

Record 94,684 Arkansas students take 2008 APNA Survey

The Office of Drug Abuse and Prevention recently released results of the Arkansas Prevention Needs Assessment (APNA) Student Survey for 2008 (http://www.arkansas.gov/dhs/dmhs/adap_survey.htm). The survey was administered to a record 94,684 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th grade Arkansas public school students in 219 school districts in 74 counties. Of the completed surveys, 85,130 were considered statistically valid and used in the published findings.

The 2008 APNA is the seventh consecutive year that data have been collected from Arkansas students and this year's survey represents the highest level of participation to date.

The 2008 survey included questions to elicit information on the frequency of use of a number of substances including alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, inhalants and sedatives. For the first time, the

2008 survey asked questions on the use of prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) drugs. Prescription drug use was described as "...taken prescription drugs (such as Valium, Xanax, Ritalin, Adderall, OxyCotin, Darvocet or sleeping pills) on your own—that is, without a doctor telling you take them."

OTC drugs were described as "...taken non-prescription medicines such as diet pills (for example, Dietac, Dexatrim or Prolamine), stay-awake pills (for example, No-Doz, Vivarin or Wake), or cough or cold medicines (robos, DXM, etc.) to get high?"

Arkansas 8th, 10th and 12th graders reported lower alcohol and marijuana use in the previous 30 days than did students nationally. For alcohol consumption, the greatest difference was in 12th grade rates, with 39.1% of Arkansas 12th graders reporting alcohol

use in the previous 30 days compared to 43.1% of 12th graders nationally. Marijuana use by Arkansas students was also significantly lower than national rates with percentage differences ranging from 1.9% for 8th graders to 4.8% for 12th graders.

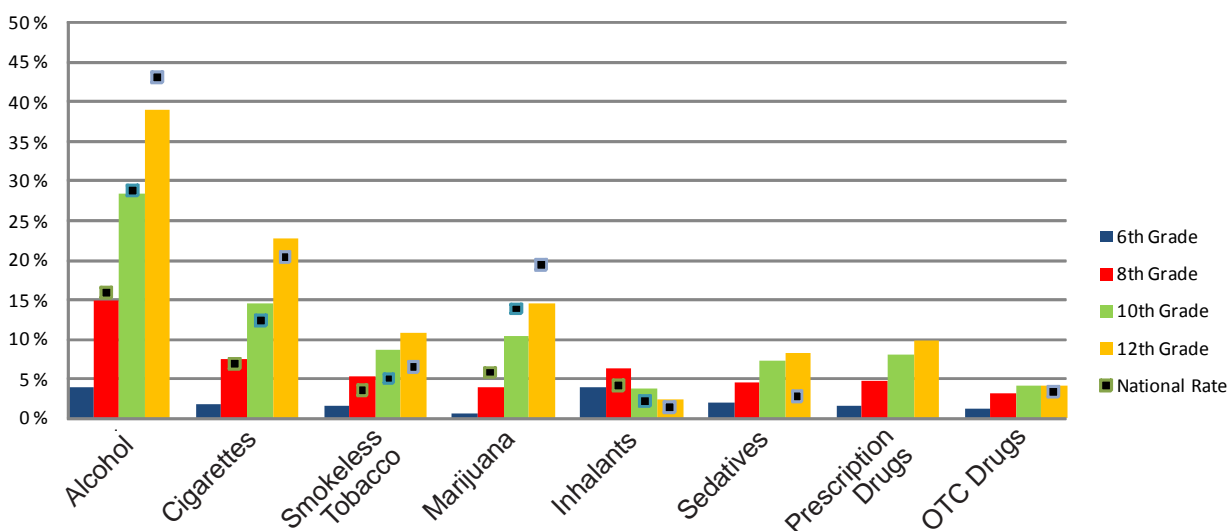
Arkansas 8th, 10th and 12th grade students reported higher use of cigarettes, smokeless tobacco and inhalants than did students nationally. The most significant differences occurred in the use of smokeless tobacco: 10.7% of Arkansas 12th graders, compared to only 6.5% of 12th graders nationally, reported using smokeless tobacco in the previous 30 days.

It is worthwhile to note that, while there are only comparative data for 12th grade sedative use, 8.3% of Arkansas 12th graders reported using sedatives, compared to only 2.8% of 12th graders nationally.

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