

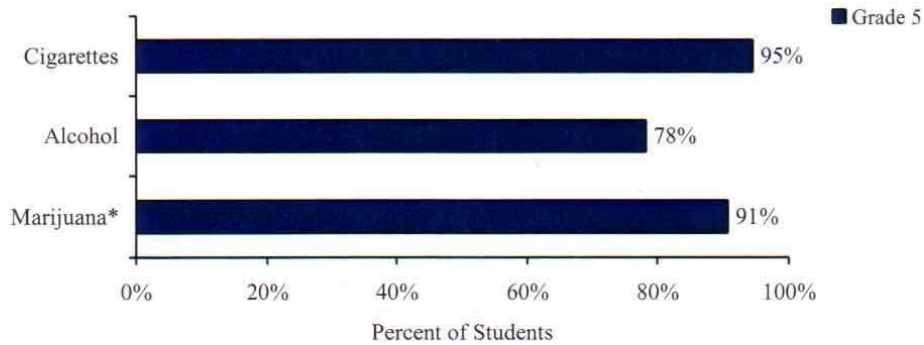
Alcohol and Drug Use at School

Special attention should be paid to the proportion of students who use alcohol or other drugs at school. (See Table 3.3 in the Technical Report.) This not only indicates a high degree of early drug involvement but also of estrangement from school. This behavior threatens the students' education and positive development.

Perceived Harm

Chart 2 provides the results for students who viewed using cigarettes, alcohol, and marijuana as bad for a person's health. The relationship of knowledge, attitudes, and behavior is complex. Attitudes toward drug use among elementary-age youth are generally very negative. Among secondary school students, state and national trend data indicate that perceptions of high harm or risk are associated with lower use rates over time. This indicates that realistically communicating drug hazards is an important strategy of a comprehensive prevention program, particularly if youth do not see regular drug use as harmful.

Chart 2. Perception that Use of Cigarettes, Alcohol, or Marijuana is Bad for a Person's Health



* Excludes students who answered "I don't know what marijuana is."