

- Peer Pressure
- Curiosity
- Depression
- Fun

When the eighth, ninth, tenth, and eleventh graders were surveyed, the two most common reasons for starting drugs were fun and curiosity. Not many students felt like they were pressured by their peers. Depression, although low, also seemed to be a factor for using drugs, especially among ninth graders.

**"Despite what most people think, most kids don't start off taking drugs, because they want to get high -**

**-they are motivated by a variety of psychological factors rather than physical ones.-**

**-They want to have fun, have friends and have the status of being a risk-taker. The danger is part of the appeal."**

**Grant Jardine, director of the Cape Town Drug Counseling Centre.**

*Mr. William's 3<sup>rd</sup> Period RSJ*

*Kira F.*

*Chelsea S.*

*Lorraine C.*

*Ji Hye L.*

*Mark U.*

# TEEN DRUG USE



Results of surveys administered to 8<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> grade students in the Davis Joint Unified School District

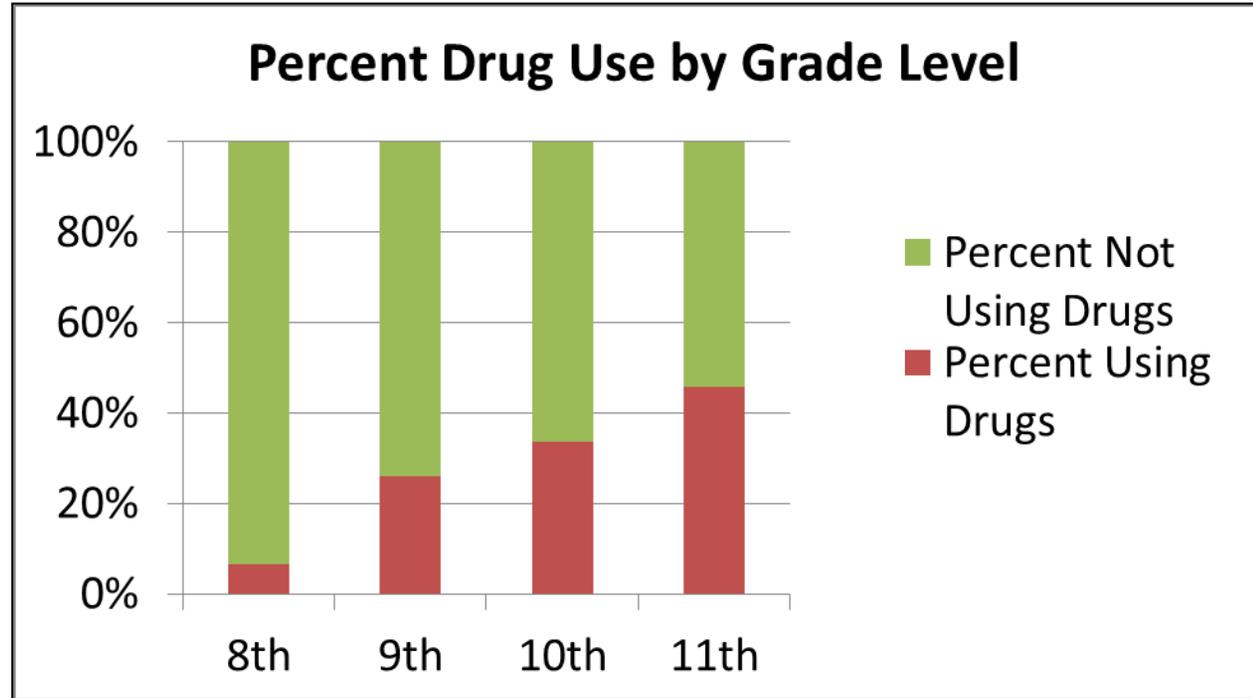
Trends and surprising patterns found through analysis of survey results

Helpful tips on how to lower substance use in teens

Reasons why teens start using drugs... the answer might surprise you

## Statistics of Drug Use Among Teenagers

We surveyed eighth through eleventh graders to see how many students used drugs. Through all four years there is an increase in the percentage of students using drugs. The largest increase was from eighth to ninth grade; there were five times more ninth graders using drugs than eighth graders. To prevent substance use, it is crucial to make your students aware of the effects of drugs as they make their transition into high school.



### Tips on Keeping Your Student Away from Drugs

- Educate students on the negative effects drugs will have on their bodies, both mentally and physically
- Get students involved in extracurricular activities to prevent them from turning to drugs out of boredom or loneliness
- Make sure they know how to make good life choices including friends and peers
- Involve students in sports and educate them on how to keep their bodies healthy