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## A Survey Of Drug Abuse In A Selected Junior High School

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A SURVEY OF DRUG ABUSE IN A  
SELECTED JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

A SURVEY OF DRUG ABUSE IN  
A SELECTED JUNIOR  
HIGH SCHOOL

A  
THESIS

Presented to the Graduate School of  
Praire View A & M University  
in Partial Fulfillment of  
the Requirements for  
the Degree of

MASTER OF COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE

HV  
5824  
Y68J64  
1976

by

Lon L. Johnson, R. PH., B. S.

July 6, 1976

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APPROVED as to style and content by:

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

During this period of preparation for research for this thesis, many people played important roles to aid in the completion of this thesis. I would like to pay special recognition to my family. To my wife, Pat, who was understanding and had steadfast patience. To my son, Derrick, who many times was without the guidance of a father. Thanks to both of you very much.

To Ms. Lois Barnett, who typed the thesis for me. Not only did she do an excellent job, but she is devoted, perceptive and was full of constructive suggestions.

To my instructor, Mr. R. E. Carreathers, who provided me with the guidance and professional assistance needed to finalize this thesis.

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CHAPTER I  
INTRODUCTION

Over the past several years, public concern has greatly increased over mind-altering drug use among students. That concern has been evoked by a flow of reports from individuals, mass media, the police and other governmental agencies, educators, and the community. The reports are consistent in telling of a remarkable expansion of student interest in and use of drugs which are illicit or exotic.

Drug abuse is an issue that concerns all levels of society, from the very low socio-economic groups to the extreme high socio-economic groups. The potential drug abusers range from the submissive poor to the successful affluent groups of individuals. The problem of drug abuse in our nation is rising at such an alarming rate, which warrants the condition that if we are to survive as a society that is not hampered by the frills and thrills of addicts, it is imperative that we find a workable solution. Currently, preventative and rehabilitative efforts are being made to combat the problem of drug abuse.

There are controversial views as to the cause of drug abuse, which consequently make drug abuse a difficult problem for rehabilitation. Rehabilitation or the road back (as it is often called) is a puzzling

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<sup>1</sup>Blum, Richard H., and others. Students and Drugs (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Inc., Publishers, 1970), p. xi.

task. A recent review of rehabilitation approaches to drug abuse stated:

No one knows whether the goals of treatment as set forth are realistic or even desirable. Since no one knows why people become narcotic addicts, no one knows either how to make them stop or what will happen if they do stop.<sup>2</sup>

Not all approaches to rehabilitation are the same; different people require somewhat different treatment. The method of treatment are unlike in nature as the individuals themselves. The task of getting people to stop abusing drugs is as complex as it is confusing. According to DeLong there is no uniform theory of addiction and no adequate description of the addict population. Also, addiction has spread rapidly in recent years, and we know less about the new population than we do about the old, and we knew very little before.<sup>3</sup>

The apparent goals of treatment are obvious. In recent years a number of observations made on drug-using youths have focused on the social and psychological factors associated with individual group conduct. For the most part, these investigations have been a rich source of data on drug "abuse" and have enriched our knowledge in many areas. Findings from recent research showed that "treatment programs" are expanding, but not as rapidly as the problem.<sup>4</sup> There is no getting around the fact that

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<sup>2</sup>DeLong, Jay V., "Treatment and Rehabilitation," in Dealing With Drug Abuse, eds. P. Wald and P. Hutt (New York: Praeger Publishers, 1972), p. 180.

<sup>3</sup>DeLong, op. cit., pp. 181-182.

<sup>4</sup>Ray, O., Drugs, Society, and Human Behavior (St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Publishing Company, 1972), p. 173-175.



little or nothing is known about the problem of drug abuse, with the exception that it is growing and in so doing, rapidly outstripping treatment resources. Drug use is definitely linked to the youth of our nation. The issue of spread of drug abuse to younger age groups first emerged with college age students.<sup>5</sup> Not much time elapsed before researchers began to focus on drug abuse as a problem in high school and junior high school settings.<sup>6</sup>

#### Statement of the Problem

For all contemporary significance, this business of drug abuse and youth is an urgent problem that faces the entire country. We must find some workable solution to the problem of drug abuse if our children are to survive its captivating ill effect. The longer we let this problem go unsolved, the harder it will be to obtain a solution. Researchers in the past concentrated investigations on the adult population and their drug problems. We have all been preoccupied with the drug abuse problem occurring in the adult population, that we failed to notice that our youth have become infected with the disease of drug abuse. The writer of this research paper will focus on the younger generation and their apparent involvement in drug abuse.

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<sup>5</sup>Ells, K., "Marijuana and LSD: A Survey of One College Campus," Journal of Counseling Psychology, (15)-5, (1968), pp. 459-467.

<sup>6</sup>Wiener, R., Drugs and School Children (New York: Humanities Press, 1970), p. 124.

### Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study will be to determine to what extent drug abuse is being practiced in a selected junior high school. The study will aid to the drug abuse study because a perspective about today's youth will be developed by use of the anonymous questionnaire. The study will not be complete, but it will be an aid to the study of drug abuse and the factors that contribute to the problem.

### Background and Significance of the Problem

The task of solving the problem of drug abuse should be the nation's number one priority for accomplishment. Experience in the past has demonstrated that the longer we let a problem remain unsolved, the harder that problem becomes to solve.

Survey information about college students has been, for the most part, rather superficial and especially vulnerable to that sampling error which arises when one relies on the voluntary return of anonymous questionnaires. However, because younger children will be sampled in this study and they do not have to identify themselves, it will be a significant factor to research to compile the results and note how the junior high students react to the anonymous questionnaire. A careful research indicated that not many studies included the junior high school students. The writer of this study believes that younger children should be observed and reports should be given to alleviate some of the problems occurring among younger victims of the drug abuse population.

## Hypothesis

It is hypothesized that a preponderance amount of students at the selected junior high school has experimented or had involvement with drugs for the purposes of getting high or an elevation of mood change.

## Definition of Terms

For purpose of this study the following terms will be used and are defined as follows:

Addict - refers to any person who habitually uses any habit forming drug which is controlled by the Harrison Act of 1914; that is; alkaloids of the opium or coca leaves, Indianhemp, and peyote in all forms.

Drug - any chemical compound which produces an effect on the body. This effect may be either positive or negative.

Drug Abuse- The self administration of excessive quantities of drugs leading to tolerance, physical, and psychological dependence, mental confusion, and other forms of abnormal behavior. It is also considered to be the taking of drugs, for the side effects that they produce.

## Limitations of the Study

This study will be limited to the seventh, eighth, and ninth grade students of a selected junior high school.

## Research Procedures

An anonymous questionnaire was administered to the entire junior high school students of the selected school who were in attendance on the day the sample was administered. Students were asked to point out usage of various drugs and the present rate of use of these drugs.

The student was asked to identify and underline various questions. They were identified only by age, sex, grade, and reactions to the questionnaire was noted. For each drug, the students marked how many times they used the drug in the course of their lifetime, and how many times during the past week the drug had been used. The percentage of users were very high for the students who completed the questionnaire.

CHAPTER II  
RELATED LITERATURE

The problem of drug abuse has been in existence for quite sometime; what hasn't been in existence until recently is its spread to younger groups. According to Sidney Cohen, virtually every category of pharmacologic agent that has some sort of effect on mood is being misused at this time. This spreading of the abuse pattern into unusual and exotic drugs and the involvement of increased numbers of people have serious implications. It seems that today, if a chemical can be abused, it will be . . . one further identifiable ominous trend is the indulgence of drugs of abuse by younger and younger age groups.<sup>7</sup>

The spread of drug abuse is contributed to many factors. Blum identified several themes related to drug use among young people; escape from pressure, religion, self-exploration, kicks, curiosity, and creativity. Recently, the National Institute of Mental Health

Drug abuse in the young is often a symptom of alienation and ensuing rejection of traditional values.<sup>8</sup>

The effects of a drug, the pattern of drug use, the prognosis for the user, and the bases of social concern all vary widely depending on the drug used, the age of the user, and the circumstances. No categorization, therefore, is totally satisfactory. The core problems, however, have

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<sup>7</sup>Cohen, Sidney., "Control of Drug Abuse" Federal Probation, (1970), p. 32.

<sup>8</sup>Blum, op. cit., pp. 10-11.

have been broadly delineated by many commentators as (1) the use of heroin in urban poverty areas, (2) experimentation with a wide variety of drugs by the young, (3) the use of drugs by middle-aged or older persons, and (4) the use of drugs as a behavior-control device.<sup>9</sup>

The above mentioned contributing factors to drug abuse have become the target for study by many researchers, particularly those who are curious to find conclusive reasons and theories by the drug abuser. For instance, Smart and Fejer found that drug abuse among school children was higher for those students who had parents or older brothers and sisters who took drugs.<sup>10</sup>

Blum stressed the point that "the downward spread of drug abuse in younger age groups would be rewarding."<sup>11</sup> Fort, another researcher corroborated Blum's point; drug experimentation and abuse is occurring among too many junior high and high school students. Fort surveyed a particular school and found that sixty-one to sixty-four per cent of the twelfth grade class had marijuana available and forty-one to forty-three per cent actually used the drug. For the seventh grade, he found that the twenty-two to twenty-four percent enrolled had marijuana available and twelve-eighteen percent of the class actually used the drug. He also did

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<sup>9</sup>Wald, Patricia M., and Peter B. Hutt, "The Nature and Extent of Drug Abuse", in Dealing With Drug Abuse (New York: Praeger Publishers, 1973), p. 4.

<sup>10</sup>Smart, R., and D. Fejer, "Recent Trends in Illicit Drug Use Among Adolescents", Canada's Mental Health, 68 (3), (1971) pp. 1-13.

<sup>11</sup>Blum, op. cit., pp. 15.

similar research on glue sniffing and found that for the twelfth grade eight to eleven per cent actually used glue. The seventh grade class had somewhat higher percentage of users; seven to fifteen percent participated in glue sniffing. This is not surprising for more seventh graders to be sniffing glue, and a very interesting point - younger students tend to abuse mediocre drugs, the older they get the more sophisticated the drugs become.<sup>12</sup> The students surveyed by Fort are no different from students in the selected junior high school that will be surveyed in the next chapter.

Researchers found that current emphasis on youthful self-evaluation and truth in admitting to drug abuse have given rise to arguments. The techniques have not been conclusive because many junior high schools did not want to be identified in the statistical nationwide data.

Richard E. Carney believes that drug abuse can be prevented, or at least explained, if it is viewed as an individual's attempt to actualize the values. In one of his studies, drug users placed significantly less value on such categories as "power" as it related to participation in student organizations, clubs, and "politics"; "affection" and "respect" as they related to participation in sports and organized activities. But no one knows how students come to hold certain values, or why some values are more prevalent than others. This may explain the adamant refusal of many schools to consider the adoption of the periodical survey on drug users.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>12</sup>Fort, J. The Pleasure Seekers. (New York: Grove Press, 1969), p. 91.

<sup>13</sup>Carney, Richard E. "School Curricula" in Dealing With Drug Abuse (New York: Praeger Publishers, 1973), p. 159.

Despite massive expenditures on public drug abuse education programs, there is still widespread ignorance of basic drug facts among the overall population at large. For instance, a New York Addiction Control Commission survey of 6, 000 persons aged thirteen and up found that one of every four regarded drug abuse as among the top four problems facing the nation. Yet, 67 per cent had no idea what should be done about it; 60 per cent did not know what state agencies were at work on the problem; and 50 per cent did not know what effects heroin and other drugs had on users.<sup>14</sup> A Gallup poll in December, 1970, showed that 64 per cent of the adults and 39 per cent of the students interviewed thought drugs were a serious problem in the public schools.<sup>15</sup>

Experts do not agree on how a parent should react when confronted with a drug-abuse crisis. They all begin by urging the parent not to panic but differ markedly on what should be done in coping with the crisis. Some suggest that the parent compel the child to seek treatment, even by threatening to throw him out of the house. Others counsel the parent to be patient and understanding in an effort to get at the underlying problem.<sup>16</sup>

A fundamental dispute still exists over whether the purely factual approach to drugs is more harmful than helpful to young "risk takers." Some experts believe that giving specific factual knowledge reinforces the anti-drug propensities of persons not likely to abuse drugs anyway but actually contributes to the "seduction" of vulnerable high-risk groups by romanticizing the negativism that motivates their conduct.<sup>17</sup> Movies, media

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<sup>14</sup>Wald, Patricia M., and Annette Abrams, "Drug Education" in Dealing With Drug Abuse (New York: Praeger Publishers, 1973), p. 122.

<sup>15</sup>Ibid.

<sup>16</sup>Ibid., p. 124.

<sup>17</sup>Ibid.



advertising, rock music, underground newspapers, and commercial films that excite interest in specific drug use transmit the nonverbal message that users get attention and sympathy. Dr. Paul Blachley expounds a different kind of education, focusing on underlying behavioral responses and on why people consciously hurt themselves by abusing drugs and in the process hurt those who love them. He would convey all the over-all image of the drug-abuser as a boring, weak-minded, easily "conned" individual, not as a daring and reckless adventurer. But a student survey conducted by Dr. Blachley concluded that none of these factors lured anyone into trying drugs who had not already done so.<sup>18</sup>

Other studies highlighted the need for additional investigation of drug abuse. Studies by Gilbert Geis (1969) and the California Department of Education (1970) determined that short-term programs significantly increased the student knowledge of drug abuse and their knowledge about drugs. However, several studies conducted at the Pennsylvania State University in 1972-73 "showed consistent relationships between better knowledge about drugs and pro-drug attitudes; better knowledge and use of marijuana; and pro-drug attitudes and the use of marijuana."<sup>19</sup>

Blum conducted a survey in the high school of a San Francisco Bay area. The survey reported student use of tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, heroin, stimulants, and other substances. Analysis of the replies to open-ended questions asking what was good or bad about tobacco and what more information they wanted about it indicated that students did not appear to care. They accepted smoking as a social practice and were not curious about it and few wanted any further information. Some students made comments which suggested

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<sup>18</sup>Wald, op. cit., p. 134.

<sup>19</sup>*Ibid*

an undercurrent of disbelief or distrust in what they are taught, asking "Is it really habit forming?" and "Does it really cause problems?" Some were explicit in wanting facts, not opinions, and in disapproving of "scare" lectures. Some spoke of being uncertain because of disagreement among authorities. A number of increasing individual observations were made in response to a question about differences between students who smoke and those who do not; some studies are quite sophisticated in terms of psychological notions; others are careful observers.<sup>20</sup>

Several studies indicate that more boys than girls say that the majority of their friends drink, but slightly more girls than boys state that they themselves have tried alcohol. About the same number of boys and girls say their parents drink. Most students reported that their first drink was taken in the presence of their parents; their friends luring them was not a factor.<sup>21</sup>

Analysis of replies to open-ended questions gave the impression that drinking was accepted although more boys than girls agreed. Alcoholism, therefore, emerges as an issue about which there is considerable confusion and anxiety-producing misinformation.

One interesting fact should be stressed at this point regarding the basis for prevention of abusing alcohol.<sup>22</sup> What the students requested in the way of information appears to be a good basis for alcohol control: physical effects, how to drink safely, what alcoholism is, and how it can be recognized and prevented. In addition, one would propose using students

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<sup>20</sup> Blum, Richard H., and others. "Drugs and High School Students," in Students and Drugs (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Inc. Publishers, 1970), p. 321-322.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

as "case finders" so that they not only learn something about how alcoholism can be treated, and where, but how they themselves can be useful in guiding persons they know who may be pre-alcoholic or alcoholic into treatment.

Of considerable interest is the extreme bimodal distribution of drinking frequency, with one large group being quite moderate, the other ingesting enough to become drunk. One wonders what further research would demonstrate about the drug-abuse potentials of these two strikingly different groups.<sup>22</sup>

Twenty-two per cent of all students tested in this survey said they knew people who sniffed intoxicants to become high; 7 per cent of the boys and 2.5 per cent of the girls admitted to trying it also. Many wanted to know more about the effects of sniffing; others volunteered that they had tried sniffing other things, for example, Johnson's Paste Wax, nitrous oxide from "Reddi-Whip" cans allowed to stand in the refrigerator after which contents are squirted into the mouth, and so forth.<sup>23</sup>

The related literature on drug abuse was numerous and the extent to which many researchers approached the subject was vast. Many researchers used the questionnaire method, but directed this method to high school students. Very few, if any, approached the drug abuse problem from the elementary school level and junior high school level only.

The overall evaluation of the questionnaire used by Blum in the study indicated that students were aware of their own role in choosing groups or getting into situations where drug pressures were generated.

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22  
Ibid.

23  
Ibid.

Relatively few (16 per cent) complained of being under pressure but, instead many proposed that one ought to know what his associates are like and what situations would become before getting involved. Certainly, as students comment on drug-using situations, there is no feeling of the innocent's being seduced or the naive being misled.<sup>24</sup>

Perhaps the above can best be demonstrated by letting one drug-abuse student speak. We have quoted what researchers have learned, so we do consider the following remarks made by an actual student as future reference to be used by many researchers in the future. This letter was written in a term paper as a response to a seminar.

"Why must student's use drugs?" says the blinder-wearing public, barely aware of its own hideous hypocrisy. For a people who embrace not only alcohol but war, the Holy Profit, and social injustice (and all in the name of some higher good) such moral indignation is ludicrous.

As society tumbles blindly from one day to the next, its college campuses are becoming testing grounds for the use of drugs. Students are now experimenting with drugs the same way they are experimenting with life: they are looking for personal truth through their own experience. Students are interested mostly in hallucinogenic drugs and are wary of the dangers of drug abuse.

For me, as for many others, the primary cause for "turning on" or "getting high" is a curiosity that encompasses for a longing for knowledge of an idealized "other world."<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Ibid., p. 374.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid., pp. 376-377.

### CHAPTER III

#### ANALYSIS OF THE DATA

In the United States many drugs that alter experiences, moods, feelings and perceptions are widely used and legally available to adults. For example, alcohol, a powerful depressant, is used at parties to relax people, help generate conversation and create a general attitude of well-being. Millions of barbiturates and amphetamines are medically prescribed on a regular basis for people who want to feel better, be less tense and anxious, have more energy, eat less, or stay awake longer.

In such a context it is unrealistic to prohibit illegal drug use among youth, or at least to expect such prohibitions to succeed. By and large, the young people are merely repeating the drug-abuse patterns of adults.

The extent to which young people indulge in "legal" drug abuse, particularly alcoholism or barbiturate addiction, is often overlooked because of the concern over illegal drugs like marijuana, heroin, etc.

Until about ten years ago, illegal drug use was a deviant act, practiced mainly in certain subcultures. To understand the current reaction to drug abuse, which has today become a symbol of the generation gap, it is necessary to look at the youth and their point of view.

Drug abuse often is not a purposeful situation. Drug use often begins as a learning experience, an attempt to find out through personal experimentation the validity of attitudes toward drugs.

Dissatisfied with past results, many school systems in recent years are trying a variety of new preventive methods to discourage drug abuse, involving more direction by the students themselves. With regard to peer involvement, there are indications that students should be given a voice in the basic approach and should be allowed to answer questions as honest as they can based on confidentiality. The confidentiality of certain questions will eliminate embarrassment, and will give the child a chance to feel free to talk. Some students involved in drug abuse do not want their parents to know; others would rather other students did not know, and so on.

Because all of the data discussed in this chapter will relate to drug abuse among the youth in a selected junior high school, a sample of students in the selected high school will be given to test the hypothesis that drug abuse among our youth is a serious problem.

The sample in this study was the seventh, eighth, and ninth grade students of a selected junior high school. There were a total of 244 seventh grade students, 251 eighth grade students and 251 ninth grade students. The total number of students participating totaled 750.

The Drug Survey Questionnaire (See Appendix A) was given to each student who attended school on the day of the survey. The sample students were familiar with the questionnaire because they had read prior instructions about two weeks before the actual survey was made. The questionnaire contained eleven-questions and was designed to investigate just what form of drug abuse, if any, the students in the sample had been engaged. The full questionnaire is presented in Appendix A.

TABLE 1

PERCENTAGE OF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS  
REPORTING DRUG USAGE

DRUG	GRADE	EVER USED (Other Studies)	(SELECTED SCHOOL STUDY)			
			EVER USED	10 or more Total times used	Used This Week	4 or more times used this week
Alcohol	7		28	6	7	1
	8		45 42	12 12	12 11	1
	9		54	19	16	1
Tobacco	7		21	5	8	1
	8		32 30	11 10	13 12	1
	9		37	14	16	1
Glue	7		12	1	2	
	8	8	10 9	1 1	2 2	1
	9		6	1	3	
Marijuana	7		2	1	2	1
	8		5 4	1 1	2 2	1
	9	6	7	2	3	1

7th grade n = 244      8th grade n = 255      9th grade n = 251      Total Jr. High No. 750

(a) Tobacco figures are for total packs smoked.

FOOTNOTE: Table 1 (and in all other tables) all percents are reported as whole numbers.

If the actual obtained figures was parts of a whole the reported figure is listed as (less than 1%)

TABLE 2

PERCENTAGE OF DRUGS REPORTED  
MOST USED BY SEX OF USERS

DRUG	EVER USED		10 or More Times Used		Used this Week		4 or more Times Used this Week	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
ALCOHOL	58	48	29	15	22	12	2	1
TOBACCO	41	28	19 <sup>(2)</sup>	9 <sup>(2)</sup>	17	10	1	1
GLUE	11	7	2	1	3	1	1	1
MARIJUANA	11	6	4	2	5	2	1	1

(a) Tobacco figures are for total packs smoked.



The questionnaire did not include the name of any of the sample. The sample was given an envelope marked "Confidential" to place the questionnaire in when they had completed the information. The sample was asked to read the directions, and upon completing the questionnaire, seal it in the small envelope himself.

The last minute instructions were also given to the sample before the actual completion of the questionnaire, the students were reminded that the answers would be strictly private.

The results of the questionnaire study has been placed on tables. Table 1 will show the percentages of junior high school students, who reported using the most commonly abused drugs. The percentage findings are parallel with similar studies across the nation. (Column "Ever Used, Other Studies").

Introducing the study sample, for obvious reasons the names of the selected school will also remain anonymous. The actual names of the study sample will likewise remain anonymous. However, a brief description of the sample studied will be given. The study sample range from all levels of the socio-economic groups. The students were asked to be surveyed. Their feelings about answering the questionnaire were good. No one was forced to respond to any question on the questionnaire. These students were willing to reveal anonymously their extent of involvement with the drugs in question.

When the data from the instrument is analyzed there will be other supporting information indicating that the responses given on the questionnaire is of an extreme high order of reliability.

One interesting fact associated with this study and the actual survey conducted by the questionnaire was the encouragement given to the sample. The students were encouraged to omit an answer rather than lie so that we could assess the number who were unwilling to answer the information and so that dishonest answers would not be confounded with honest ones. (See Appendix B for instructions that were given to each sample).

### Findings and Interpretations

One particularly important type of finding in light of the instructions on the questionnaire is the non-response rate obtained on the questions concerning drug use. The results, fortunately, were very encouraging.

The percentage findings are parallel with similar studies across the nation. This of course is additional evidence that the data is valid. Another evidence of validity can be noted while observing data on the table moving from Colum of "Ever Used" to "Used Ten or more Total Times" to "Used This Week" to "Used four or More Times This Week," we find a reduction in percentages. This of course is what you would expect to find in a realistic type setting. If the students had been responding dishonestly, one would not expect to see such well meaning results. Of the drugs used in the survey, notice that alcohol usage rates are quite higher than any of the other drugs. Figures for the column "ever used other studies" are not available which makes it difficult to see how the junior high school students compare with other studies, but there is definite evidence that alcohol for the junior high school used in this study will result into a serious problem in years to come.

Looking at the percentages of the tobacco use, findings show that as the grade increases the tobacco rate also increase. This suggests that the older student participates in cigarette smoking as he grows older.

Findings in the glue usage column shows a complete reversal than the tobacco column. It appears that the higher the grade the student is, the less involvement with glue sniffing is encountered. This possibly could mean that at this point students are moving on to other drugs that are stronger and more harmful. The findings on glue sniffing are well within the range of findings in other studies across the country.

Marijuana usage in the selected junior high school is what the figures from the remaining schools across the country are reporting. The findings on percentages of junior high school students reporting drug usage are not what would be considered unusually high for this junior high school, which suggest the students of this school are no different from any other junior high school. Their extent of involvement with drugs of abuse are about the same as their peers.

Although no study of validity was built on this survey, the facts remain that I strongly think the information secured from the students is representative. Probably the major question to be raised about the validity of this data is whether the sample have honestly reported their own use of drug abuse. Since no special validity study was made, I will have to make inferences from the situation, the data themselves, and relevant findings from other studies.

## CHAPTER IV

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In recent years, as it has become safe and rewarding to write about drug abuse, we have been exposed to far more than we want to know and with overdone public relations concerning this subject.

In the United States many drugs that alter experiences, feelings and mood changes are being abused by younger children. The extent to which young people indulge in "drug abuse", particularly alcoholism is often overlooked because of the concern over illegal drugs.

To understand the current reaction to drug use, which has today become a symbol of the generation gap, it is necessary to look at the way our society deals with the youth and their drug abuse problems.

The prevailing moral outlook toward drug abuse today is that whoever engages in this illegal activity must have something wrong with him, some deficiency, inadequacy or immaturity. Drug abuse must therefore be treated at the individual level, instead of perceived as a product of social conditions. For this reason, the study conducted in this research was directed at 750 individual students in a selected junior high school.

Young people have extended drug-abuse patterns familiar with the perils of our society; they have not created new ones. To attempt to blame drug abuse on characteristics of age- along with the widespread belief that the problem of drug abuse is solely that of youths and

low socio-economic cultures seems to conceal a basic fear of social change, rather than to reflect social realities.

If we want to help young people, we must not begin with the assumption that we know what they need and want. Young people do not view drug abuse as a problem, but rather as a solution to their problems. That the solution may be ineffective and risky or that it may bring additional problems is simply a fact of life. Most young people are trying to fulfill the promises of the society, not destroy it or themselves. They are serious about experimenting with values that offer hope for the future, and in their eyes drug abuse is part of the search.

In this study, I have tried to make it very clear that the nation is really more involved with the drug problem than many would want to admit. We have a drug problem that merits emergency community and nationwide endeavors. Facts and figures of the drug problem has been gathered from recent studies of some of the most prominent drug researchers in the country. An attempt has been made to further enlighten our community and educators, as well as society that the drug abuse problem is on the rise in the junior high schools.

It is my sincere hope that you will become stimulated in such a way that if you are not already involved in combating drug abuse that you will become involved and "pledge allegiance to the cause." There is a great challenge facing all of us, because we have not yet scratched the surface of the problem. The drug abuse problem is for real. The efforts at education on drugs and drug abuse are seriously hampered by current societal demands and by some institutional policies. Educators

are in an uncomfortable position of knowing that most methods of drug abuse prevention are ineffective and in many cases contribute to the very problem they seek to control. Blum implicits on much of what this study tried to reveal. Blum stated:

"The prediction that student drug use will continue to expand and that as these students grow older, many forms of drug use now considered dangerous or deviant will become part of what otherwise-respectable adults do. Whether or not marijuana or LSD use remains illegal or as severely punishable will make quite a difference in how these adults use their drugs—in secrecy or openly. It will also make a difference in the number of young recruits and in the number of aging students willing to spend the effort involved in illicit procurement and discreet use as they continue in mature years." <sup>26</sup>

The pressures of society against drug abuse are not evenly spread out over all dangerous drugs but rather focus on psychedelics and heroin. This has left a large number of young people free to use drugs that can indeed be damaging to them. The society in which we live can contribute greatly to drug abuse prevention. If there are enough fighting Americans, the fear and the fighting about student drug abuse use will diminish in the coming years through continued efforts to kill the main contributors to the problem.

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<sup>26</sup> Blum, op, cit., p. 380

## Conclusions

One must assess the success of the writer's efforts through inference, since no definitive sources of information was available concerning whether each of the students in the sample actually used drugs. The writer of this study conclude from the inferential data that was available through the questionnaire that the validity of the self-reported answers was quite high. Among the facts leading to this conclusion are (a) nearly half of the sample admitted to some illegal drug behavior, (b) 42% of the sample admitted to using some form of alcohol, and (c) The proportion of non-users were consistent with the proportion when compared with other studies.

The writer of this research paper strongly concludes that the answers of the study sample about drug use and related matters are quite accurate, and based on findings and from the most relevant findings of others, the information given by the sample concerning drug use was probably quite honestly reported. Like most major studies on the subject, the writer cannot quantify the validity of the data nor say for certain that it is extremely accurate, but all inferential evidence presented have been encouraging.



Recommendations

The complexity of the drug abuse problem is very broad; however, the one thing all researchers agree on is that no one approach to the problem will be adequate. There is a need for an array of drug abuse approaches. An excellent start for solving the problem is to get a good working knowledge or understanding of the problem. The most devastating weapon we have in fighting drug abuse, in my opinion is the combined efforts of the entire nation. With this in mind, I offer the following recommendations for combating drug abuse among the youth of our community, state, and nation.

1. That the Board of Education should develop mandatory courses for all teachers to sensitize them to drug abuse problems.
2. That the students be informed about the legal consequences of drug abuse.
3. That confidential health records in the schools include information on drug abuse for every student.
4. That the community become involved in the drug abuse problems of the youth.
5. That parents become involved directly with the drug abuse problem.
6. That drug abuse education be included in the curriculum of all schools, beginning in the early primary grades

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APPENDIX BDRUG SURVEY QUESTIONNAIREInstructions

The questionnaire will deal with drugs. There is a lot of talk, but very little accurate information about drug abuse on the junior high school level is being studied. The educators, community, and your parents would like to know more about the actual experiences and association you have with drugs.

I hope that you will answer all of these questions. However, if you find a question which you cannot answer honestly, please leave it blank.

Remember, your answers will never be connected with your name — they are put into a form that cannot be traced back to you as an individual.

**REMEMBER: ALL ANSWERS ARE STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL**

APPENDIX A  
 DRUG SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

<p>MY AGE TODAY IS:</p> <p>0. Twelve or less</p> <p>1. Thirteen</p> <p>2. Fourteen</p> <p>3. Fifteen</p> <p>4. Sixteen</p> <p>5. Seventeen</p> <p>-----</p>	<p><u>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</u>          (beer, wine, bourbon, scotch, vodka, gin, malt liquor, etc.)</p> <p>4. How many times have you used alcoholic beverages?</p> <p>0. Never</p> <p>1. Once</p> <p>2. Two to ten times</p> <p>3. More than ten times</p>	<p><u>CIGARETTES (Tobacco)</u></p> <p>6. How many total packs of tobacco cigarretes have you smoked?</p> <p>0. Never smoked</p> <p>1. Once pack</p> <p>2. Two to ten packs</p> <p>3. More than ten packs</p>	<p>9. This past week, how many times have you used airplane glue to get high?</p> <p>0. None</p> <p>1. Once</p> <p>2. Two or three times</p> <p>3. Four or more times</p>
<p>(2) I AM:</p> <p>0. MALE</p> <p>1. FEMALE</p> <p>-----</p>			<p><u>MARIJUANA</u></p>
<p>(3) My present grade in school is:</p> <p>0. Seventh</p> <p>1. Eighth</p> <p>2. Ninth</p>	<p>5. This past week, how many times have you used alcoholic beverages?</p> <p>0. None</p> <p>1. Once</p> <p>2. Two to three times</p> <p>3. Four or more times</p>	<p>7. This past week, how many packs of tobacco cigarettes have you smoked per day?</p> <p>0. None</p> <p>1. Up to one pack a day</p> <p>2. One to two packs a day</p> <p>3. Three or more packs a day</p>	<p>10. How many total times have you used marijuana to get high?</p> <p>0. Never</p> <p>1. Once</p> <p>2. Two to ten times</p> <p>3. More than ten times</p>
<p>COMMENTS:</p>	<p>COMMENTS:</p>	<p><u>AIRPLANE GLUE</u></p> <p>8. How many total times have you used airplane glue to get high?</p> <p>0. Never</p> <p>1. Once</p> <p>2. Two to ten times</p> <p>3. More than ten times</p>	<p>11. This past week, how many times have you used marijuana to get high?</p> <p>0. None</p> <p>1. Once</p> <p>2. Two to three times</p> <p>3. Four or more times.</p>