

Summary on rural and urban U.S. substance abuse (Karen van Gundy, 2006. Substance Abuse in Rural and Small Town American, University of New Hampshire, Carsey Institute, Vol 1, issue 2)

- Alcohol abuse in rural area far exceeds illicit drug abuse.
- drug use in rural US was 7 percent less than in urban US from 1979 to 1985. However only two percent difference was observed since 1991. It seems clear that rural areas are by no means a “safe haven” (Fig. 1).
- Not much differences in underage alcohol use were observed among rural and urban U.S (fig. 2).
- the highest rates of *alcohol abuse* tend to be concentrated among most rural states (Fig. 4).

FIGURE 1: TRENDS IN ILLICIT DRUG USE AMONG RURAL AND URBAN U.S. RESIDENTS AGES 12 AND OLDER (NSDUH 1979-2003)

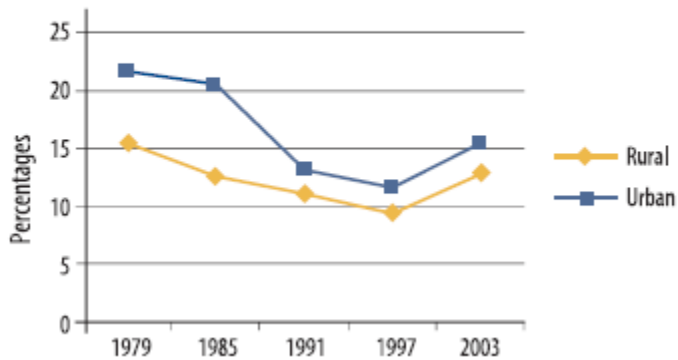


FIGURE 2: TRENDS IN ALCOHOL USE AMONG RURAL AND URBAN U.S. RESIDENTS AGES 12-17 (NSDUH 1979-2003)

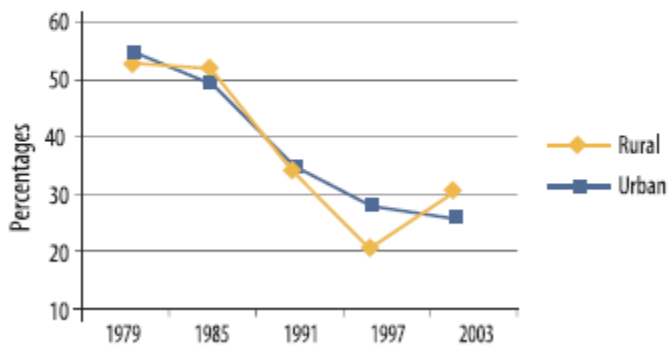


FIGURE 4: ALCOHOL ABUSE AMONG PERSONS AGES 12 OR OLDER BY STATE: PERCENTAGES, ANNUAL AVERAGES BASED ON 2002 AND 2003 NSDUH (SOURCE: WRIGHT AND SATHE 2005)

