MTF does not publicly release its data on in-school use, so special runs must be requested. For grade 12 students, MTF has separate items for certain drugs, including marijuana, but no combined item asking about all drug use in school.

Indicator 1.3.c. The number of criminal and violent incidents in schools by students will continually decrease until 2001.

Assessment of Progress. Progress toward the goal is expected, since rates of violent crime victimization in schools have been steady following a marked decrease in the mid-1990s. The goal for 1998 was met. The measure used for this indicator is the annual rate of students age 12 to 18 who report experiencing serious violent crime, in school or going to or from school. The 1998 goal for this indicator was 8 per 1,000. According to 1998 data (released in 2000), this goal was met (the reported rate of 9 per 1,000 may appear to be an increase but an analysis of statistical significance shows that this does not represent a change from the 1997 rate of 8 per 1,000). The data for 2000 are not available. Rates of violent crime victimization at school, like other measures of juvenile crime and violence, have been dropping in recent years. Student-reported rates of victimization provide one measure of school safety; these rates may differ from incident reports provided by administration.

Figure 1.3.c.1

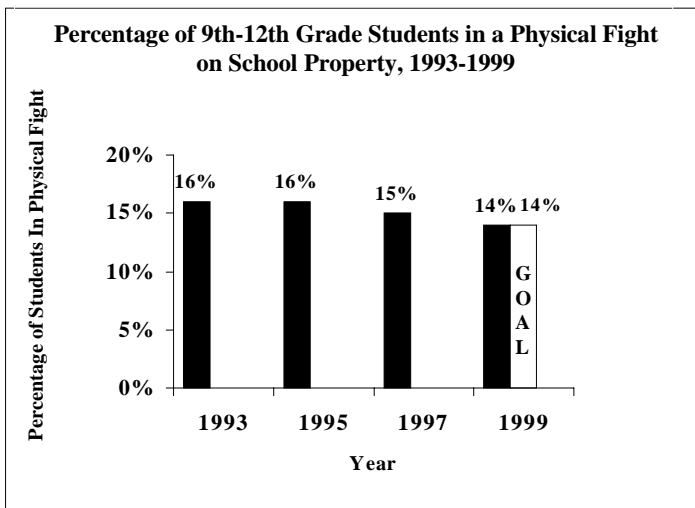


Source: *National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)*, 1998 (special analysis, 2000). *Frequency:* Annual. *Next Update:* 2001. **Validation procedure:** Data validated by Census Bureau and Bureau of Justice Statistics procedures. **Limitations of data and planned improvements:** Most NCVS data are reported the year after collection, but in-school victimization data is a special analysis with a delayed release, so the 1999 data will be available in 2001 and the 2000 data will be available in 2002.

Indicator 1.3.d. By 2001, the level of disorder in schools will decrease.

Assessment of Progress. Progress toward the goal is likely. The 1999 goal was met. The measure used for this indicator is the percentage of high school students who report being in a physical fight on school property. The 1999 goal for this indicator was 14 percent. The percentage of students reporting involvement in a fight at school has declined since 1995, and overall juvenile crime and violence rates are down, therefore, it seems likely that the percentage of students in a fight at school will remain steady or continue to decline. There are no 2000 data, as this is a biennial data collection.

Figure 1.3.d.1



Source: *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, (YRBS) 1999. Frequency: Biennial. Next Update: 2002.* **Validation procedure:** Data validated by Westat and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) procedures. **Limitations of data and planned improvements:** YRBS data are collected biennially and reported the year after collection; 2001 data will be reported in 2002.