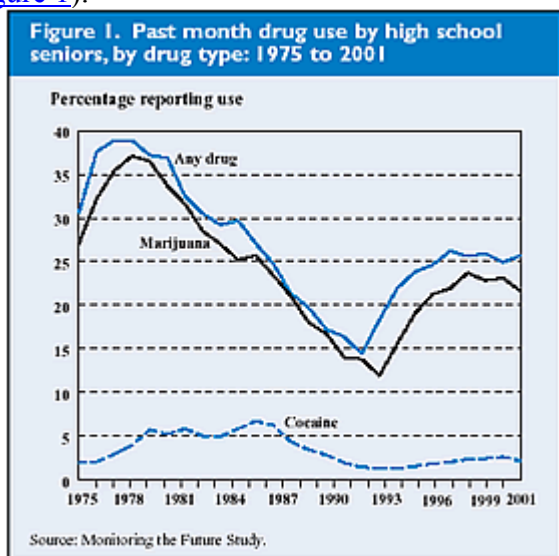


U.S. Teenagers Cutting Back on Drug Use

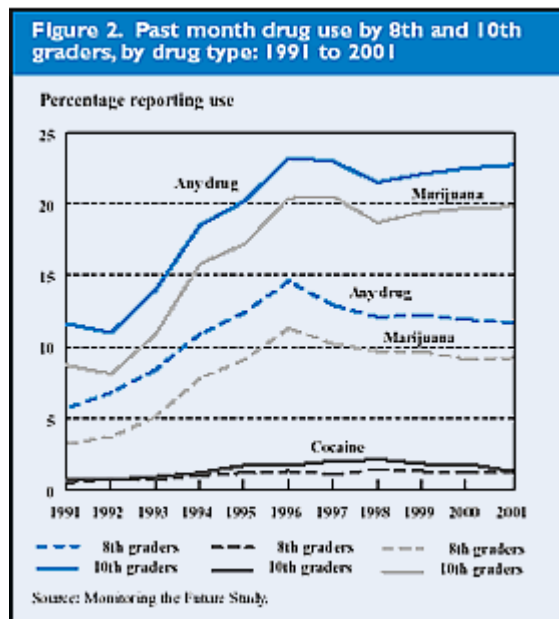
-- American teenagers are cutting back on their use of illicit drugs and cigarettes, but alcohol consumption is holding steady --

BACKGROUND:

A major national survey tracking illicit drug abuse trends is the Monitoring the Future Study. When this annual NIDA-sponsored survey began in 1975, 30.7% of high school seniors reported using an illicit drug in the previous month. This figure climbed to 38.9% in 1978 and 1979, but declined to 14.4% in 1992. Since 1992, this number has increased to 25.7% in 2001 (figure 1).



In 1991, they began surveying 8th and 10th graders. Past month drug use increased from 6.8% in 1992 to 14.6% in 1996 for 8th graders and from 11% in 1992 to 23.2% in 1996 for 10th graders. In 2001, past month drug use among 8th graders decreased to 11.7% (figure 2).



Increased use of marijuana has been especially pronounced. Between 1992 and 1997, past month use of marijuana increased from 11.9% to 23.7% among 12th graders; 8.1% to 20.5% among 10th graders; and 3.7% to 10.2% among 8th graders. Reported use of marijuana by high school seniors during the past month peaked in 1978 at 37.1% and declined to its lowest level of 11.9% in 1992.

Reported use of cocaine by high school seniors within the past month increased from 1.9% to 5.8% between 1975 and 1981. The highest level of cocaine use by this group was reported in 1985 at 6.7% and declined to a low of 1.3% in 1992 and 1993. In 2001, past month cocaine use was 2.1% among high school seniors.

Researchers, noting the emergence of crack, included it in the survey in 1986 as a separate question. In 1987, 1.3% of high school seniors reported using crack at least once within the past month. This number decreased to 1.1% in 2001.

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Between 1991 and 2001, the use of most major drug types increased among 8th and 10th graders. After 6 years of increases, 8th graders' past month marijuana use began to decrease in 1997, falling to 10.2%. This decline continued through 2001 to 9.2%. The use of inhalants declined after peaking in 1995. In 2001, 8th graders reported past month use of inhalants at 4%, a higher rate than the 2.4% reported by 10th graders and the 1.7% reported by 12th graders.

STORY:

AP - American teenagers are cutting back on their use of illicit drugs and cigarettes, but alcohol consumption is holding steady, the government says. An annual survey of eighth-, 10th- and 12th-graders done for the Department of Health and Human Service, found declines in many kinds of drugs for high school students, especially for Ecstasy and LSD.

Overall, the Bush administration said the annual survey funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse showed an 11 percent drop in illegal drug use in the past two years, slightly surpassing President Bush's goal of a 10 percent reduction during that period. The survey, known as Monitoring the Future, tracked drug use and attitudes among 48,500 students from 392 schools.

There was one troubling sign: slowing declines in the use of certain drugs by eighth graders — and a slight increase in their use of inhalants, said Lloyd D. Johnston, who directed the study by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research. "We should take this as a little warning because eighth graders have been indicative of things to come in the past," Johnston said. In addition, there was an overall increase in the illicit use of the synthetic painkillers OxyContin and vicodin, reflective of patterns seen in the general population.

The survey showed a different picture of drug use from another poll of teens that also is used to measure the effectiveness of White House

drug control policy. A private study by Pride Surveys in September showed illegal drug use and cigarette smoking among sixth- through 12th-graders increased slightly during the last school year compared with the year before.

But both surveys agreed that marijuana remains by far the most widely used illegal drug. Monitoring the Future reported that it had been tried at least once by 46 percent of 12th graders and used by more than a third in the past year. Both numbers showed a decrease over last year.

"More kids are seeking treatment for marijuana dependency than all other drugs combined," John Walters, director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, said at a news conference. Walters added that in 15 cities, surveys have found that more teens smoke marijuana than regular cigarettes. However, he said the results were encouraging. "This survey shows that when we push back against the drug problem, it gets smaller," Walters said.

Johnston and administration officials offered differing explanations for the decline in use of Ecstasy and LSD. Ecstasy, also known as MDMA, is a synthetic drug considered part hallucinogen and part amphetamine. The drug became popular at dance parties because of the energy and euphoria it gave to users, but it has harmful side effects. It can lead to brain, heart and kidney damage. Johnston said teens now are more aware about the risks of Ecstasy.

The reduced availability of LSD, following the breakup in 2000 of a lab that produced large quantities of the drug, accounted for the drop in its use, said Karen Tandy, administrator of the drug enforcement administration. The use of LSD is at its lowest level since the federal government began a survey of teen-age drug use 30 years ago. LSD, known as acid, can cause hallucinations and delusions.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The percentage of teens who smoke cigarettes has fallen dramatically from the mid-1990s, the result of advertising campaigns and the rise in cigarette prices. But the survey showed that, among 8th- and 10th-graders, the decline slowed significantly. William V. Corr, executive director of Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, said the numbers reflect a "lack of federal leadership on tobacco prevention" and decisions by cash-strapped states to cut their prevention program. Johnston, the study's director, said that despite progress in keeping teens from smoking, "one-quarter of our kids, by the end of high school, are smoking cigarettes."

White House Office of National Drug Control:

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov>

Monitoring the Future: <http://monitoringthefuture.org>

Pfizer to Buy Esperion for \$1.3 Billion

-- Pfizer Inc. agreed to buy Esperion for about \$1.3 billion, adding a promising experimental drug to its top selling line of cholesterol products. --

BACKGROUND:

1849 Charles Pfizer & Company opens as a fine-chemicals business. A modest red-brick building in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, New York, serves as office, laboratory, factory, and warehouse. The company's first product is santonin — a palatable antiparasitic which is an immediate success.

1862 The first domestic production of tartaric acid and cream of tartar, products vital to the food and chemical industries, is launched by Pfizer. The Civil War, which lasts from 1861 to 1865, marks a defining period for the country and for Pfizer.

1880 Using imported concentrates of lemon and lime, Pfizer begins manufacturing citric acid, which becomes the company's main product and the launching pad of its growth in the decades that follow.

1889 A leader in the American chemical business, Pfizer marks its 50th anniversary. Its portfolio includes a wide array of industrial and pharmacological products, anchored by citric acid, camphor, cream of tartar, borax, and iodine. The company has offices in New York and Chicago, and its contacts in the import-export business crisscross the world.

1906 At the age of 82, Charles Pfizer, Sr. (left) dies while vacationing at his Newport, Rhode Island estate. A tribute to Pfizer in *The New York Tribune* notes that "by bringing to his task a thorough German technical education, great industry, and determination, he successfully met all difficulties and each year expanded his business."

1914 The Board of Directors creates the position of Chairman and elects John Anderson (right) to that post. Anderson, who had joined Pfizer in 1873 as a 16-year-old office boy, would remain Chairman until 1929.

1928 Alexander Fleming (left) discovers the antibiotic properties of the penicillin mold, an event destined to make medical history and to change the course of Pfizer's future.

1950 [Terramycin®](#) (oxytetracycline), a broad-spectrum antibiotic that is the result of the company's first discovery program, becomes the first pharmaceutical sold in the United States under the Pfizer label. Pfizer begins expansion into overseas markets and the International Division is created.

1952 Pfizer establishes an Agricultural Division dedicated to offering cutting-edge solutions to animal health problems. The division opens its 700-acre farm and research facility in Terre Haute, Indiana.

1972 Pfizer crosses the billion-dollar sales threshold. John Powers, Jr. (center), steps down;

Edmund T. Pratt, Jr. (right), becomes CEO; and Gerald D. Laubauch becomes President.

1999 Pfizer celebrates its 150th anniversary as one of the world's premier pharmaceutical companies. Recognized for its success in discovering and developing innovative drugs for human discovery, *Forbes*® magazine names Pfizer "Company of the Year."

2000 The Best Get Better—Pfizer and Warner-Lambert merge to form the new Pfizer, creating the world's fastest-growing major pharmaceutical company.

2002 Pfizer purchases Pharmacia through a \$60 billion stock transaction.

STORY:

(Reuters) - Pfizer Inc. said on Sunday that it agreed to buy Esperion for about \$1.3 billion, adding a promising experimental drug to its top selling line of cholesterol products. The purchase puts Pfizer in a position to have three blockbuster cholesterol medicines on the market: Lipitor, Esperion's ETC-216 and Pfizer's own experimental cholesterol drug, which company executives believe could top Lipitor's \$10 billion in annual sales.

Esperion's drug, which raises "good" cholesterol and has completed midstage clinical trials, is the only medicine ever shown to reverse clogging of the heart arteries. Esperion has three other cholesterol products in early trials that could also bolster Pfizer's line-up.

"This acquisition fits (Pfizer) like a glove," said Mark Monane, analyst at Needham & Co. "Esperion had all the characteristics of a takeover target: positive data from clinical trials and they had not yet partnered with another company."

Pfizer, the world's largest drug maker, said it will buy Esperion for \$1.3 billion in cash, or \$35 per share, subject to certain conditions. Pfizer said the price represents a 54 percent premium over Esperion's average closing share price during the last 20 trading days.

Pfizer already owns Lipitor a member of the statin family of cholesterol lowering agents, which works by lowering "bad" LDL cholesterol.

Esperion's drug, by contrast, mimics "good" HDL cholesterol.

Esperion made a splash in early November, when it reported, in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, that its drug reduced build up of fatty plaque in arteries by over 4 percent in patients, who were given weekly injections of the experimental medicine over a course of only five weeks during a Phase II trial. Pfizer already had an option to co-market the medicine, which it obtained through its recent merger with Pharmacia Corp.

Last month, Pfizer senior vice president of science and technology Peter Corr said the company plans to spend \$800 million on its ongoing late-stage trial of the product, a record for a Phase III study of an experimental drug. Pfizer could seek U.S. approval of the drug within a few years, he said.

Esperion shares, which began 2003 at \$6.63 and reached an all-time high of \$26.56 Nov. 6 following release of the ETC-216 trial results, closed at \$22.70 Friday on Nasdaq. Pfizer, which is traded on the New York Stock Exchange, closed Friday at \$34.27. Lazard and Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft advised Pfizer in the transaction. Lehman Brothers and Morgan, Lewis & Bockius advised Esperion.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The experimental Esperion drugs are designed to be used intravenously after a heart attack or a major coronary event. By contrast, Pfizer's own experimental HDL drug, to be combined as one pill with Lipitor, would be taken daily for chronic conditions.

Needham's Monane envisions patients using one of Esperion's drugs while in the hospital and then go home on Lipitor or the combination of Lipitor and Pfizer's own HDL drug. "Most companies have one drug they leverage in about four conditions. What's unique about Esperion is that it is testing four drugs against one problem, which is low HDL," Monane said.

BIOGRAPHY:*Friedrich Nietzsche*

Friedrich Nietzsche was born in the Prussian province of Saxony in 1844. His father, Karl Ludwig Nietzsche, was a Lutheran minister up until his death when Friedrich was only five. His family was forced to move. This emotional hardship isolated young Nietzsche and he became more introverted than his natural inclinations might have led him to be. He was now the only male member in the household. His overbearing and possessive sister Elizabeth played an important role in helping to raise him. It is interesting to note that Nietzsche developed quite misogynistic views towards women later in life.

Academically, Nietzsche excelled and won a full scholarship to the most famous Protestant boarding school in Germany at the time-Schulpforta (1858-1864). His University education started at the University of Bonn where he focused on theology, an area his family wished him to pursue. However it was around this time that Nietzsche realized he no longer believed in God and decided to study the classics.

Nietzsche broke with the academic world in 1872. This was the start of great period of production for Nietzsche climaxing with the work *The Gay Science* which contained his first published pronouncement that 'God is dead!' *Thus Spake Zarathustra* has the distinction of being Nietzsche's most enigmatic and popular book. Among his ideas was the *Urbemensch*, or Superman. Although exploited by the Nazi's, the Superman was the ultimate goal of human existence through human will. The Superman, instead of being manipulated in mind and body by others, would create his own set of standards. He would perfect himself in his earthly life as opposed to preparing for the afterlife as in Christianity. Although much of Nietzsche's work has been misunderstood over the years, he was always a staunch opponent of anti-semitism, and spoke of love and music as being among the few things that give humanity a reason to live.

The feverish pace of Nietzsche's writing and thought came to an abrupt end in 1889. He was observed hugging a horse that had just been flogged, and shortly after suffered a bout of insanity from which he never recovered. Most scholars agree that it was brought on by syphilis. He never fully recovered and had to be cared for until his death on August 25, 1900.

SPORTS:**SNUBBED**

The 2004 Pro Bowl roster has been announced and, as always, is not without controversy. As with every year, in every sport, when it comes time to pick the all star team, or pro bowl team, not everyone is going to be happy.

Among a few of the players in the National Football League who probably should have made it this year but didn't, including Ladanlien Tomlinson who had another outstanding rushing year, was Sam Adams. Adams, a two-time Pro Bowl starter, is only a second alternate this year. His five sacks, with two games remaining, are second among AFC defensive tackles and his most since 1997. Tomlinson and Adams will have more time to mull over their snubs this year since neither one of their teams have a chance for the playoffs.

The Pro Bowl will be played on February 8, 2004 at what has now become its traditional home: the Aloha Stadium in Hawaii. The Pro Bowl has been criticized over the years. Some sports writers have complained that the game itself lacks the intensity of a real NFL game because players are holding back in order to avoid injuries. The National Football League has been chastised that the Pro Bowl is a promotional event that puts the advertising interests of the NFL in front of the individual safety of the players. While the Pro Bowl has always been less popular with fans than baseball's All Star game, being placed on the team is still considered the highest honor for the league's top players.

ENTERTAINMENT:

The U.S. Soldier Is Time Person of Year

AP - The American soldier, who bears the duty of "living with and dying for a country's most fateful decisions," was named Sunday as Time magazine's Person of the Year. The choice represents the 1.4 million men and women who make up the U.S. military, which led the invasion of Iraq nine months ago and a week ago captured deposed leader Saddam Hussein. 130,000 U.S. troops remain in Iraq, with others deployed in Afghanistan, South Korea and elsewhere.



The 2003 Person of the Year package, on newsstands Monday, features an artillery survey unit from the 1st Armored Division to tell the story of the American soldier. The magazine's cover shows three of them — Sgt. Marquette Whiteside of Pine Bluff, Ark., Sgt. Ronald Buxton of Lake Ozark, Mo., and Spc. Billie Grimes of Lebanon, Ind., all members of Survey Platoon.

The justification for a U.S. military presence in Iraq has been widely questioned, as coalition forces have found no weapons of mass destruction, which President Bush had argued Saddam was stockpiling. Guerrilla attacks against U.S. and allied forces stationed there have escalated since May 1, when the president declared an end to major combat. More coalition troops died in November than in any other month: 104, including 79 Americans. The Pentagon has said it expects to reduce the number of American troops in Iraq to just over 100,000 by May.

The selection echoes 1950, the year the Korean War began, when the American GI for the cover. In 2001, when then-New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani was picked as Time's Person of the Year for leading the city's response to the Sept. 11 terror attacks, critics suggested Osama bin Laden should have been featured as the top

newsmaker. Last year, Time editors selected Coleen Rowley, the FBI agent who wrote a scathing memo on FBI intelligence failures, and Cynthia Cooper and Sherron Watkins, who blew the whistle on corruption at corporate giants Enron and WorldCom.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY:

December 22, 1894

Dreyfus Affair Begins in France

French officer Alfred Dreyfus is convicted of treason by a military court-martial and sentenced to life in prison for his alleged crime of passing military secrets to the Germans. The Jewish artillery captain, convicted on flimsy evidence in a highly irregular trial, began his life sentence on the notorious Devil's Island Prison in French Guyana four months later.

The Dreyfus case demonstrated the anti-Semitism permeating France's military and, because many praised the ruling, in France in general. Interest in the case lapsed until 1896, when evidence was disclosed that implicated French Major Ferdinand Esterhazy as the guilty party. A court-martial was held in January 1898, and Esterhazy was acquitted within an hour.

In response, the French novelist Émile Zola published "J'Accuse" on the front page of the *Aurore*, which accused the judges of being under the thumb of the military. A division was born, in which nationalists and members of the Catholic Church supported the military, while republicans, socialists, and advocates of religious freedom lined up to defend Dreyfus.

In 1898, Major Hubert Henry, discoverer of the original letter attributed to Dreyfus, admitted that he had forged much of the evidence against Dreyfus and then Henry committed suicide. The debacle of the Dreyfus affair brought about greater liberalization in France, a reduction in the power of the military, and a formal separation of church and state.

FEATURE:

Brainwave Fault Explains Slip-Ups

-- Scientists have found an explanation for those mornings where you put coffee on your cornflakes and the cat in the washing machine. --

They say it is because of a change in the kind of brainwaves someone produces. But the researchers, who presented their findings to the Physiological Society Conference, said the change could have more serious consequences. They say it may have been a factor in accidents like the Chernobyl disaster; when on April 25th -26th, 1986 the World's worst nuclear power accident occurred in the former USSR (now Ukraine), the chain reaction in the reactor became out of control creating explosions and a fireball which blew off the reactor's heavy steel and concrete lid. It killed more than 30 people immediately, and as a result of the high radiation levels in the surrounding 20-mile radius, 135,000 people had to be evacuated.

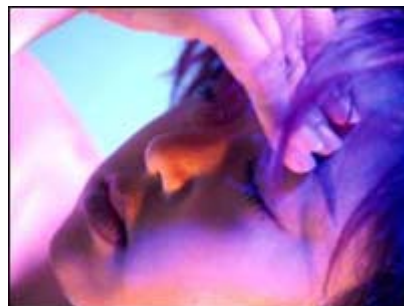
A team from the Medical Research Council's cognitive and brain sciences unit in Cambridge examined brainwaves produced by people as they made mistakes. Volunteers took part in a 10-minute repetitive action test that requires prolonged periods of concentration. They were shown random numbers on computer screens roughly once every second. Every time a number appeared, they had to press the mouse button. But if they saw the number three, they were told not to press the mouse.

Monitoring of the volunteer's brainwaves showed they were more likely to make a mistake following a drop in levels of a type of brainwave called P300. Dr Avijit Datta, who led the research,

said: "It's the sort of mistakes you make especially when you're feeling tired or sleepy, like accidentally putting coffee on your cornflakes instead of milk. But you have to remember that these sorts of mistakes have also been implicated in the Chernobyl disaster and the three-mile island accident."

"We knew from previous brain imaging which part of the brain is used when these types of mistakes are made, but we wanted to find out how the actual brainwaves themselves changed. We looked at P300 waves and we found that if they began to fall, we knew a mistake was likely to happen. And because of the nature of the test, we knew that it was not due to changes in reaction time, so the subjects were no faster or slower at performing, just more error-prone."

She added: "It happens about a third of a second after the stimulus. For example, if you were driving a car and a child stepped out in front of you, it would generate P300 waves a third of a second later. "If you generate a big response, then your foot hits the brake. But if it's only a small response then a mistake is more likely." She added: "We know from a previous study that these mistakes are often linked to the sleep cycle and internal body clock."



Mistakes could be blamed on sleepiness

Researchers are now working with patients suffering from sleep disorders and children who suffer from attention disorders and poor performance at school. They said it might even be possible to measure the brainwaves with simple electrode pads on the skull which could be used in a car to check if someone is liable to make a mistake while driving.

Quote of the Week:
 My way of life
 Is fall'n into the sear and yellow leaf.
 -Shakespeare

Word of the Week:
 Quondam – former; that was once, sometime

Fact of the Week:
 One bucket of water can make enough fog to cover
 105 square miles in 50 feet of fog.

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 And
 Have a Great Week!

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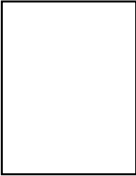
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