

Data from Arkansas Prevention Needs Assessment

Every year since 2002, the Arkansas Department of Human Services, Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, has conducted the Arkansas Prevention Needs Assessment (APNA) student survey. It is designed to gather information on:

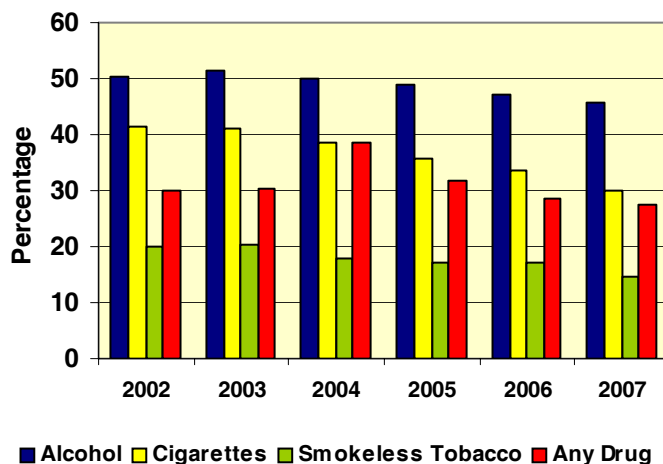
- Factors that place youth at risk for substance use and other problems
- Factors that offer them protection from problem behaviors
- Their current and lifetime use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs
- Their participation in various anti-social behaviors

The APNA is given to public school students in the 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades. School participation is optional, but a large number of school districts participate. In 2007, 208 school districts participated, administering surveys to 88,040 students. Some surveys are eliminated each year because they are completed by students in the 7th, 9th, or 11th grades, or they show signs of dishonesty.* The number of valid surveys in 2007 was 79,598. The two graphs provide a brief look at 30-day and lifetime alcohol, tobacco, and “any drug” use reported in the APNA. The survey shows decreases over time in use of alcohol, cigarettes, and smokeless tobacco.

Results from the APNA are compared to *Monitoring the Future*, a National Institute on Drug Abuse-supported survey conducted each year by the University of Michigan.

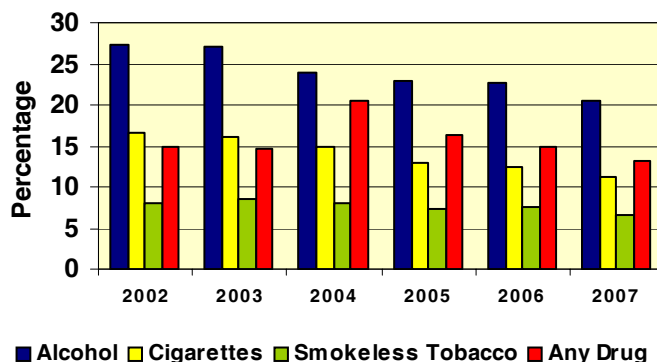
*Five validity checks are applied to the surveys, including survey questions on honesty and use of a non-existent drug, and responses indicating impossibly high levels of drug use, past-month rates of use higher than lifetime rates, and/or age inconsistent with grade or school.

Lifetime Alcohol, Tobacco, & Any Drug Use Reported by Arkansas 6th, 8th, 10th, & 12th Graders: 2002-2007



Note: There have been variations in the drugs included in the “Any Drug” category over time. Refer to the Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention website (see box at bottom).

Past 30-Day Use of Alcohol, Tobacco, & Any Drug Reported by Arkansas 6th, 8th, 10th, & 12th Graders: 2002 - 2007



Coming next issue:

Misuse of Prescription Painkillers

For APNA state, regional, county, and district reports, log on to the website of the Arkansas Department of Human Services, Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention:
http://www.arkansas.gov/dhs/dmhs/adap_survey.htm.