

2007 MARYLAND ADOLESCENT SURVEY (MAS)

Overview and Key Findings

Maryland Adolescent Survey (MAS)

- Administered approximately every two years in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 to determine the nature, extent, and trends of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) use among adolescents.
- Provides 'objective' State and local data disaggregated by grade level, age of first use, gender, and race/ethnicity (African American, Asian, Hispanic, White).
- Involves approximately 40, 000 adolescents from 333 schools in all 24 local school systems.
- Allows for voluntary participation (students may opt out and parents/guardians may opt students out).

MAS (continued)

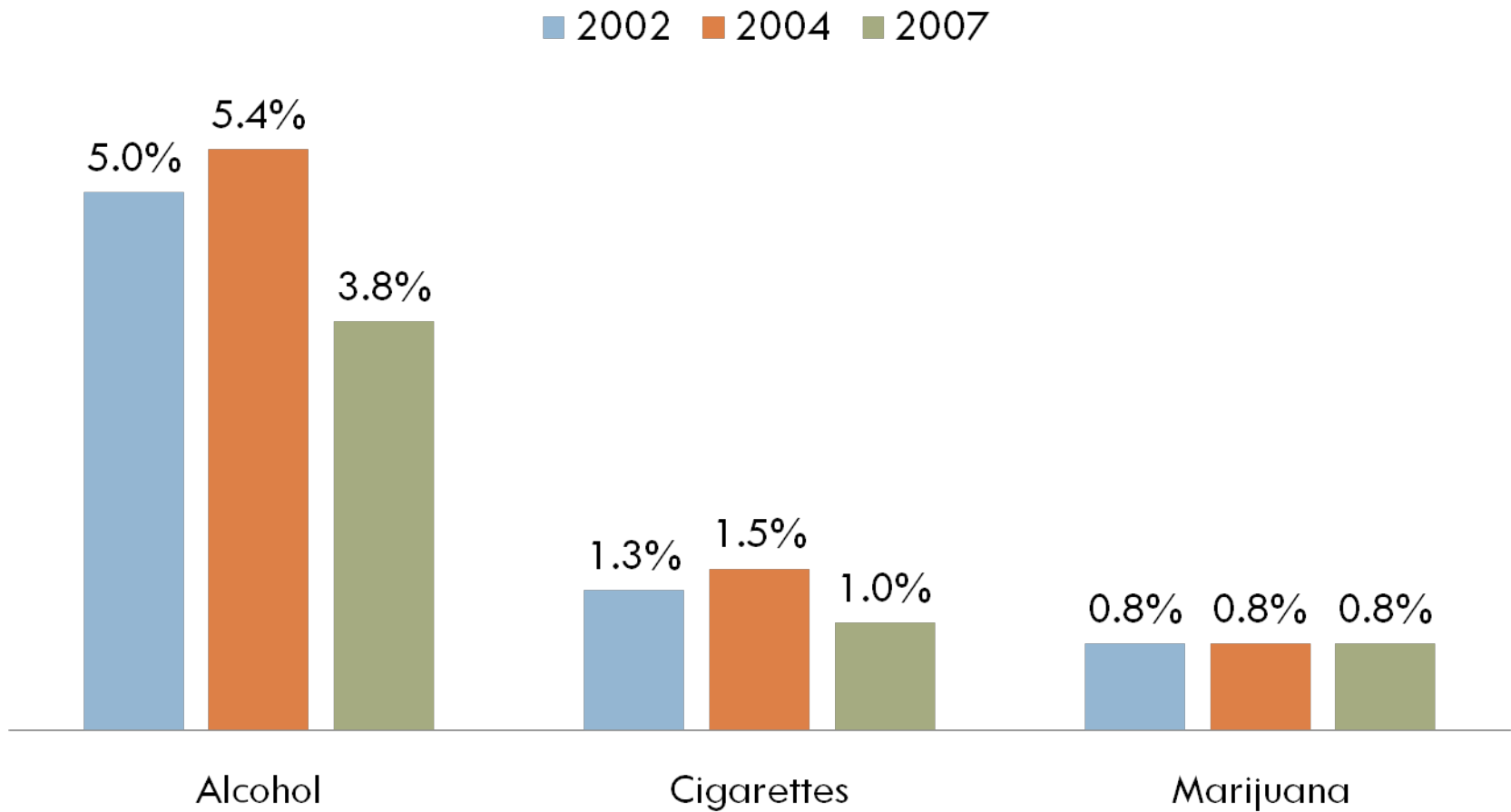
- Compares State and local ATOD findings with national data published by the National Institute of Drug Abuse in the *Monitoring the Future Survey*.
- Provides some information about: protective factors; knowledge regarding the consequences of ATOD use; parenting and peer influences; impaired driving among twelfth graders; and how safe adolescents feel at school, going to or from school, and in their neighborhoods.
- Ensures individual and school anonymity.

Highlights of Usage by Grade

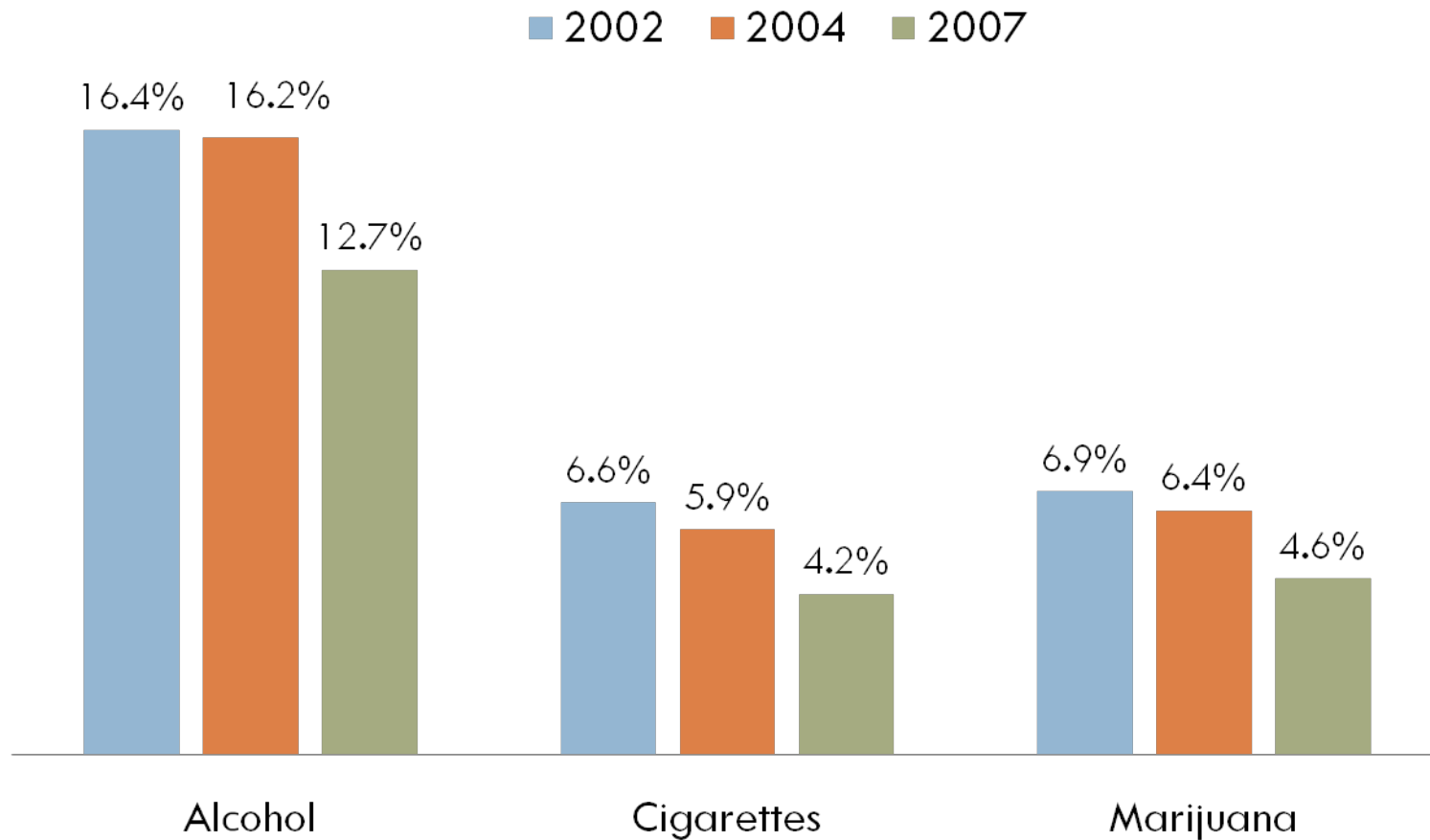
2002, 2004, and 2007 MAS

Except for marijuana use in grade 12, which increased slightly in 2004, the use of alcohol, cigarettes, and marijuana (also known as the ‘gateway’ drugs) declined or remained the same.

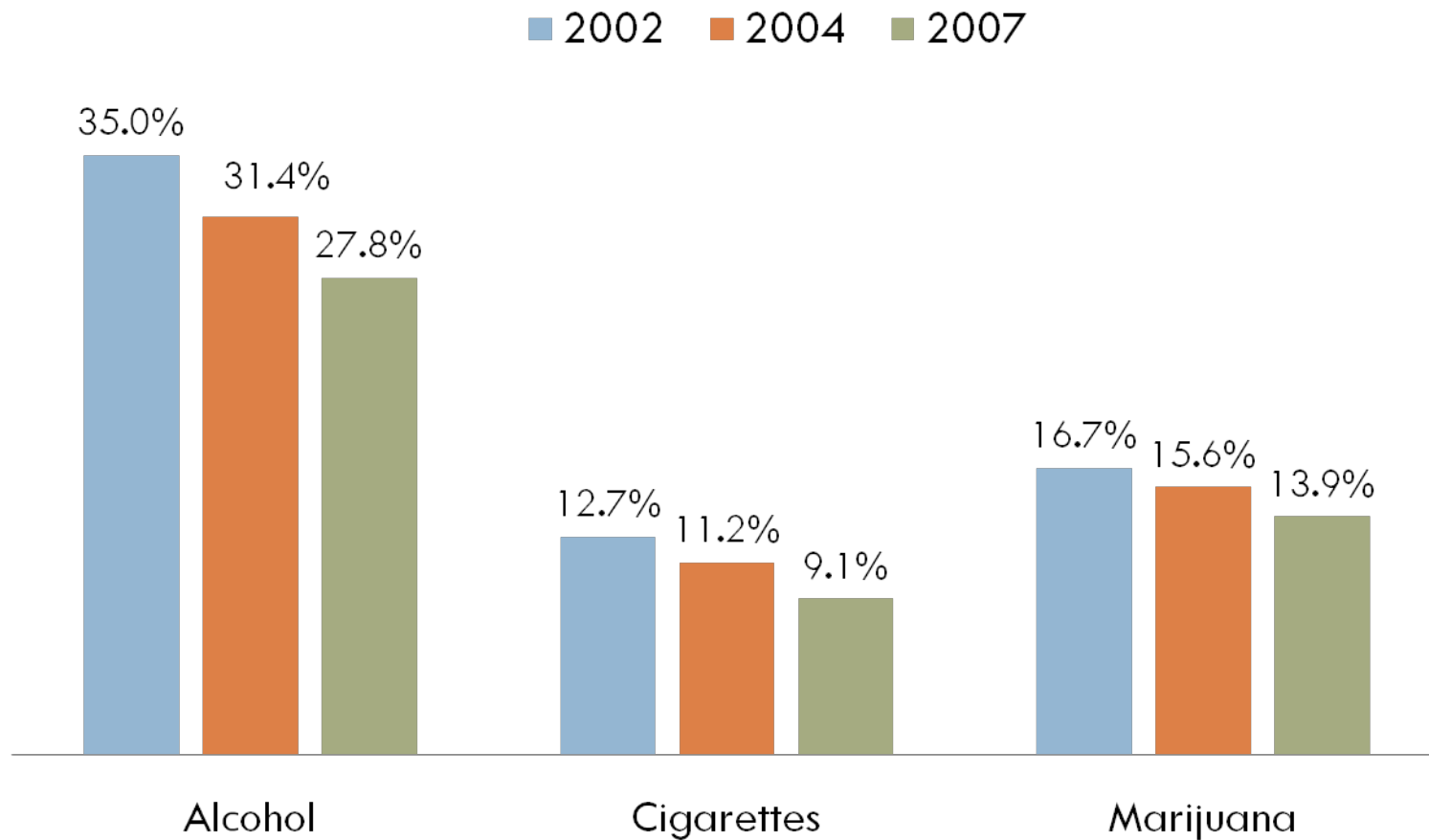
Last 30 Day Usage Rates - Grade 6



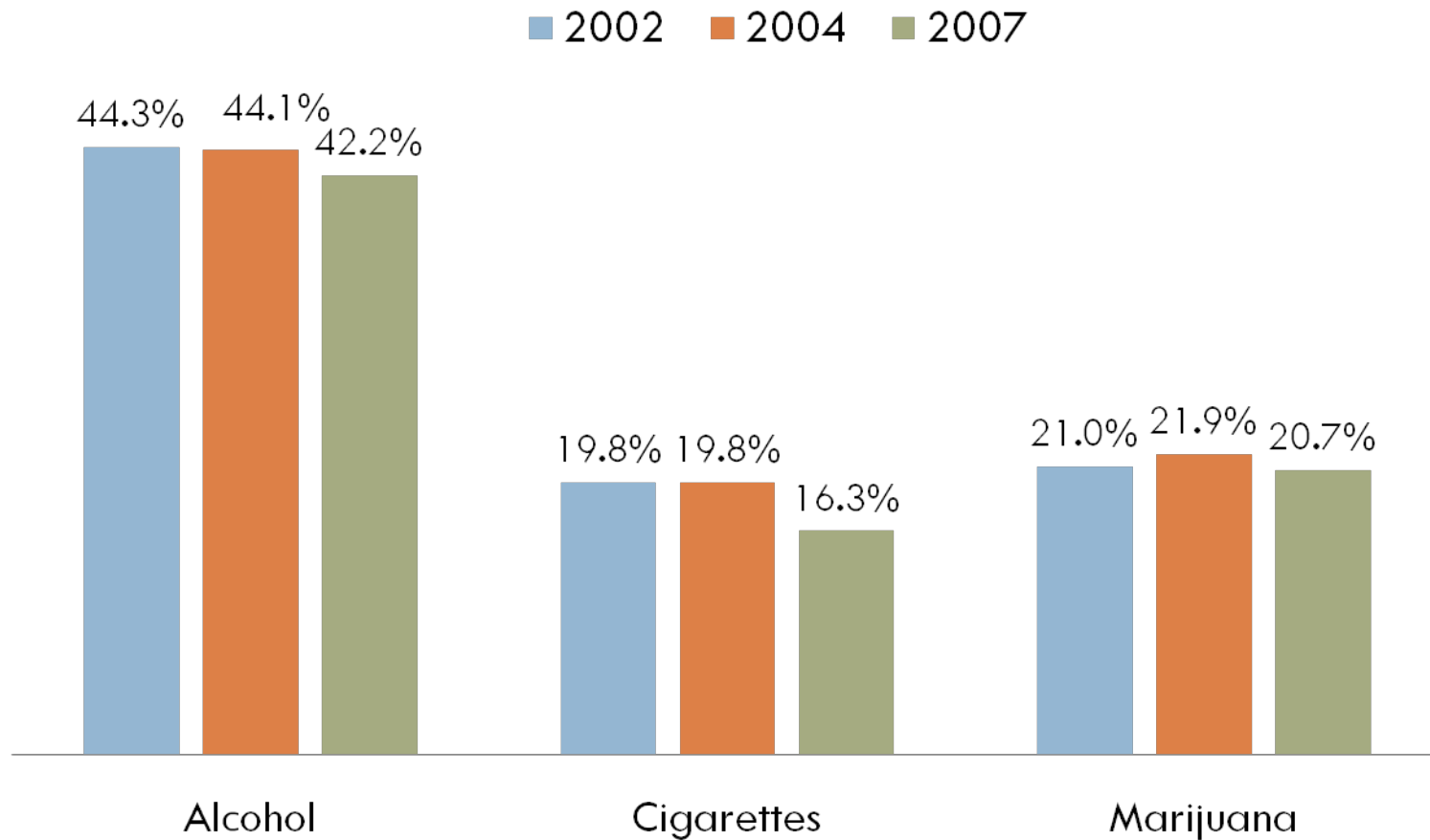
Last 30 Day Usage Rates - Grade 8



Last 30 Day Usage Rates, Grade 10



Last 30 Day Usage Rates, Grade 12



Data Usage

- Identify the nature, extent, and trends of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) use.
- Monitor progress toward goals and objectives.
- Evaluate prevention and intervention programs.
- Provide baseline data.
- Support new legislation and policies that promote health and well-being.
- Seek funding for new and ongoing initiatives.

ATOD Prevention Efforts

- Drug prevention education is taught in K-12 grade to enable students to acquire and apply knowledge of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs and the consequences of their non-use, use, and abuse.
- All 24 local school systems use scientifically based research ATOD programs to prevent or reduce substance abuse.

2007 MARYLAND YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY (YRBS)

Overview and Key Findings

Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)

- The Maryland YRBS is part of the national Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS).
- The YRBSS monitors priority health-risk behaviors among youth including:
 1. Unintentional injuries and violence;
 2. Tobacco use;
 3. Alcohol and other drug use;
 4. Sexual behaviors that contribute to unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases;
 5. Unhealthy dietary behaviors; and
 6. Physical inactivity.

Maryland YRBS

- Maryland first participated in the YRBS in 2005 as mandated by the Maryland General Assembly.
- Maryland YRBS is administered every two years to students in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12.
- Maryland is one of forty states that have obtained weighted data that represent the entire state.
- The Annotated Code of Maryland allows MSDE to omit up to a maximum of one-third of the national survey questions.

Maryland YRBS Sample

- Sampling was done in accordance with CDC guidelines.
- Survey was a stratified random sample by region.
- 30 high schools were sampled from 13 of the 24 local school systems.
- 3-4 classes from each of 30 schools were randomly chosen.
- 2,400 students were enrolled in the sampled classes.
- 1,528 usable surveys were obtained.

Health, Diet and Exercise

- ❑ In general, Maryland youth rate their health positively.
- ❑ Between 2005 and 2007:
 - There has been little change in responses about obesity, exercise, and dieting; and
 - There were declines in the percent of males and white youth reporting having being taught about AIDS or HIV.
- ❑ Maryland youth are significantly less likely to report attending physical education classes than are youth nationwide.

Motor Vehicle Safety

- Maryland youth are at equal risk to youth nationally in regard to:
 - Seatbelt usage when riding in a car driven by someone else; and
 - Riding in a car with a driver who had been drinking.

Tobacco, Alcohol and Other Drug Use

- In 2007, reported use of tobacco, alcohol, marijuana and other illicit drugs is similar to 2005.

Suicide

- ❑ The 2007 survey results highlight a reduction in suicidal behavior among Maryland youth:
 - Maryland youth, including all subgroups, were significantly less likely to report extended periods of sadness and hopelessness than in 2005; and
 - Significantly fewer Maryland youth seriously considered attempting suicide than during 2005.
- ❑ Maryland youth are slightly more likely to attempt a suicide (7.5%) than are youth nationwide (6.9%).

Youth Suicide Prevention Program Initiatives

- Since 2005, MSDE engaged in an interagency partnership and updated the Maryland plan for youth suicide prevention.
- In 2008, DHMH and MSDE were awarded a three-year, \$1.5 million federal grant to combat suicide in schools and communities:
 - Gatekeeper training for administrators and educators;
 - Advanced training for Student Services personnel; and
 - Evidence-based curriculum for Health Education VSC.



Community and School Safety

- ❑ Ten percent of Maryland youth never or rarely feel safe in their own neighborhoods compared to 8.1 percent in 2005.
- ❑ 7.4% of youth did not go to school at least once in the past 30 days because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to and from school—a rate slightly higher compared to youth nationwide (5.5%).
- ❑ Both engaging in a physical fight and carrying a weapon are much less likely to occur on school property than other settings.

Bullying and Harassment

- ❑ Approximately 26% of Maryland youth have been harassed or bullied on school property during the past 12 months—a rate that is slightly lower than in 2005 (28.4%):
 - Females are more likely than males to experience harassment or bullying on school property.
 - Approximately 30% of Maryland youth were the victims of teasing or name-calling because of their weight, size, or physical appearance, during the past 30 days.

Bullying and Harassment (Cont'd)

- Approximately 29% of Maryland youth were the victims of teasing or name-calling because of their weight, size, or physical appearance, during the past 30 days.
- Approximately 17% of Maryland youth were victims of teasing or name calling due to their race or ethnic background.
- 13% of Maryland youth were harassed or bullied during the past 12 months due to perceived sexual orientation.

