Report on Our Youth 2003-2004

Harrisonburg and Rockingham County

### A project supporting the Healthy Community Council's community assessment mission.

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> Data Collection Many dedicated volunteers

Surveys PRIDE Survey Harrisonburg/Rockingham Youth Risk Behavior Survey

We would also like to thank JMU and United Way of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County for its generous support of this project.

For additional copies of this report or information, contact The Office on Children and Youth, (540) 568-2558 or email, hubbeljx@jmu.edu January 28, 2004

### A Letter to the Community,

The Office on Children and Youth Commission is pleased to present the fourth annual edition of the Youth data Survey for Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. This report is collaboration between many community organizations including the Harrisonburg City and Rockingham County Schools, Eastern Mennonite High School, James Madison University, Rockingham Memorial Hospital and United Way. This presentation is in a graphic format and represents 4 separate survey administrations over the last 8 years. We conducted the Youth Data Survey during the 1996-1997, 1998-1999, 2000-2001, and 2003-2004 school year. The data has been drawn from the PRIDE and Harrisonburg/Rockingham YRBS surveys which were administered to over 1500 Harrisonburg and Rockingham County students in eighth, tenth and twelfth grade. In some cases we have altered the format from previous editions to standardize the statistical analysis of the data and to accommodate the addition of a new school (Eastern Mennonite High School) in the 2000-2001 to the data pool.

Having four rounds of survey data completed we now have enough data to begin to examine trends but we are hesitant to draw any conclusions until we have at least 5 rounds of data. We are still subject to short-term fluctuations in the data and should resist drawing too many conclusions concerning trends. With each graph we have provided explanatory information to help the reader know where the information has come from and to better understand the data. In some cases we have cross-tabulated the data to draw new conclusions.

On the first 4 pages we have summarized the survey data using the Search Institutes Asset Model of Youth Development. What you will see is how well the majority of our youth are doing in a variety of areas. Providing the data in two formats allows us to examine the needs of our youth while also celebrating the positive accomplishments they have achieved. This dual approach will also allow our community to build on existing programs that promote assets while examining the critical needs and developing initiatives to address them.

Our goal in issuing this report is three fold. First, our goal is to provide our community with current data around youth behaviors, examining needs and assets. Second, we want to build a base of longitudinal data to track the behavior of our youth that we can evaluate in light of new

programming. And third, we want to stimulate community discussions around our youth issues using quantitative as well as qualitative measurements. The Office on Children and Youth is committed to promoting positive youth development through collaboration and the coordinated examination of needs and assets in the Harrisonburg and Rockingham County community. We appreciate everyone's time and energy in making these 2003 data survey results possible.

Sincerely,

The Office on Children and Youth Commission

### Quick Facts on Our Youth, 2003-2004

### Who did we survey?

1574 Students 48.1% Female 51.9% Male Between the ages of 12 and 19

### Assets

- 88% Do not drink and drive
- 90% Never participate in gangs
- 74% Are active in school activities
- 67% Are active in community activities
- 69% Exercise 3 or more times a week
- 79% Never use illicit drugs
- 74% Never think about committing suicide
- 69% Are not trying to lose weight
- 84% Participate in faith-based activities
- 71% Are sexually abstinent
- 74% Talk to their parents about problems
- 75% Talk to their parents about drugs/alcohol
- 52% Think they are about the right weight
- 64% Never use tobacco
- 49% Never use alcohol
- 47% Always wear a seatbelt

### Risk Factors

### Sexual Activity

Of sexually active students(29% of total):

- 55% Use condoms
- 23% Use no method or withdrawal
- 19% Use birth control pills

### Alcohol Use

- 2% Daily 13% - Weekly
- 27% Monthly
- 51% Annually

### **Gang Activity**

- 2% Participate a lot
- 1% Often
- 3% Sometimes
- 4% Seldom

### **Tobacco Use**

- 10% Daily 18% - Weekly 23% - Monthly
- 36% Annually

### **Illicit Drug Use**

- 4% Daily 9% - Weekly 13% - Monthly
- 22% Annually

- 1% Vomit
- 1% Use pills
- 0.9% Both vomiting and pills

### Quick Facts on Our Eighth Graders, 2003-2004

### Who did we survey?

592 8<sup>th</sup> graders 49.5% of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade population 48.1% Female 51.9% Male 97.4% Ages 13 and 14

### Assets

- 89% Never participate in gangs
- 70% Are active in school activities
- 68% Are active in community activities
- 76% Exercise 3 or more times a week
- 88% Never use illicit drugs
- 78% Never think about committing suicide
- 70% Are not trying to lose weight
- 86% Participate in faith-based activities
- 93% Are sexually abstinent
- 76% Talk to their parents about problems
- 80% Talk to their parents about drugs/alcohol
- 55% Think they are about the right weight
- 80% Never use tobacco
- 69% Never use alcohol
- 43% Always wear a seatbelt

### Risk Factors Sexual Activity

Of sexually active 8<sup>th</sup> graders(7% of total):

- 66% Use condoms
- 21% Use no method or withdrawal
- 14% Use birth control pills

### Alcohol Use

- 1% Daily
- 5% Weekly
- 11% Monthly
- 31% Annually

### **Gang Activity**

- 2% Participate a lot
- 1% Often
- 3% Sometimes
- 5% Seldom

### Tobacco Use

- 3% Daily
- 8% Weekly
- 11% Monthly
- 20% Annually

### **Illicit Drug Use**

- 1% Daily 4% - Weekly
- 7% Monthly
- 12% Annually

- 0% Vomit
- 0.8% Use pills
- 0.5% Both vomiting and pills

### Quick Facts on Our Tenth Graders, 2003-2004

### Who did we survey?

520 10<sup>th</sup> graders 42.3% of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade population 46.2% Female 53.8% Male 97.8% Ages 15 and 16

### Assets

- 91% Do not drink and drive
- 90% Never participate in gangs
- 68% Are active in school activities
- 61% Are active in community activities
- 69% Exercise 3 or more times a week
- 77% Never use illicit drugs
- 70% Never think about committing suicide
- 70% Are not trying to lose weight
- 84% Participate in faith-based activities
- 70% Are sexually abstinent
- 73% Talk to their parents about problems
- 75% Talk to their parents about drugs/alcohol
- 49% Think they are about the right weight
- 59% Never use tobacco
- 42% Never use alcohol
- 44% Always wear a seatbelt

### Risk Factors Sexual Activity

Of sexually active 10<sup>th</sup> graders(30% of total): 57% - Use condoms 26% - Use no method or withdrawal

15% - Use birth control pills

### Alcohol Use

- 3% Daily 15% - Weekly
- 32% Monthly
- 59% Annually

### **Gang Activity**

- 2% Participate a lot
- 2% Often
- 2% Sometimes
- 4% Seldom

### **Tobacco Use**

14% - Daily 21% - Weekly 26% - Monthly 41% - Annually

### Illicit Drug Use

5% - Daily 11% - Weekly 15% - Monthly 23% - Annually

- 1% Vomit
- 2% Use pills
- 1% Both vomiting and pills

### Quick Facts on Our Twelfth Graders, 2003-2004

### Who did we survey?

486 12<sup>th</sup> graders 48.4% of the 12<sup>th</sup> grade population 50.1% Female 49.9% Male 98.9% Ages 16-18

### Assets

- 74% Do not drink and drive
- 91% Never participate in gangs
- 85% Are active in school activities
- 73% Are active in community activities
- 58% Exercise 3 or more times a week
- 69% Never use illicit drugs
- 71% Never think about committing suicide
- 66% Are not trying to lose weight
- 81% Participate in faith-based activities
- 55% Are sexually abstinent
- 72% Talk to their parents about problems
- 71% Talk to their parents about drugs/alcohol
- 54% Think they are about the right weight
- 50% Never use tobacco
- 32% Never use alcohol
- 56% Always wear a seatbelt

### Risk Factors Sexual Activity

Of sexually active 12<sup>th</sup> graders(45% of total):

- 53% Use condoms
- 20% Use no method or withdrawal
- 22% Use birth control pills

### Alcohol Use

- 3% Daily
- 22% Weekly
- 41% Monthly
- 68% Annually

### **Gang Activity**

- 3% Participate a lot
- 1% Often
- 2% Sometimes
- 3% Seldom

### **Tobacco Use**

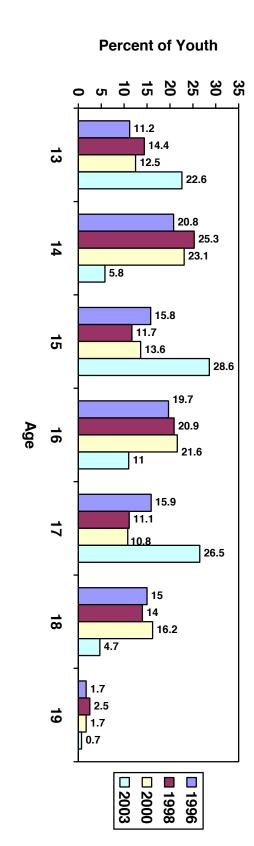
16% - Daily 27% - Weekly 34% - Monthly 50% - Annually

### Illicit Drug Use

- 6% Daily 14% - Weekly 20% - Monthly
- 31% Annually

- 1% Vomit
- 3% Use pills
- 0.7% Both vomiting and pills

Demographics Youth by Age



Source: Harrisonburg/Rockingham County Youth Survey

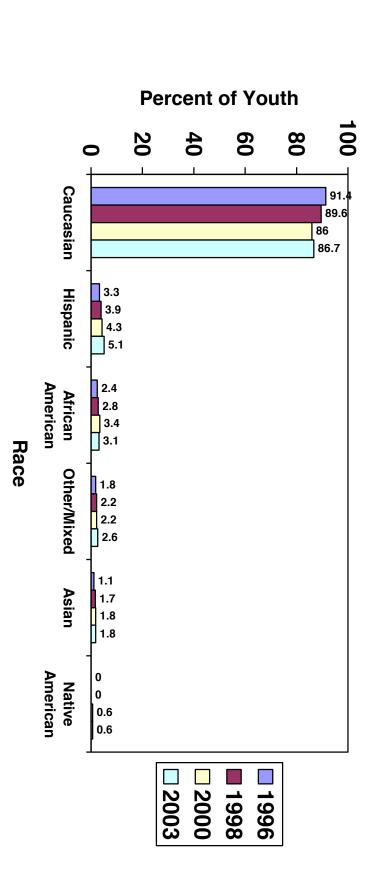
### What the numbers and other information told us:

Rockingham County schools in 2003. Surveys were completed by a random sample of 592 8th graders, 520 10th graders, and 486 12th graders in Harrisonburg city and

1574 youth were surveyed in 2003, an increase from 1400 youth in 2000.

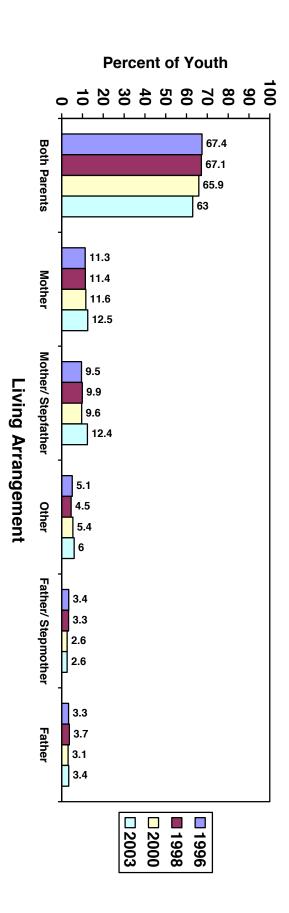
72.3% of youth surveyed were between the ages of 14 and 17

Source: Harrisonburg/Rockingham County Youth Survey



Demographics Youth by Race





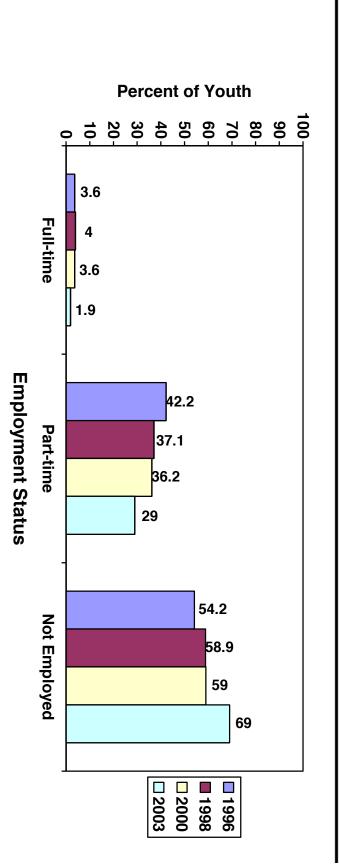
Source: Harrisonburg/Rockingham County Youth Survey

## What the numbers and other information told us:

The number of youth living with both parents has dropped over the years from nearly 7 out of 10 to now close to 6 out of 10.

The number of youth living with both parents is showing a downward trend, while youth living with one parent is slightly increasing

Youth who report living with one parent are more likely to live with their mother.



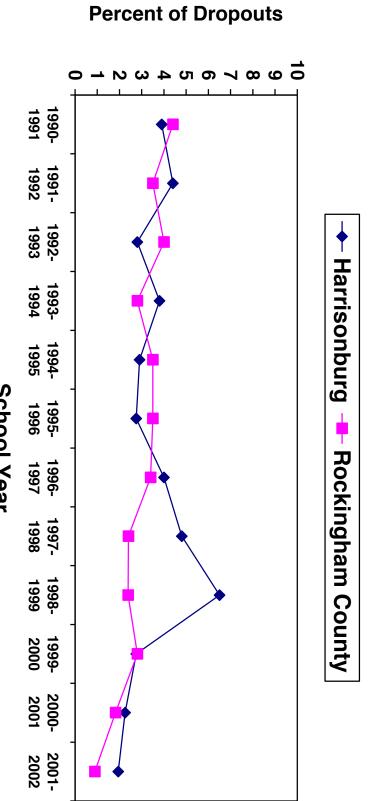
Demographics Youth Employment Status

Source: PRIDE Survey

### What the numbers and other information told us:

The majority of youth are not employed (69%).

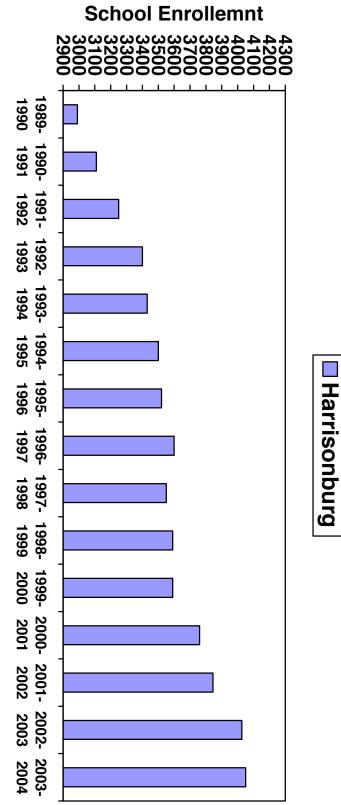
30.9% of youth are employed, a decrease from 2000~(39.8%)



School Dropouts Totals for Harrisonburg and Rockingham County

Education

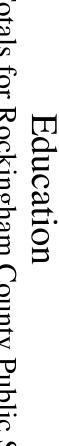
**School Year** 



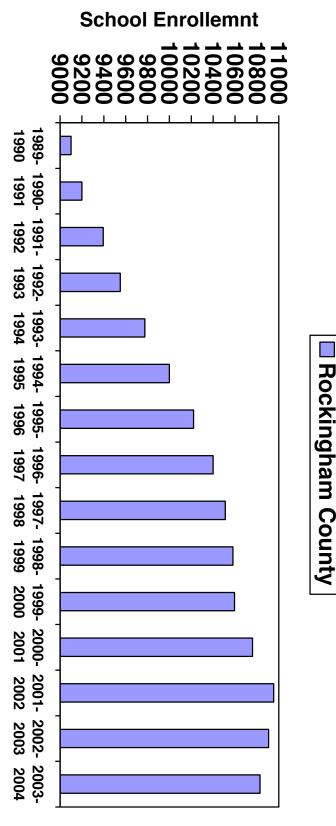
**Enrollment Totals for Harrisonburg Public Schools** 

Education

**School Year** 

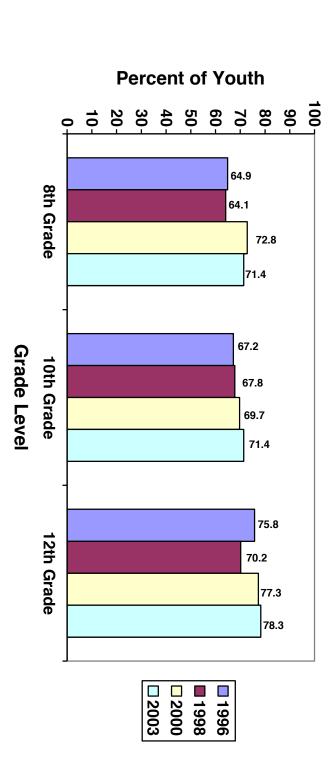


# **Enrollment Totals for Rockingham County Public Schools**



School Year



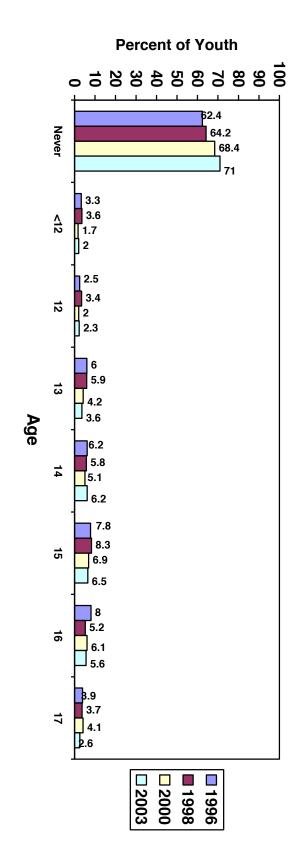


Source: PRIDE Survey

What the numbers and other information told us:

73.5% of youth report making good grades often or a lot, an increase from 2000 (72.9%).





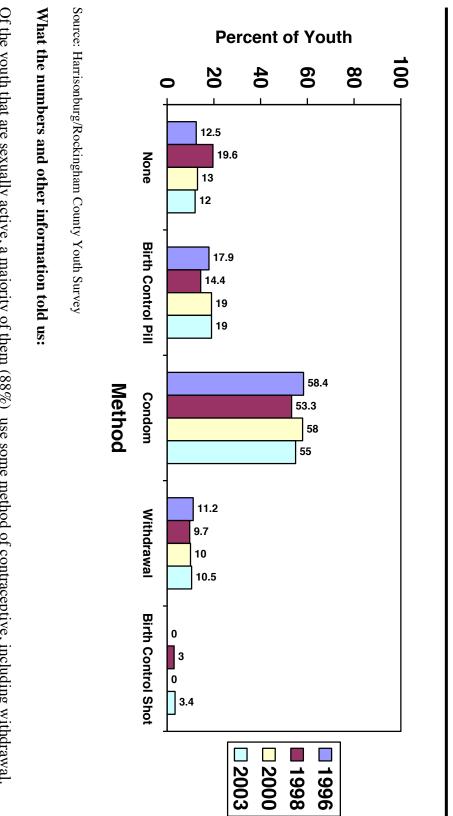
Source: Harrisonburg/Rockingham County Youth Survey

### What the numbers and other information told us:

The number of youth staying abstinent has increased steadily over the years from 62.4% to 71%

1 out of 5 youth (19.9%) are sexually active by age 15, and more than 1 out of 4 (26.1%) by age 16.

63% of sexually active youth, report their first time to be between the ages of 14 and 16



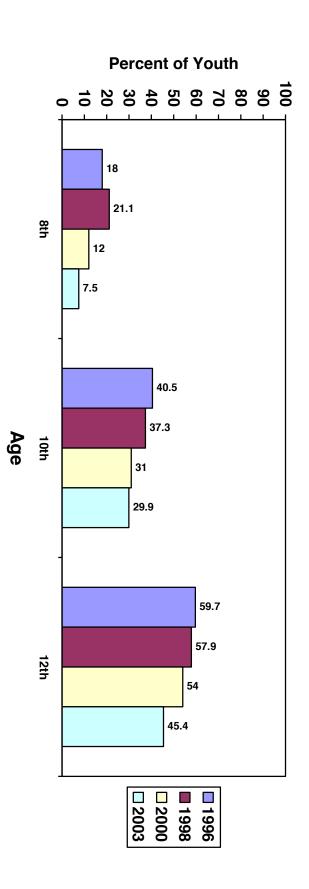
Choice of Contraceptive Method

Sexuality

Of the youth that are sexually active, a majority of them (88%) use some method of contraceptive, including withdrawal.

The youth who do use contraceptives are most likely to use condoms.





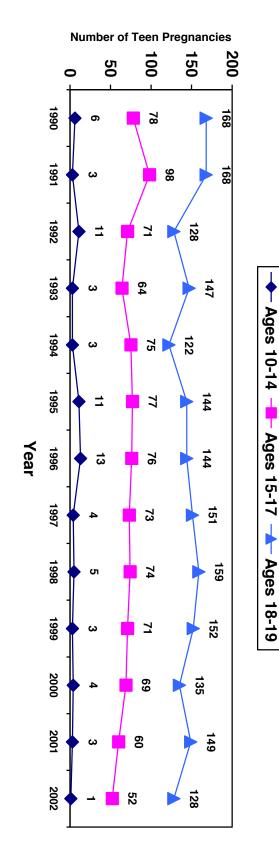
Source: Harrisonburg/Rockingham County Youth Survey

## What the numbers and other information told us:

The percentage of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who are sexually active has decreased by more than half since 1998.

Of the sexually active students, a majority of them are in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade.



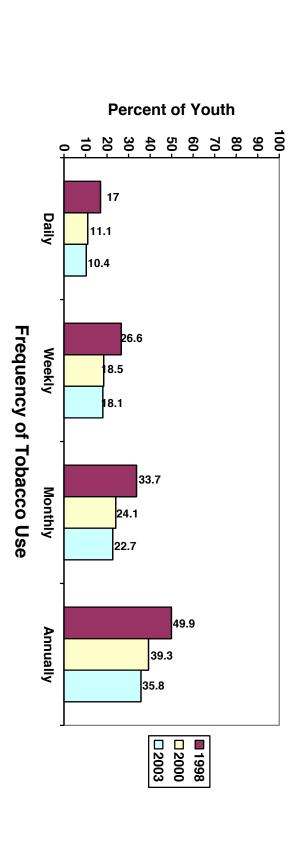


Source: Virginia Center for Health Statistics

### What the numbers and other information told us:

- The number of older teen pregnancies (ages 18-19) declined overall from 1990-2002, reaching its lowest in 1994
- The number of younger teen pregnancies (ages 15-17 and ages 10-14) has decreased by 25% since 2000.
- The number of induced terminations has decreased by 35.5% since 2000.
- than the State of Virginia (15.1%). In 2002 the induced termination rate (per 1,000 females) for Rockingham County (4.8%), and for Harrisonburg (6.6%) was less





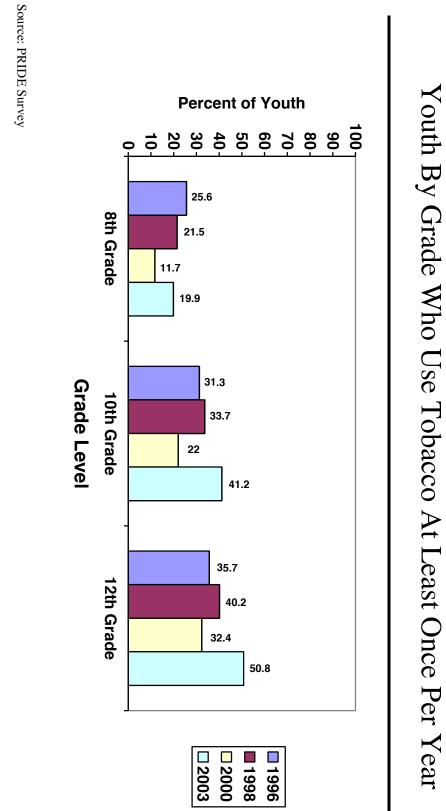
Source: PRIDE Survey

## What the numbers and other information told us:

64.3% of youth have not used any tobacco products in the last year.

Over half of our youth (65.5%) have reported never smoking cigarettes.

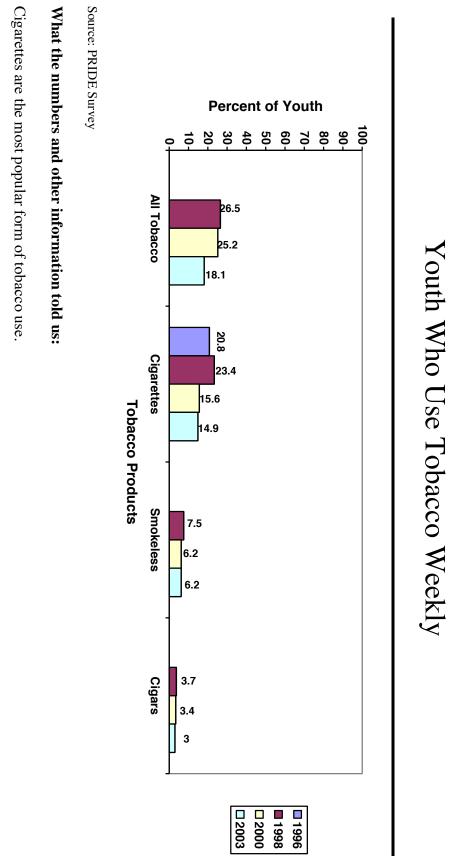
22.5% of our youth smoked their first cigarette by age 13.



Tobacco Use

### What the numbers and other information told us:

As youth get older, they are more likely to use tobacco products.

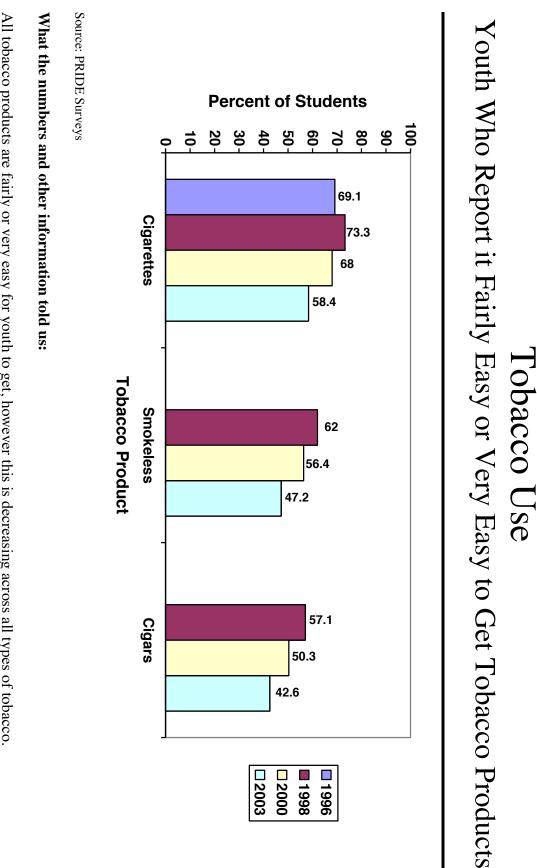


Tobacco Use

on week nights. Most youth use tobacco products on the weekends, except those who smoke cigarettes which they smoke frequently after school and

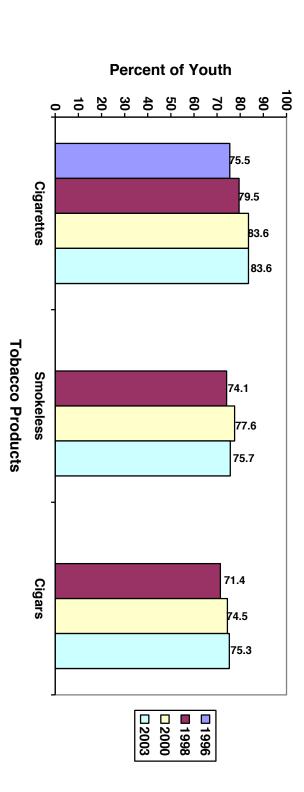
2.4% of youth report using tobacco during school.

There is no 1996 data for smokeless tobacco or cigars because these were new items on the 1998 PRIDE survey.



There is no 1996 data for smokeless tobacco or cigars because these were new items on the 1998 PRIDE survey. All tobacco products are fairly or very easy for youth to get, however this is decreasing across all types of tobacco.





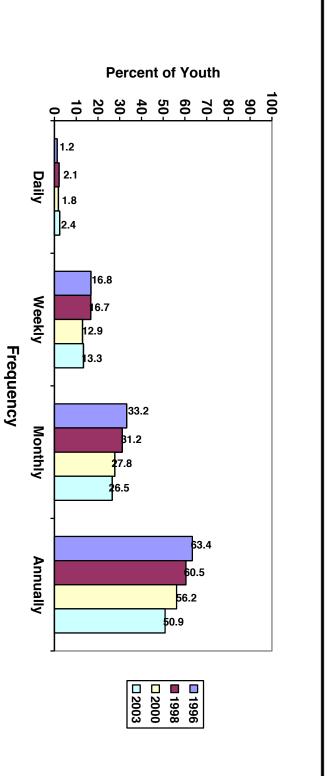
Source: PRIDE Survey

### What the numbers and other information told us:

The majority of youth report that tobacco products are harmful or very harmful to your health

3.3% of youth in 2003 report that there is no harm in smoking cigarettes, an increase from 2000 (2.8%).

There is no 1996 data for smokeless tobacco or cigars because these were new items on the 1998 PRIDE survey.



Alcohol Use Cumulative Frequency of Alcohol Use

Source: PRIDE Survey

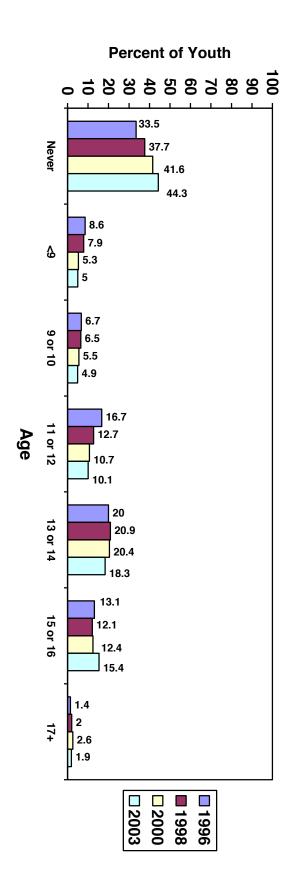
### What the numbers and other information told us:

Annually, more students drank beer (42.1%) than wine coolers (37.2%) and liquor (36.3%).

The majority of youth use alcohol on the weekends (41.7%).

30.5% of youth use alcohol when at a friend's house.





Source: Harrisonburg/Rockingham County Youth Survey

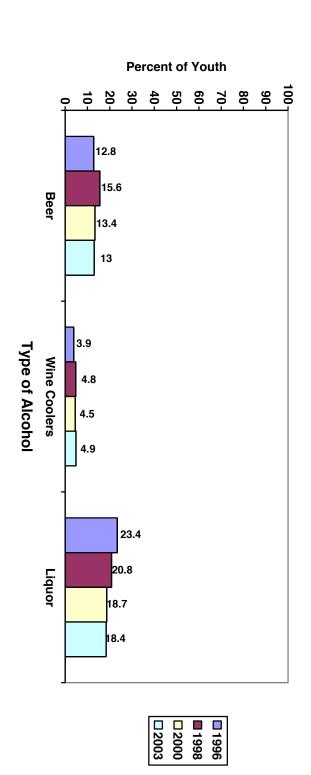
### What the numbers and other information told us:

More youth are abstaining with 44.3% never having tried alcohol, an increase from the past years.

65.6% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders abstain from alcohol, 40.7% of  $10^{th}$  graders, and 30.7% of  $12^{th}$  graders.

Many of our youth, 43.8% tried alcohol for the first time between the ages of 11 and 16



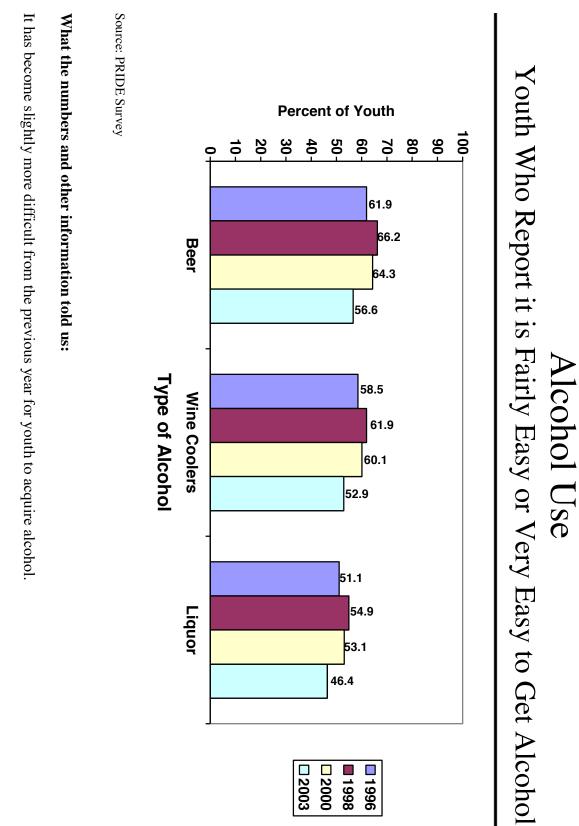


Source: PRIDE Survey

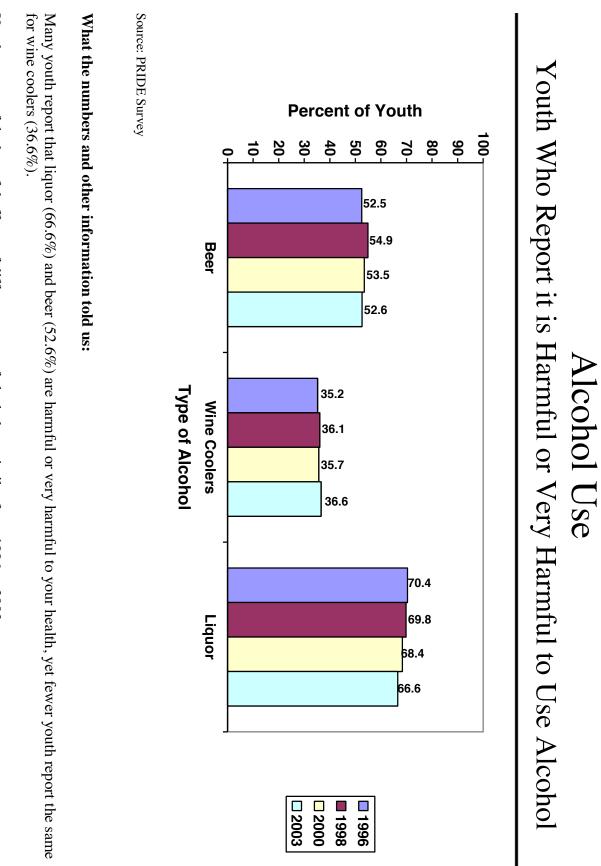
### What the numbers and other information told us:

(4.9%).When youth drink liquor, they are more likely to get bombed or very high (18.4%) than when drinking beer (13%) or wine coolers

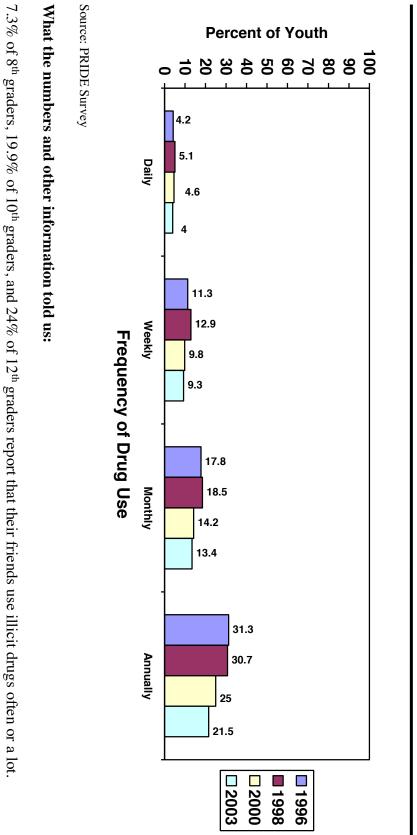
There was little change in percent of youth who got bombed or very high when drinking alcohol between 2003 and 2000



Beer is the easiest alcoholic beverage for youth to get (56.6%) over wine coolers (52.9%) and liquor (46.4%).



Youth reports of the harmful effects of different types of alcohol are similar from 1996 to 2003.



Cumulative Frequency of Illicit Drug Use

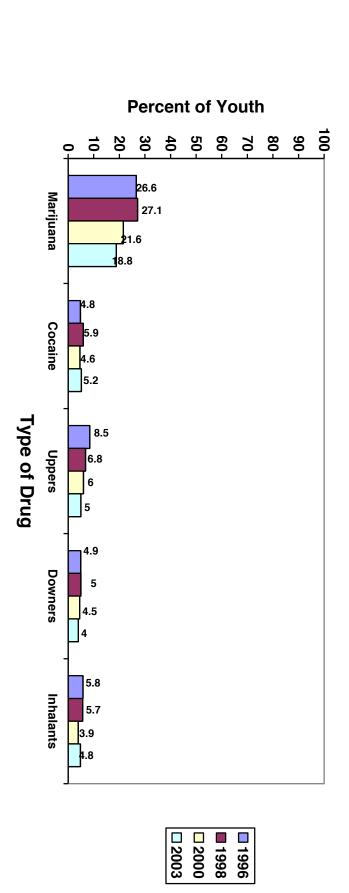
Drug Use

7.3% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 19.9% of 10<sup>th</sup> graders, and 24% of 12<sup>th</sup> graders report that their friends use illicit drugs often or a lot.

Youth who use drugs the most often do so on weekends, followed by week nights.

Few youth (2.5%) report using drugs during school hours.



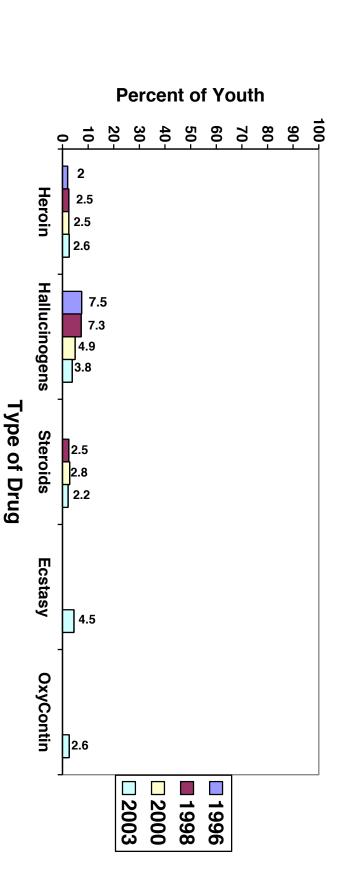


Source: PRIDE Survey

### What the numbers and other information told us:

marijuana tried cocaine. 21.3% of high school students who used marijuana in the past year also used cocaine, while only 0.3% of the students who did not use



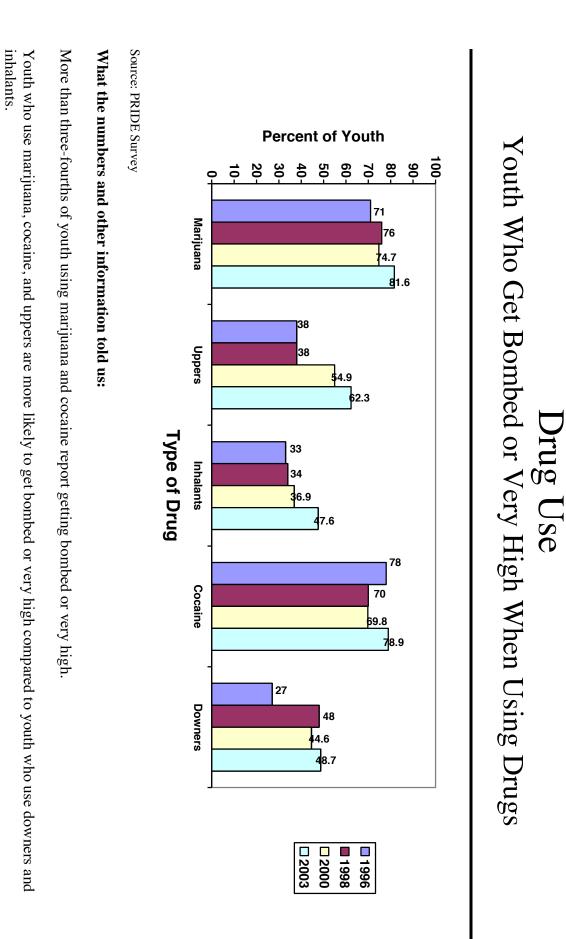


Source: PRIDE Survey

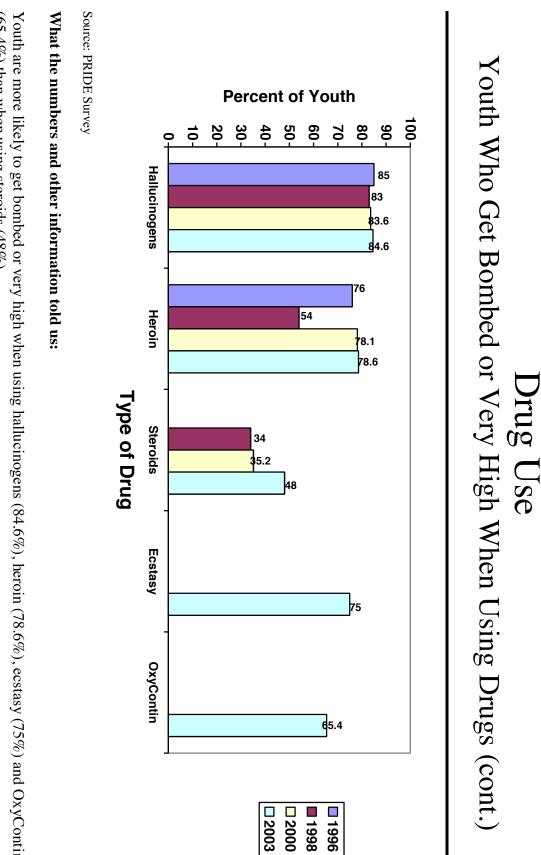
### What the numbers and other information told us:

Steroids represent a new question on the 1998 PRIDE survey, therefore there is no 1996 data.

Ecstasy and OxyContin represent new questions on the 2003 survey, therefore there is no previous data.



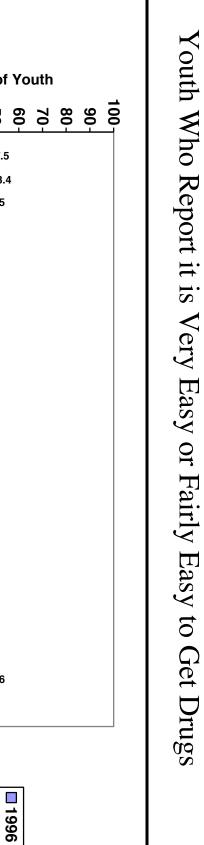
More youth are getting bombed or very high when using any of these drugs compared to 2000.



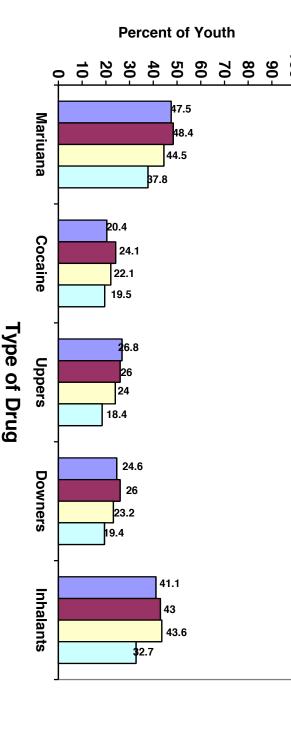
(65.4%) than when using steroids (48%). Youth are more likely to get bombed or very high when using hallucinogens (84.6%), heroin (78.6%), ecstasy (75%) and OxyContin

Steroids represent a new question on the 1998 PRIDE survey, therefore there is no 1996 data

Ecstasy and OxyContin represent new questions on the 2003 survey, therefore there is no previous data.



Drug Use



1998

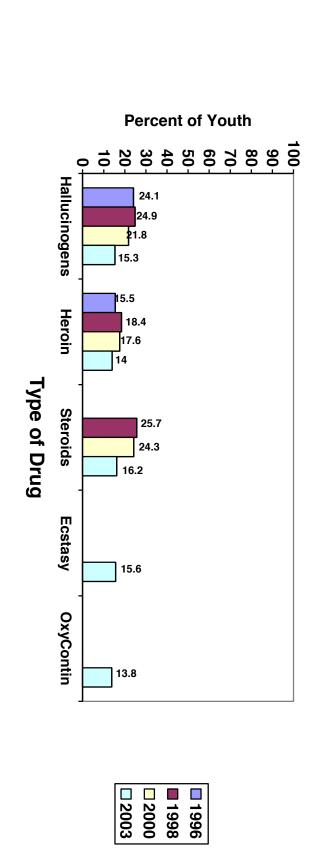
**2000** 

Source: PRIDE Survey

### What numbers and other information told us:

Youth report that the easiest drugs for them to get are marijuana (37.8%) and inhalants (32.7%).

There has been a decline in how easy youth find it to get drugs across all the drug categories.



Youth Who Report it is Very Easy or Fairly Easy to Get Drugs (cont.)

Drug Use

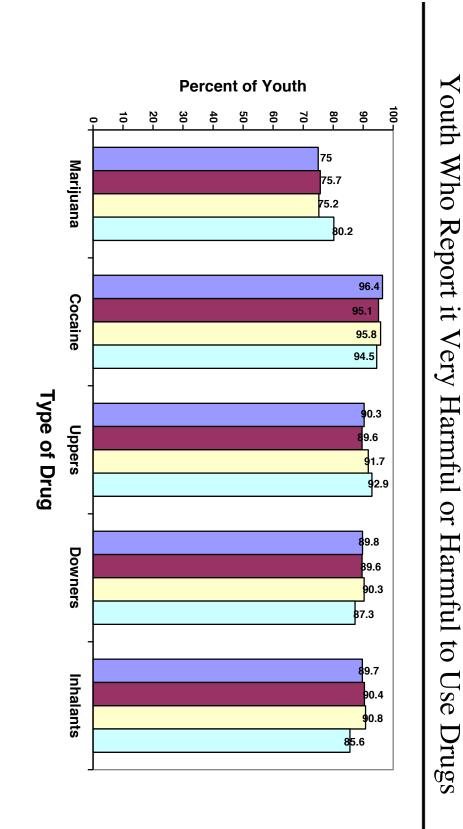
Source: PRIDE Survey

### What the numbers and other information told us:

Heroin is the hardest drug for youth to acquire (14% found it easy or very easy to acquire).

Steroids represent a new question on the 1998 PRIDE survey, therefore there is no 1996 data.

Ecstasy and OxyContin represent new questions on the 2003 survey, therefore there is no previous data.



Drug Use

Source: PRIDE Survey

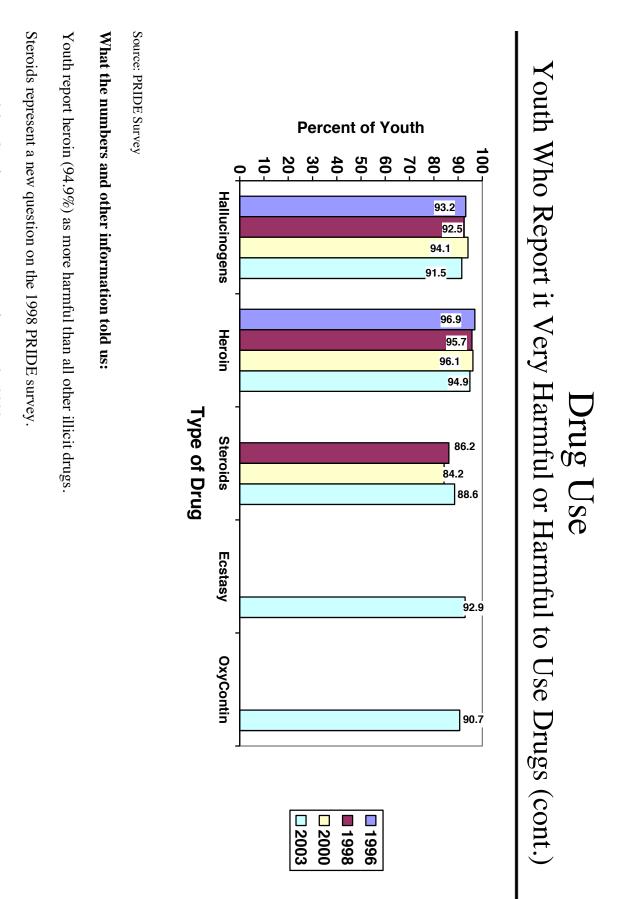
#### What the numbers and other information told us:

The majority of youth report that all illicit drugs are harmful or very harmful to your health.

Youth report marijuana (80.2%) as less harmful than all other illicit drugs.

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2003	2000	1998	1996

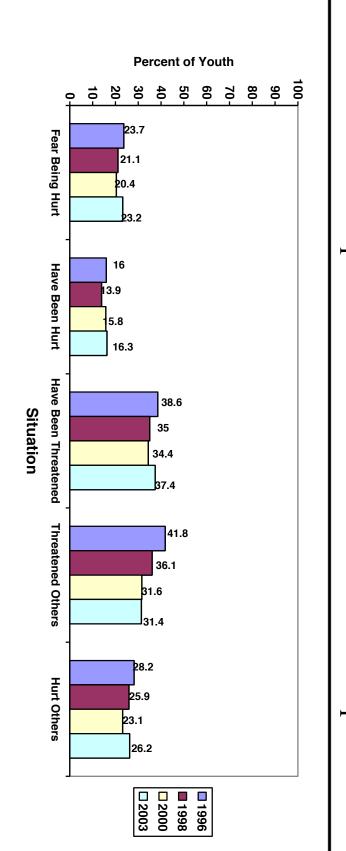


Ecstasy and OxyContin represent new questions on the 2003 PRIDE survey.

# Youth nationwide who use illicit drugs:

PRIDE	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Annually
1996	5.2%	12.5%	18.3%	29.5%
1998	5.0%	11.8%	17.1%	28.7%
2000	4.4%	11.8%	17.1%	28.7%
2003	5.4%	10.8%	15.1%	24.3%

Source: PRIDE National Survery



Youth Who Report Violence at School Without a Weapon Violence

Source: PRIDE Survey

#### What the numbers and other information told us:

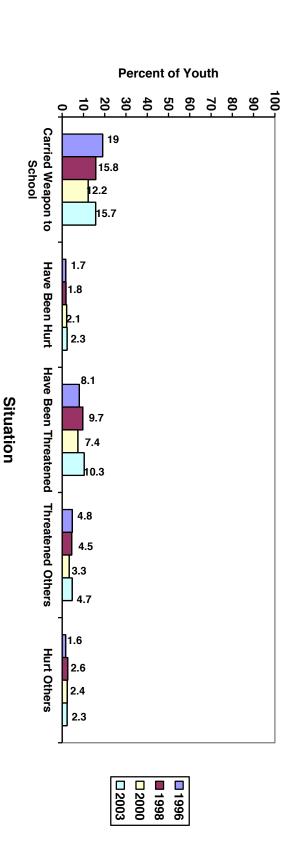
6.4% of youth have threatened a teacher, an increase from 2000 (5.2%).

11.4% of youth have threatened their parent or guardian, an increase from 2000 (10%).

23.3% of youth report getting in trouble with the police, an increase from 2000 (18.2%).

Of youth exhibiting threatening behavior, 55.8% report using liquor, 31.9% report using marijuana, 10.4% report using inhalants, and 12.6% report using cocaine.





Source: PRIDE Survey

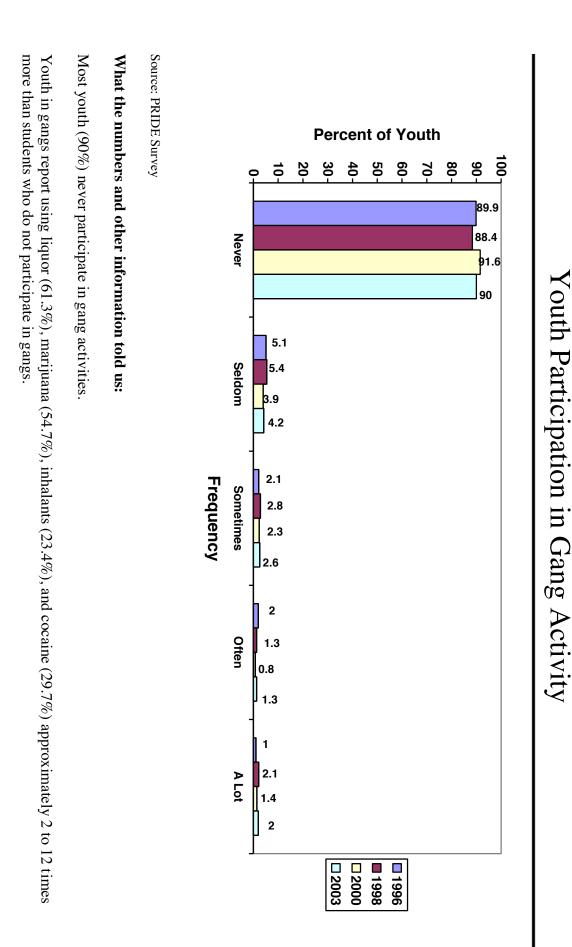
#### What the numbers and other information told us:

There has been a slight increase in violence situations with a weapon from 2000.

More youth carried weapons (knife, club, or other weapon) to school in 2003 (15.7%) than in 2000 (12.2%).

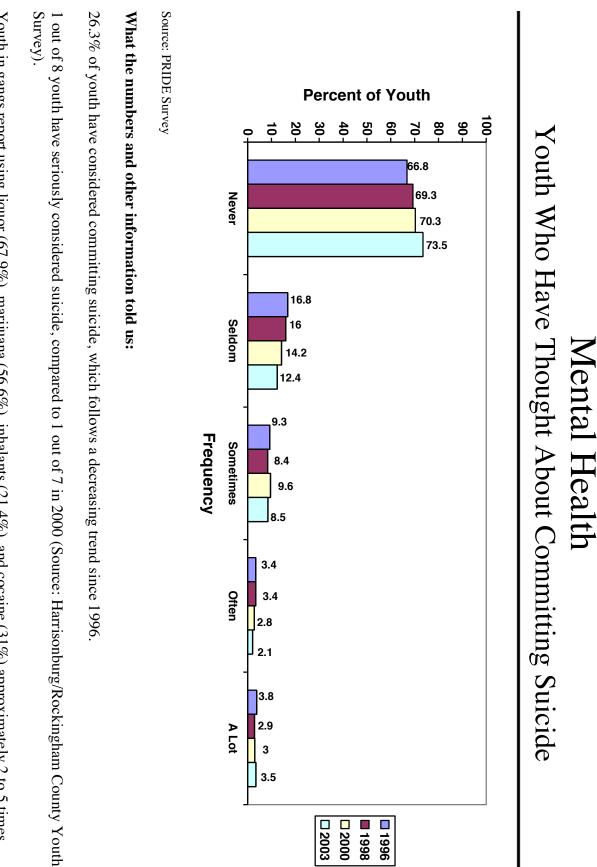
2.8% of youth have carried a gun while at school, an increase from 2000 (1.7%).

2 to 15 times more than students who do not carry guns to school. Youth who carry guns to school report using liquor (72.5%), marijuana (64.1%), inhalants (35%), and cocaine (52.5%) approximately

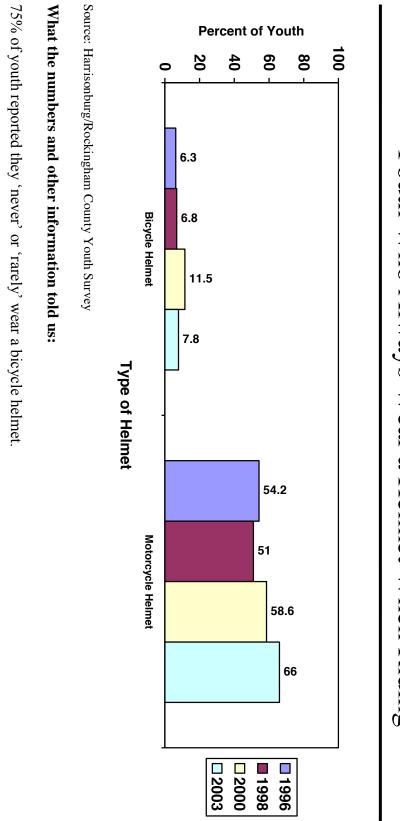


Violence

35



more than students who do not think about committing suicide. Youth in gangs report using liquor (67.9%), marijuana (56.6%), inhalants (21.4%), and cocaine (31%) approximately 2 to 5 times

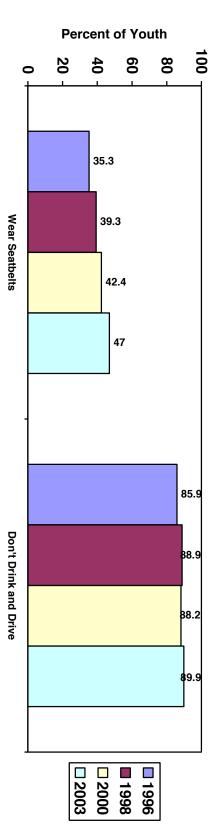


#### Youth Who Always Wear a Helmet When Riding Safety

Of the youth who reported riding their bikes 40 or more times in the past 12 months, 67.1% reported they 'never' or 'rarely' wore helmets.

29% of youth have ridden a motorcycle in the past 12 months, 17.8% of those did not wear a helmet.





Safety Situation

# What the numbers and other information told us:

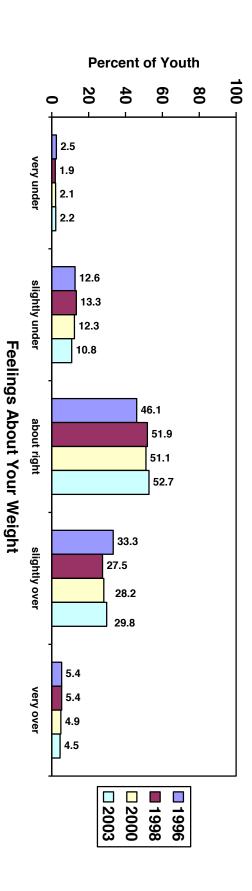
Of the youth who reported to never drink and drive, only 40% of them are legally old enough to drive a car.

Of the youth who are legally old enough to drive, 83% reported to never drink and drive

3.1% of youth 'never' or 'rarely' wear a seatbelt and drink and drive at least once a month

10% of youth ages 13-19 report drinking and driving at least once a month





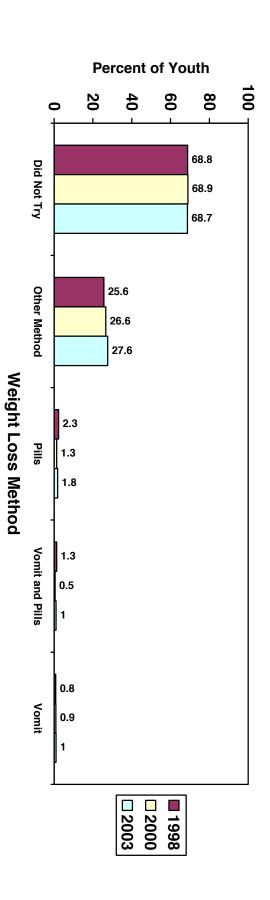
# What the numbers and other information told us:

34.3% of youth report they are over weight, while 12% report they are under weight.

In a day, 61.4% of youth report they eat fruit, 32% eat green salad, and 51.7% eat cooked vegetables.

donuts, pies or cakes. 14.9-18.2% of youth eat two or more of the following foods a day: hamburgers, hot dogs, sausages, French fries, chips, cookies,





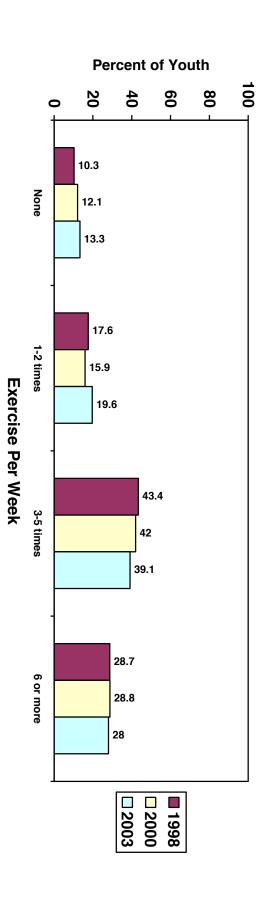
# What the numbers and other information told us:

31.4% of youth are using some method to lose or keep from gaining weight.

Of youth trying to lose weight, a majority of them are  $10^{\text{th}}$  and  $12^{\text{th}}$  graders (72%).

Youth do not report pills and/or vomiting as commonly as other methods of weight loss.



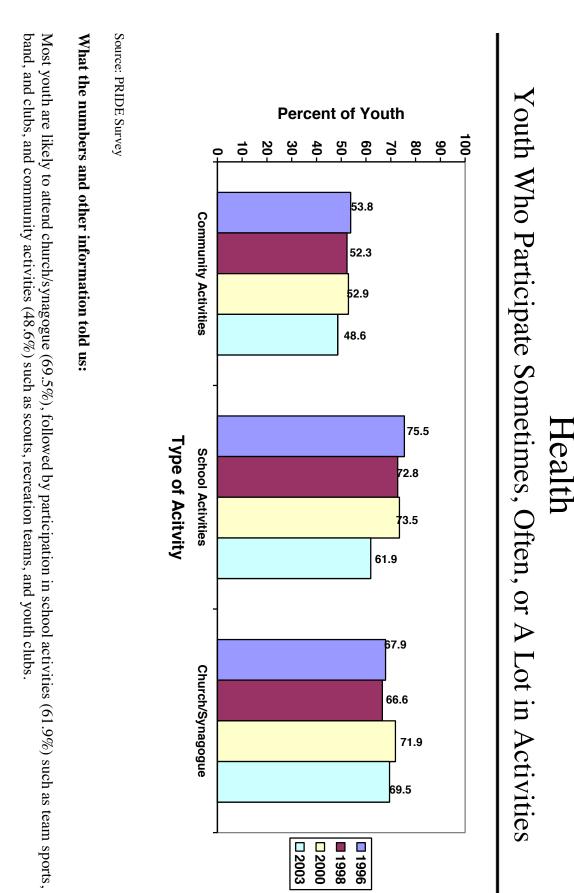


# What the numbers and other information told us:

67.1% of our youth exercise 3 or more times a week, a slight decrease from last year's, 70.8%.

86.7% of our youth exercise at least once a week.

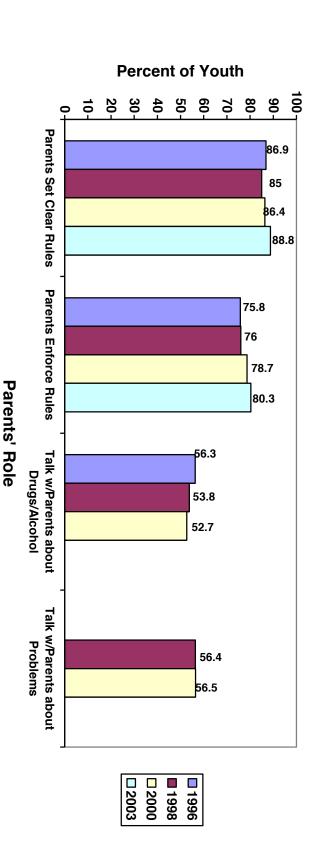
Overall more youth are exercising, but not as often during the week as in previous years.



Youth participation has decreased across all activities from 2000 to 2003.



Youth Whose Parents Sometimes, Often, or A Lot Set and Enforce Rules and Talk with Their Children about Drugs, Alcohol, or Problems



Source: PRIDE Survey

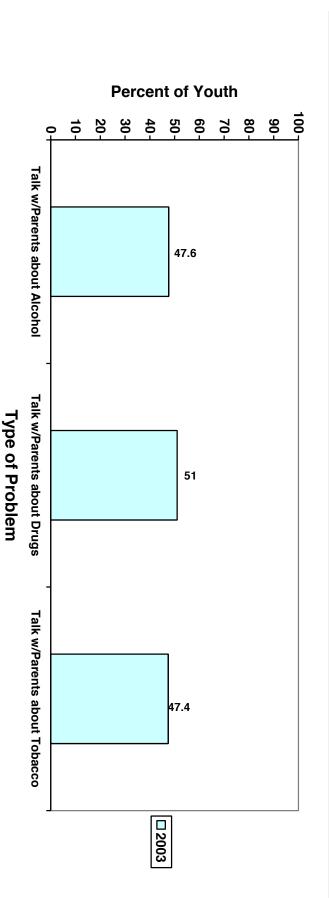
### What the numbers and other information told us:

The majority of parents set clear rules (88.8%) but not all of them enforce those rules (80.3%).

The 2003 questionnaire no longer included these questions concerning talks with parents



Youth Whose Parents Talk with them Sometimes, Often, or A Lot about Drugs, Alcohol, or Tobacco



Source: PRIDE Survey

#### What the numbers and other information told us:

drug, and tobacco use For 2003, the Talking With Parents topic was separated into three sections specifically highlighting problems associated with alcohol,

Approximately only 50% of youth tend to talk about these problems with their parents.

Reported by Youth	Parental Informatic
1	ion

#### **Parent's Employment Status**

	Full-Time	Part-Time	Not Employed
Father	90.4%	4.1%	5.6%
Mother	67%	18.1%	14.9%

#### **Education Level of Parents**

	No High School	High School	Some College	College Graduate
	Degree	Graduate		
Father	15.5%	33.4%	13%	38.1%
Mother	12%	32.4%	16.6%	39%

Source: Harrisonburg/Rockingham County Youth Survey