

# PROGRAM EVALUATION & PLANNING DATA REPORT



Report No. 2000-01: 8

November 2000

## **Trends in Drug Use among Hawaiians: Information from the 1996 and 1998 Alcohol and Drug Abuse Surveys**

This report gives information on drug use by Hawaiian or part-Hawaiian grade 6 and grade 12 students and contrasts this to the information for all grade 6 and grade 12 students in the State of Hawai'i. The information included in this report is from a survey conducted by the Speech Department of the University of Hawai'i under contract with the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division of the State of Hawai'i Department of Health in 1996 and 1998.<sup>1</sup>

This report was prepared in response to a special request from the Kamehameha Schools Safe and Drug Free Program (KSSDFP) staff. Therefore, those indicators that have most direct bearing on their work are included. Grade 6 data is significant because studies show that delayed onset of first use decreases the likelihood of substance abuse later in life (Kingle & Miller, 1999, p.18). Responses from Hawaiian students are compared to those of all students completing the survey. Without access to more data, statistics for students of Hawaiian ancestry cannot be compared to those of all *other* students. The effect of this confounding is to underestimate any differences between the two groups.

The survey sample consisted of public and private school students in the sixth, eighth, tenth, and twelfth grades in the State of Hawai'i. In 1998, only two of the 206 public schools in Hawai'i did not participate. In addition, 42 percent of all private schools agreed to participate in the survey. Final student participation was limited to those students with parental consent, who volunteered to participate, and who attended school on the survey day. There were 15,533 respondents to the 1996 survey and 25,343 respondents to the 1998 survey. Analyses by Kingle & Miller (1999, p. 26) suggest the samples are comparable.

The information in this report is presented in two categories: 1) Alcohol and tobacco, and 2) Marijuana, Cocaine, and Methamphetamines. The drugs in the first category are legal drugs but not legal for minors, thus, making for different problems and different approaches for change. The drugs in the second category are illegal drugs for both minors and adults.

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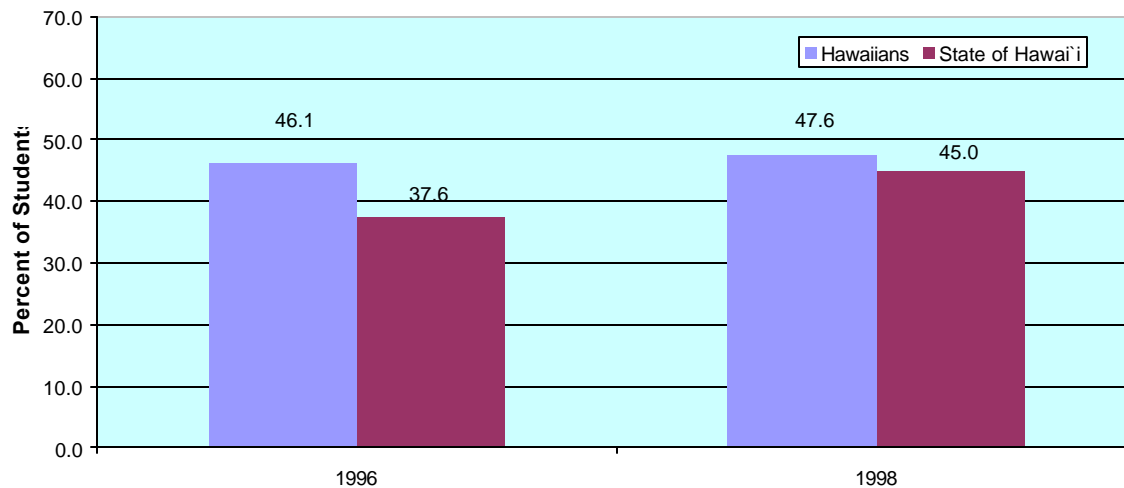
<sup>1</sup> Kingle, R. S. & Miller, M. D. (1999). *The 1998 Hawaii student alcohol and drug use study (1991-1998): Hawai'i adolescent treatment needs assessment*. Kapolei HI: Hawai'i Department of Health, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division

## Alcohol and Tobacco Use

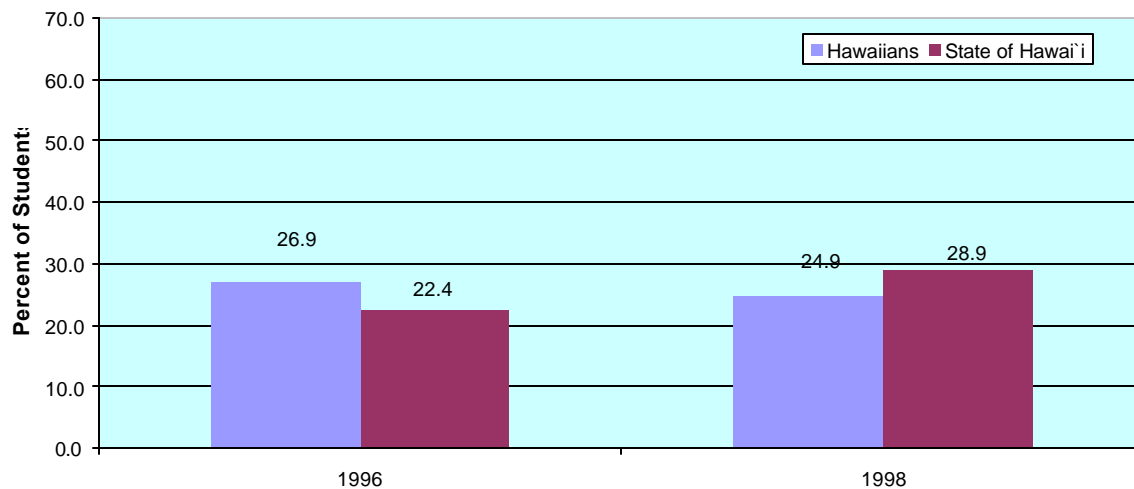
Figures 1 and 2 and Table 1 report rates of alcohol and tobacco use data for students of Hawaiian ancestry contrasted with the rates for State of Hawai'i students in 1996 and 1998. The Grade 6 statistics are important because the early use of drugs is a risk factor for later substance abuse. The early use of alcohol and tobacco decreased between 1996 and 1998 for Hawaiians and all students participating in the survey.

**Table 1. Percent of Sixth Graders Reporting Use of Alcohol and Tobacco in the Past 30 Days.**

	Alcohol		Tobacco	
	1996	1998	1996	1998
Hawaiians	19.0	13.4	16.9	10.7
State of Hawai'i	14.4	12.0	10.8	8.1



**Figure 1. Grade 12 Students Reporting "Drank Alcohol, Past 30 Days"**



**Figure 2. Grade 12 Students Reporting "Smoked Tobacco, Past 30 Days"**

Figure 1 reports the use of alcohol in the past 30 days by Hawaiians in grade 12 is almost the same for 1996 and 1998; whereas, the State of Hawai'i rate has increased substantially.

As shown in Figure 2, the use of tobacco in the past 30 days dropped by 4 percentage points for Hawaiians between 1996 and 1998. However, the use of tobacco in the past 30 days by students statewide increased by 6.5 percentage points in the same period.

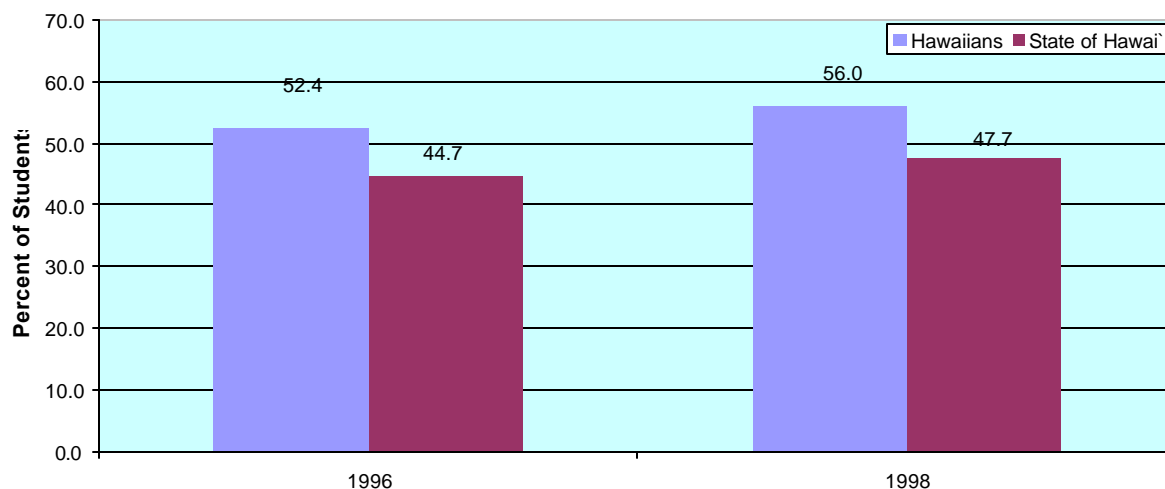
## Other Drug Use

Marijuana, Methamphetamines, and Cocaine are illegal for both adults and minors. These drugs have serious enough effects that it is important to track even one use of the drug. Table 2 reports the survey results for 1996 and 1998 of 6<sup>th</sup> grade students' reporting of ever using these drugs, even once. Hawaiian and State of Hawai'i students are contrasted. Early use of marijuana and cocaine was down in 1998 while use of methamphetamines was up.

**Table 2. Percent of Sixth Graders Reporting Use of Marijuana, Methamphetamines, and Cocaine, Even Once.**

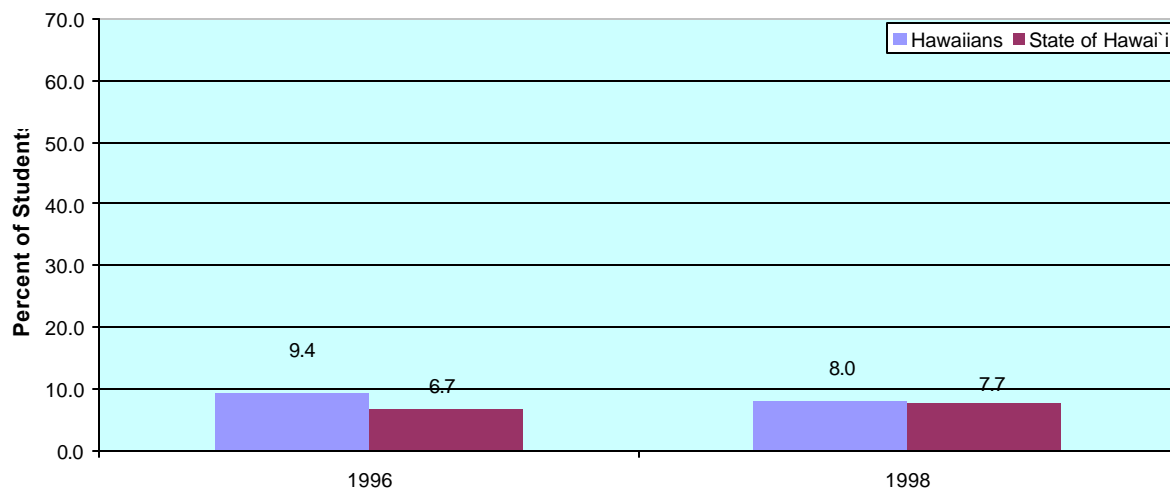
	Marijuana		Methamphetamines		Cocaine	
	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998
Hawaiians	9.6	7.7	1.8	2.3	3.0	2.4
State of Hawai'i	5.1	4.9	1.4	1.8	1.9	2.0

Figure 3 displays the results for "ever used marijuana, even once." According to the surveys, student use of marijuana increased for Hawaiians and all students statewide.



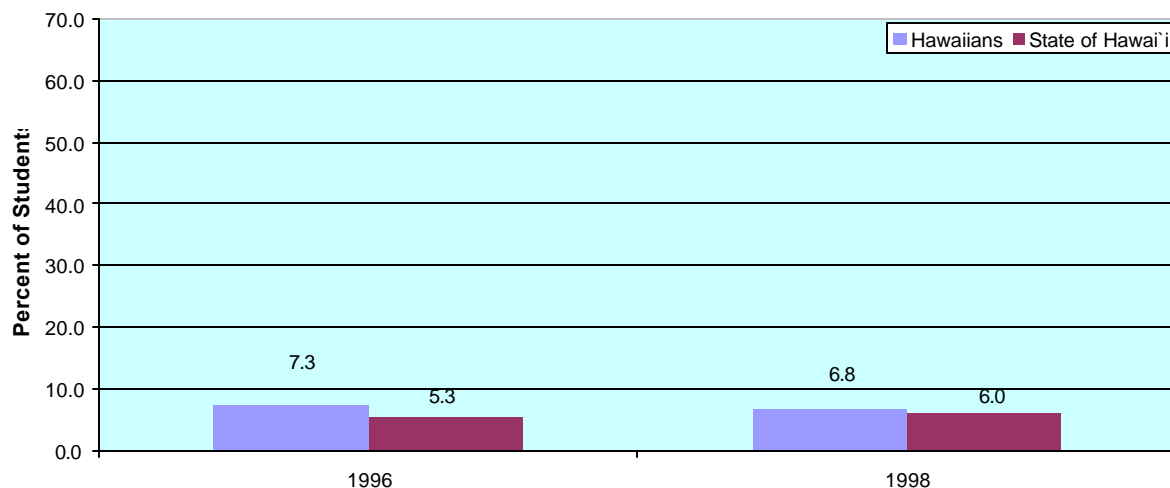
**Figure 3. Grade 12 Students Reporting Any Use of Marijuana**

Figure 4 displays the data for the question about "ever used methamphetamines, even once." The use rate for Hawaiians dropped from 9.4 percent of Grade 12 students in 1996 (almost 3 percentage points higher than the state rate) to a rate of 8 percent in 1998 to the state's 7.7 percent. This is a similar pattern to cocaine use.



**Figure 4. Grade 12 Students Reporting Any Use of Methamphetamines**

The percent of 12<sup>th</sup> grade Hawaiians and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students statewide for “ever tried cocaine, even once” are given in Figure 5 for 1996 and 1998. Student use of cocaine dropped slightly for Hawaiians but increased slightly for students statewide. The two rates were very similar in 1998.



**Figure 5. Grade 12 Students Reporting Any Use of Cocaine**

## Summary

Overall, early onset of use (at grade 6) was lower in 1998 than in 1996. This is true for all drugs reported except methamphetamines. The patterns are the same for both Hawaiians and all students sampled.

Consumption of alcohol within the last 30 days showed a substantial increase for all survey participants between the 1996 and 1998 surveys. However, the increase for Hawaiians was slight and probably within the margin of error for the surveys (margin of error statistics were not included in the report of survey results). Smoking tobacco actually decreased among Hawaiians despite an increase for the whole sample.

Findings for use of drugs that are illicit at any age are also mixed. Marijuana use was up for Hawaiians and for the entire sample. However use of the more hard-core drugs, methamphetamines and cocaine, are down for Hawaiians, despite increases for the entire sample.