

The results suggest that smokeless tobacco, followed closely by cigarettes, were the earliest drugs used among Tennessee youth (average age 12). Drinking beer and wine and using inhalants began around age 13. Ice, PCP, LSD, other hallucinogens and cocaine use began latest among these students. The first episode of intoxication with alcohol occurred at 13.7 years on average among these students.

VIOLENCE-RELATED BEHAVIORS

Twenty-eight percent of students had engaged in a physical fight in the last 12 months; 8% of students had fought at school. Fourteen percent of students had gotten into a gang fight in the past 12 months, and 3% of all students had had a gang fight at school. Nineteen percent had carried a weapon, such as a knife, gun, or club other than for hunting, in the last 12 months; 5% of all students had carried a weapon to school in the last 12 months. Eight percent had been injured in a fight in the past 12 months, and 8% had been physically abused or assaulted in the same period. One percent of students had been injured in a fight while at school, while the same percentage of students reported being physically assaulted or abused at school.

STUDENTS' ATTITUDES TO ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

Consumption of ATOD is related to ease of access and perceived harmfulness of these substances. Tobacco is among the most accessible drugs and is associated with the least perceived harmfulness. Alcohol and marijuana are similarly believed by Tennessee students surveyed to be both relatively easy to access and relatively harmless to use.

EASE OF ACCESS TO ATOD

Based on the following results, cigarettes, smokeless tobacco and inhalants are the easiest substances for Tennessee students to obtain. Beer and wine coolers, followed by liquor and wine, are also relatively easy to access, as are marijuana/pot and prescription drugs or "pills." More difficult to obtain are steroids, cocaine/crack, and LSD and other hallucinogens. Ice and heroin are the drugs most difficult for Tennessee high school youth to access.

In answer to the question, "How easy do you think it would be for you to get each of the following types of drugs if you wanted some", with response choices of "very easy," "somewhat easy," "somewhat hard" and "very hard," Tennessee students answered as follows: