

**DRUG ATTITUDES AND USAGE
AMONG KOSCIUSKO COUNTY
7th - 12th GRADE STUDENTS**

**A KLA WHITE PAPER
SUBMITTED BY:**

**ANTHONY W. CIRIELLO
DANIEL V. KRAMER
JACK F. STALEY**

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We would like to express the gratitude of the entire Kosciusko County Community for the generous support of the businesses and organizations listed below. Without their donations, the PRIDE Survey, which is the basis of this paper, could not have been conducted.

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INTRODUCTION

Alcohol and drug use is the number one problem facing our adolescent population today. Alcohol and drug use retards the normal and healthy physical, educational, and social development of junior and senior high school students. Adolescents who use illegal intoxicants during these developmental periods are not only at high risk of drug dependency, but also involvement in teenage crime, school dropout, pregnancy and suicide.

The results of national surveys indicate significant drug usage by 7th-12th grade students. The question is, do Kosciusko County students exhibit the same usage and attitude patterns?

To answer this question the PRIDE (Parents' Resource Institute for Drug Education, Inc.) Questionnaire was selected. A copy of this questionnaire is included in the appendix. See Attachment A. This questionnaire has been used nationally in over 3,000 schools and communities over the last 8 years. It has a large data base of over two million questionnaires for comparative purposes.

One could question whether students respond truthfully about their drug attitudes and habits. Test-retest reliability measures indicate the PRIDE Questionnaire provides stable, reliable information on the prevalence and patterns of drug use for students in grades 6-12. For technical information regarding reliability and validity factors, see the Technical Report Summary. See Attachment C in the appendix.

To survey Kosciusko County Students, the PRIDE Questionnaire was administered in the Tippecanoe Valley, Warsaw, Wawasee, and Whitko School Systems. Enrollment figures reported a total population of 5,628 students. 4,752 students (84%) completed the questionnaire. The questionnaires were administered by school personnel, with heavy emphasis placed on confidentiality. The questionnaire requires 15-20 minutes to complete. A copy of the Teacher Instruction Sheet is included in the appendix. See Attachment B.

The completed surveys were computer scored by PRIDE. Survey results were summarized by PRIDE in a 112 page report. Copies of the complete report were given to each of the school corporations as well as each of the organizations that funded the survey, and the DARE organization. While results were reported on a county wide basis, individual school corporation reports can be requested directly from PRIDE by each school system.

This paper is by no means a complete analysis of the survey results. It is only an explanation of the project, and a brief description of the survey results. Included are some general recommendations. More specific action plans should be developed by members of the local community; parents, educators, law enforcement, judges, physicians, counselors, clergy, business and civic leaders, and the students themselves, after a detailed analysis.

Our own unqualified assessment of the survey results is that they are disappointingly similar to the national data. Kosciusko County students appear to use drugs in the same percentages, at the same times, and in the same locations as other students across the nation. It is probably misleading to refer to these adolescents as students, because this automatically links the results to the schools. The results clearly show that drugs are being used at times outside school hours, and at locations other than the schools. One major goal of this survey must be to break our mental link of drugs and school systems. We must begin to focus on weekend, week night activities at friend's houses, in cars, and at home. The schools can help by being the focal point of prevention efforts, but parents must take responsibility for the bulk of the actions.

THE PRIDE SURVEY

The full report of the results of the survey consists of 112 pages of graphs, tables, and narrative. This paper includes only a brief description of the contents of the report and some graphical data. The actual questionnaire and several graphs of the data are included in the appendix. These graphs are the figures referred to in this section.

The first part of the questionnaire asks for personal and family information as well as the characteristics of the student. An in depth analysis of comparing this information with the actual drug responses may show some common or contributing factors. We notice, for instance, that only about 50% of the adolescents bring friends home. Yet later in the drug responses, the most frequent location for drug use is at friend's homes. This may suggest that parents should be encouraging their adolescents to invite friends to their own homes rather than visiting others where the drug activities could occur.

PRIDE defines gateway drugs as cigarettes, alcohol, and marijuana. A second category called illicit drugs includes cocaine, uppers, downers, inhalants, hallucinogens, and other drugs.

Figure #1 and #2 show the number of students by grade that used each of the gateway or illicit drugs in the past year. As might be expected, it shows that drug usage increases with age. Comparison of these figures also shows considerable more usage of the gateway drugs compared to the illicit drugs.

Figures #3, #4, and #5 compare the Kosciusko County results with the national results for 1988/89. Although there are some slight differences, in general the percentages of adolescents using the drugs are the same. These bar graphs show both the total % who have used in the past year, and the % who have used the drugs at least once per month. This helps to clarify whether these percentages are for a rare occurrence, or a frequent use.

Figures #8, #9, and #10 provide a picture of where the gateway drugs are being used. The most popular locations are "at a friends," "in a car" and "other". We notice that there is very little use at school. We find it particularly chilling that adolescents use alcohol and marijuana frequently in cars.

Figures #12, #13, and #14 provide a picture of when the gateway drugs are being used. Most popular times appear to be weekends, week nights, and after school. There is very little use before or during school.

These two when and where patterns clearly point away from the schools as a major haven for drug use, and toward the other locations and times when students are outside the control of the school system.

We note one exception to this. Figures #11 and #15 show that the use of uppers appears not to fit these patterns. There appears to be a higher rate of use of uppers during school times and at the school location than for other drugs. We think this could be a source of concern for the schools, and may warrant further investigation.

Figure #16 shows a disturbing lack of awareness on the part of a fairly high percentage of adolescents. This graph shows %'s of students who either respond "not harmful," or "don't know" for each of the drugs. This may suggest adolescents are not as aware as we might have hoped. We find it surprising that 15% of the Junior High Students are not aware that cocaine is harmful to their health.

Figure #17 displays a high availability for these drugs. It is distressing to note that even 18.3% of the Junior High Kids said marijuana was fairly easy or very easy to get. It is not clear whether it actually is easy to get, or it is only their perception that it is easy to get. Our law enforcement programs may wish to pursue this aspect of the drug problem.

Other data in the survey addresses such questions as the age at which each drug was first used, and the effects that the users experienced. Several of the drugs show usage responses earlier than 10 years of age. This may suggest our prevention efforts are not starting early enough, or may not be effective.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The following is a brief summary of the results of the PRIDE Survey for 7-12 graders in Kosciusko County.

I. WHAT

- * Kosciusko County Junior and Senior High Students are within a few percentage points of the national averages for all categories of drug use.
- * 1 out of 2 Senior High Students used alcohol at least once during the last year.
- * 1 out of 3 Senior High Students used alcohol at least once per month during the last year.
- * 1 out of 3 Junior High Students used alcohol at least once during the last year.
- * 1 out of 8 Junior High Students used alcohol at least once per month during the last year.
- * 1 out of 5 Senior High and 1 out of 12 Junior High Students used marijuana at least once during the last year.
- * 1 out of 8 Senior High and 1 out of 13 Junior High Students used uppers at least once during the last year.
- * 1 out of 33 Senior High and 1 out of 50 Junior High Students used cocaine at least once during the last year.

II. WHERE

- * The most popular place to use drugs is at a friends.
- * 11% of Senior High Students use marijuana in a car.
- * 15% of Senior High Students use alcohol in a car.
- * 18% of the Junior High Students used alcohol at home at least once during the last year.

III. WHEN

- * The most popular time to use drugs is on the weekend.
- * With the exception of uppers, during school is one of the least popular times to use drugs.

III. WHEN (Continued)

- * 9.4% of all students smoked cigarettes at least once before the age of 10.
- * 14.5% of all students drank beer at least once before the age of 10.
- * All drugs recorded some usage before the age of 10.

IV. AWARENESS

- * Depending on the drug, 8-30% of the students either didn't know, or said it was not harmful to their health.

V. AVAILABILITY

- * For every drug in the survey, at least 15% of the Senior High and 10% of the Junior High Students perceived it was readily available.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Listed below are recommendations based on our unqualified analysis of the survey results.

- * Each school system request its individual survey results.
- * Each school system to analyze its survey results and plan awareness and prevention strategies. Parents, teachers, administrators, and members of law enforcement, business and other elements of the community should be involved in the analysis and planning.
- * Results of the survey be shared with all teachers and students.
- * Results of this survey be published immediately in the local and school newspapers.
- * Take advantage of the momentum created by the survey results to educate, focus, involve, and enforce.
- * Major efforts be made to inform parents that the drug use is happening primarily in cars and at friend's homes - not in school and that it occurs primarily on weekends and week nights.
- * Immediate attention be given to the fact that many students either didn't know, or felt that the surveyed drugs were not harmful.
- * Immediate attention be given to the usage of uppers during school.
- * Immediate attention be given to the availability of all the drugs.
- * Consideration be given to conducting future drug surveys in the work place, law enforcement, the medical community, and general population, as an extension of this survey effort.
- * Consideration be given to repeating the PRIDE survey every year to monitor progress.
- * Consideration be given to using the PRIDE survey for 4th thru 6th grade students in future years.
- * Consideration be given to using the PRIDE organization for future additional drug prevention activities.

APPENDIX



National Parents' Resource Institute for Drug Education, Inc.

Thomas J. Gleaton, Ed.D.
President

TEACHER INSTRUCTION SHEET

THE PRIDE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR GRADES 6-12

The following instructions are provided to assist you in administering the PRIDE questionnaire to students in this class. Please follow these instructions carefully to assure that the information obtained from the questionnaire is accurate and useful to your school system.

Procedures for Questionnaire Administration

1. Choose a responsible student to pass out the questionnaires. Have an envelope or folder available for students to return the questionnaires after completion. Introduce the questionnaire to the students by reading the following remarks to the class:

"You are part of a system-wide survey to determine the extent of drug usage. This survey is confidential, meaning that no one will know how you answered the questionnaire. It is very important that you be honest and truthful in your answers."

2. Explain the following procedures for completion of the questionnaire by reading the following:

"The questionnaire is multiple choice and includes questions about you, your family and about different types of drugs. This is not a test and there are no right or wrong answers. Please answer the questions as accurately and truthfully as possible. If there is a question that you cannot or do not wish to answer, just leave that question blank. BE SURE TO USE ONLY A #2 PENCIL TO MARK YOUR ANSWERS! To answer the questions, shade the circle next to your answer. Only one answer should be given for each question EXCEPT FOR Section VI and Section VII, where and when drugs are used."

- a. All Teachers - check to be sure that all students have #2 pencils to complete the questionnaire.
- b. All Teachers of 6th and 7th Grades - Section I, personal and family information, and Section II, student characteristics, should be completed first as a group. After these sections have been completed then proceed with the rest of the questions. These procedures work best for students at this level.

- c. All Teachers - teachers should ask for questions and questions should be answered from the front of the room. Avoid student suspicion by walking around the room or looking at a students questionnaire. The instructions "You may begin" can be given after students questions have been answered.

Collection of Questionnaires

As students complete the questionnaires, they should be instructed to place their completed questionnaire in the envelope or folder and thank them for being an important part of the survey.

After all questionnaires are in the folder, designate a student to count the questionnaires and arrange them so that all questionnaires are turned the same way, i.e. the PRIDE logo is in the upper left hand corner. This folder along with blank forms should be returned to the designated collection area.

Thank you for your cooperation in this most important survey. Information--from this--survey will be made available to your school system in 4 to 6 weeks.

PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED USE

CHART = GATEWAY

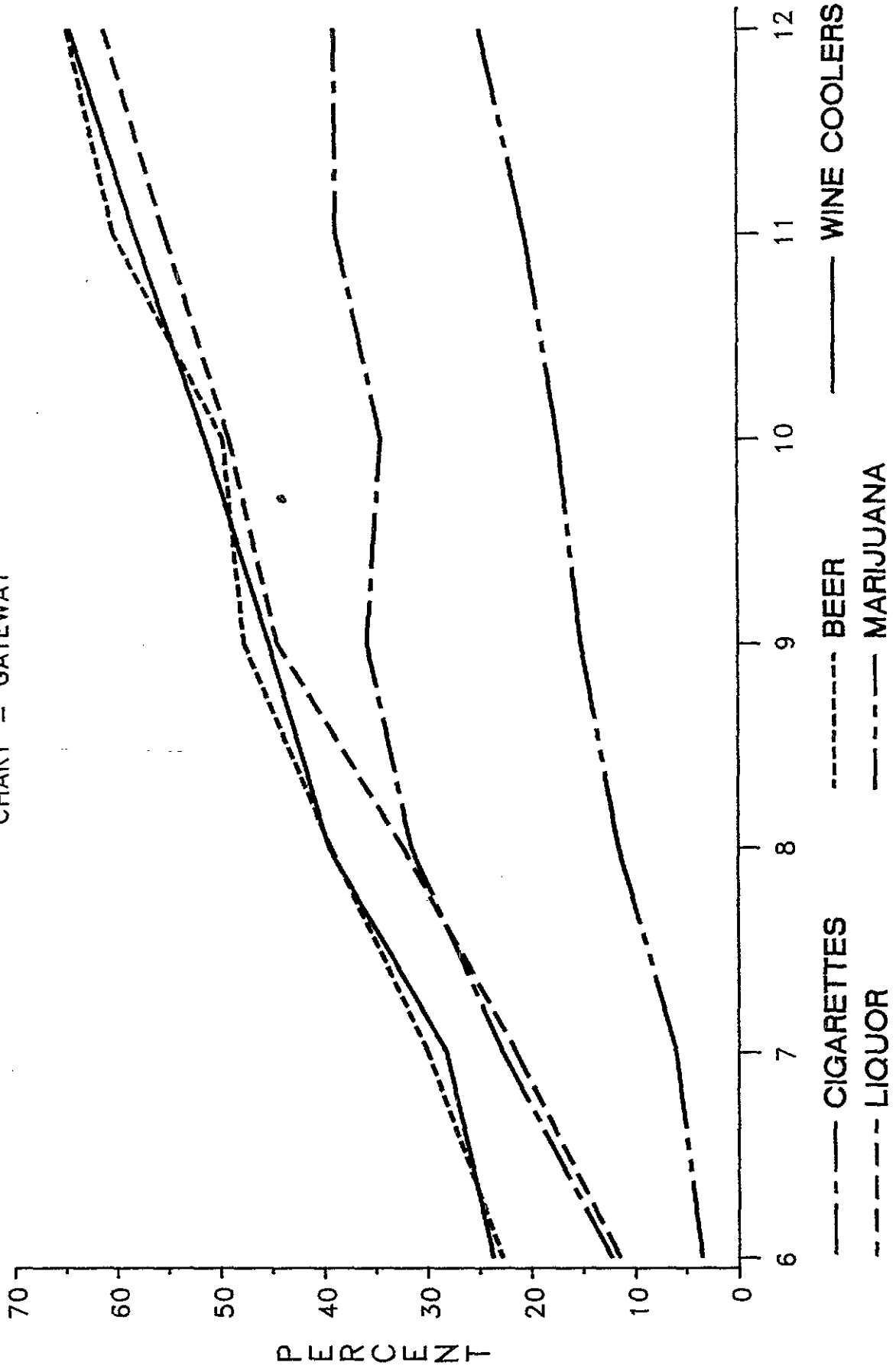


Fig. #1

Technical Report Summary

The Technical Report #1, published by PRIDE in June, 1987, is a 20-page narrative on the development and quality of data provided by the PRIDE Questionnaire for grades 6-12. It was authored by James R. Craig, Ph.D., Department of Psychology at Western Kentucky University, and James Emshoff, Ph.D., Department of Psychology at Georgia State University. In addition, the technical report was critiqued by Harry Bowman, Ph.D., Bureau of Education Research, Memphis State University.

The following is a summary of that report to briefly explain how the PRIDE Questionnaire was tested for reliability and accuracy of responses.

The reliability of the PRIDE Questionnaire was examined by obtaining test-retest and internal consistency data from a sample of 304 6th-12th grade students. Two different school districts, one in an urban area and one in a rural setting, participated in the study. First and second administrations, given approximately one week apart, were paired anonymously, utilizing procedures specifically developed by the authors for this study.

The essence of the test-retest reliability was to assess the degree to which students responded to the questionnaire in the same way on two different occasions. Sources, correlations between instruments designed to measure the same data, are commonly examined to provide evidence of validity. Thus, two intelligence tests should produce scores that are highly correlated to each other.

Several statistical measures were used to assess this characteristic. The results of this study, based on the various statistical analyses, indicated that the PRIDE Questionnaire for grades 6-12 provided stable, reliable information on the prevalence and patterns of drug use for students in grades 6-12.

Other aspects of the study involved discussions of content and construct validity and measures of internal consistency. For a complete copy of the *Technical Report #1: The PRIDE Questionnaire for Grades 6-12, A Developmental Study*, please write to: PRIDE, The Hurt Building, 50 Hurt Plaza, Suite 210, Atlanta, GA 30303.

Or, call:1-800-241-7946.

PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED USE

CHART = ILLICIT

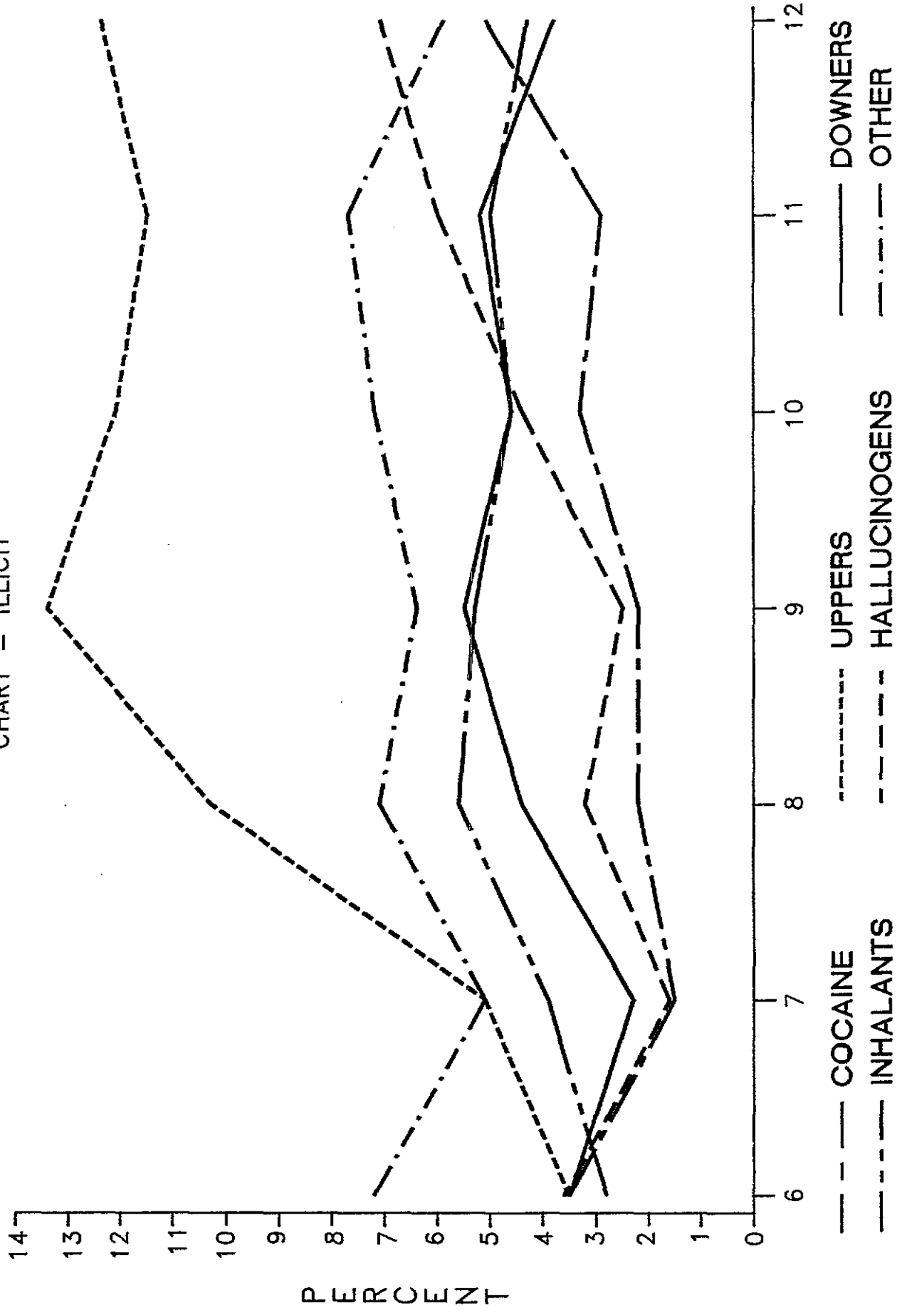


Fig. #2

* - % of students who used the drug
at least once per month

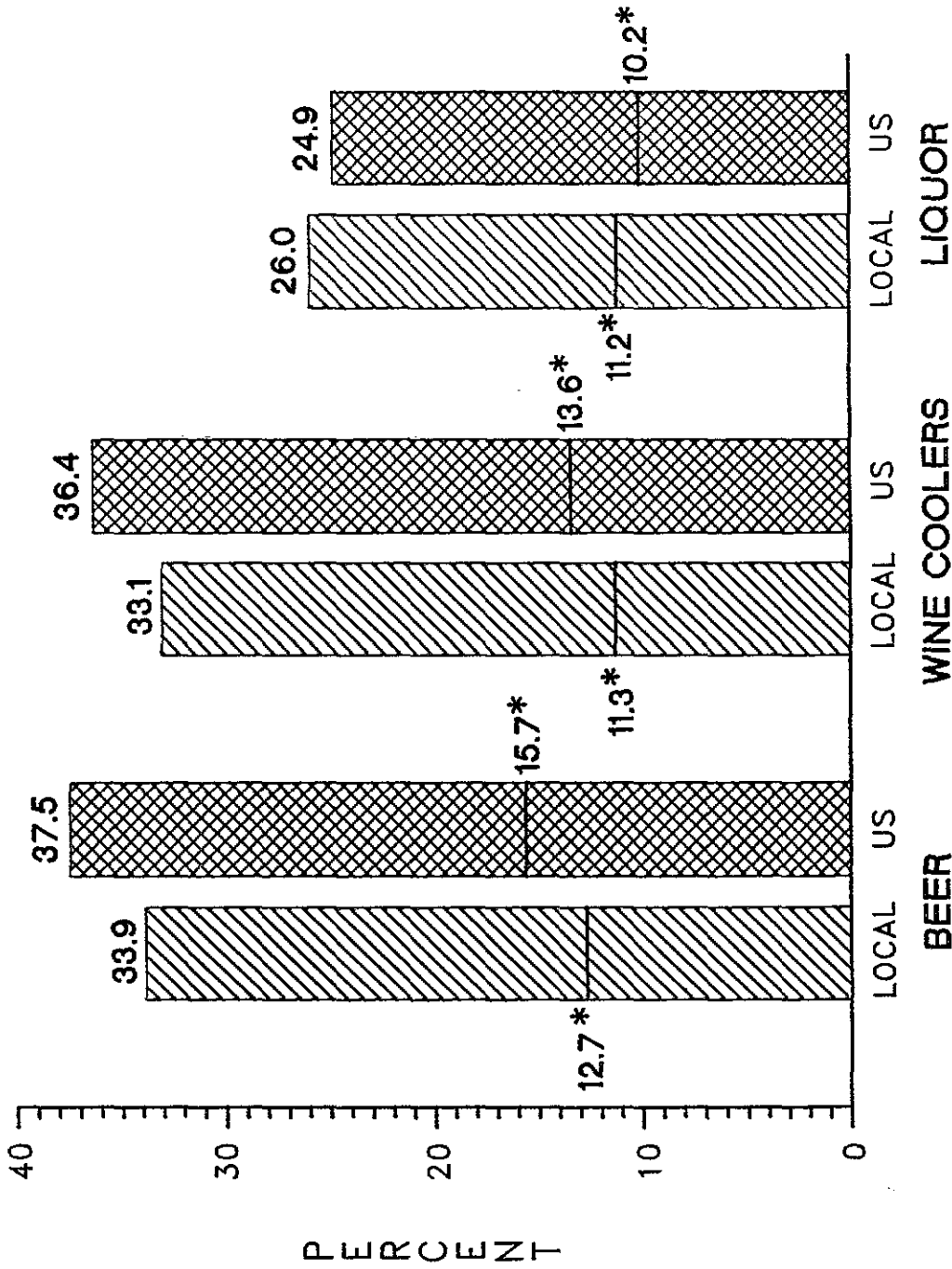


FIGURE 11.B.2.1. - Percent of Junior High Students reporting drinking alcohol within the past year compared to the 1988-89 PRIDE National Summary results. (Kosciusko County)

* - % of students who used the drug at least once per month

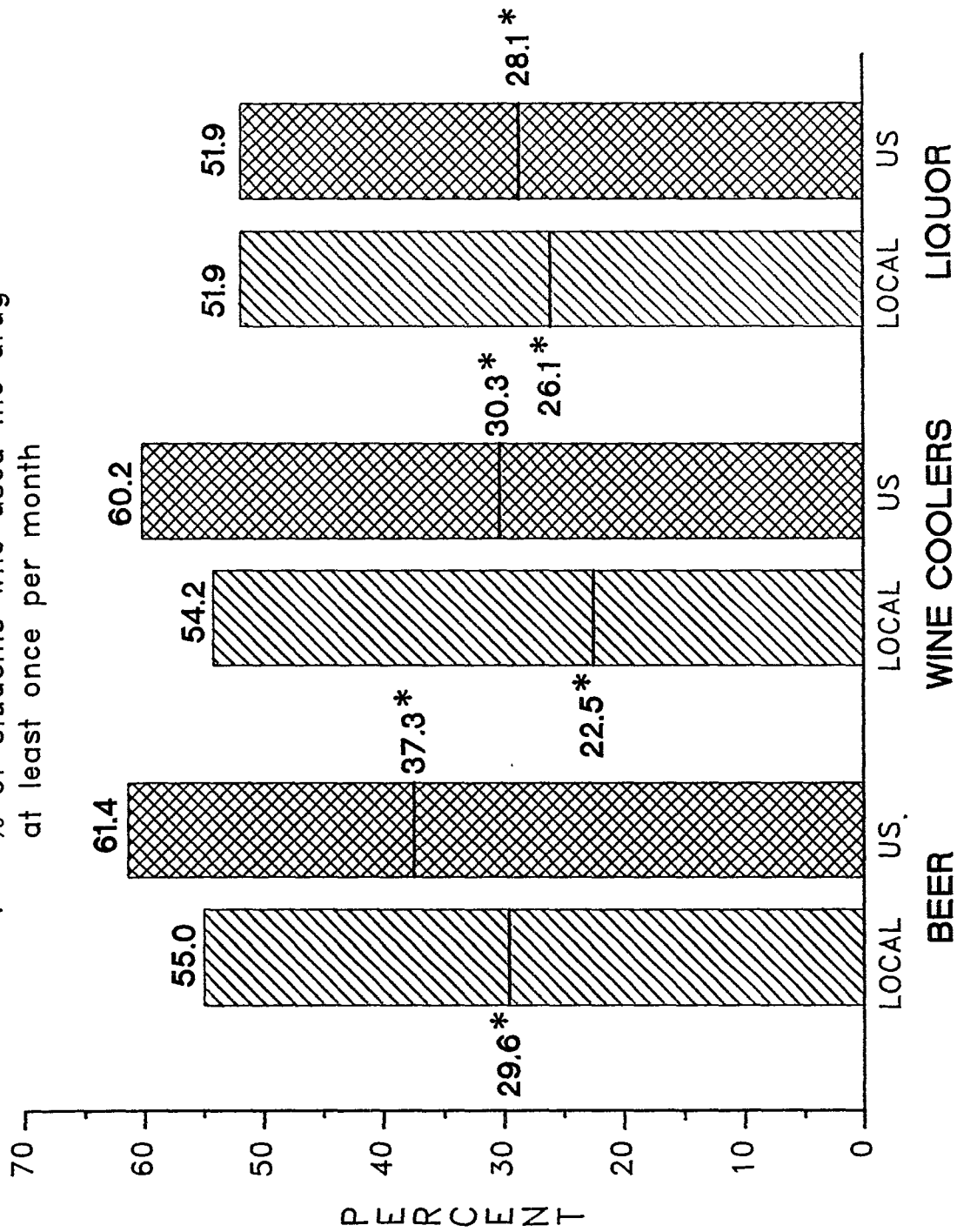


FIGURE 11.B.2.2. - Percent of Senior High Students reporting drinking alcohol within the past year compared to the 1988-89 PRIDE National Summary results. (Kosciusko County)

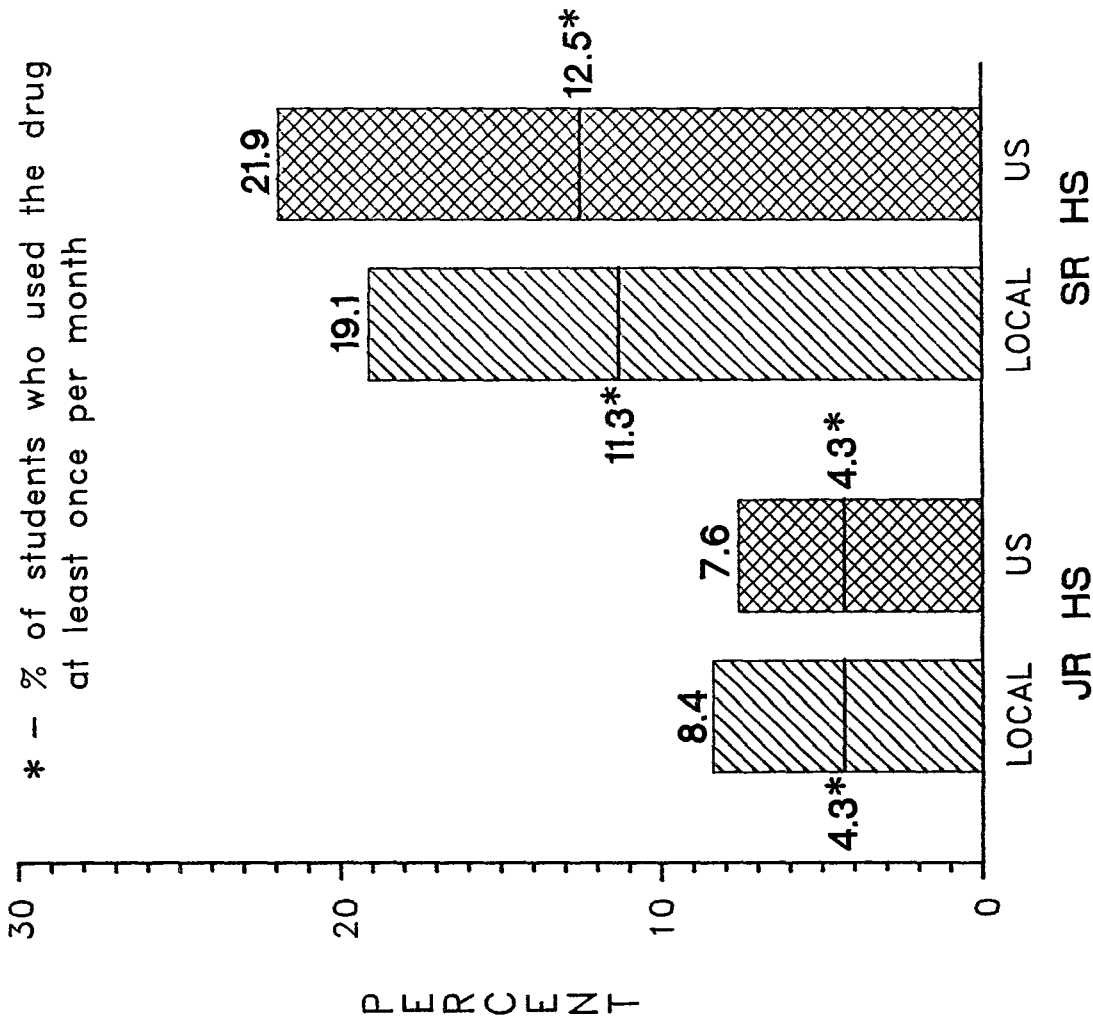


FIGURE 11.B.3.1. - Percent of Junior and Senior High Students reporting smoking marijuana within the past year compared to the 1988-89 PRIDE National Summary results. (Kosciusko County)

* -- % of students who used the drug at least once per month

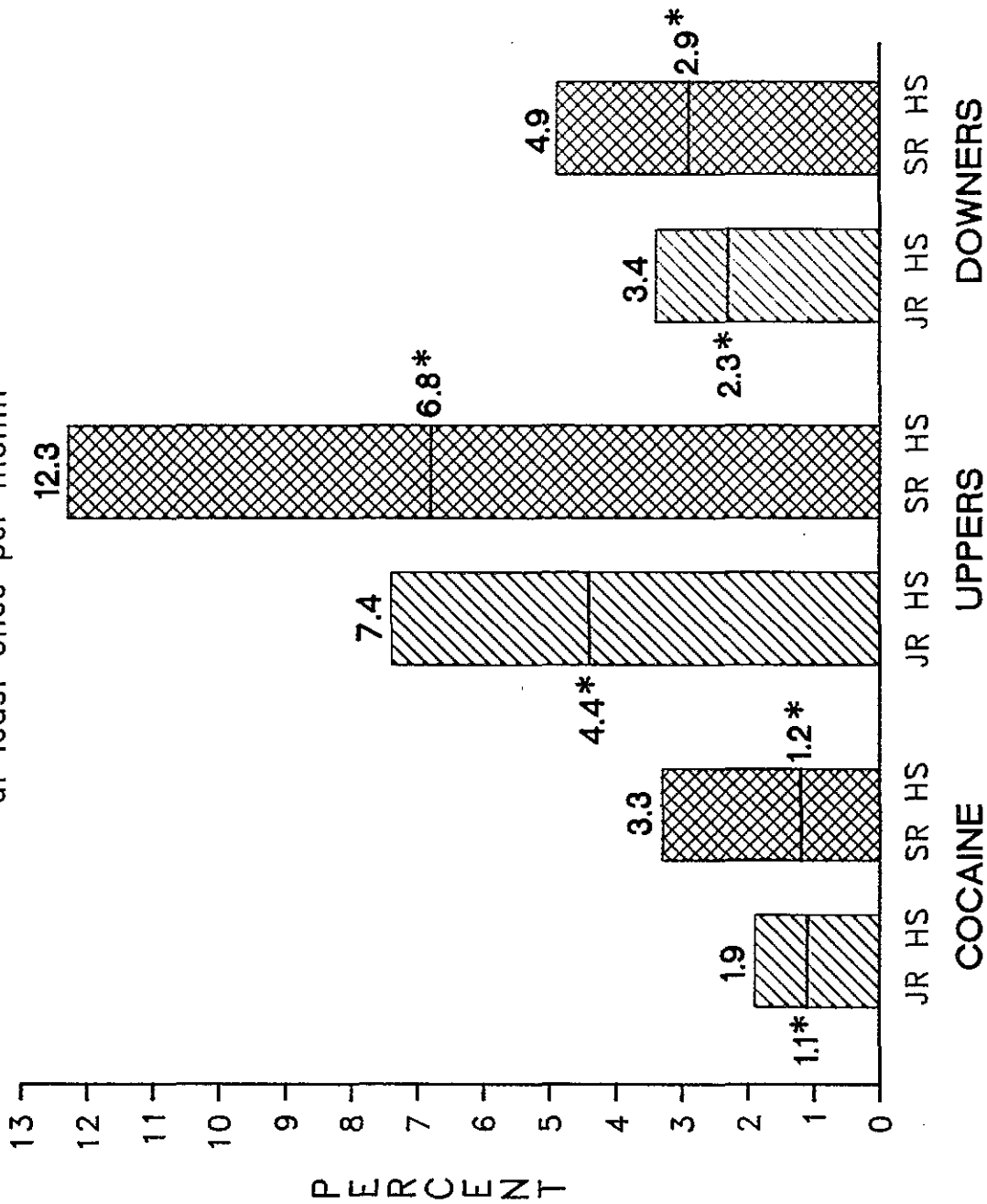


FIGURE 111.B.1.1. - Percent of Junior and Senior High Students reporting using cocaine, uppers and downers in the past year. (Kosciusko County)

* - % of students who used the drug at least once per month

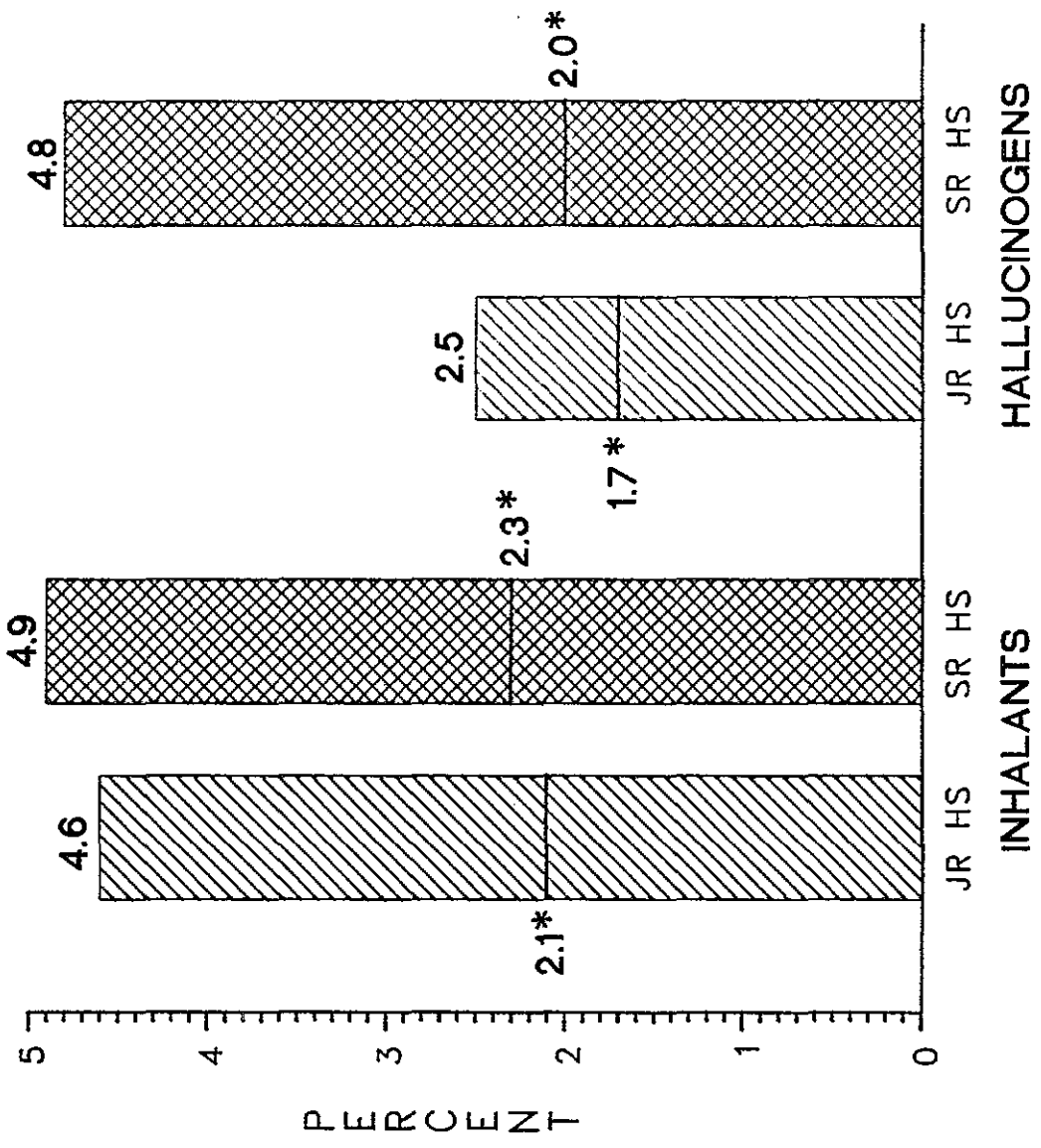


FIGURE 111.B.1.2. - Percent of Junior and Senior High Students reporting using inhalants and hallucinogens within the past year. (Kosciusko County)

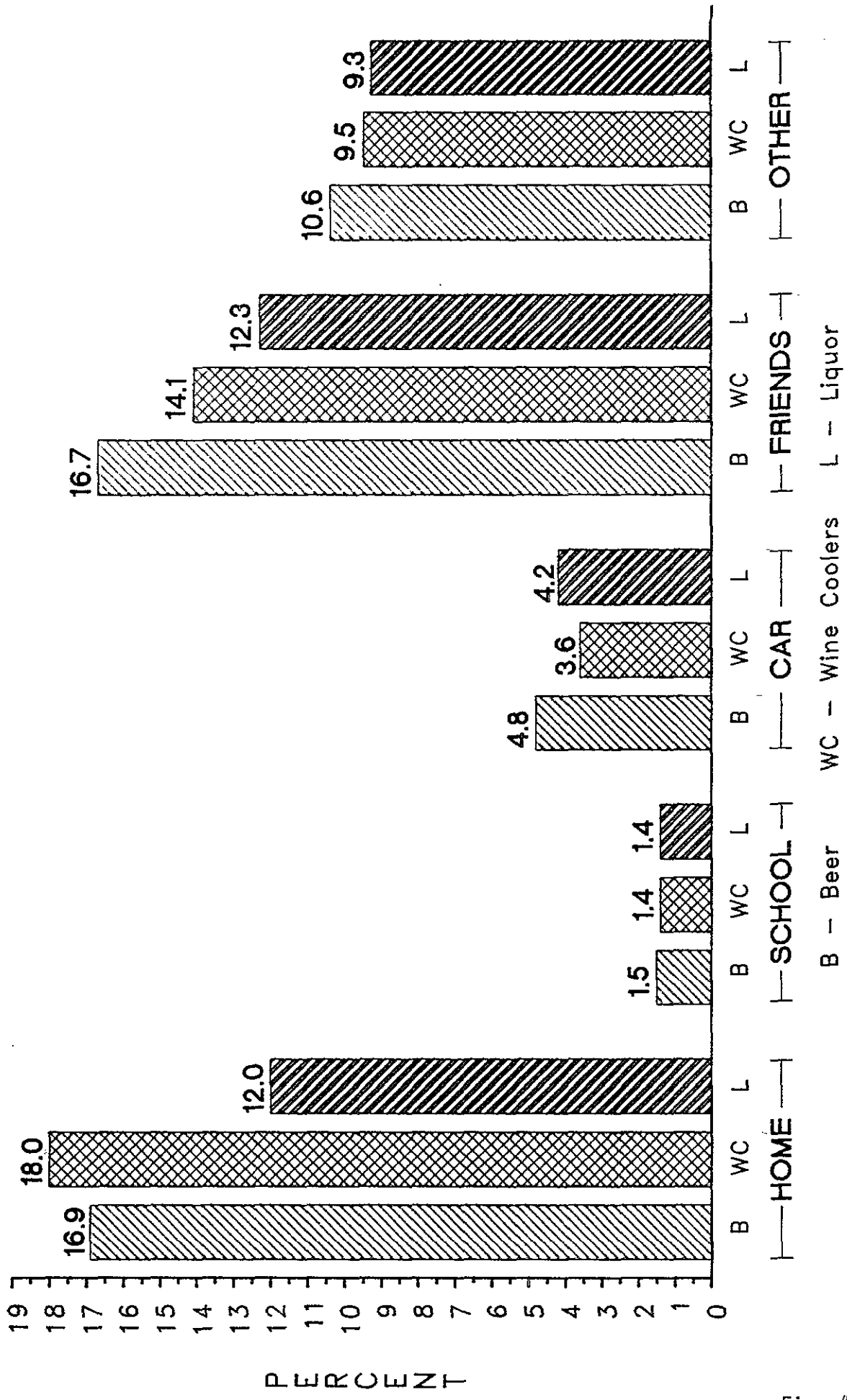


FIGURE 11.C.2.1. - Location of alcohol use reported by Junior High Students. (Kosciusko County)

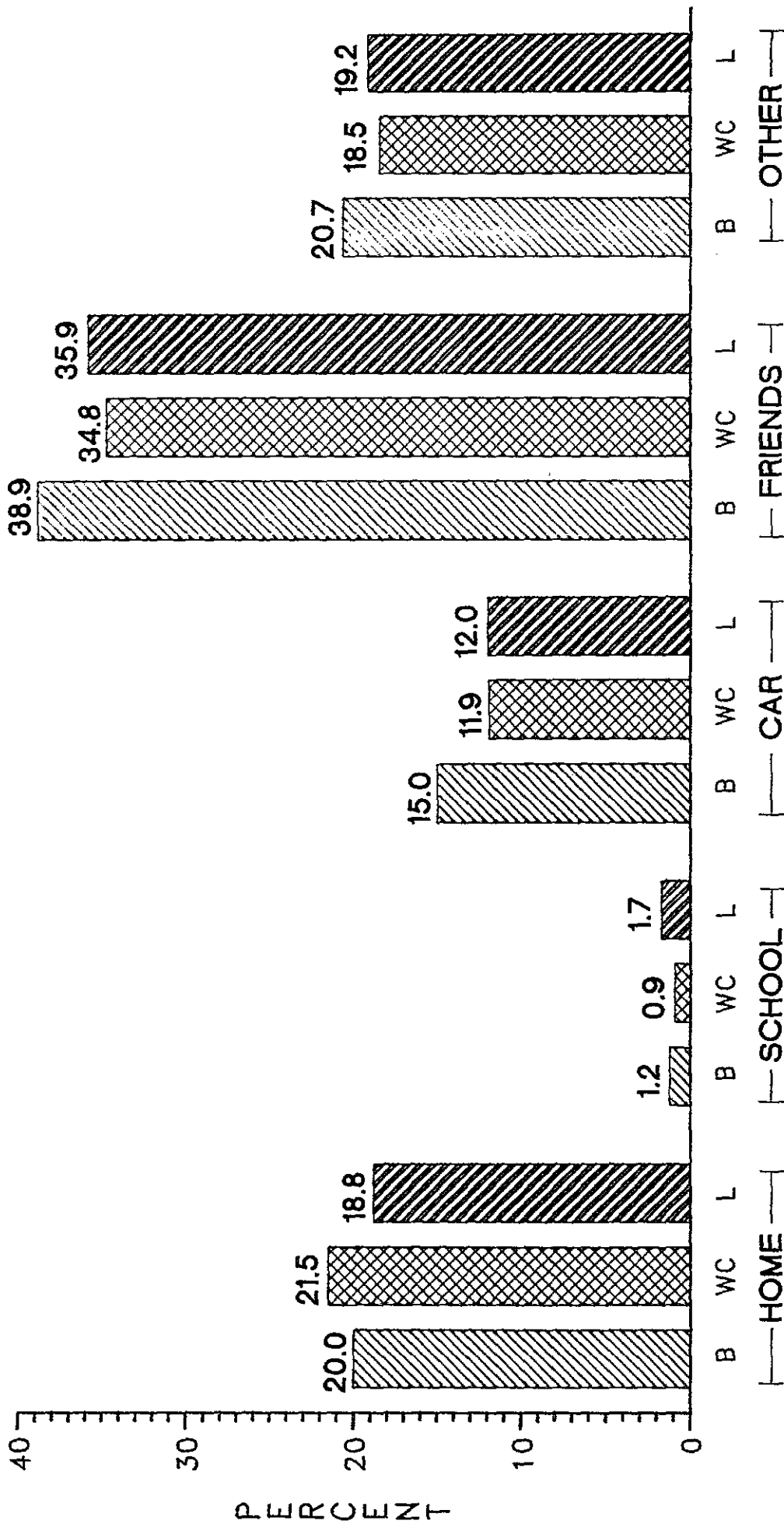


FIGURE 11.C.2.2. - Location of alcohol use reported by Senior High Students. (Kosciusko County)

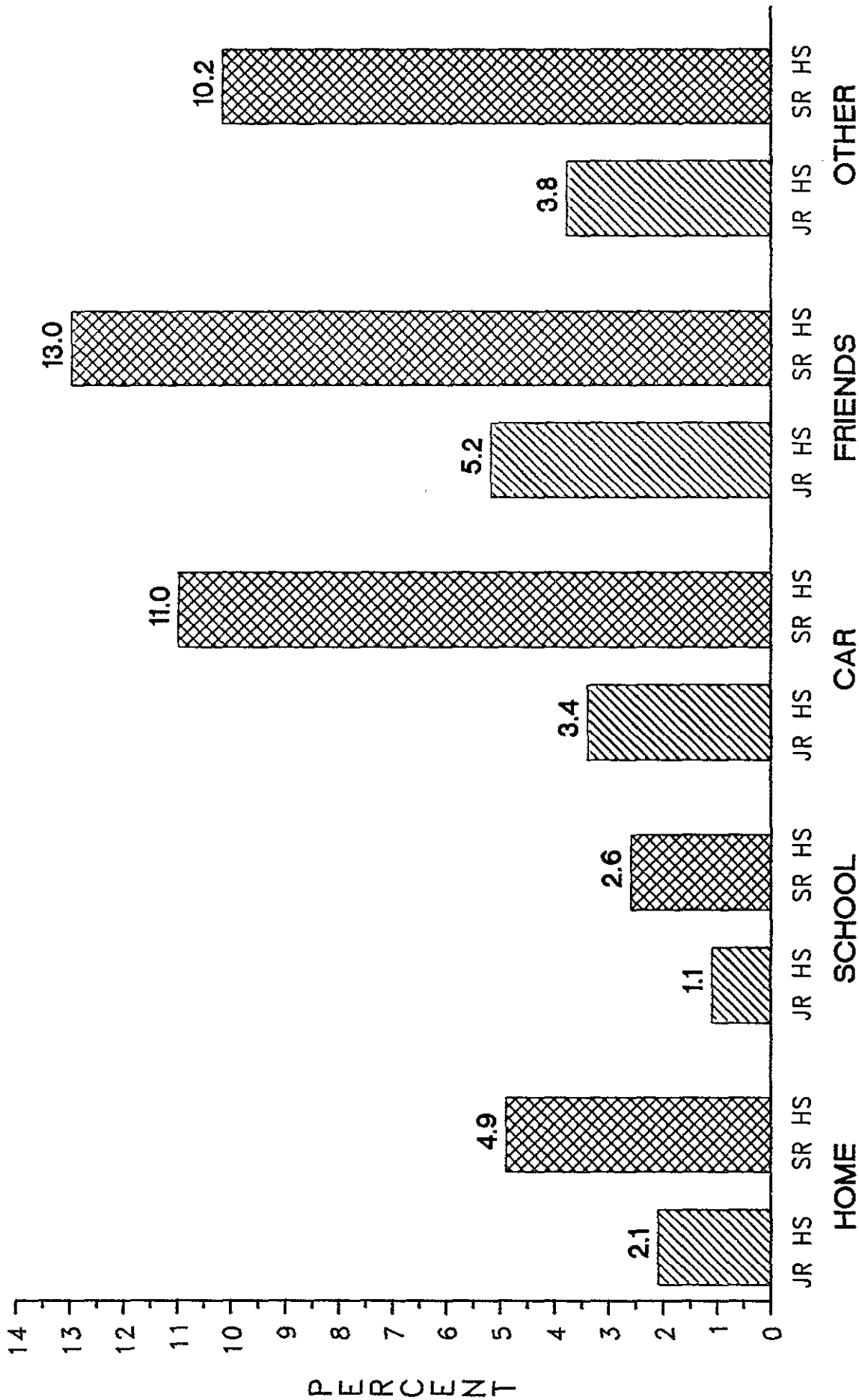
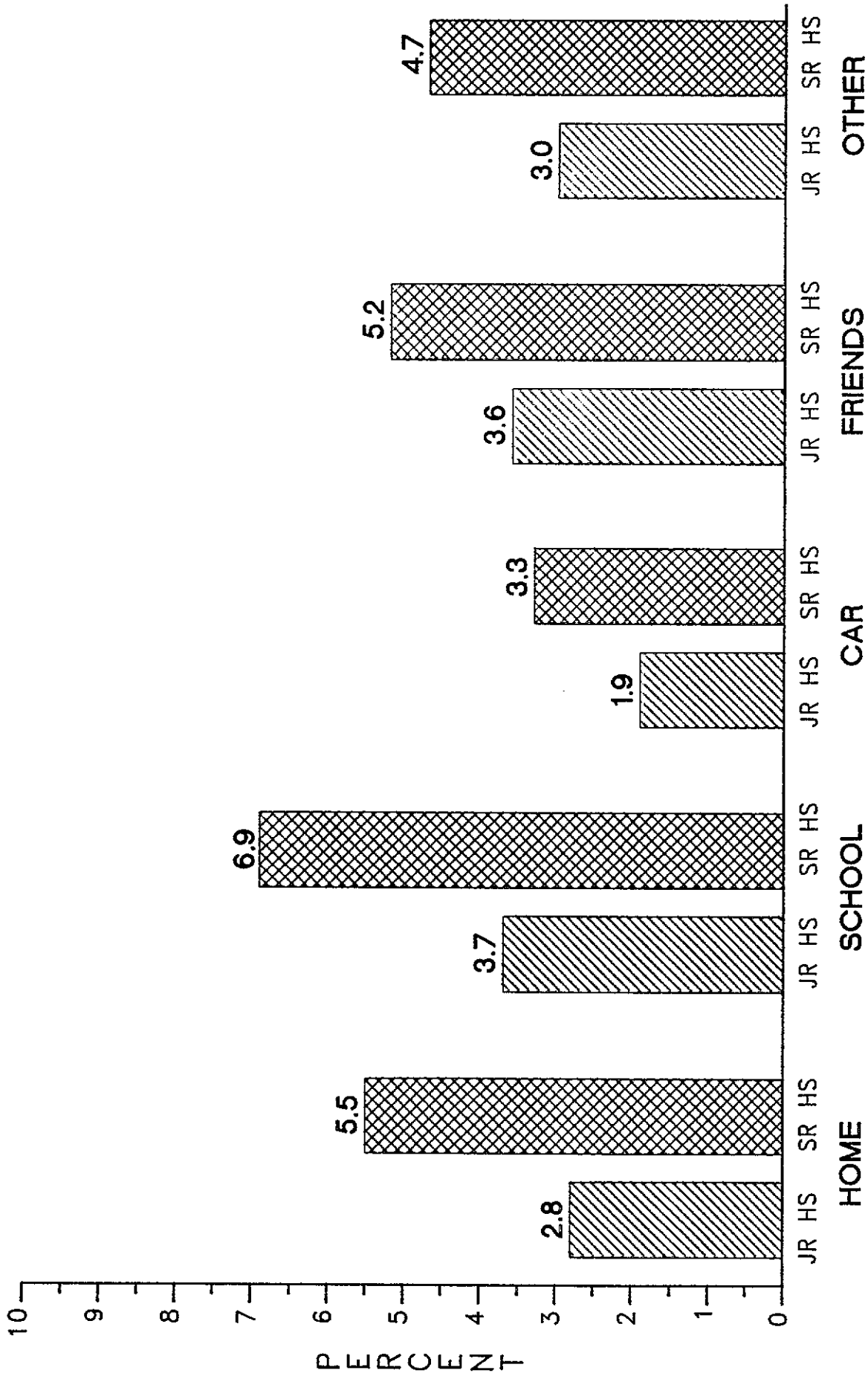


FIGURE 11.C.3.1. - Location of marijuana use reported by Junior and Senior High Students. (Kosciusko County)



Location of Uppers used by Junior & Senior High Students (Kosciusko County)

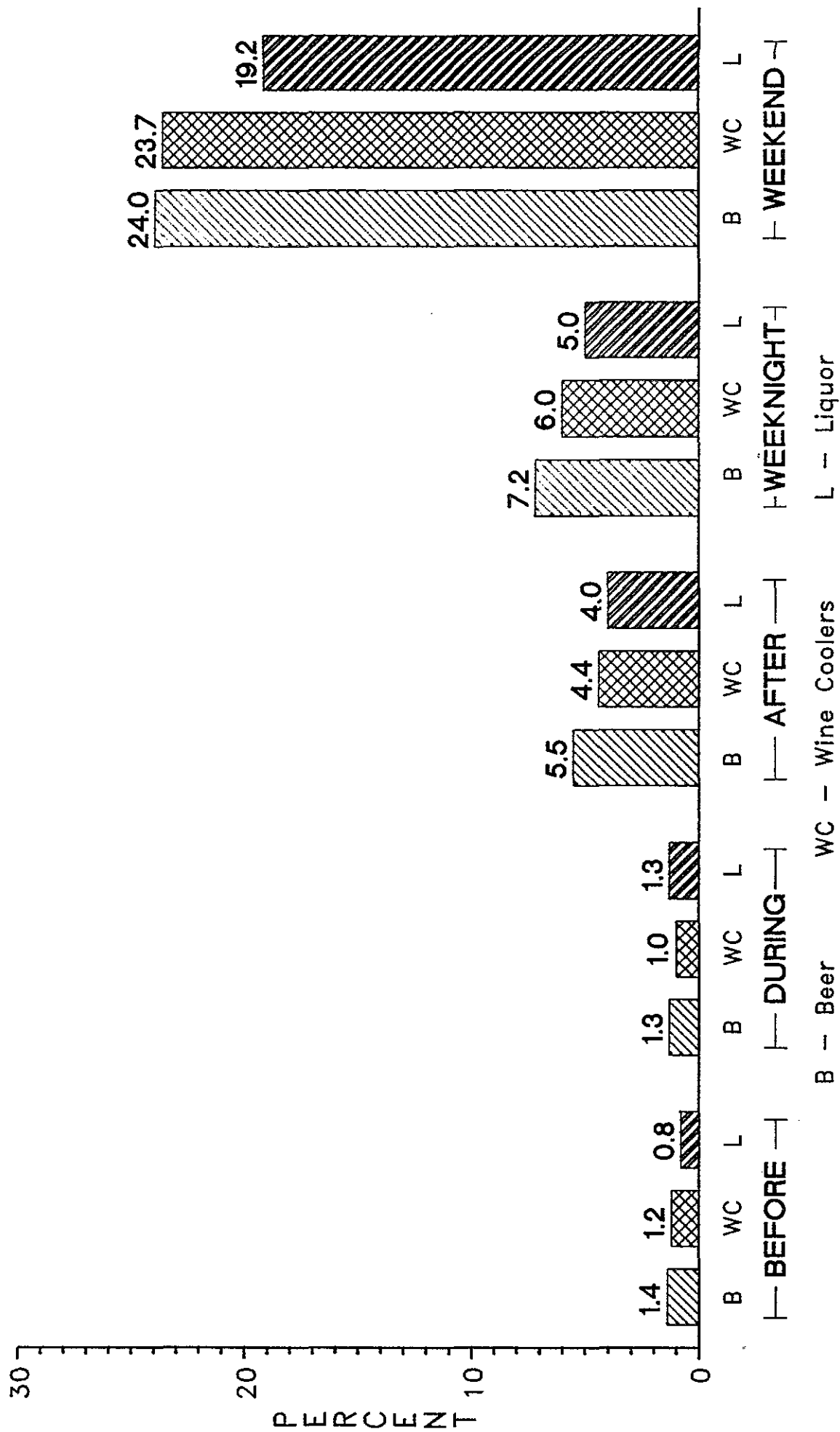


FIGURE 11.C.2.3. - Time of alcohol use reported by Junior High Students. (Kosciusko County)

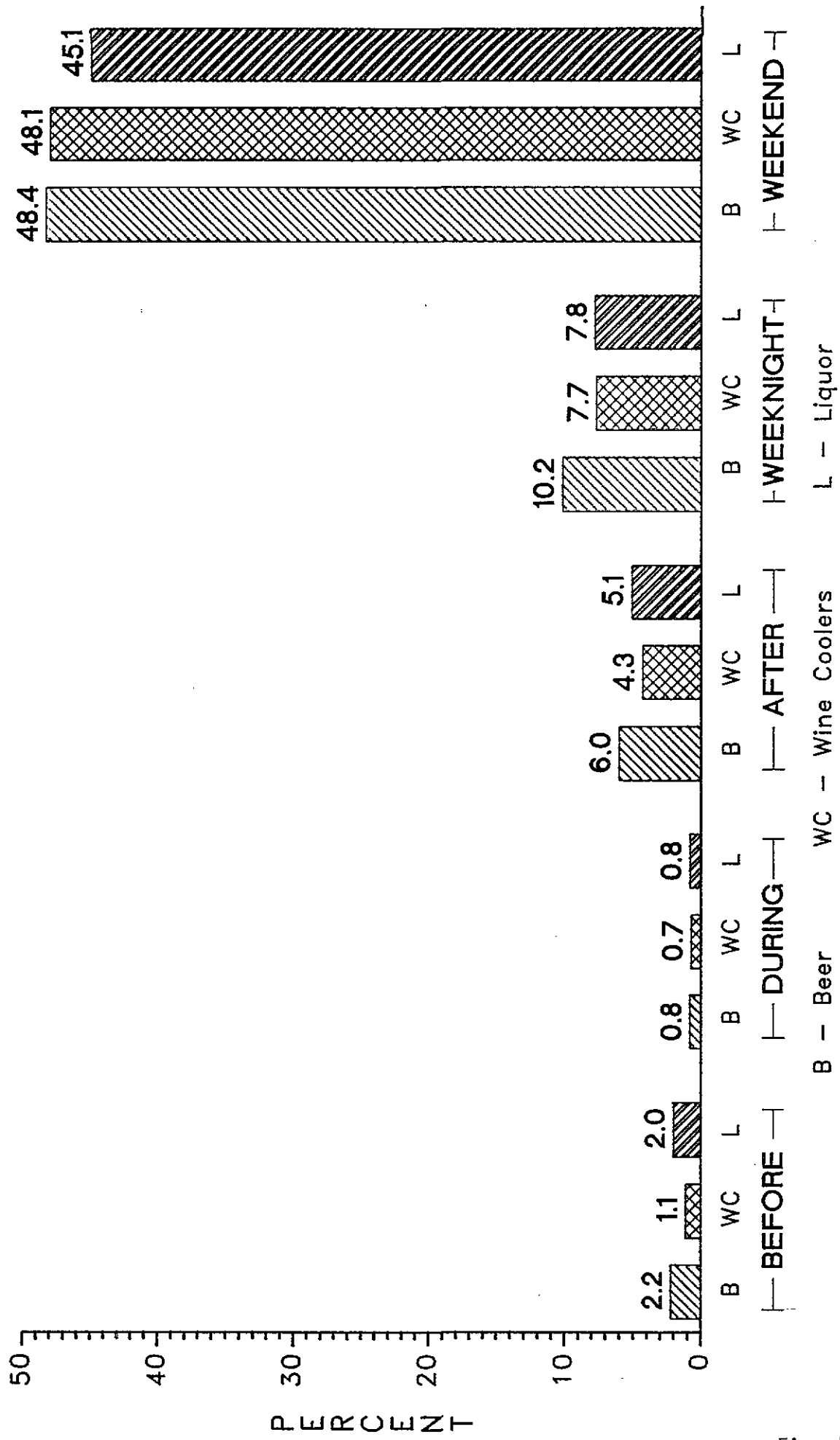


FIGURE 11.C.2.4. - Time of alcohol use reported by Senior High Students. (Kosciusko County)

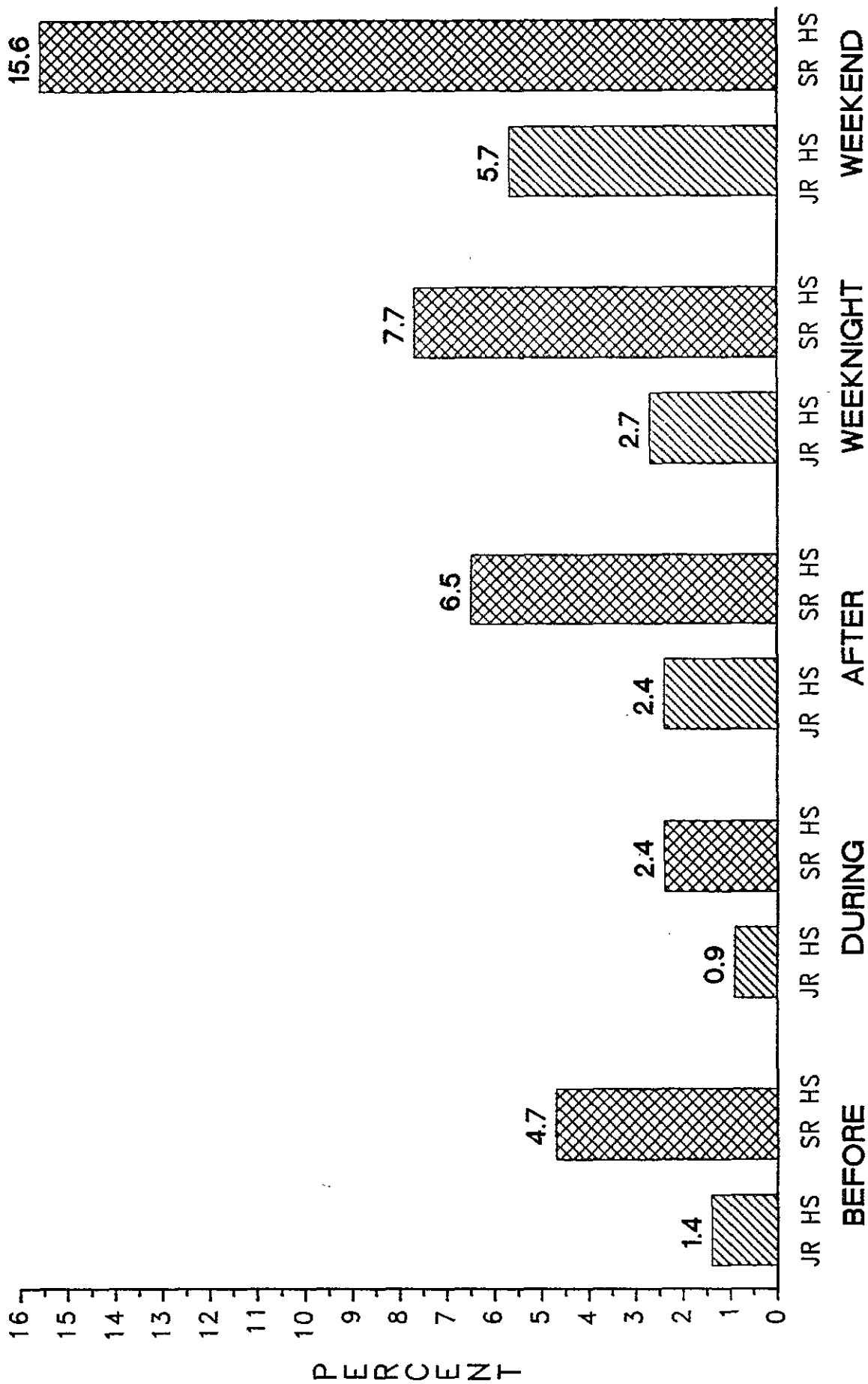
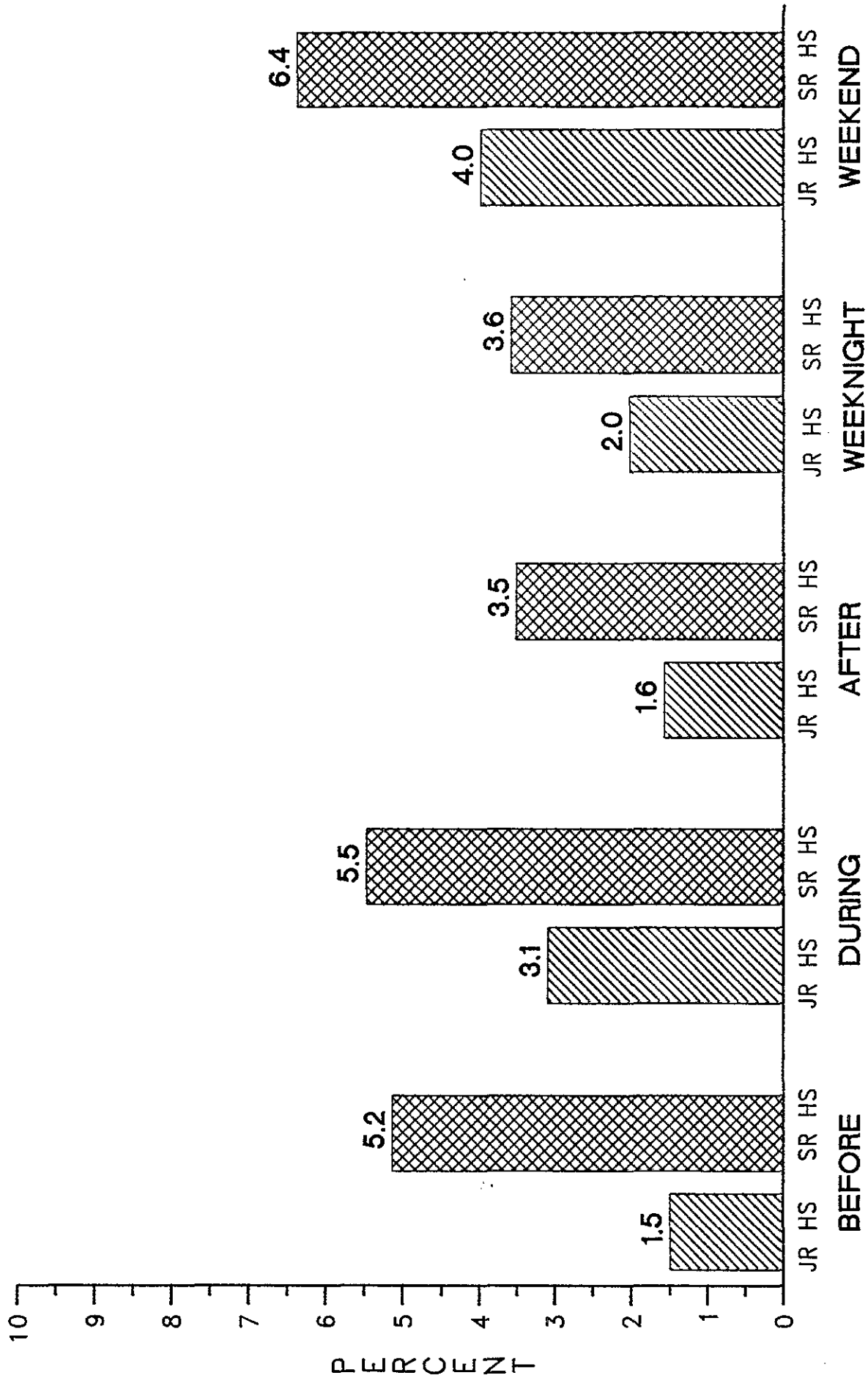


FIGURE 11.C.3.2. - Time of marijuana use reported by Junior and Senior High Students. (Kosciusko County)



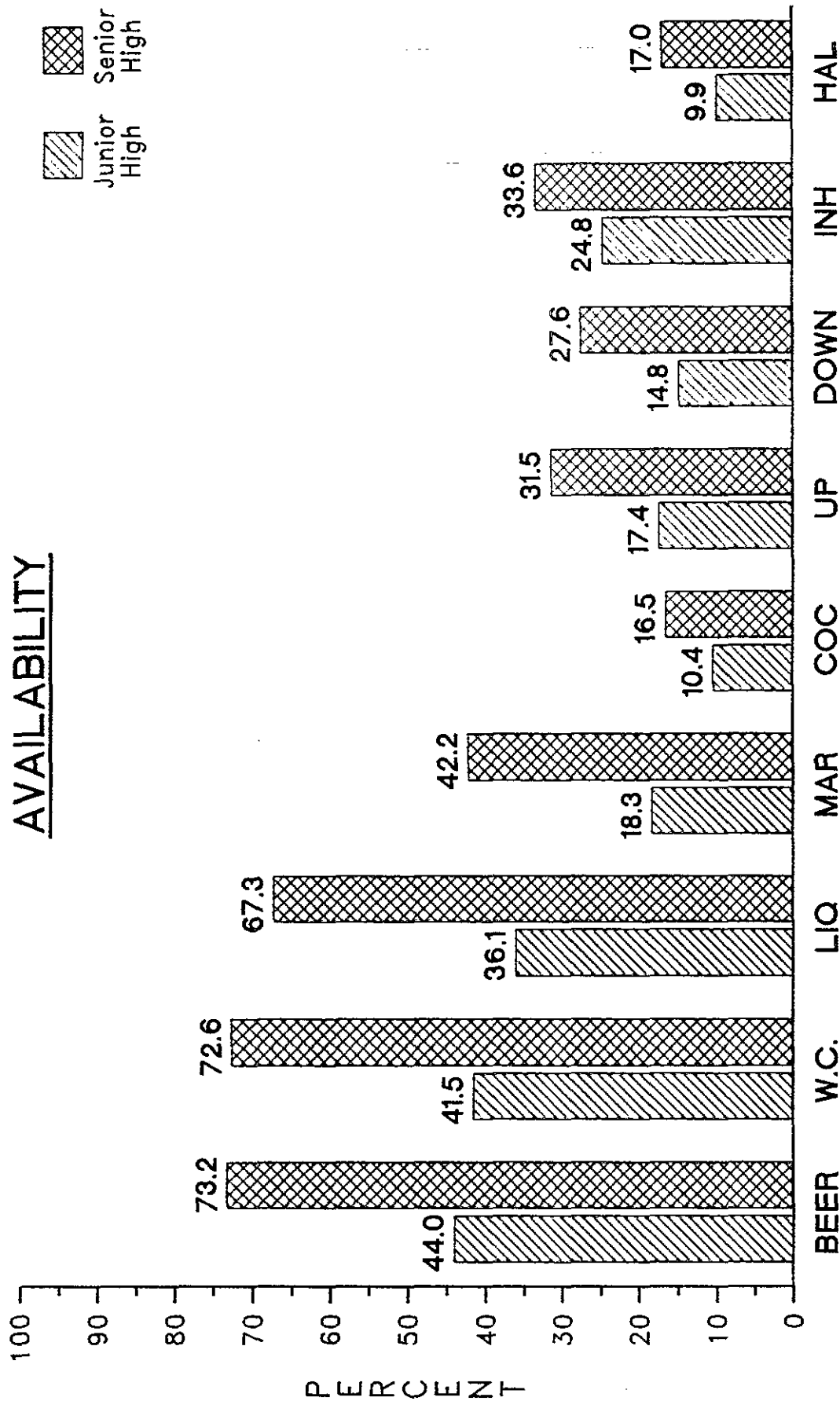
Time of Uppers used by Junior & Senior High Students (Kosciusko County)

AWARENESS



Percentage of Students who responded not harmful or don't know if harmful. (Kosciusko County)

AVAILABILITY



Percentage of Students who responded drugs were readily available. (Kosciusko County)