

Illegal Drugs and Prescription Drug Abuse

Understanding what motivates youth to experiment with illegal substances and prescription drugs requires a comprehensive look at the physical, emotional and social environment in which an adolescent lives. Illegal drug use and prescription drug abuse can lead to unhealthy behaviors and negative consequences. Drug abuse may contribute to suicide, early unwanted pregnancy, school failure, delinquency and transmission of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV infection.²¹

- According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN), marijuana is the most frequently reported drug in emergency department visits related to drug abuse in youth aged 12 to 19.²²
- Students aged 12 to 17 with positive school experiences were less likely to have used alcohol or illicit drugs in the past year than students without these positive school experiences.²³
- According to the 2002 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, the percentages of youth engaging in delinquent behaviors rose as marijuana use increased.²³

HP 2010 Objectives:

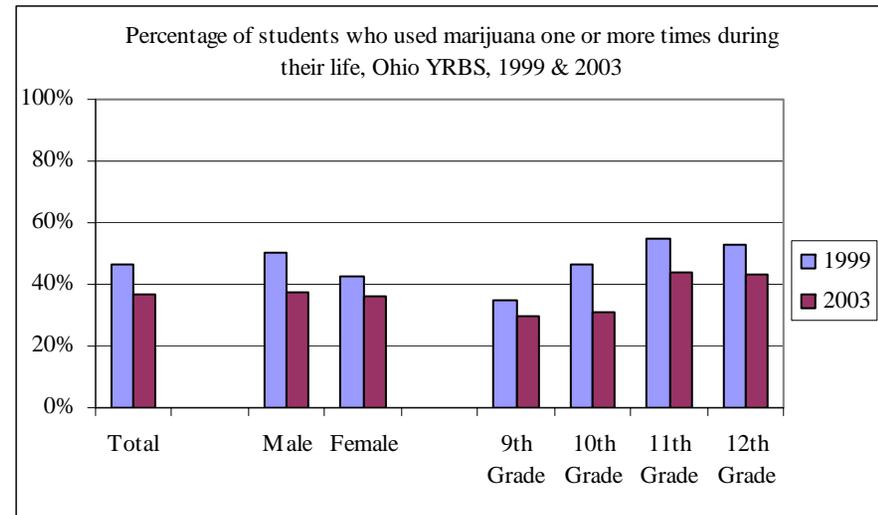
26-10a: Increase proportion of adolescents not using alcohol or any illicit drugs during the past 30 days to 89 percent.

26-10b: Reduce the proportion of adolescents who report use of marijuana during the past 30 days to no more than 0.7 percent.

- **Drugs: Marijuana**

Q50 During your life, how many times have you used marijuana?

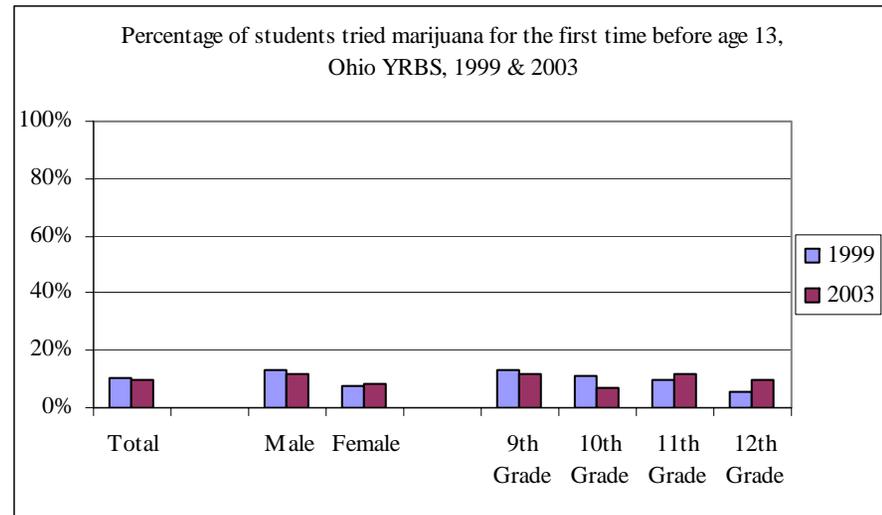
- **Most students have never used marijuana.**
 - In 2003, 37 percent of students report using marijuana one or more times during their life.
 - There are no significant differences in using marijuana between males and females or by grade level.
- **Significantly fewer students report using marijuana one or more times during their life in 2003 (37 percent) than in 1999 (47 percent).**
 - This difference is significant for males and 10th graders.



• **Drugs: Marijuana--Age at First Use**

Q51 How old were you when you tried marijuana for the first time?

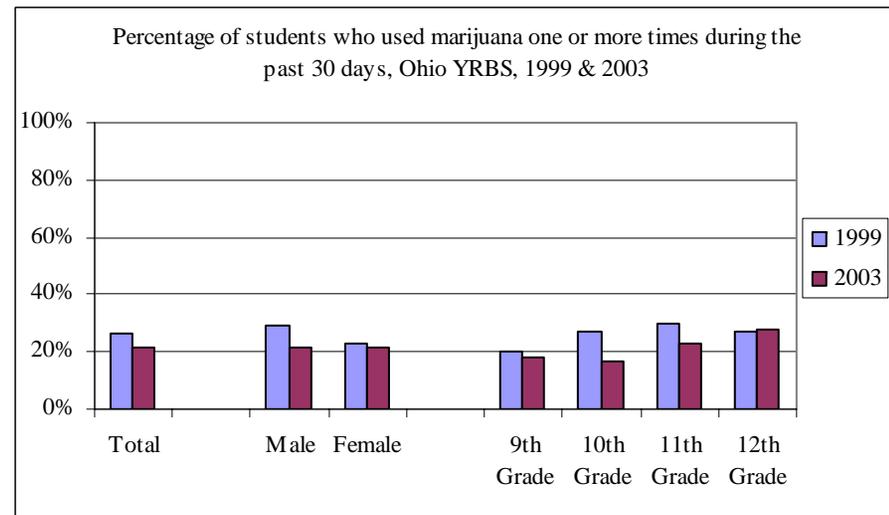
- **Most students do not try marijuana before age 13.**
 - In 2003, 10 percent of students report trying marijuana for the first time before age 13.
 - There are no significant differences in having tried marijuana before age 13 between males and females or by grade level.
- **There are no significant differences in having tried marijuana before age 13 between 1999 and 2003.**



- **Drugs: Marijuana--Use in Past Month**

Q52 During the past 30 days, how many times did you use marijuana?

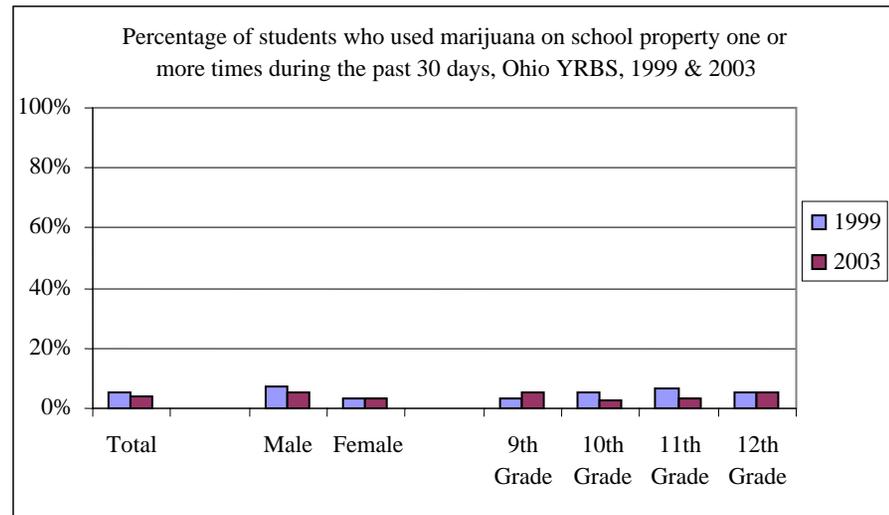
- **Most students have not used marijuana in the past 30 days.**
 - In 2003, 21 percent of students report having used marijuana one or more times during the past 30 days.
 - There are no significant differences in having used marijuana in the past 30 days between males and females or by grade level.
- **The difference in having used marijuana in the past 30 days is not significant overall between 1999 and 2003; however, the difference is significant for 10th graders.**



- **Drugs: Marijuana Use on School Property**

Q53 During the past 30 days, how many times did you use marijuana on school property?

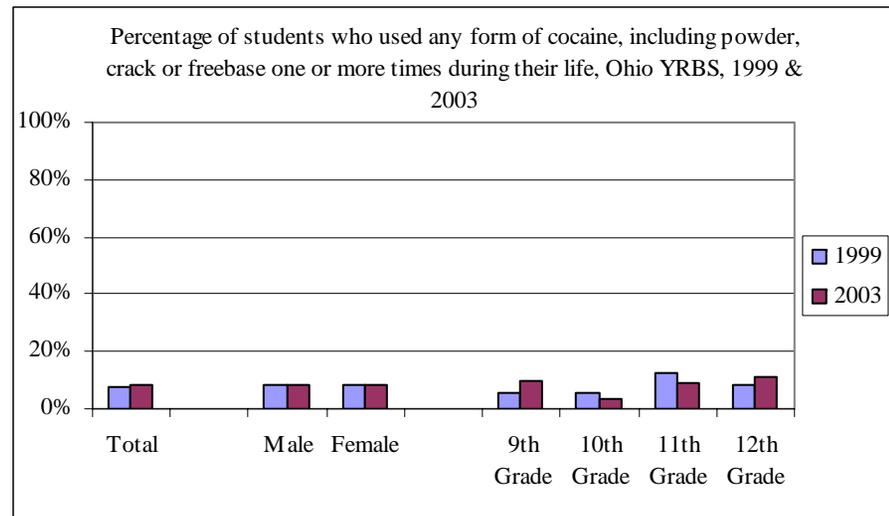
- **Most students do not use marijuana on school property.**
 - In 2003, 4.2 percent of students report using marijuana on school property one or more times during the past 30 days.
 - There are no significant differences in having used marijuana on school property between males and females or by grade level.
- **There are no significant differences in having used marijuana on school property between 1999 and 2003.**



• Drugs: Cocaine Use

Q54 During your life, how many times have you used any form of cocaine, including powder, crack or freebase?

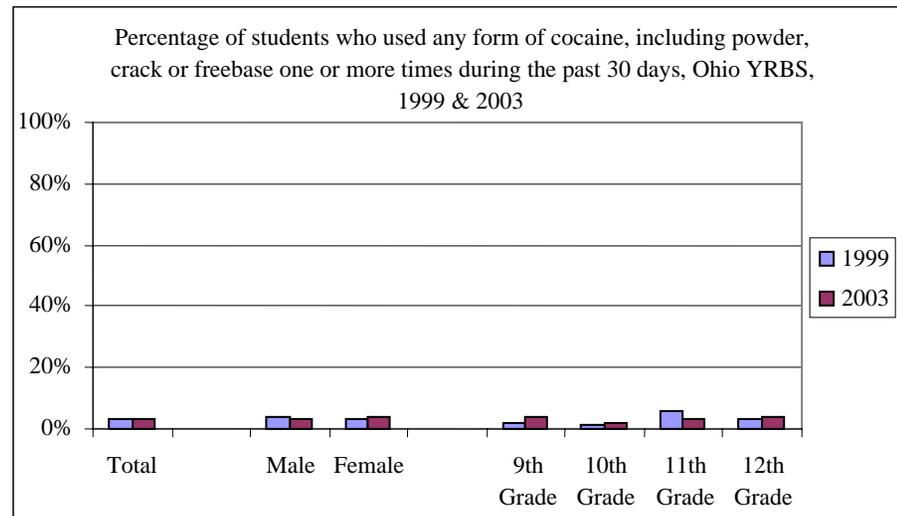
- **Most students do not use cocaine.**
 - In 2003, 8.4 percent of students report using any form of cocaine, including powder, crack or freebase one or more times during their life.
 - Significantly more 12th (11 percent) than 10th (3.6 percent) graders report having used cocaine. There are no significant differences in cocaine use between males and females.
- **There are no significant differences in cocaine use between 1999 and 2003.**



- **Drugs: Cocaine--Use in Past Month**

Q55 During the past 30 days, how many times did you use any form of cocaine, including powder, crack or freebase?

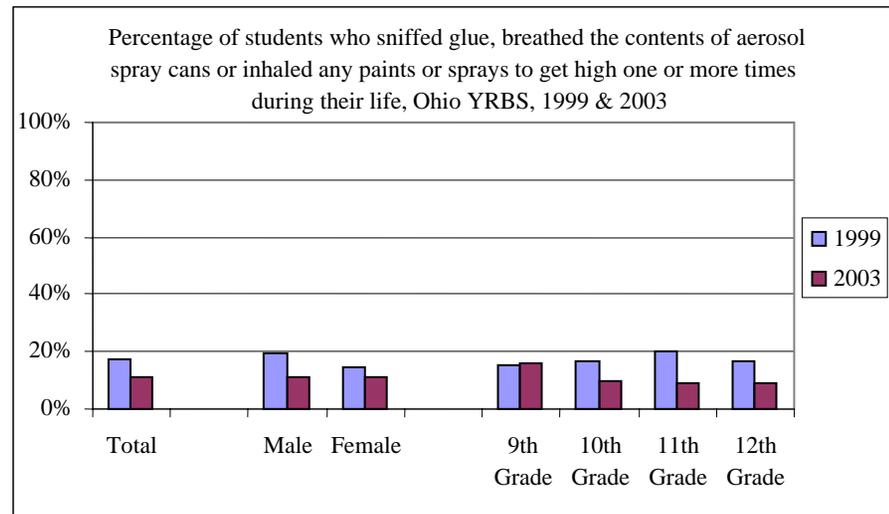
- **Most students have not used cocaine in the past 30 days.**
 - In 2003, 3.4 percent of students report using any form of cocaine, including powder, crack or freebase one or more times during the past 30 days.
 - There are no significant differences in having used cocaine in the past 30 days between males and females or by grade level.
- **There are no significant differences in cocaine usage in the past 30 days between 1999 and 2003.**



• Drugs: Inhalant Use

Q56 During your life, how many times have you sniffed glue, breathed the contents of aerosol spray cans or inhaled any paints or sprays to get high?

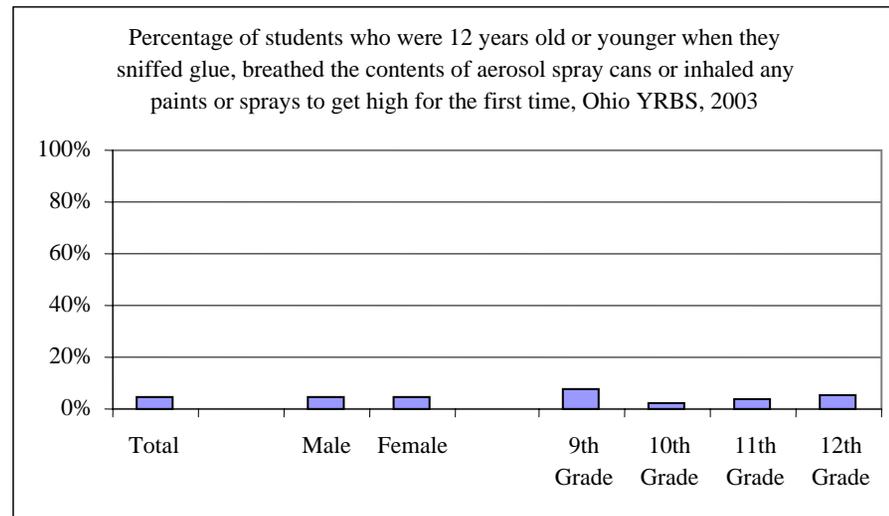
- **Most students do not use inhalants.**
 - In 2003, 11 percent of students report sniffing glue, breathing the contents of aerosol spray cans or inhaling any paints or sprays to get high one or more times during their life.
 - There are no significant differences in having ever used inhalants between males and females or by grade level.
- **Significantly fewer students report ever using inhalants in 2003 (11 percent) than in 1999 (17 percent).**
 - This difference is significant for males and 11th graders.



- **Drugs: Inhalants--Age at First Use**

Q57 How old were you when you sniffed glue, breathed the contents of aerosol spray cans or inhaled any paints or sprays to get high for the first time?

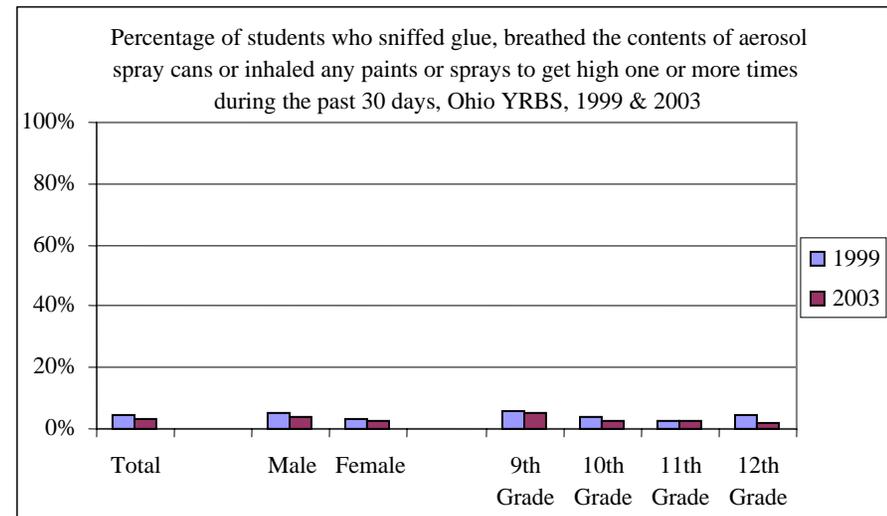
- **Few students use inhalants before age 13.**
 - In 2003, 5 percent of students report they were 12 years old or younger when they sniffed glue, breathed the contents of aerosol spray cans or inhaled any paints or sprays to get high for the first time.
 - There are no significant differences in having used inhalants before age 13 between males and females or by grade level.
- **This question was not asked in 1999.**



• Drugs: Inhalants--Use in Past Month

Q58 During the past 30 days, how many times have you sniffed glue, breathed the contents of aerosol spray cans or inhaled any paints or sprays to get high?

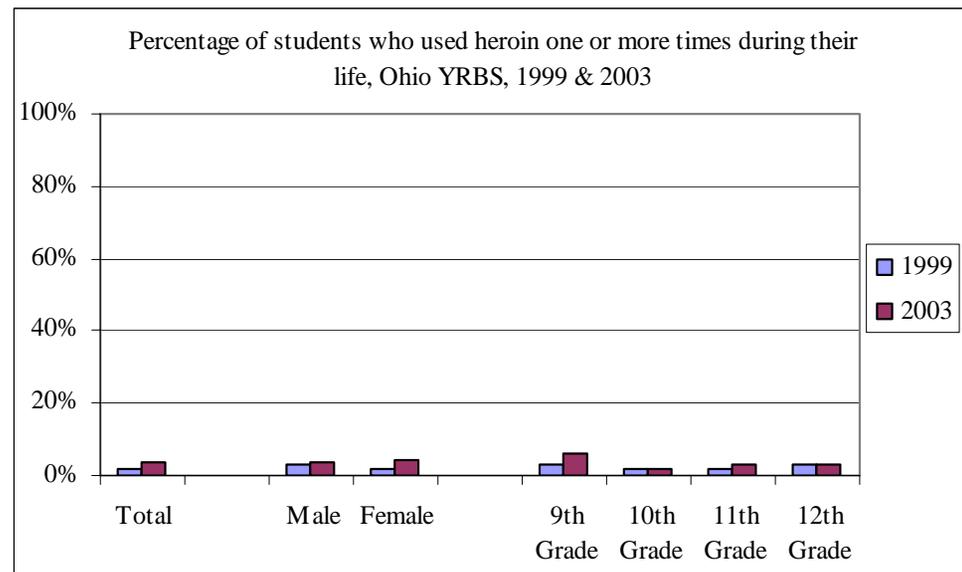
- **Most students have not used inhalants in the past 30 days.**
 - In 2003, 3.3 percent of students report sniffing glue, breathing the contents of aerosol spray cans or inhaling any paints or sprays to get high one or more times during the past 30 days.
 - There are no significant differences in having used inhalants in the past 30 days between males and females or by grade level.
- **There are no significant differences in having used inhalants in the past 30 days between 1999 and 2003.**



● **Drugs: Heroin Use**

Q59 During your life, how many times have you used heroin (also called smack, junk or China White)?

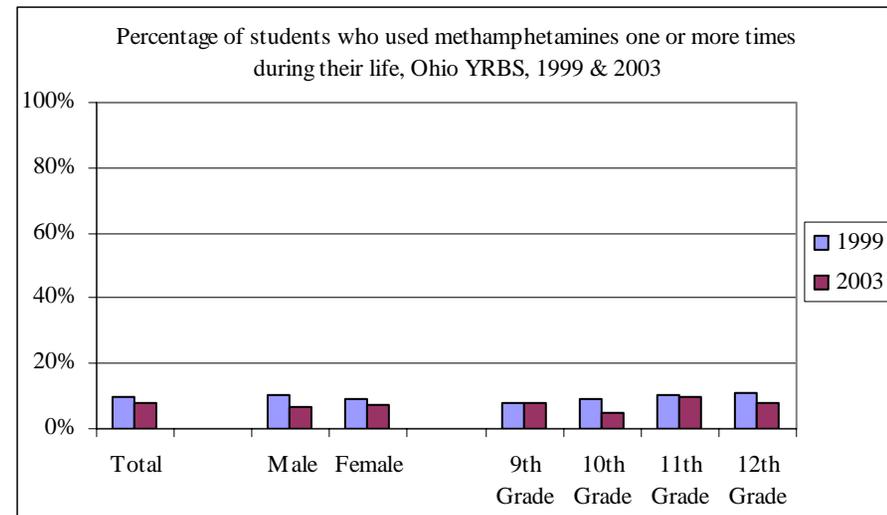
- **Most students do not use heroin.**
 - In 2003, 3.8 percent of students report using heroin one or more times during their life.
 - There are no significant differences in having ever used heroin between males and females or by grade level.
- **There are no significant differences in having ever used heroin between 1999 and 2003.**



- **Drugs: Methamphetamine Use**

Q60 During your life, how many times have you used methamphetamines (also called speed, crystal, crank or ice)?

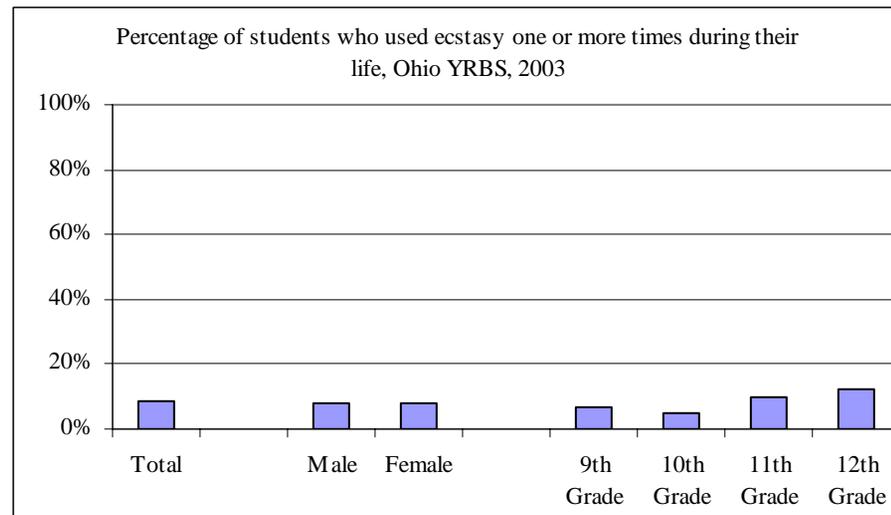
- **Most students do not use methamphetamines.**
 - In 2003, 8 percent of students report using methamphetamines one or more times during their life.
 - There are no significant differences in having ever used methamphetamines between males and females or by grade level.
- **There are no significant differences in having ever used methamphetamines between 1999 and 2003.**



- **Drugs: Ecstasy Use**

Q61 During your life, how many times have you used ecstasy (also called MDMA)?

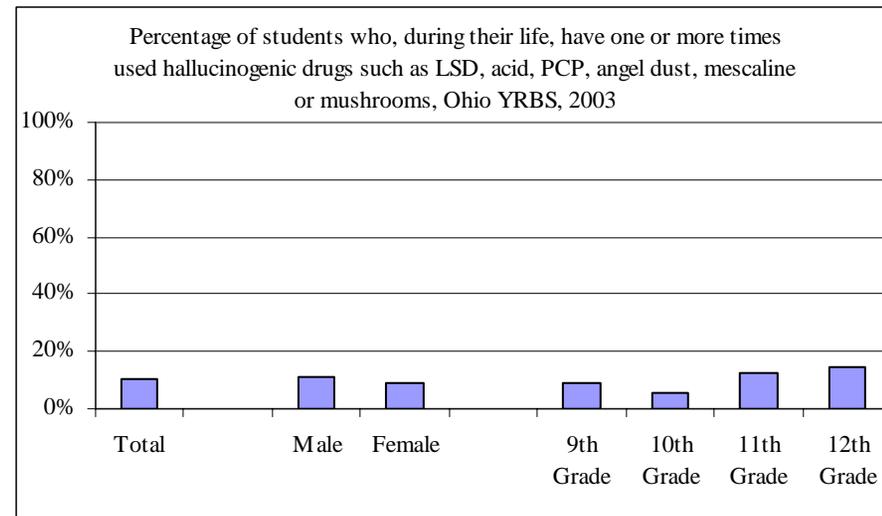
- **Most students do not use ecstasy.**
 - In 2003, 8.3 percent of students report using ecstasy one or more times during their life.
 - There are no significant differences in having ever used ecstasy between males and females or by grade level.
- **This question was not asked in 1999.**



- **Drugs: Hallucinogen Use**

Q62 During your life, how many times have you used hallucinogenic drugs such as LSD, acid, PCP, angel dust, mescaline or mushrooms?

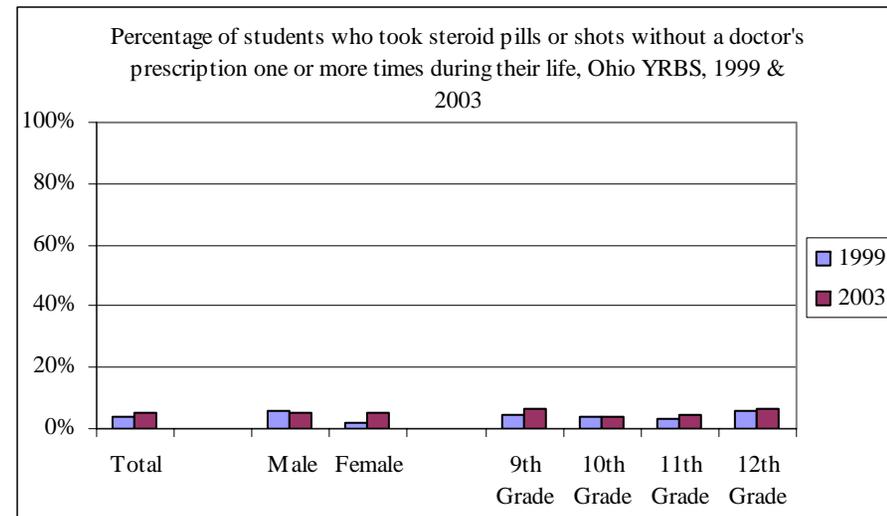
- **Most students have never used hallucinogenic drugs.**
 - In 2003, 8.3 percent of students report using hallucinogenic drugs such as LSD, acid, PCP, angel dust, mescaline or mushrooms one or more times during their life.
 - There are no significant differences in hallucinogenic drug use between males and females. Significantly more 11th (13 percent) than 10th (5.6 percent) graders report having used hallucinogens.
- **This question was not asked in 1999.**



- **Drugs: Steroid Use**

Q63 During your life, how many times have you taken steroid pills or shots without a doctor's prescription?

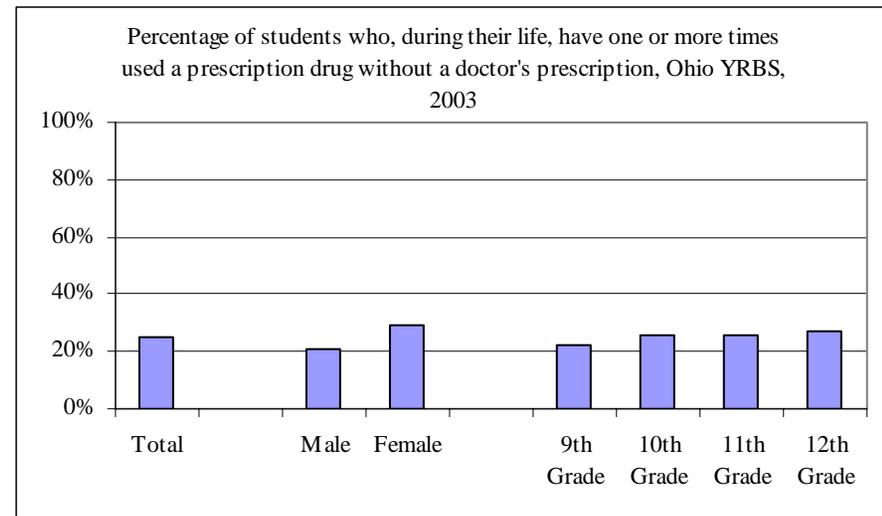
- **Most students have never taken steroids without a doctor's prescription.**
 - In 2003, 5.2 percent of students report taking steroid pills or shots without a doctor's prescription one or more times during their life.
 - There are no significant differences in steroid use between males and females or by grade level.
- **There are no significant differences in steroid use between 1999 and 2003.**



- **Drugs: Prescription Drug Use**

Q64 During your life, how many times have you used a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription?

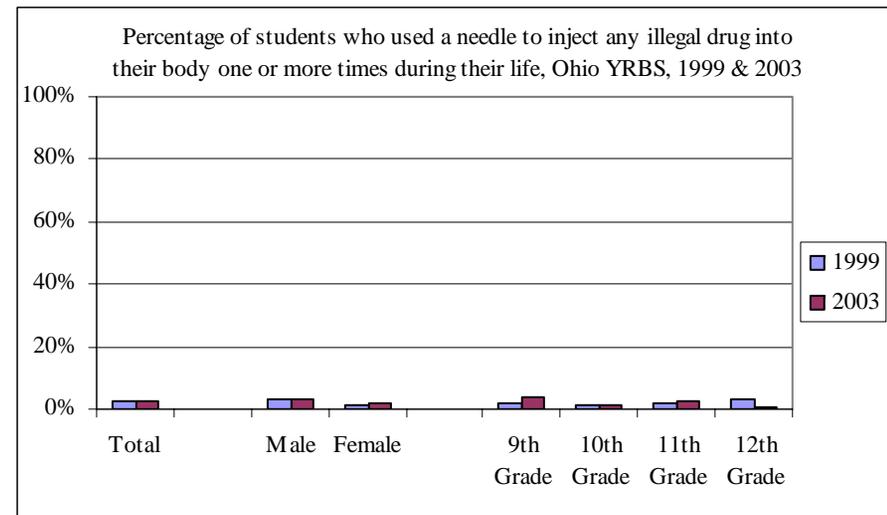
- **One-fourth of students have used a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription.**
 - In 2003, 25 percent of students report using a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription one or more times during their life.
 - There are no significant differences in using a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription between males and females or by grade level.
- **This question was not asked in 1999.**



• Drugs: Injected Drug Use

Q65 During your life, how many times have you used a needle to inject any illegal drug into your body?

- **Most students have never used a needle to inject illegal drugs.**
 - In 2003, 2.3 percent of students report using a needle to inject any illegal drug into their body one or more times during their life.
 - There are no significant differences in injectible illegal drug use between males and females or by grade level.
- **There are no significant differences in injectible illegal drug use between 1999 and 2003.**



• Drugs: Use On School Property

Q66 During the past 12 months, has anyone offered, sold or given you an illegal drug on school property?

- **Approximately one-third of students are being offered, sold or given illegal drugs on school property.**
 - In 2003, 31 percent of students report being offered, sold or given an illegal drug on school property by someone during the past 12 months.
 - Significantly more males (36 percent) than females (26 percent) report being offered drugs on school property. There are no significant differences in being offered drugs by grade level.
- **There are no significant differences in having ever been offered, sold or given illegal drugs on school property between 1999 and 2003.**

