

Are Schools Using Effective Drug and Crime Prevention Programs?

Scott Crosse

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Presentation Overview

- Youth alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) use and school crime
- Prevention efforts in schools
- Identification of “research-based” prevention programs
- Adoption of research-based prevention programs
- Factors associated with adoption

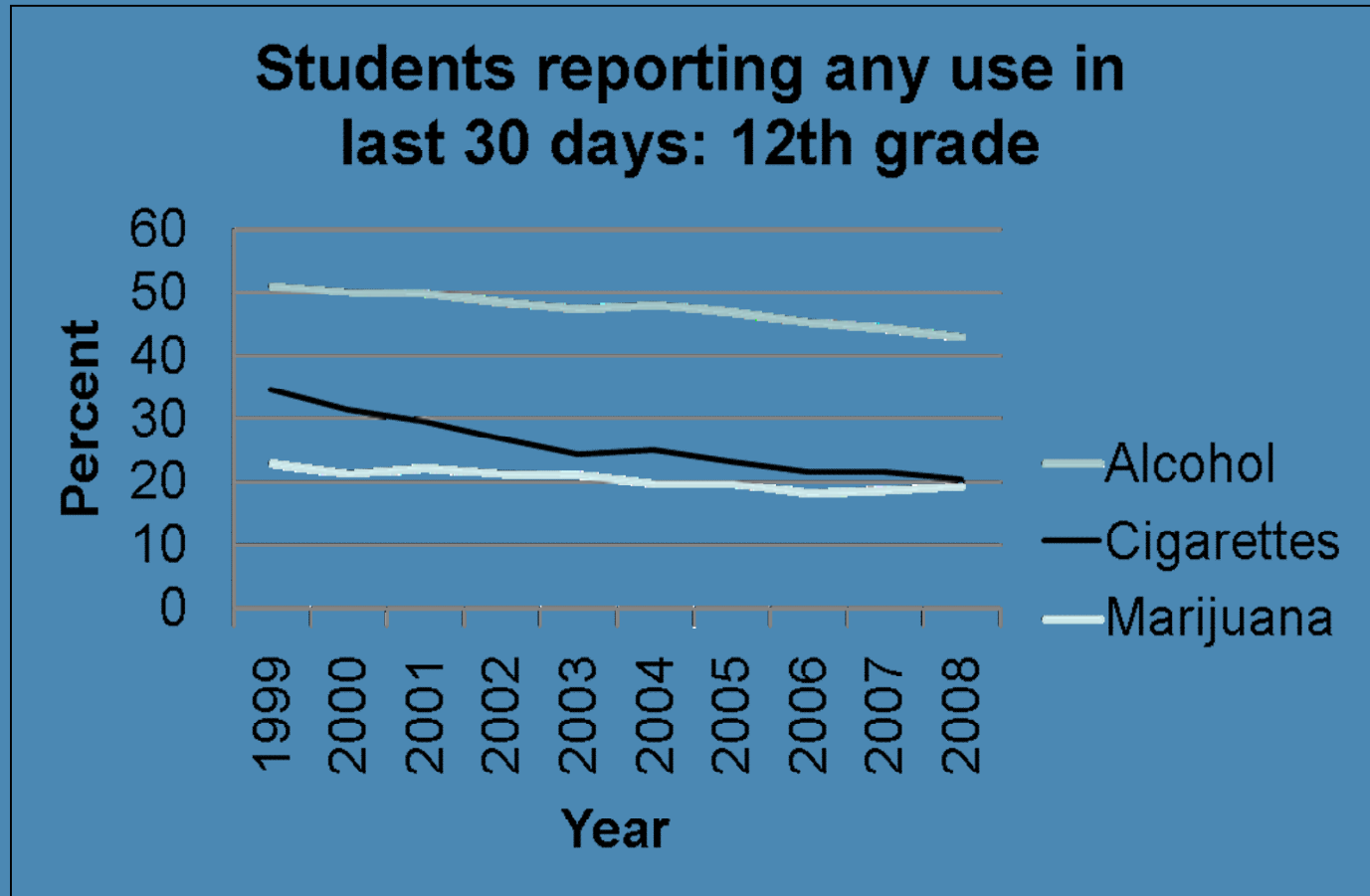


Youth ATOD Use

- Good news: Youth ATOD use rates declining overall
- Bad news: Rates still too high
 - Safety
 - Effects on development
 - Risk of dependence

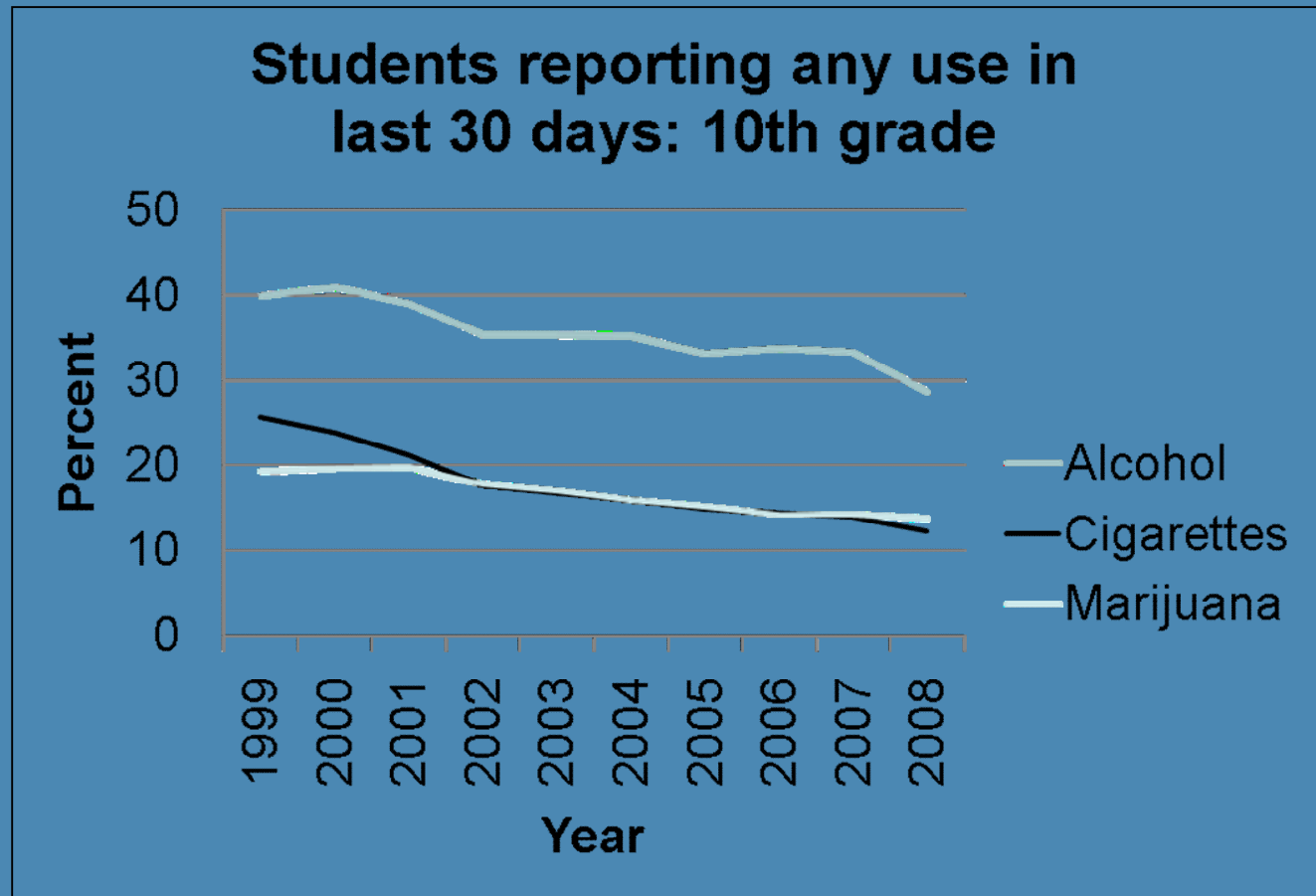


Trends in Prevalence of Use: MTF 2008 (Johnston et al., 2009, in preparation)



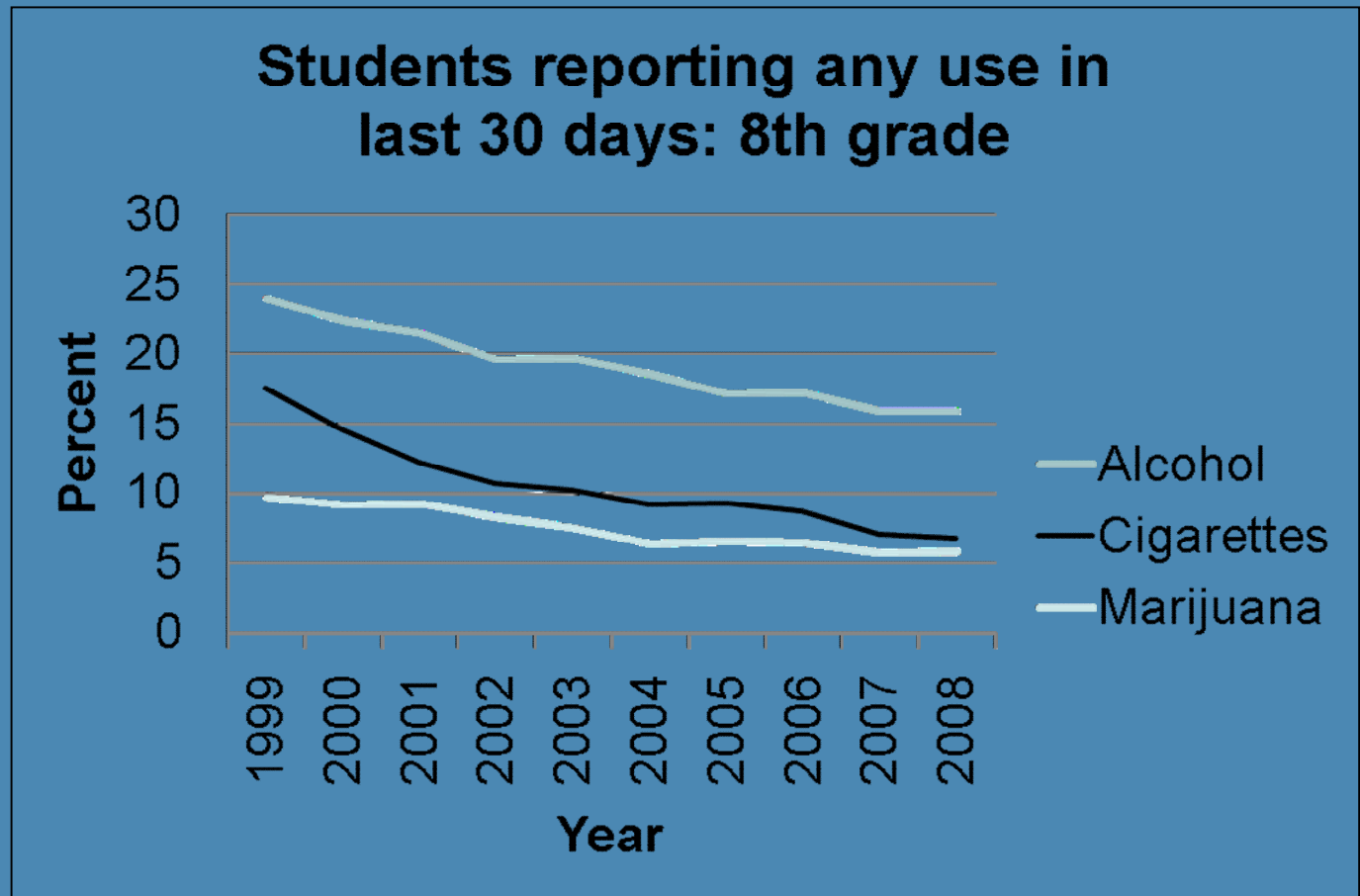


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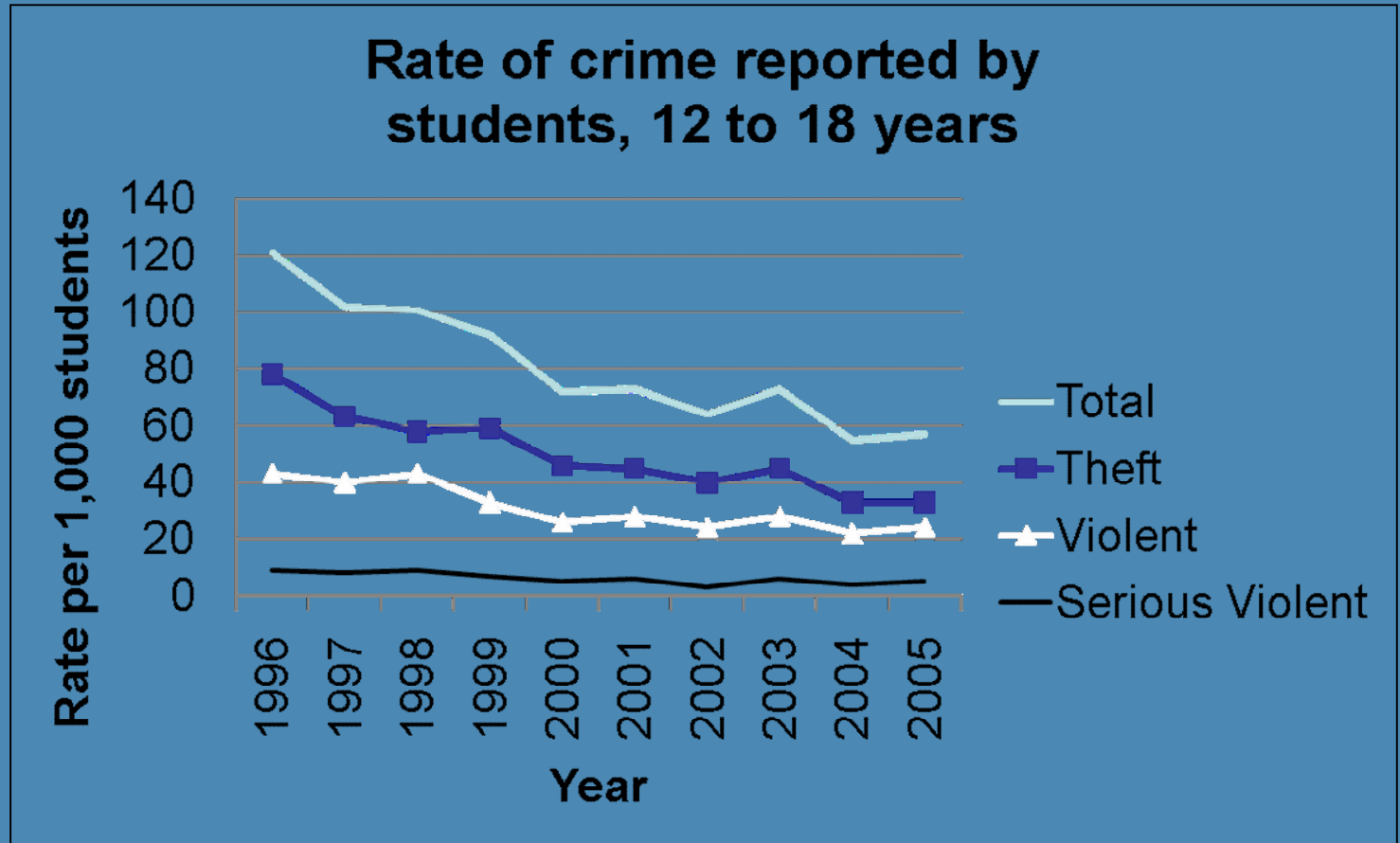


School Crime

- Good news: Level of school crime declining overall
- Bad news: Level still too high
 - Safety
 - Effects on development
 - Influence on learning



Trends in School Crime: NCVS 2005 (Dinkes et al., 2007)





Efforts to Prevent Youth ATOD Use and School Crime

- Program: Coherent set of activities intended to achieve well-defined objective(s)
- Delivery of diverse programs in schools
 - Objectives and target populations
 - Delivery approaches
 - Content
- Funding



Emphasis on Research-based Prevention Programs

- Research-based program: Program on which the evidence from rigorous research indicates desired effects achieved
- All other factors equal, expect research-based programs more likely to produce desired effects
- Funders are requiring use of research-based prevention programs (e.g., U.S. Department of Education and Center for Substance Abuse Prevention)



Lists of Research-based Programs

- Practitioners hungry for guidance on what programs qualify
- Proliferation of lists
 - Inclusion criteria
 - Emphases
 - Sponsors
- Criticism of lists (e.g., Gandhi et al., 2007)
 - Criteria (e.g., amount and quality of evidence required)
 - How criteria applied (e.g., consistency and transparency)



SDFS Study Efforts to Refine Lists of Effective Programs

- Based approaches on those used by others (e.g., What Works Clearinghouse)
- Began with 317 programs on existing lists
- Consistently applied several criteria
 - Relevant to SDFSCA Program (school-based component, etc.)?
 - Supported by implementation materials?
 - Based on rigorous research on behavioral outcomes?
 - At least two independent samples?
 - Evidence of effectiveness?



Initial Lists of Programs (Mihalic, 2002)

1. American Youth Policy Forum
2. Blueprints for Violence Prevention
3. Center for Mental Health Services
4. Center for Substance Abuse Prevention
5. Department of Education, Safe Schools
6. Communities That Care, Developmental Research and Programs
7. Mihalic and Aultman-Bettridge (2002)
8. National Institute of Drug Abuse
9. Sherman et al. (1997)
10. Strengthening America's Families
11. Surgeon General's Report
12. Office of Juvenile Justice and Prevention, Effective and Promising Programs



Preliminary List of Research-based Programs

1. Adolescent Alcohol Prevention Trial (AAPT)/All Stars
2. Aggression Replacement Training
3. Alcohol Misuse Prevention (AMP)
4. Anger Coping Program
5. Adolescent Transitions Program
6. Brainpower (Attributional Intervention)
7. Child Development Project
8. Earls court Social Skills Group Program
9. Early Risers
10. Incredible Years
11. Know Your Body
12. Life Skills Training
13. Midwestern Prevention (Project Star)



Preliminary List of Research-based Programs (continued)

14. Positive Action
15. Project Alert
16. Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS)
17. Responding in Peaceful and Positive Ways (RIPP)/Richmond Youth against Violence Project: Responding in Peaceful and Positive Ways
18. Second Step
19. Too Good for Drugs (TGFD)*
20. Toward No Drug Abuse (TND)
21. Skills, Opportunities, and Recognition (SOAR) (also known as Seattle Social Development Program)*

*Added by U.S. Department of Education

Note: Not all programs currently support widespread dissemination.



Current Efforts to Refine Lists of Effective Programs

- Currently updating review (starting with 161 programs relevant to SDFSCA Program)
- Improving approaches to assess level of effectiveness and make process more transparent



To What Extent Are Schools Using Research-based Prevention Programs?

Study	District or school level?	National or regional scope?	Definition of "research-based?"	Proportion with research-based programs (RBPs)
Hallfors & Godette (2002)	District	Regional	On Drug Strategies list	59% of districts with ≥ 1 RBP
Pankratz & Hallfors (2004)	District	Regional	On 1 or more of 5 lists	72% of districts with ≥ 1 RBP
Rohrbach et al. (2005)	District	National	On 1 or more of 5 lists	48% of districts with ≥ 1 RBP
Ringwalt et al. (2002)	School	National	On 1 or more of 5 lists	35% of middle schools with ≥ 1 RBP
Crosse et al. (2008, under review)	School	National	On list developed from other lists	41% of schools with ≥ 1 RBP



SDFS Study: Measuring Prevalence of Research-based Prevention Programs

- Selected national probability sample of 6,000 public elementary and secondary schools
- Surveyed schools on prevention programs in use during 2004-05 school year and on funding
- Compared reports on programs in use against list of research-based programs developed by study
- Also surveyed districts on overall prevention planning and implementation, and providers on implementation



SDFS Study: Preliminary Findings on Prevalence of Research-based Prevention Programs

- 85.2 percent of schools have ≥ 1 prevention program
- 40.7 percent of schools have ≥ 1 RBP
- 7.8 percent of prevention programs are research-based
- Vast majority of RBPs are curriculum programs
- Programs with SDFSCA Program funding no more likely to be research-based than other programs



What Factors Are Associated with Adoption of Research-based Prevention Programs by Schools?

- District and school characteristics
 - Urban status
 - District/school enrollment
 - Grade/instructional level
- District-level factors
 - Prevention coordinator time available
 - Prevention coordinator attendance at workshop/conference on prevention
 - Prevention coordinator/lead teacher experience



What Factors Are Associated with Adoption of Research-based Prevention Programs by Schools? (continued)

- State-level factors
 - District receipt of direction from states on selecting RBPs
 - District receipt of training from states on prevention



Next Steps for Strengthening Prevention Programming in Schools

- Deepen research base on prevention programs
- Continue to emphasize importance of research-based programming
- Promote list of research-based programs
- Pay more attention to factors associated with adoption and how programs are disseminated
- Offer assistance with matching programs to school needs
- Emphasize quality of implementation



Additional Questions???

Scott Crosse

scottcrosse@westat.com

(301) 294-3979



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