

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

SURVEY OF DRUG USE

AMONG INSTITUTIONALIZED JUVENILE BOYS

AT RED WING

013852

Prepared By

Research, Information & Data Systems

November 1972

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INTRODUCTION

This survey represents a sample of 114 boys from the Red Wing Training School. Whatever boys were available at the time of the survey were given the questionnaire in groups of 15 to 20 boys each. It is the first survey of drug use by institutionalized youth in Minnesota. The purpose was to determine the extent of drug use by youth committed to the State Training School and to determine the attitudes toward drugs by both users and non-users. It was felt that these attitudes must be analyzed before setting up a drug education program.

This study compares experience with, and attitudes toward drugs of youth in the rural, urban, and metropolitan areas. Eighteen boys did not designate their hometown area and are included as a fourth category. The unknowns will not be useful when comparing geographic areas, but the responses of the unknowns should not be disregarded.

Two changes were made in classifying the extent of drug use. The first change in determining usage was the omission of chemical sniffing and alcohol because it was found that many boys who had indicated they used either or both of these drugs but none of the others, did not consider themselves users when they responded to many of the other questions. Thus, the classification, Non User, Experimenter, and User are determined by the following drugs; marijuana/hashish, amphetamines, barbiturates, cocaine, narcotics, and hallucinogens.

The second change was made when grouping boys into one of three drug use categories. This change was in the non-user category and was necessary because it was felt that a person who had only experimented with marijuana or hashish and had not tried any other drug did not really qualify as an experimenter. The rationale for this is the generally accepted attitude of users that one does not get high the first few times he smokes marijuana or hashish. It was felt that such a person is more similar to a non-user than he is to one who had experimented with drugs such as acid, coke, or heroin. If such a person had experimented with marijuana or hashish and also with any of the other drugs, he was then classified as an experimenter. Anyone who had used any of the drugs (except chemical sniffing and alcohol) at least five times, was considered a user. Thus, those who had only used alcohol or chemicals were classified as non-users. Only two boys reported that they had never used alcohol, and only nine reported they had never experimented with marijuana. There were no boys who had only used chemicals.

The following tables present the characteristics of the sample boys compared with the total population in the institution as of June 30, 1971.

TABLE 1: Mean Age

	<u>Samples</u>	<u>STSB Boys as of 06-30-71</u>
Mean Age	16.5	17.1
Range	14-19	15-20

PART I: DRUG USE

The tables in Part I deal with drug use itself while the tables in Part II deal with attitudes towards drugs.

The testing was done in groups of 15 to 20 boys at a time by two volunteers from the University of Minnesota. There were no follow-up interviews and the information is entirely from the responses on the questionnaire. A copy of the questionnaire is included in the Appendix.

TABLE 1: Breakdown Of Drug Experience By Area And Use.

	<u>Non-User</u>		<u>Experi- menter</u>		<u>User</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>
Metro	8	18.6	1	2.3	34	79.1	43	37.7
Urban	6	19.4	2	6.5	23	74.2	31	27.2
Rural	6	27.3	1	4.6	15	68.2	22	19.3
Unknown	1	5.6	2	11.1	15	83.3	18	15.8
TOTAL	21	18.4	6	5.3	87	76.3	114	100.0

As can be seen in Table 1, over three-fourths of those tested fell within the user category. Less than one-fifth were classified as non-users. Out of 21 non-users, eight reportedly had experimented with marijuana but were listed as non-users for reasons stated earlier. The low number of experimenters should be considered when reviewing their responses in subsequent tables.

TABLE 2: Race

	SAMPLE		STSB	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
White	84	77.1	177	82.0
Black	12	11.0	18	8.3
Indian	10	9.2	19	8.8
Other	3	2.7	2	0.9
Unknown	5			
TOTAL	114		216	

TABLE 3: Place of Residence

	SAMPLE		STSB	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Rural	22	22.9	39	18.2
Urban	31	32.3	84	39.3
Metropolitan	43	44.8	91	42.5
Unknown	18		2	
TOTAL	114		216	

It seems probable that the use of drugs among STSB boys is at least somewhat over-stated. The sample selected leads to some bias, because both non-whites and metropolitan area youth are over-represented. Almost 90% of the non-whites were classified as users and 76% of the whites. Similarly 79% of metropolitan area youth were characterized as users and 68% of rural youth were classified as users.

TABLE 2: Drug Use by Area and Type of Drug

	METRO AREA		URBAN AREA		RURAL AREA		UNKNOWN		TOTAL	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
ALCOHOL										
Over 10 times	35	81.4	22	71.0	18	81.8	16	88.9	91	79.8
5-10 times	3	7.0	5	16.1	3	13.6			11	9.7
Experimented	3	7.0	3	9.7	1	4.5			7	6.1
Never used	2	4.7	1	3.2			2	11.1	5	4.4
No response										
TOTAL	43	100.1	31	100.0	22	99.9	18	100.0	114	100.0
MARIJUANA										
Over 10 times	31	72.1	17	54.8	11	50.0	11	61.1	70	61.4
5-10 times	2	4.7	4	12.9	2	9.1	3	16.7	11	9.7
Experimented	5	11.6	5	16.1	5	22.7	2	11.1	17	14.9
Never used	5	11.6	5	16.1	3	13.6	2	11.1	15	13.2
No response					1	4.6			1	.9
TOTAL	43	100.0	31	99.9	22	100.0	18	100.0	114	100.0
HALLUCINOGEN										
Over 10 times	21	48.8	9	29.0	6	27.3	9	50.0	45	39.5
5-10 times	4	9.3	5	16.1	1	4.6			10	8.8
Experimented	2	4.7	3	9.7	4	18.2	2	11.1	11	9.7
Never used	14	32.6	14	45.2	11	50.0	7	38.9	46	40.4
No response	2	4.7							2	1.8
TOTAL	43	100.0	31	100.0	22	100.1	18	100.0	114	100.2
AMPHETAMINES										
Over 10 times	18	41.9	10	32.3	9	41.0	7	38.9	44	38.6
5-10 times	9	20.9	5	16.1	2	9.1	4	22.2	20	17.5
Experimented	3	7.0	2	6.5	2	9.1	5	27.8	12	10.5
Never used	11	25.6	14	45.2	9	41.0	2	11.1	36	31.6
No response	2	4.7							2	1.8
TOTAL	43	100.1	31	100.1	22	100.2	18	100.0	114	100.0
CHEMICALS										
Over 10 times	14	32.6	7	22.6	8	36.4	5	27.8	34	29.8
5-10 times	4	9.3	8	25.8	2	9.1	3	16.7	17	14.9
Experimented	10	23.3	5	16.1	7	31.8	3	16.7	25	21.9
Never used	14	32.6	11	35.5	5	22.7	7	38.9	37	32.5
No response	1	2.3							1	.9
TOTAL	43	100.1	31	100.0	22	100.0	18	100.1	114	100.0
BARBITURATES										
Over 10 times	14	32.6	4	12.9	4	18.2	5	27.8	27	23.7
5-10 times	6	14.0	5	16.1	2	9.1	3	16.7	16	14.0
Experimented	7	16.3	8	25.8	3	13.6	5	27.8	23	20.2
Never used	14	32.7	14	45.2	12	54.6	5	27.8	45	39.5
No response	2	4.7			1	4.6			3	2.6
TOTAL	43	100.3	31	100.0	22	100.1	18	100.1	114	100.0
NARCOTICS										
Over 10 times	10	23.3	3	9.7	1	4.6	3	16.7	17	15.0
5-10 times	3	7.0	5	16.1	3	13.6	2	11.1	13	11.4
Experimented	7	16.3	5	16.1	2	9.1	3	16.7	17	15.0
Never used	20	46.5	18	58.1	15	68.2	10	55.6	63	55.3
No response	3	7.0			1	4.6			4	3.5
TOTAL	43	100.1	31	100.0	22	100.1	18	100.1	114	100.2

TABLE 2: Drug Use by Area and Type of Drug, (Cont'd)

	METRO AREA		URBAN AREA		RURAL AREA		UNKNOWN /		TOTAL	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
COCAINE										
Over 10 times	3	7.0	3	9.7	1	4.6	1	5.6	8	7.0
5-10 times	6	14.0	2	6.5	3	13.6	1	5.6	12	10.5
Experimented	4	9.3	2	6.5	2	9.1	2	11.1	10	8.8
Never used	26	60.5	24	77.4	15	68.2	14	77.8	79	69.3
No response	4	9.3			1	4.6			5	4.4
TOTAL	43	100.1	31	100.1	22	100.1	18	100.1	114	100.0

Table 2 indicates a high percentage of users in all four area categories. Many of the boys surveyed used more than one drug listed above more than 10 times and it appears that the users have had experience with a wide variety of drugs. Table 2 lists the drugs in the order of most common usage.

TABLE 3: Of Five of Your Friends, How Many Have Ever Tried Drugs to Get High.

METRO AREA	NON USER		EXPERIMENTER		USER		TOTAL	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
0 Friends	2	25.0					2	4.7
1 Friend								
2 Friends	1	12.5			1	2.9	1	2.3
3 Friends	1	12.5			1	2.9	2	4.7
4 Friends	1	12.5					2	4.7
5 Friends	3	37.5	1	100.0	32	94.1	36	83.7
No Response								
TOTAL	8	100.0	1	100.0	34	99.9	43	100.1
URBAN AREA								
0 Friends	2	33.3					2	6.5
1 Friend					1	4.4	1	3.2
2 Friends	1	16.7					1	3.2
3 Friends	1	16.7			1	4.4	2	6.5
4 Friends			2	100.0	1	4.4	3	9.7
5 Friends	2	33.3			20	87.0	22	71.0
No Response								
TOTAL	6	100.0	2	100.0	23	100.2	31	100.1
RURAL AREA								
0 Friends	2	33.3			1	6.7	3	13.6
1 Friend	1	16.7					1	4.6
2 Friends								
3 Friends	2	33.3					2	9.1
4 Friends	1	16.7	1	100.0	2	13.3	4	18.2
5 Friends					12	80.0	12	54.6
No Response								
TOTAL	6	100.0	1	100.0	15	100.0	22	100.1
AREA UNKNOWN								
0 Friends					1	6.7	1	5.6
1 Friend								
2 Friends					1	6.7	1	5.6
3 Friends			1	50.0	1	6.7	2	11.1
4 Friends								
5 Friends	1	100.0	1	50.0	11	73.3	13	72.2
No Response					1	6.7	1	5.6
TOTAL	1	100.0	2	100.0	15	100.1	18	100.1
ALL AREAS								
0 Friends	6	23.6			2	2.3	8	7.0
1 Friend	1	4.8			1	1.1	2	1.8
2 Friends	2	9.5			1	1.1	3	2.6
3 Friends	4	19.1	1	16.7	3	3.5	8	7.0
4 Friends	2	9.5	3	50.0	4	4.6	9	7.9
5 Friends	6	28.6	2	33.3	75	86.2	83	72.8
NO RESPONSE					1	1.1	1	.9
TOTAL	21	100.1	6	100.0	87	99.9	114	100.0

Table 3 illustrates that users are more apt to have friends who are users. In the metropolitan area for example, 25% of the non-users reported that none of their friends ever used a drug to get high, while none of the users stated this. On the contrary, 94.1% of the metropolitan users said that out of 5 friends, all 5 had used drugs to get high. This is also true in the urban and rural areas although the percentages are not as great.

All of the metropolitan area users reported that at least 3 out of 5 friends have taken a drug to get high. In the urban area this figure is 95.7% and in the rural area 93.3%.

TABLE 4: Of These Five Friends, How Many Do You Feel Use Drugs Regularly.

METRO AREA	NON-USER		EXPERIMENTER		USER		TOTAL	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
5 Friends	2	25.0	1	100.0	17	50.0	20	46.5
4 Friends					3	8.8	3	7.0
3 Friends	1	12.5			6	17.7	7	16.3
2 Friends	1	12.5			4	11.8	5	11.6
1 Friend	1	12.5			1	2.9	2	4.7
0 Friends	3	37.5			2	5.9	5	11.6
No Response					1	2.9	1	2.3
TOTAL	8	100.0	1	100.0	34	100.0	43	100.0
URBAN AREA								
5 Friends	1	16.7			8	34.8	9	29.0
4 Friends					3	13.0	3	9.7
3 Friends	1	16.7			4	17.4	5	16.1
2 Friends	1	16.7	1	50.0	5	21.7	7	22.6
1 Friend								
0 Friends	1	16.7	1	50.0	1	4.4	3	9.7
No Response	2	33.3			2	8.7	4	12.9
TOTAL	6	100.1	2	100.0	23	100.0	31	100.0
RURAL AREA								
5 Friends					4	26.7	4	18.2
4 Friends					1	6.7	1	4.6
3 Friends					2	13.3	2	9.1
2 Friends	2	33.3	1	100.0	2	13.3	5	22.7
1 Friend					2	20.0	3	13.6
0 Friends	4	66.7			2	13.3	6	27.3
No Response					1	6.7	1	4.6
TOTAL	6	100.0	1	100.0	15	100.0	22	100.1
ALL AREAS								
5 Friends	3	14.3	1	16.7	34	39.1	38	33.3
4 Friends					8	9.2	8	7.0
3 Friends	2	9.5			15	17.2	17	14.9
2 Friends	4	19.1	3	50.0	12	13.8	19	16.7
1 Friend	1	4.8			4	4.6	5	4.4
0 Friends	9	42.9	1	16.7	8	9.2	18	15.8
No Response	2	9.5	1	16.7	6	6.9	9	7.9
TOTAL	21	100.1	6	100.1	87	100.0	114	100.0

Table 4 illustrates how many of five friends have used drugs regularly. Again the number of users who say that five out of five friends use drugs regularly is quite high. The highest percent is in the metropolitan area with the urban area next and then the rural area. Seventy-six percent in the metropolitan area have at least three friends who use drugs regularly. This figure drops to 65.2% in the urban area and 46.7% in the rural area.

TABLE 5 : Do You Know Or Have You Ever Known Anyone Personally Who Has or Has Had A Drug Problem.

	TOTALS							
	Non-User		Experimenter		User		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	15	71.4	4	66.7	73	83.9	92	80.7
No	4	19.1	2	33.3	4	4.6	10	8.8
Maybe	2	9.5			9	10.3	11	9.7
No Response					1	1.2	1	.9
TOTAL	21	100.0	6	100.0	87	100.0	114	100.1

What constituted a drug problem was left to the individual to define. The purpose of the question was to get an indication of how many boys had friends who had an experience with drugs that could be interpreted as being a problem. The responses were high in all area groupings as well as in the non-user and user categories. The urban area was highest with 91.3% of the users and 83.3% of the non-users indicating they knew someone who they would consider as having a drug problem. For the rural area the figures are 66.7% of the non-users and 86.7% of the users.

Metropolitan area youth were less likely to know anyone with a drug problem although 62.5% of the users and 82.4% of non-users did state they knew someone with a drug problem. This may be because metropolitan youth are less likely to view drug use as harmful. Because of the nature of the questionnaire many youth may have included alcohol as a drug problem.

TABLE 6: If You Have Ever Used Drugs To Get High, Did Your Parents Or Guardian Ever Know About It.

	USERS									
	Metro		Urban		Rural		Unknown		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	26	76.5	13	56.5	11	73.3	9	60.0	59	67.8
No	1	2.9	5	21.7	2	13.3	3	20.0	11	12.6
Not Sure	7	20.6	5	21.7	2	13.3	2	13.3	16	18.4
No Response							1	6.7	1	1.1
TOTAL	34	100.0	23	99.9	15	99.9	15	100.0	87	99.9

Two thirds of the boys stated that their parents realize they are experimenting with drugs. How many of these are referring to alcohol but not other drugs is not known. However, in classifying users, alcohol and chemical sniffing were omitted. Therefore, all of the above respondents have used at least one of the other drugs more than five times in order to be classified as a user. From the above data we can assume that many parents are aware of their childrens' drug experience. The parents of urban users are least likely to know that their child uses drugs; the parents of metropolitan users are more likely to know. Over 50 percent of the users say their parents know about their drug use. In the metropolitan area this figure is 76.5% and in the urban areas 73.3%.

TABLE 7: When Was The Last Time You Took A Drug To Get High.

	USERS									
	Metro		Urban		Rural		Unknowns		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Over 6 Mos.	12	35.3	12	52.2	8	53.3	3	20.0	35	40.2
1-6 Month	17	50.0	8	34.8	7	46.7	7	46.7	39	44.8
Past Month	5	14.7	3	13.0			3	20.0	11	12.6
Past Week										
Today										
No Response							2	13.3	2	2.3
TOTAL	34	100.0	23	100.0	15	100.0	15	100.0	87	99.9

None of the boys admitted to using drugs in the past week. The time since last use is probably related to the length of time in the institution. In a later question asking why the respondent quit drugs one option offered a fill-in response. The most common answer written in was "because I was sent up."

TABLE 8: If You Have Ever Taken Drugs To Get High, Where Did You Normally Do So.

	USERS									
	Metro		Urban		Rural		Unknowns		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Home	6	17.7	6	26.1	2	13.3	2	13.3	16	18.4
School			1	4.4	2	13.3			3	3.5
Driving Around	1	2.9	2	8.7	3	20.0			6	6.9
Group Gathering	16	47.1	10	43.5	2	13.3	6	40.0	34	39.1
Alone			2	8.7	3	20.0	2	13.3	7	8.1
More Than 1 of Above	10	29.4	2	8.7	2	13.3	5	33.3	19	21.8
No Response	1	2.9			1	6.7			2	2.3
TOTAL	34	100.0	23	100.1	15	99.9	15	99.9	87	100.1

Table 8 indicates that drug use is a social affair. Almost 40 percent of the respondents stated they were most apt to use drugs when other people were present. Eighteen percent reported they normally got high at home. This does not indicate if they were alone or with other users.

TABLE 9: What Age Were You When You First Took A Drug To Get High.

Age	USERS									
	Metro		Urban		Rural		Unknowns		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
9 Years					1	6.8	1	6.7	2	2.3
10 Years	1	2.8	2	8.8			1	6.7	4	4.6
11 Years	2	5.9			2	13.3			4	4.6
12 Years	7	20.6	3	13.0	2	13.3	3	20.0	15	17.2
13 Years	7	20.6	5	21.7	2	13.3	1	6.7	15	17.2
14 Years	11	32.4	4	17.4	3	20.0	2	13.3	20	23.0
15 Years	4	11.8	5	21.7	3	20.0	4	26.6	16	18.4
16 Years	2	5.9	3	13.0	2	13.3	1	6.7	8	9.2
17 Years			1	4.4			2	13.3	3	3.5
Total	34	100.0	23	100.0	15	100.0	15	100.0	87	100.0

Not only do metropolitan youth use drugs more frequently, but they also begin at an earlier age. Table 9 above shows that 41.2% of the metropolitan area respondents first used drugs to get high at age 12 or 13 while 39.1% of the urban area and only 26.6% of the rural are youth did so at this age. Some boys reported that they did not remember exactly when they first began using drugs.

The median age for the users is 16.3 years. The median age for the users first experience with drugs is 13.5 years. By area, the median ages of the users are; 16.5 years for metropolitan youth, 15.7 years for urban youth and 16.3 years for rural youth. As for first experience with drugs, the median ages are; 13.3 years for metropolitan youth, 13.8 years for urban youth, and 14.5 years for rural youth.

TABLE 10: Who First Introduced You To The Use Of Drugs.

	USERS									
	Metro		Urban		Rural		Unknown		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Friend										
My Age	18	52.9	14	60.9	9	60.0	9	60.0	50	57.5
Adult	2	5.9	2	8.7	3	20.0	1	6.7	8	9.2
Group										
Gathering	7	20.6	2	8.7	1	6.7	4	26.7	14	16.1
Other	6	17.7	5	21.7	2	13.3			13	14.9
No Response	1	2.9					1	6.7	2	2.3
Total	34	100.0	23	100.0	15	100.0	15	100.1	87	100.0

The most common response to this question was the category, friends my age . This accounted for 57.5% of the total responses. Next most common was the group gathering such as a party or gang. Very few, only 9.2%, were introduced to drugs by an adult although the 'other' category may include adults. The other category was a write in option. The most common answer given was a brother, cousin or other relative.

TABLE 11: Have Any Members Of Your Family Used Drugs To Your Knowledge.

	USERS									
	Metro		Urban		Rural		Unknowns		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	29	85.3	15	65.2	10	66.7	8	53.3	62	71.3
No	5	14.7	8	34.8	5	33.3	6	40.0	24	27.6
No Response							1	6.7	1	1.2
Total	34	100.0	23	100.0	15	100.0	15	100.0	87	100.1

	NON-USERS									
	Metro		Urban		Rural		Unknowns		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	4	50.0			2	33.3	1	100.0	7	33.3
No	4	50.0	6	100.0	4	66.7			14	66.7
No Response										
Total	8	100.0	6	100.0	6	100.0	1	100.0	21	100.0

The question does not specify what drugs or type of drugs are referred to. Therefore, the respondents could be referring to alcohol or a mild drug such as aspirin. What is significant in this question is the fact that the users responded with a high percentage in the yes category while the non-users responded with a high percentage in the no category.

We may conclude that a family environment in which the use of drugs is common may result in greater experimentation with drugs by the younger members of the family or that the users and non-users may have differed in their interpretation of the word drugs.

TABLE 12: Do You Smoke Cigarettes Regularly.

	USERS									
	Metro		Urban		Rural		Unknowns		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	31	91.2	19	82.6	15	100.0	14	93.3	79	90.8
No	1	2.9	4	17.4			1	6.7	6	6.9
No Response	2	5.9							2	2.3
Total	34	100.0	23	100.0	15	100.0	15	100.0	87	100.0

	NON-USERS									
	Metro		Urban		Rural		Unknowns		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	7	87.5	3	50.0	5	83.3	1	100.0	16	76.2
No	1	12.5	2	33.3	1	16.7			4	19.1
No Response			1	16.7					1	4.8
Total	8	100.0	6	100.0	6	100.0	1	100.0	21	100.1

TABLE 13: Do You Drink Coffee Or Tea.

	USERS									
	Metro		Urban		Rural		Unknowns		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	12	35.3	9	39.1	11	73.3	10	66.7	42	48.3
No	10	29.4	5	21.7	1	6.7	1	6.7	17	19.5
Occasionally	10	29.4	9	39.1	3	20.0	4	26.7	26	29.9
No Response	2	5.9							2	2.3
Total	34	100.0	23	99.9	15	100.0	15	100.1	87	100.0

TABLE 13: Continued

	NON-USERS									
	Metro		Urban		Rural		Unknowns		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	3	37.5	3	50.0	2	33.3			8	38.1
No	3	37.5			1	16.7			4	19.1
Occasionally	2	25.0	2	33.3	3	50.0	1	100.0	8	38.1
No Response			1	16.7					1	4.8
Total	8	100.0	6	100.0	6	100.0	1	100.0	21	100.1

Nicotine and caffeine (Tables 12 and 13) do not relate to the rest of the questions on the survey because they are not generally considered to be drugs. They were added for general information on the respondents. It would not be valid, however, to draw any conclusions between the use of caffeine and nicotine and the use of other drugs, although drug users tend to use both cigarettes and coffee or tea more often than non-users.

PART II: ATTITUDES TOWARD DRUGS

TABLE 14: How Did You Learn About Different Drugs And Their Effects.

ALL AREAS								
	Non-User		Experi- menter		User		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Reading On Own	2	9.5	1	16.7	8	9.2	11	9.7
Friends	8	38.1	4	66.7	35	40.2	47	41.2
School	1	4.8			2	2.3	3	2.6
Parents					1	1.2	1	.9
Experimented					29	33.3	29	25.4
Don't Know Much About it	9	42.9			4	4.6	13	11.4
Other	1	4.8			2	2.3	3	2.6
More Than 1 Of The Above			1	16.7	5	5.8	6	5.3
No Response					1	1.2	1	.9
Total	21	100.1	6	100.1	87	100.1	114	100.0

This table indicates that most of the boys rely on their friends and experimentation to learn about drugs. Only 1 out of 21 non-users and 2 out of 87 users reported that they learned about drugs and their effects through school. Many of the non-users in all three areas reported they did not know much about drugs. Of the users in the rural area, 53.3% stated they learned from friends. This dropped to 35.3% in the metropolitan area and to 26.1% in the urban area. Only one

boy out of 114 stated that his information on drugs came from his parents.

TABLE 15: Do You Feel The Use Of Drugs Can Affect Performance At School Or Work Enough To Be Harmful To The User.

	Non-User		Experi- menter		User		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	19	90.5	3	50.0	54	62.1	76	66.7
No					13	14.9	13	11.4
Maybe	2	9.5	3	50.0	19	21.8	24	21.1
No Response					1	1.2	1	.9
Total	21	100.0	6	100.0	87	100.0	114	100.1

None of the non-users in any area category responded 'no' to this question and only two responded with 'maybe'. The users did not agree as strongly, however. In the metropolitan area, 55.9% agreed, 17.7% disagreed, and 26.5% stated maybe. The urban area had 65.2% agreeing, 8.7% disagreeing and 21.7% stating maybe.

Eighty percent of rural boys felt that drug use could affect performance and 20% responded that it might affect performance.

TABLE 16: Do You Think Drugs Are Habit Forming. (exclude narcotics: opium, heroin etc.)

	Non-User		Experi- menter		User		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	9	42.9	4	66.7	42	48.3	55	48.3
No	5	23.8	1	16.7	30	34.5	36	31.6
Not Sure	6	28.6	1	16.7	13	14.9	20	17.5
No Response	1	4.8			2	2.3	3	2.6
Total	21		6		87		114	

Less than half of the boys felt that drugs (excluding the narcotics) are habit forming. There is not a great deal of difference between user and non-user in this regard, although the non-user was more likely to respond 'not sure'.

As a whole boys from rural areas were more likely to feel that drugs are habit forming (63.6%); metropolitan area youth were least likely to feel that drugs are habit forming (39.5%).

TABLE 17: Are You Interested In More Information On Drugs.

	Non-Users		Experi- menter		User		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	13	61.9	3	50.0	38	43.7	54	47.4
No	8	38.1	3	50.0	47	54.0	58	50.8
No Response					2	2.3	2	1.8
Total	21	100.0	6	100.0	87	100.0	114	100.0

	Rural		Urban		Metro		Unknowns		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	11	50.0	14	45.2	22	51.2	7	38.9	54	47.4
No	11	50.0	17	54.8	20	46.5	10	55.6	58	50.8
No Response					1	2.3	1	5.5	2	1.8
Total	22	100.0	31	100.0	43	100.0	18	100.0	114	100.0

Non-Users were more likely than users to be interested in more information on drugs. As a whole less than half of the boys reported being interested in more drug information. Urban area boys were least interested, perhaps because they receive more drug information in their schools than do boys from rural or metropolitan areas.

TABLE 18: Of The Information You Have Seen On Drugs, Do You Believe It Is Accurate.

	Non-User		Experi- menter		User		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yes	10	47.6			23	26.4	33	29.0
No	2	9.5	2	33.3	27	31.0	31	27.2
Not Sure	9	42.9	4	66.7	35	40.2	48	42.1
No Response					2	2.3	2	1.8
Total	21	100.0	6	100.0	87	99.9	114	100.1

These figures show that the users are less likely to believe in the accuracy of drug information than are the non-users. This may be due to the fact that the users can rely on their own and friends' experience to ascertain the validity of drug information while the non-users can not do so. Of more importance is the number of users or non-users who responded with not sure. In all areas this response was the most common. Of the total respondents, 69.3% either are not sure or do not believe the information they have been given on drugs.

This may indicate that youth no longer believe the drug information and drug warnings they receive from the schools and news media; however, very few youth indicated they learned about drugs from their schools. Over 66 percent reported that they learned about drugs from their friends or by experimentation.

TABLE 19: Which Do You Feel Is Worse, A Drinking Problem Or A Drug Problem.

	Non-User		Experimenter		User		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
RURAL AREA								
Drinking Problem	1	16.7	3	20.0	4	18.2		
Drug Problem	4	66.7	8	53.3	12	54.6		
Both	1	16.7	4	26.7	5	22.7		
Neither								
No Response			1	100.0			1	4.6
TOTAL	6	100.1	1	100.0	15	100.0	22	100.1
URBAN AREA								
Drinking Problem					4	17.4	4	12.9
Drug Problem	6	100.0	2	100.0	11	47.8	19	61.3
Both					8	34.8	8	25.8
Neither								
No Response								
TOTAL	6	100.0	2	100.0	23	100.0	31	100.0
METRO AREA								
Drinking Problem					7	20.6	7	16.3
Drug Problem	6	75.0	1	100.0	10	29.4	17	39.5
Both	2	25.0			16	47.1	18	41.9
Neither					1	2.9	1	2.3
No Response								
TOTAL	8	100.0	1	100.0	34	100.0	43	100.0
UNKNOWN AREA								
Drinking Problem					4	26.7	4	22.2
Drug Problem					5	33.3	6	33.3
Both	1	100.0			5	33.3	6	33.3
Neither								
No Response					1	6.7	2	11.1
TOTAL	1	100.0	2	100.0	15	100.0	18	99.9
TOTAL ALL AREAS								
Drinking Problem	1	4.8			18	20.7	19	16.7
Drug Problem	16	76.2	4	66.7	34	39.1	54	47.4
Both	4	19.1			33	37.9	37	32.5
Neither					2	2.3	3	2.6
No Response					1	1.7	1	.9
TOTAL	21	100.1	6	100.1	87	100.0	114	100.1

Non-users are much more likely to feel that a drug problem is worse than a drinking problem. Twenty-one percent of users feel that a drinking problem is worse compared with only 4.8 percent of non-users. Users were also more likely to claim that both were equally bad.

TABLE 20: Why Do You Think School Kids Take Drugs.

RANK	Curiosity	Someone Urges Them	Conformity	Thrill	Rebellion	To Escape, Forget
1	31.3	30.0	25.0	21.7	1.6	32.9
2	18.6	27.1	15.6	15.9	8.2	11.0
3	24.3	20.0	7.8	26.1	8.2	9.8
4	7.1	8.6	23.4	18.8	18.0	11.0
5	7.1	8.6	14.1	14.6	31.1	11.0
6	10.0	5.7	14.1	2.9	30.0	21.9
7	1.5				3.3	
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 20 presents the percentage in ranks 1-7 for each category. Respondents were asked to rank the reasons that school kids take drugs. The reason most often ranked first was "want to escape, forget"; it was also often ranked as number six. Curiosity was also often ranked first. If mean rankings are used (Table 21) a slightly different picture emerges. There is general agreement among users and non-users on the primary reason most kids take drugs; that is, they both rank "because someone urged it" near the top of the scale. They both tend to rank "rebellion" at the bottom of the scale.

TABLE 21: Mean Rank Scores

	Non-User	User	Total
Because someone urged it	2.58	2.59	2.56
Curiosity	3.17	2.73	2.76
Thrill	3.40	2.89	2.94
Escape, to forget	2.83	3.41	3.32
Conformity	2.70	3.45	3.59
Rebellion	4.58	4.71	4.70

There was a difference, too, between rural, urban and metropolitan youth. The biggest differences were in the mean, ranking of "Escape, to forget" and in "Conformity." Rural youth were more likely to give a high ranking to "Escape, to forget" than were urban or metropolitan youth. Rural and urban youth were more likely to rank "Conformity" lower than were metropolitan youth.

TABLE 22: If You Have Used Drugs More Than Once And Quit; Why.

	Experimenter		User		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Realized something bad was happening to me	2	33.3	26	31.3	28	31.5
Got caught & punished	1	16.7	11	13.3	12	13.5
Saw someone suffer	1	16.7	5	6.0	6	6.7
Did nothing for me	1	16.7	8	9.6	9	10.1
Don't know	1	16.7	12	14.5	13	14.6
Got sent to institution			12	14.5	12	13.5
No response			9	10.8	9	10.1
TOTAL	6	100.1	83	100.0	89	100.0

Almost one-third of the boys who claimed to have quit using drugs did so because they realized something bad was happening. Perhaps many of those who responded 'got sent to an institution' really had no intentions of quitting. In fact one could assume from these responses that all the experimenters and users in the sample have quit the use of drugs; and that most of them quit for reasons other than the unavailability of the drugs.

TABLE 23: Drugs Ranked By Harmfulness - All Respondents
(1 = most harmful 6 = least harmful)

RANK	Alcohol		Marijuana		Barbiturates		Amphetamines		Hallucinogens		Narcotics	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
1			1	.9	5	4.4	7	6.1	13	11.4	84	73.7
2	10	8.8	1	.9	14	12.3	14	12.3	36	31.6	12	10.5
3	10	8.8	1	.9	30	26.3	29	25.4	13	11.4	1	.9
4	4	3.5			27	23.7	30	26.3	20	17.5	4	3.5
5	42	36.8	19	16.7	9	7.9	7	6.1	8	7.0		
6	20	17.5	63	55.3			2	1.8				
No Resp.	28	24.6	29	25.4	29	25.4	25	21.9	24	21.1	13	11.4
TOTAL	114	100.0	114	100.1	114	100.0	114	99.9	114	100.0	114	100.0

This table illustrates how the respondents categorized each drug as to harmfulness. For example, none of the respondents ranked alcohol as most harmful but 84 stated they felt that narcotics were most harmful. None felt that narcotics were least harmful and 20 felt alcohol was least harmful while 63 or 55.3% felt that marijuana was least harmful.

In the three area groupings, narcotics were considered to be the most harmful by both the users and non-users. In the metropolitan area, 79.1% felt this way. In the rural area this figure was 71.0% and in the urban it was 71.0%. The non-users in each area group ranked hallucinogens as harmful more often than the users did.

TABLE 24: If You Had A Drug Problem, Who Would You Be Most Likely To Contact For Help.

	Metropolitan		Urban		Rural		Unknown		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Adult Friend of Family or Close Friend	35	34.0	22	26.8	23	35.4	19	44.2	99	33.9
Family doctor, Hosp. Drug House	21	20.4	21	25.6	12	18.5	5	11.6	59	20.1
Member of Family	23	22.3	14	17.1	9	13.8	8	18.6	54	18.4
Ex-Addict	7	6.8	11	13.4	8	12.3	5	11.6	31	10.6
Teacher, Counselor Group Leader, Clergyman	11	10.7	9	11.0	8	12.3	2	4.7	30	10.2
Other	5	4.9	4	4.9	4	6.2	2	4.7	15	5.1
Dealer or Pusher	1	1.0	1	1.2	1	1.5	2	4.7	5	1.7
Police										
TOTAL	103	100.0	82	100.0	65	100.0	43	100.1	293	100.0

The instructions were to indicate first, second, and third choice but some respondents checked one or two, or checked items without ranking.

Over one-third of the sample boys reported that if they had a drug problem they would most likely seek help from a close friend or a friend of the family. Less than twenty percent would seek help from members of their own family. Urban youth would be more likely to contact the family doctor, a hospital or a drug house for addicts than would rural or metropolitan youth. Only 10% felt that they would contact teachers, counselors, group leaders or a clergyman.

When each occupation or relationship was taken individually, the ex-addict was ranked "third." Ranked first was close friend and member of family. The following is a breakdown of the total responses for each option.

Close Friend	26.4%
Family Member	18.4
Ex-addict	10.6
Hospital	8.5
Adult Friend	7.5
Drug House	6.4
Family Doctor	5.2
Other	5.1
Group Leader	4.5
Counselor	3.7
Dealer/Pusher	1.7
Teacher	1.0
Clergyman	1.0
Police	
TOTAL	100.0%

Most who chose "other" wrote in a relative like a cousin or brother in the space provided.

CONCLUSIONS

The results of this survey indicate that many youth at the Red Wing Training School have used a wide variety of drugs. Boys were classified as non-users, experimenters or users. A user was defined as one who used any drug, except chemical sniffing and alcohol, at least five times. An experimenter was defined as one who used these drugs less than five times and a non-user was defined as one who used no drugs, but who may have used alcohol. Most of the users indicated that they had used many of the drugs over 10 times. We may assume that these boys are fairly well experienced with a wide variety of drugs. Less than one-fifth of the 114 boys indicated they had never experimented with non-prescription drugs. Not only have the boys at Red Wing used drugs, but many of their friends have used drugs. Almost 73% indicated that of five friends, all had tried drugs; 33% indicated that all of these five friends use drugs regularly. Eighty percent responded that they knew someone who has or has had a drug problem. Whether it was a physical or mental dependency on drugs or a bummer trip is not known. What is important is that so many boys seem to be exposed to drugs and drug users.

The boys were asked who they would turn to for help with a drug problem. A close friend was preferred by most of the respondents and a member of family was next. Most of the professions like doctor, teacher, counselor, clergyman that were offered as possibilities received very few responses. In other words, those that could help the most would be sought the least while the least helpful would be sought the most.

This may be due to the fact that drug use is illegal or that the boys do not consider drug use to be a serious problem for them.

This survey illustrates the need for drug education programs for institutionalized youth. Of the users, 67% learned about drugs from friends or by experimentation. Neither of these is very reliable. However, 67% of the respondents say they are skeptical or do not believe the information they have seen on the harmful effects of drugs. Most users in the sample did not want more information on drugs but most of the non-users did. When asked if drugs are habit forming, (with the exclusion of those drugs that are widely known to be addictive) even the users were largely divided in their responses.

Many of the respondents felt that drugs could affect performance at school or at work enough to be harmful. A little over two-thirds of the total sample felt this way. Non-users were most likely to feel that drugs were harmful (90.5%).

While this survey must be interpreted with caution because of the ambiguity of some of the questions, it is evident that a large proportion of Red Wing youth as well as their friends use drugs. The questionnaire will be revised for future use although personal interviews might be more reliable because the interviewer can immediately check out questionable responses.

APPENDIX A
DRUG USE QUESTIONNAIRE

This survey is being conducted by the Research Department for the purpose of gaining information about drug use by teenagers in order to determine the need for drug education programs. Your answers will be held STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL, therefore we ask that you do not put your names on the questionnaire. No individual responses will be given out to anyone.

1. Circle any drugs which you have used to get high,	How many times have you used these drugs?				Do you want to or intend to use in the future?	
	NEVER USED	EXPERI- MENTED WITH	5-10 TIMES	MORE THAN 10 TIMES	YES	NO
A. Marijuana Hashish						
B. Amphetamines: speed, uppers, hearts, pep pills, roses, footballs, bennies, co-pilots, dexies, crystal, white crosses, black dex other:						
C. Barbiturates: downers, blue heaven, blues, reds, red devils, goof balls, rainbows other:						
D. Cocaine						
E. Narcotics: opium, morphine, codeine, heroin, demerol, methadone						
F. Chemicals (sniffing) glue, cement, gasoline, paint thinner, turpentine, other:						
G. Hallucinogens: LSD, STP(DOM), THC, PCP, MDA, DMT, angel dust, peyote, mescaline, psil- ocybin						
H. Alcohol: beer, wine, hard liquor						

SEX _____ AGE _____ RACE _____ RELIGION _____
SCHOOL GRADE _____ HOME TOWN: (CIRCLE ONE): RURAL URBAN METROPOLITAN AREA

For the following questions, answer as best you can. Try to answer all of them if possible.

1. Of five of your friends, how many have ever tried drugs to get high? _____
2. Of these five, how many do you feel use drugs regularly? _____
3. Do you know or have you ever known anyone personally who has or has had a drug problem? _____ (yes, no, maybe).
4. If you have ever used drugs to get high, did your parents or guardian ever know about it?
a. yes
b. no
c. I have never used drugs to get high
d. they may have suspected but were not sure
5. When was the last time you took a drug to get high?
a. today
b. during the past week
c. during the last month
d. between a month and six months ago
e. have never taken drugs to get high
f. over six months ago
6. If you have taken drugs, where did you normally do so?
a. at home
b. at school
c. driving around
d. group gatherings (party, gang, etc.)
e. alone
f. never take drugs
7. How did you learn about different drugs and their effects?
a. reading on my own
b. from friends
c. from school
d. from parents
e. from experimentation
f. don't know much about drugs
g. other: _____
8. Do you feel the use of drugs can affect performance at school or work enough to be harmful to the user? _____ (yes, no, maybe).
9. Do you think drugs are habit forming? (exclude narcotics, opium, heroin, etc.)
a. yes
b. no
c. not sure
10. What age were you when you first used a drug to get high? _____
(put never if you have not used drugs to get high)

11. Who first introduced you to the use of drugs?
a. I do not use drugs
b. a friend my age
c. an adult
d. a group gathering (party, gang, etc.)
e. other: _____
12. Which drug would you consider to be the most harmful to the user? (rank 1 through 6 with 1 being the most harmful)
_____ marijuana
_____ amphetamines (uppers)
_____ barbiturates (downers)
_____ hallucinogens (acid)
_____ narcotics (heroin, etc.)
_____ alcohol
13. Have you ever known anyone who has tried any of the following:
a. sniffed chemicals yes _____ no _____
b. marijuana yes _____ no _____
c. acid yes _____ no _____
d. amphetamines yes _____ no _____
e. barbiturates yes _____ no _____
f. gotten drunk
 on alcohol yes _____ no _____
g. injected any drug yes _____ no _____
14. Are you interested in obtaining more information on drugs? yes _____ no _____
15. Of the information you have seen on drugs, do you believe it is accurate?
a. yes
b. no
c. not sure
16. If you had a drug problem, please indicate who you would be most likely to contact for help. Please indicate your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice.
_____ member of my family _____ clergyman
_____ adult friend of family _____ hospital
_____ family doctor _____ police
_____ teacher _____ drug house for addicts
_____ counselor _____ ex-addict
_____ group leader _____ dealer or pusher
_____ close friend _____ other: _____
17. Have any members of your family used drugs to your knowledge? yes _____ no _____
18. Which drug do you consider to be most harmful to the user? _____
19. Which do you feel is worse, a drinking problem or a drug problem?
a. a drinking problem
b. a drug problem
c. both are equally bad
d. neither are bad

20. Why do you think school kids take drugs? (rank in order 1st frequent reason)
_____ curiosity
_____ because someone urged it
_____ conformity
_____ thrill
_____ rebellion
_____ wanted to escape or forget
_____ other: _____
21. If you have used drugs more than once, and have since quit, why?
a. realized something bad was happening to me
b. got caught and punished
c. saw someone else suffer and decided to quit
d. it did nothing for me
e. don't know
f. other: _____
22. Do you smoke cigarettes regularly? yes _____ no _____
23. Do you drink coffee or tea?
a. yes
b. no
c. occasionally

END