

## Rapid Response Contents

This Rapid Response Advisory addresses the 2002 Monitoring the Future study released on December 16, 2002, by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). This kit provides the most up to date and relevant information about drug use in America, along with tools that can be used to reach the media, legislators, community groups, and others in your State with critical messages about the importance of substance abuse prevention.

All materials in this kit can be reproduced. Electronic files are available on the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention's Decision Support System Web site (<http://preventiondss.samhsa.gov>) in the Get Training & Support section.

Additional information on the 2002 Monitoring the Future study is available on the Monitoring the Future Web site at [www.monitoringthefuture.org](http://www.monitoringthefuture.org). Please note that Web site addresses may change; therefore, you may wish to confirm addresses before distributing materials. If you have any difficulties accessing these files or need additional assistance, please contact George Marcelle at (800) 729-6686, ext. 468.

### **The following materials are included in this kit:**

#### **Pitch Letter**

- The sample letter can be used to reach both the media and constituent groups with information about the Monitoring the Future study and the importance of drug abuse prevention. The letter is intended to serve as a model and can be adapted to meet specific needs.

#### **Press Materials**

- The HHS press release, published December 16, 2002, can be reproduced and used as background information.
- A "boilerplate" release about local issues in connection with the Monitoring the Future study is provided. This release can be adapted to address the specific State and local issues of each National Prevention Network (NPN) member.

#### **Fact Sheets**

- The fact sheets address key issues of interest surrounding the Monitoring the Future study results. Issues addressed include:

- ❑ Overall illicit drug use.
- ❑ Alcohol, cigarettes, and smokeless tobacco.
- ❑ Ecstasy (MDMA).
- ❑ Inhalants, hallucinogens, and steroids.
- ❑ Marijuana, cocaine, and amphetamines.

### **Talking Points**

- Talking points about key issues are provided and can be used in presentations or in preparing for interviews with the media.

### **Charts and Graphs**

- Relevant charts and graphs are included. These visuals can be reproduced for use as handouts or in presentations.

## Sample Pitch Letter

This sample letter can be used to reach the media as well as constituent groups with information about the Monitoring the Future study and the importance of substance abuse prevention. The letter is intended to serve as a model that can be adapted to meet specific needs or to include local statistics on youth substance abuse. The fact sheets provided in this kit can be included as attachments with this letter.

(Date)

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

Recently released findings from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' 2002 Monitoring the Future study tell us that America's investment in substance abuse prevention is paying off.

Findings from the study indicate that use of alcohol, tobacco, and most drugs decreased from 2001 to 2002. There were significant declines in alcohol consumption as well as decreases in the proportions of 8<sup>th</sup>- and 10<sup>th</sup>-graders saying they got drunk in their lifetimes. Significant declines of cigarette use occurred in all grades and among all subgroups. The proportion of students reporting use of any illicit drug in the last year declined among all three grade levels, and significantly so among 8<sup>th</sup>- and 10<sup>th</sup>-graders. For the first time, ecstasy use is down among American teens. In fact, the only significant increases in drug use were crack use by 10<sup>th</sup>-graders in the past year and use of sedatives by 12<sup>th</sup>-graders in the past year.

Marked changes in teen attitudes and perceptions contributed to the drop in ecstasy use. The number of 12<sup>th</sup>-graders who said there was a great risk of harm associated with trying ecstasy reached 52 percent—significantly higher than 38 percent in 2000 and 46 percent in 2001. Disapproval of ecstasy use rose among students in all three grades, and availability of ecstasy, as reported by the students, has finally leveled off after several years of increased availability.

However, the Nation's drug problem is far from being a thing of the past. According to the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, in 2001 an estimated 15.9 million Americans—7.1 percent of the population ages 12 and over—were current users of illicit drugs, up from 14 million Americans—6.3 percent—in 2000. The report highlights that 10.8 percent of youth ages 12 to 17 were current illicit drug users in 2001 compared with 9.7 percent in 2000. One reason for this increase may be linked to abuse of Oxycontin and Vicodin, prescription drugs used to relieve pain. According to the Monitoring the Future study, which examined abuse of prescription drugs for the first time in 2002, 4.0 percent of 12<sup>th</sup>-graders reported nonmedical use of Oxycontin in the past year,

and 9.6 percent of 12<sup>th</sup>-graders reported Vicodin use in the same time period. While the rates of use of other drugs may be declining, abuse of prescription drugs is on the increase. Overall, the rates of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drug use are at unacceptably high levels.

There is no doubt that targeted and relentless efforts to prevent teen substance abuse are working. But, the challenge remains. To help our children resist the pitfalls of substance abuse, prevention must continue to be at the heart of local strategies.

Sincerely,



(Your Name)  
(Title)  
(Office or Agency)

IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2002

Contact: NIDA Press Office  
Blair Gately or  
Michelle Muth Person  
(301) 443-6245

## 2002 MONITORING THE FUTURE SURVEY SHOWS DECREASE IN USE OF MARIJUANA, CLUB DRUGS, CIGARETTES AND TOBACCO

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Results from the annual Monitoring the Future Survey of 8<sup>th</sup>-, 10<sup>th</sup>-, and 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students in U.S. schools indicate that use of marijuana, some club drugs, cigarettes and alcohol decreased from 2001 to 2002, according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

The survey shows that the proportion of 8<sup>th</sup>- and 10<sup>th</sup>-graders reporting the use of any illicit drug in the prior 12 months declined significantly from 2001 to 2002. The decrease among 8<sup>th</sup>-graders continues a decline in illicit drug use begun in 1997, but this is the first significant decline among 10<sup>th</sup>-graders since 1998.

"This year's survey brings more encouraging news about the decline in teens' use of marijuana, ecstasy, cigarettes and alcohol," HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson said. "We will continue our campaign to educate every new generation of Americans about the dangers of drug abuse and enlist the help of parents, teachers and the community to keep our children healthy and drug free."

In addition to finding an overall decline in drug use, the survey also found the use of MDMA (Ecstasy) showed statistically significant declines for the first time after rising rapidly in recent years. Past month and past year MDMA use decreased significantly for all three grades lumped together, and, for individual grades, significant reductions were found for the 10<sup>th</sup>-graders in these time periods. There were no increases in MDMA use for any of the grades.

"This year's survey shows a very promising downward trend in teens' use of marijuana, ecstasy, cigarettes and LSD," said Dr. Glen Hanson, acting director, National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). "I want to congratulate the youth of America for making wise health decisions to avoid these substances. We will continue to provide them with science-based information to educate them about the dangers of drug abuse."

Marijuana use in the past year decreased significantly among 10<sup>th</sup>-graders, reaching its lowest rate since 1995. Marijuana use by 8<sup>th</sup>-graders also has declined in recent years and is now at its lowest level since 1994.

"Teen drug use is once again headed in the right direction -- down. This survey confirms that our drug prevention efforts are working and that when we work together and push back, the drug problem gets smaller," said John P. Walters, director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

In addition, LSD use declined sharply and significantly at all three grades in 2002. The decline was particularly large for 12<sup>th</sup>-graders. Rates of LSD use are the lowest in the history of the survey among students in all three grades.

Steroid use remained stable from 2001 to 2002 in each grade and reporting period.

The only significant increases in drug use were crack use by 10<sup>th</sup>-graders in the past year and use of sedatives by 12<sup>th</sup>-graders in the past year.

For the first time, the survey looked at the abuse of Oxycontin and Vicodin, prescription drugs used to relieve pain. Nonmedical use of Oxycontin in the past year was reported by 4.0 percent of 12<sup>th</sup>-graders, and Vicodin use in the same time period was reported by 9.6 percent of 12<sup>th</sup>-graders.

In addition, the survey showed important declines in adolescent alcohol use from 2001 to 2002. There were significant decreases in alcohol consumption by 8<sup>th</sup>- and 10<sup>th</sup>-graders. There were also declines in the proportions of 8<sup>th</sup>- and 10<sup>th</sup>-graders saying that they got drunk in their lifetime and in the previous year. Among 10<sup>th</sup>-graders, having been drunk in the past month and binge drinking in the past two weeks also decreased.

Cigarette smoking decreased significantly in each grade, expanding on a recent trend. Significant declines occurred in all three grade levels in 2002, continuing a steady and substantial decline in teen smoking that began after 1996 among 8<sup>th</sup>- and 10<sup>th</sup>-graders, and after 1997 among 12<sup>th</sup>-graders. Lifetime prevalence of smoking fell between 2001 and 2002 by between 4 and 5 percentage points in each grade, making clear that teenage cigarette smoking is now declining sharply.

In general, these declines in cigarette smoking are occurring among all subgroups: males and females, college-bound and not, all four major Census regions of the country, cities and rural areas, all socioeconomic strata, and the three major racial/ethnic groups (whites, African-Americans, and Hispanics). All of these subgroups have now shown substantial declines from peak levels of cigarette use.

"Lifetime" refers to use at least once during a respondent's lifetime. "Past year" refers to an individual's drug use at least once during the year preceding their response to the survey. "Past month" refers to an individual's drug use at least once during the month preceding their response to the survey.

## **Marijuana**

- Among 10<sup>th</sup>-graders, marijuana/hashish use in the past year and past month decreased and daily use in the past month was down. Past year use decreased from 32.7 percent to 30.3 percent; past month use went from 19.8 percent to 17.8 percent, and daily use in the past month declined from 4.5 percent to 3.9 percent.
- For the 8<sup>th</sup>-graders, there has been slow but steady progress toward reduction of marijuana use. The past year marijuana use rate for 8<sup>th</sup>-graders in 2002 -- 14.6 percent -- is the lowest rate seen since 1994, and well below the recent peak of 18.3 percent in 1996.

### **Cocaine**

- Cocaine use remained statistically unchanged from 2001 to 2002 for each grade and reporting period. Past year cocaine use was reported by 2.3 percent of 8<sup>th</sup>-graders, 4.0 percent of 10<sup>th</sup>-graders, and 5.0 percent of 12<sup>th</sup>-graders.
- This comes after declines in cocaine use among 10<sup>th</sup>-graders from 2000 to 2001 and among 12<sup>th</sup>-graders between 1999 and 2000.
- Crack use showed a significant increase in past year use among 10<sup>th</sup>-graders, returning to around its 2000 level following a decline in 2001. For 2002, 2.3 percent of 10<sup>th</sup>-graders reported past year use of crack cocaine, compared with 1.8 percent in 2001 and 2.2 percent in 2000.

### **Heroin and Other Opiates**

- Heroin use by 8<sup>th</sup>- , 10<sup>th</sup>- , and 12<sup>th</sup>-graders remained stable from 2001 to 2002 following a decline from 2000 to 2001 among 10<sup>th</sup>-and 12<sup>th</sup>-graders. Past year use rates were around 1 percent in each grade.
- New questions on nonmedical use of Oxycontin and Vicodin in the past year were added in the 2002 survey for each grade, and the findings give some reason for concern.
  - Oxycontin use in the past year without a doctor's orders was reported by 1.3 percent of 8<sup>th</sup>-graders, 3.0 percent of 10<sup>th</sup>-graders, and 4.0 percent of 12<sup>th</sup>-graders.
  - Nonmedical use of Vicodin in the past year was reported by 2.5 percent of 8<sup>th</sup>-graders, 6.9 percent of 10<sup>th</sup>-graders, and 9.6 percent of 12<sup>th</sup>-graders.

### **Use of Cigarettes and Smokeless Tobacco**

- Cigarette use declined in each grade and several categories of use between 2001 and 2002.
  - Lifetime use – 8<sup>th</sup> grade -- 36.6 percent to 31.4 percent; 10<sup>th</sup> grade -- 52.8 percent to 47.4 percent; 12<sup>th</sup> grade -- 61.0 percent to 57.2 percent.

- Past month use – 8<sup>th</sup> grade -- 12.2 percent to 10.7 percent; 10<sup>th</sup> grade -- 21.3 percent to 17.7 percent; 12<sup>th</sup> grade -- 29.5 percent to 26.7 percent.
- Daily use in past month – 10<sup>th</sup> grade -- 12.2 percent to 10.1 percent; 12<sup>th</sup> grade -- 19.0 percent to 16.9 percent.
- This follows several years of gradual decreases in cigarette smoking that started around 1996 for 8<sup>th</sup>-graders and 1997 for 10<sup>th</sup>- and 12<sup>th</sup>-graders. However, year-to-year declines have not always been statistically significant in all grades, and the decreases seen between 2001 and 2002 are particularly notable.
  - Use of bidis in the past year declined among 10<sup>th</sup>-graders from 4.9 percent in 2001 to 3.1 percent in 2002. Use of these small, flavored cigarettes from India was reported by 2.7 percent of 8<sup>th</sup>-graders and 5.9 percent of 12<sup>th</sup>-graders in 2002 based on the past-year reporting period. Use of Kreteks (clove-flavored cigarettes from Indonesia) in the past year was reported by 2.6 percent of 8<sup>th</sup>-graders, 4.9 percent of 10<sup>th</sup>-graders, and 8.4 percent of 12<sup>th</sup>-graders in 2002.
- Lifetime use of smokeless tobacco by 10<sup>th</sup>-graders declined from 19.5 percent in 2001 to 16.9 percent in 2002.

### **Inhalants**

- Inhalant use in the lifetime decreased among 8<sup>th</sup>- and 10<sup>th</sup>-graders and past use decreased among 8<sup>th</sup>-graders. Lifetime use went from 17.1 percent in 2001 to 15.2 percent in 2002 among 8<sup>th</sup>-graders and from 15.2 percent to 13.5 percent among 10<sup>th</sup>-graders.
- In 2002, inhalant use among 8<sup>th</sup>- and 10<sup>th</sup>-graders in all reporting periods was the lowest seen in the history of the survey and the lowest in about 20 years for seniors.

### **Hallucinogens**

- Hallucinogen use in the lifetime, past year, and past month declined for 12<sup>th</sup>-graders, and past year use was down among 10<sup>th</sup>-graders.
- LSD showed major changes from 2001 to 2002. Rates of use decreased markedly in each grade and reporting period. Past year use, for example, declined from 6.6 percent to 3.5 percent among 12<sup>th</sup>-graders, from 4.1 percent to 2.6 percent among 10<sup>th</sup>-graders and from 2.2 percent to 1.5 percent among 8<sup>th</sup>-graders. These are the lowest rates of LSD use in the history of the survey for each grade.

### **Club Drugs**

- Rates of MDMA (Ecstasy) use decreased significantly among 10<sup>th</sup>-graders. For this grade, past year use declined from 6.2 percent to 4.9 percent and past month

use went from 2.6 percent to 1.8 percent. Use by 8<sup>th</sup>- and 12<sup>th</sup>-graders also showed signs of decline.

### **Alcohol Use**

- Between 2001 and 2002 significant reductions in alcohol use were observed among 8<sup>th</sup>- and 10<sup>th</sup>-graders in numerous categories of use, including lifetime, past year, and past month. The use rates in 8<sup>th</sup>- and 10<sup>th</sup>-graders are record lows in history of the survey in those grades.
- Rates of having been drunk in the lifetime and past year decreased for 8<sup>th</sup>- and 10<sup>th</sup>-graders. Among 10<sup>th</sup>-graders, the rate of binge drinking (five or more drinks in a row) in the past two weeks declined, as did the past-month rate of having been drunk.

### **Perceived Harmfulness, Disapproval, and Perceived Availability**

- Both perceived risk and disapproval of trying marijuana once or twice increased among 10<sup>th</sup>-graders, but among 12<sup>th</sup>-graders perceived risk of smoking marijuana regularly declined.
- Attitudes toward MDMA (Ecstasy) use hardened. Perceived risk of occasional MDMA use increased among 8<sup>th</sup>-graders and perceived risk of trying it once or twice increased among 10<sup>th</sup>- and 12<sup>th</sup>-graders. Disapproval of MDMA use increased significantly from 2001 to 2002 among students in all three grades.
- Perceived risk and disapproval of trying LSD once or twice both increased among 12<sup>th</sup>-graders, but among 10<sup>th</sup>-graders perceived risk of regular LSD use decreased. Notably, perceived availability of LSD declined among students in all three grades.
- Perceived risk of trying inhalants once or twice declined among 8<sup>th</sup>-graders, and perceived risk of regular use of these substances decreased among 10<sup>th</sup>-graders. Seniors are not asked about their attitudes regarding inhalant use.
- Perceived availability of amphetamines decreased among 8<sup>th</sup>-graders.

The Monitoring the Future Survey, conducted by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research and funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), at the National Institutes of Health, has tracked 12<sup>th</sup>-graders' illicit drug use and attitudes towards drugs since 1975. In 1991, 8<sup>th</sup>- and 10<sup>th</sup>-graders were added to the study. The 2002 study surveyed a representative sample of more than 43,000 students in 394 schools across the nation about lifetime use, past year use, past month use, and daily use of drugs, alcohol, and cigarettes and smokeless tobacco. Findings from the report will be available at <http://www.nida.nih.gov/>.

Monitoring the Future is one of three major surveys sponsored by HHS that provide data on substance use among youth. The other two are the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA), and the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS).

The NHSDA, sponsored by HHS' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, is the primary source of statistical information on illicit drug use in the U.S. population 12 years of age and older. Conducted periodically from 1971 and annually since 1990, the survey collects data in household interviews, currently using computer-assisted self-administration for drug-related items. The findings for 2001 have recently been released and are available at <http://www.drugabusestatistics.samhsa.gov>.

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), part of HHS' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, is a school survey that collects data from students in grades 9-12. YRBS, which began in 1990 and has been conducted biennially since 1991, includes questions on a wide variety of health-related risk behaviors, not simply drug abuse. The most recent findings from YRBS, for 2001, are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/yrbs/index.htm>.

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## Sample Press Release

Date

Contact: *Your Name*  
*Phone*

### Teen Drug Use Decreases in 2002

According to the latest Government figures, America's investment in substance abuse prevention is paying off. Findings from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' 2002 Monitoring the Future Study released in mid-December 2002 indicate that use of marijuana, some club drugs, cigarettes, and alcohol decreased from 2001 to 2002. The study, which obtains information from nearly 44,000 students at 400 schools across the country, has been tracking high school seniors for 28 years and following 8<sup>th</sup>- and 10<sup>th</sup>-graders for the past 12 years.

Since 1997, past year illicit drug use among 8<sup>th</sup>-graders has declined significantly from 22.1 percent to 17.7 percent in 2002. Past year drug use among 10<sup>th</sup>-graders is down from 38.5 percent in 1997 to 34.8 percent in 2002. This is the first significant decline among 10<sup>th</sup>-graders since 1998.

The 2002 survey shows statistically significant declines in the use of ecstasy (MDMA) for the first time after sharp increases in recent years. There were no increases in MDMA use for any of the grades in the study.

"Our prevention efforts are clearly making a difference in the lives of teenagers in the community," said (name) of the (office or agency). "We're greatly encouraged by the healthy decisions that our teenagers are making. Prevention does work."

Teen cigarette use continues to decrease. Significant declines occurred in all grades and among all subgroups: males and females, college-bound and not, cities and rural, and the three major ethnic/racial groups (whites, African Americans, and Hispanics).

Alcohol use also decreased. There were significant declines in alcohol consumption as well as decreases in the proportions of 8<sup>th</sup>- and 10<sup>th</sup>-graders saying they got drunk in their lifetime.

The only significant increases in drug use were crack use by 10<sup>th</sup>-graders in the past year and use of sedatives by 12<sup>th</sup>-graders in the past year.

"Although the decreases in substance abuse are encouraging, substance abuse prevention is an ongoing process, not an event," said (last name of the person quoted above, or another official). "Future success will come as a result of parents, teachers, prevention specialists, and community members continuing to work together."

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For more information on substance abuse prevention, contact the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information at (800) 729-6686 or on the Internet at <http://ncadi.samhsa.gov> (or add local information).

## Fact Sheet: Overall Substance Abuse

The 2002 Monitoring the Future study of drug use among 8<sup>th</sup>- , 10<sup>th</sup>- , and 12<sup>th</sup>- graders found that ecstasy use has dropped for the first time in recent years and that overall alcohol and drug use have declined since 2001. Contributing factors to the decline in ecstasy use include an increase in disapproval of ecstasy use among all three grades and a leveling off of the availability of ecstasy. In 2002, past-year use of an illicit drug was 18 percent among 8<sup>th</sup>-graders, 35 percent among 10<sup>th</sup>-graders, and 41 percent among 12<sup>th</sup>-graders. The year 2002 marks the first time since 1998 that there has been a significant decline in overall use of any illicit drug among 10<sup>th</sup>-graders, in addition to a significant decline in overall use of any illicit drug among 8<sup>th</sup>-graders. The rate among 8<sup>th</sup>-graders is now one-third lower than it was in 1996, the recent peak year. Among 12<sup>th</sup>-graders, none of this year's declines in use of any illicit drug (i.e., lifetime, annual, or 30-day) reached statistical significance.

Despite the decline in ecstasy use, teen substance abuse levels continue to be unacceptably high. The use of several drugs held fairly steady in 2002 among teens. These include heroin, narcotics other than heroin, cocaine, crack, and steroids.

### Perceived Harmfulness, Disapproval, and Perceived Availability of Illicit Drugs

- Perceived harmfulness of using inhalants decreased among 8<sup>th</sup>- and 10<sup>th</sup>- graders. Perceptions of "great risk" from trying inhalants once or twice decreased from 45.6 percent to 42.8 percent among 8<sup>th</sup>-graders and from 49.9 percent to 48.7 percent for 10<sup>th</sup>-graders.
- Perceived harmfulness of regularly smoking marijuana decreased from 72.2 percent to 71.7 percent among 8<sup>th</sup>-graders.
- Perceived harmfulness of regularly taking LSD declined from 52.9 percent to 49.3 percent among 8<sup>th</sup>-graders and from 68.8 percent to 64.9 percent among 10<sup>th</sup>-graders.
- Perceived harmfulness of trying ecstasy (MDMA) once or twice increased significantly among seniors, the only grade asked this question; the proportion seeing "great risk" increased from 45.7 percent to 52.2 percent.
- Twelfth graders' disapproval of trying marijuana once or twice increased from 49.1 to 51.6 percent, along with their disapproval of smoking

marijuana occasionally, which increased from 63.2 percent to 63.4 percent.

- Long-term trends of disapproval of trying one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor) decreased among seniors from 26.6 percent to 26.3 percent.
- Perceived availability of ecstasy (MDMA) decreased among seniors, from 61.5 percent to 59.1 percent.
- The perceived availability of crack and cocaine powder rose among 10<sup>th</sup>-graders. The percent who thought crack would be "very" or "fairly easy" to get rose from 30.6 percent to 31.3 percent. The percent who thought cocaine powder would be "very" or "fairly easy" to get rose from 31.0 percent to 31.8 percent.

## **Fact Sheet: Alcohol, Cigarettes, and Smokeless Tobacco**

### **Alcohol Use**

- There were sizeable drops among all three grades in the proportion of students saying that they had any alcohol to drink in the past year and in the past 30 days. These declines were statistically significant in grades 8 and 10 with 38.7 percent of 8<sup>th</sup>-graders and 60 percent of 10<sup>th</sup>-graders reporting alcohol use in the last year; and 19.6 percent of 8<sup>th</sup>-graders and 35.4 percent of 10<sup>th</sup>-graders reporting alcohol use in the past 30 days.
- The 30-day prevalence of alcohol use among 8<sup>th</sup>-graders has fallen from the recent 1996 high of 26 percent to 20 percent in 2002. From 2001 to 2002, the 30-day prevalence among 10<sup>th</sup>-graders fell from 39 percent to 35 percent.
- The proportions of students in grades 8, 10, and 12 who say they were drunk at least once in the 30 days prior to the survey were 7 percent, 18 percent, and 30 percent in 2002. While high, these rates are all down by between 1 and 4 percentage points from the previous year.

### **Cigarettes**

- Between 2001 and 2002, the proportion of teens saying that they had ever smoked cigarettes fell by 4 or 5 percentage points in each grade surveyed (8, 10, and 12)—more than in any recent year. Lifetime use decreased from 36.6 percent to 31.4 percent among 8<sup>th</sup>-graders, from 52.8 percent to 47.4 percent among 10<sup>th</sup>-graders, and from 61.0 percent to 57.2 percent among 12<sup>th</sup>-graders.
- Past month use declined from 12.2 percent to 10.7 percent among 8<sup>th</sup>-graders, from 21.3 percent to 17.7 percent among 10<sup>th</sup>-graders, and from 29.5 percent to 26.7 percent among 12<sup>th</sup>-graders.
- Daily use in the past month declined from 5.5 percent to 5.1 percent among 8<sup>th</sup>-graders, from 12.2 percent to 10.1 percent among 10<sup>th</sup>-graders, and from 19.0 percent to 16.9 percent among 12<sup>th</sup>-graders.

- The proportion of 8<sup>th</sup>-graders who disapprove of pack-a-day smoking rose from 77 percent to 85 percent between 1996 and 2002, while over the same interval the proportion saying that they smoked at least once in the prior 30 days (current smoking) fell from 21 percent to 11 percent.
- Teen approval rates have changed, with 85 percent of the 8<sup>th</sup>-graders in 2002 saying they disapprove of someone smoking at a pack-a-day level, compared with 81 percent of the 10<sup>th</sup>-graders and 74 percent of the 12<sup>th</sup>-graders.
- Perception of availability of cigarettes has declined significantly in recent years. The proportion of 8<sup>th</sup>-graders saying it would be “fairly easy” or “very easy” to get cigarettes if they wanted them has fallen from 77 percent in 1996 to 64 percent in 2002, while the comparable proportion for 10<sup>th</sup>-graders fell from 91 percent to 83 percent over the same interval.

### **Smokeless Tobacco**

- Past-month use of smokeless tobacco declined among all three grades. The percentage of 8<sup>th</sup>-graders reporting past-month use declined from 4.0 percent in 2001 to 3.3 percent in 2002, the percentage of 10<sup>th</sup>-graders declined from 6.9 percent to 6.1 percent, and the percentage of 12<sup>th</sup>-graders declined from 7.8 percent to 6.5 percent.

## Fact Sheet: Ecstasy (MDMA)

### Ecstasy (MDMA)

- Ecstasy use is down among all three grades in all three prevalence periods measured (lifetime, annual, and 30-day) in all three grade levels. The 1-year declines ranged from about one-tenth to nearly one-third. For example, among high school seniors annual use rates declined from 9.2 percent to 7.4 percent. For the three grades combined, the declines in both annual prevalence and 30-day prevalence were statistically significant, as were the annual and 30-day declines for 10<sup>th</sup>-graders, specifically.
- The proportion of 12<sup>th</sup>-graders who said that there is a great risk associated with trying ecstasy once or twice jumped by 7 percentage points this year. Perceived risk has been on the rise, increasing from 38 percent in 2000 to 46 percent in 2001 to 52 percent in 2002 for a cumulative increase of 14 percent in the last 2 years.
- The perception of the availability of ecstasy has finally started to level off. The proportion of 8<sup>th</sup>-graders saying that they could get ecstasy "fairly" or "very" easily, decreased from 23.8 percent in 2001 to 22.8 percent in 2002. The proportion of 10<sup>th</sup>-graders decreased from 41.4 percent in 2001 to 41.0 percent in 2002 and the proportion of 12<sup>th</sup>-graders decreased from 61.5 percent in 2001 to 59.1 percent in 2002.

## **Fact Sheet: Inhalants, Hallucinogens, and Steroids**

### **Inhalants**

- All three grades showed a drop in all prevalence periods in 2002, with one exception—there was no change in annual prevalence among 12<sup>th</sup>-graders.
- Rates of inhalant use continued the declining trend seen in recent years. Declines in lifetime prevalence for both 8<sup>th</sup>- and 10<sup>th</sup>-graders were significant, as was the decline in annual prevalence for 8<sup>th</sup>-graders.
- The cumulative declines in inhalant use are substantial: for instance, 8<sup>th</sup>-grade annual use declined from 12.8 percent in 1995 to 7.7 percent in 2002—a drop of 40 percent.

### **Hallucinogens/LSD**

- Use of LSD declined sharply and significantly among all three grades in 2002, continuing a drop that began in 1996. In 2002, 1.5 percent of 8<sup>th</sup>-graders, 2.6 percent of 10<sup>th</sup>-graders, and 3.5 percent of 12<sup>th</sup>-graders reported using LSD, down from 2.2 percent of 8<sup>th</sup>-graders, 4.1 percent of 10<sup>th</sup>-graders, and 6.6 percent of 12<sup>th</sup>-graders in 2001.
- The use of hallucinogens other than LSD showed modest declines this year among all three grades in both lifetime and annual prevalence, although none of these changes reached statistical significance.

### **Steroids**

- The use of anabolic steroids, the majority of which occurs among males, remained flat in 2002 in all three grades, though at historically high levels. 1.5 percent of 8<sup>th</sup>-graders, 2.2 percent of 10<sup>th</sup>-graders, and 2.5 percent of 12<sup>th</sup>-graders reported using steroids in the last year.
- Perceived risk and disapproval of the use of steroids, which had fallen in recent years, remained fairly steady in 2002, and perceived availability among 12<sup>th</sup>-graders increased from 44.4 percent in 2001 to 46.1 percent in 2002.

## **Fact Sheet: Marijuana, Cocaine, and Amphetamines**

### **Marijuana**

- Marijuana use showed some decline in all prevalence periods for all grades in 2002, although only the 10<sup>th</sup>-grade declines in annual and 30-day prevalence rates reached statistical significance.
- In 2002, past-year rates of marijuana use were 14.6 percent for 8<sup>th</sup>-graders, 30.3 percent for 10<sup>th</sup>-graders, and 36.2 percent for 12<sup>th</sup>-graders.
- Students in all three grades showed a slight decline in perceived availability of marijuana in 2002.

### **Cocaine**

- The proportion of students in each of the three grades reporting any cocaine use has held quite steady over the past 3 years. In 2002, past year rates of cocaine use were 2.3 percent for 8<sup>th</sup>-graders, 4 percent for 10<sup>th</sup>-graders, and 5 percent for 12<sup>th</sup>-graders. These rates are much lower than they were during the height of the cocaine epidemic in the early to mid-1980s, and they also are down modestly from recent peaks reached in the mid-1990s.

### **Amphetamines**

- Use of amphetamines showed some decline in grades 8 and 10, but not in grade 12 in which amphetamine use remains at the recent peak level with 11.1 percent of students reporting past-year use.

## Talking Points

### About the 2002 Monitoring the Future Study

The 2002 Monitoring the Future study, released by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on December 16, 2002, tracks how many teenagers have used illicit drugs in the past year or ever in their lifetime.

- The study, conducted by the University of Michigan, has been tracking high school seniors for 28 years and following 8<sup>th</sup>- and 10<sup>th</sup>-graders for the past 12 years. The study included nearly 44,000 students from 400 schools across the country.

#### Findings From the 2002 Study

##### Good News:

- Between 2001 and 2002, the proportion of teens saying that they had ever smoked cigarettes fell by 4 or 5 percentage points in each grade surveyed (8, 10, and 12)—more than in any recent year.
- Ecstasy use is down in all three prevalence periods measured (lifetime, annual, and 30-day) in all three grade levels.
- Marijuana use showed some decline in all prevalence periods for all grades in 2002. For 8<sup>th</sup>-graders the annual prevalence of marijuana use in 2002 of 14.6 percent is down from the recent peak of 18.3 percent in 1996.
- This year, the proportion of students reporting the use of any illicit drug in the prior 12 months declined among all three grade levels, significantly so in grades 8 and 10.
- For the first time since 1998, there has been a significant decline in overall illicit drug use among 10<sup>th</sup>-graders.
- The use of LSD declined sharply and significantly among all three grades in 2002, continuing a trend that began in 1996.

- The use of hallucinogens other than LSD showed modest declines this year among all three grades in both lifetime and annual prevalence, although none of these changes reached statistical significance.
- The cumulative declines in inhalant use are substantial: for instance, 8<sup>th</sup>-grade annual use declined from 12.8 percent in 1995 to 7.7 percent in 2002—a drop of 40 percent.

### **Bad News:**

- Abuse of prescription painkillers is alarming. 4.0 percent of 12<sup>th</sup>-graders reported nonmedical use of Oxycontin in the past year, and 9.6 percent of 12<sup>th</sup>-graders reported Vicodin use in the same time period.
- Perceived harmfulness of cigarette use is significantly lower for younger students than older ones. Among 8<sup>th</sup>-graders, only 58 percent, even in 2002, think there is great risk associated with pack-a-day smoking, compared with 74 percent of the 12<sup>th</sup>-graders, for example.
- The use of several drugs did not decrease in 2002. These include steroids, heroin, narcotics other than heroin, cocaine and, for the most part, crack.
- The use of amphetamines showed some decline in grades 8 and 10, but not in grade 12.

### **Prevention Works!**

- The 6-year declining trend in teen substance abuse is indicative of prevention efforts that are working. To maintain and further this progress, we must continue to make prevention the centerpiece of local strategies.
- The problem of adolescent substance abuse is far from over. We must continue to target teenagers with prevention messages. If we fail to prevent substance abuse early in life, the problem is most likely to continue.
- Maintaining prevention gains requires continued reinforcement of prevention messages throughout adolescence and into young adulthood, while such messages are delivered anew with equal effectiveness to each succeeding generation of children and adolescents.

## **Comments About the 2002 Monitoring the Future Study**

Below are public comments about the 2002 Monitoring the Future study made by key Federal officials:

### **Tommy G. Thompson**

*Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*

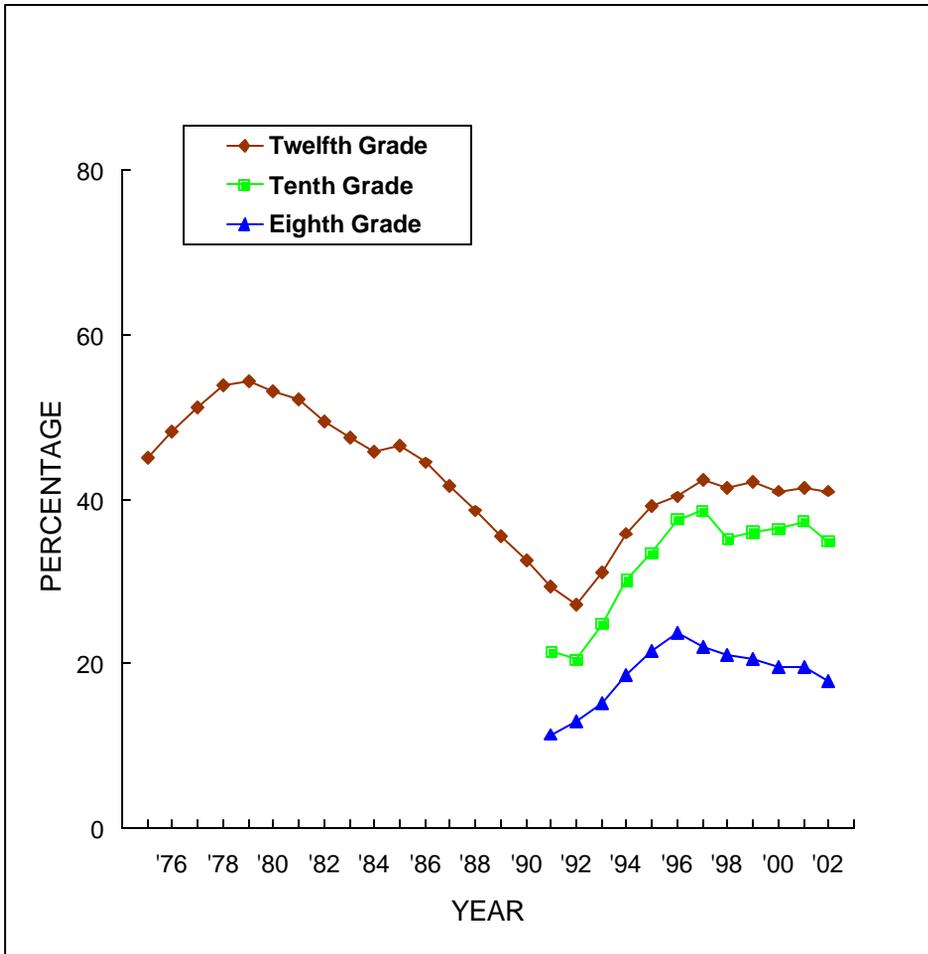
"This year's survey brings more encouraging news about the decline in teens' use of marijuana, ecstasy, cigarettes, and alcohol. We will continue our campaign to educate every new generation of Americans about the dangers of drug abuse and enlist the help of parents, teachers, and the community to keep our children healthy and drug free."

### **John P. Walters**

*Director, White House Office of National Drug Control Policy*

"Teen drug use is once again headed in the right direction—down. This survey confirms that our drug prevention efforts are working and that when we work together and push back, the drug problem gets smaller."

## Trends in Annual Prevalence of an Illicit Drug Use Index Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Graders

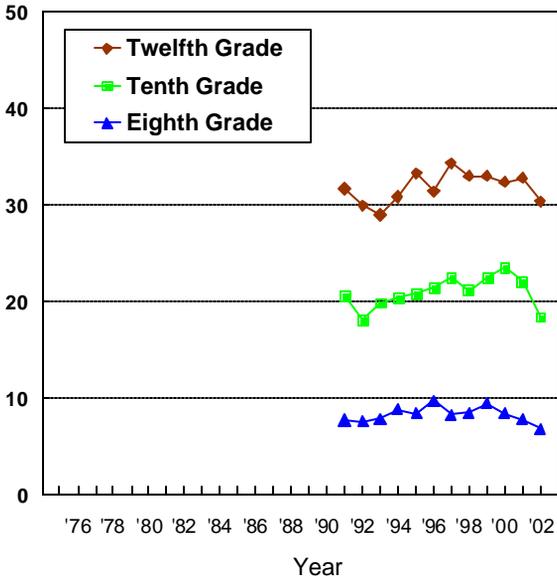


# Alcohol: Trends in Having Been Drunk, Risk, Disapproval, and Availability

## Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Graders

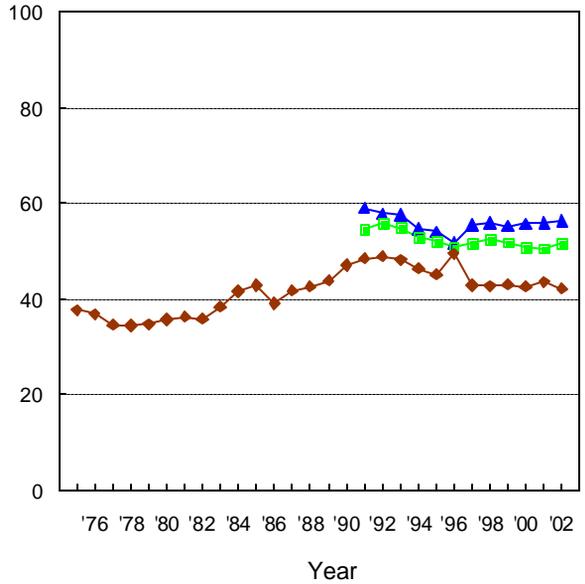
### Use

% who report being drunk in the past 30-days



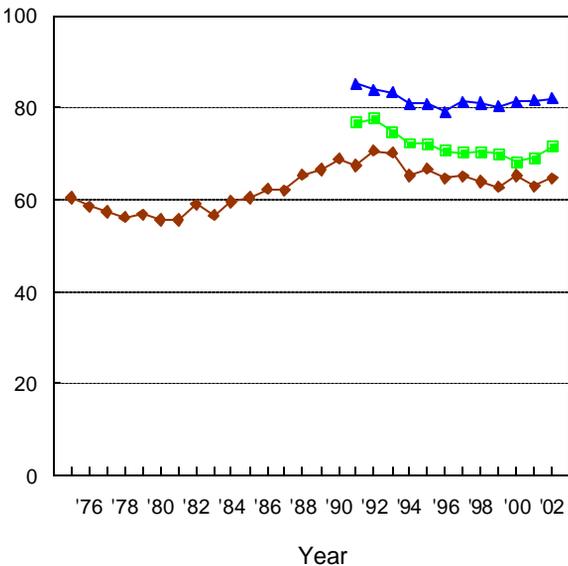
### Risk

% seeing "great risk" in having 5+ drinks in a row once or twice each weekend



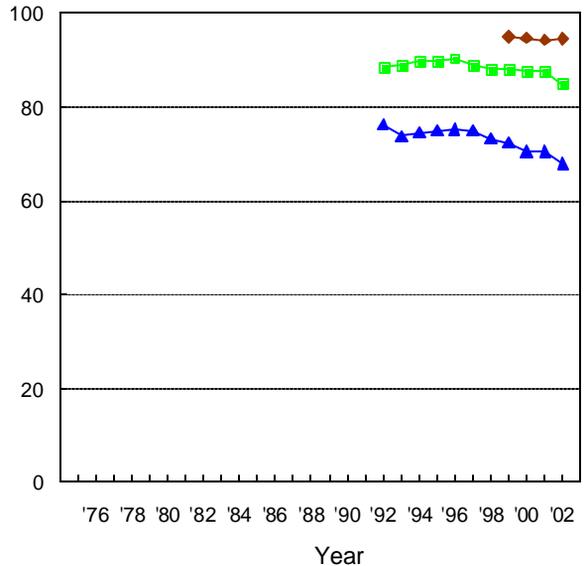
### Disapproval

% disapproving of having 5+ drinks in a row once or twice each weekend



### Availability

% saying "fairly easy" or "very easy" to get alcohol

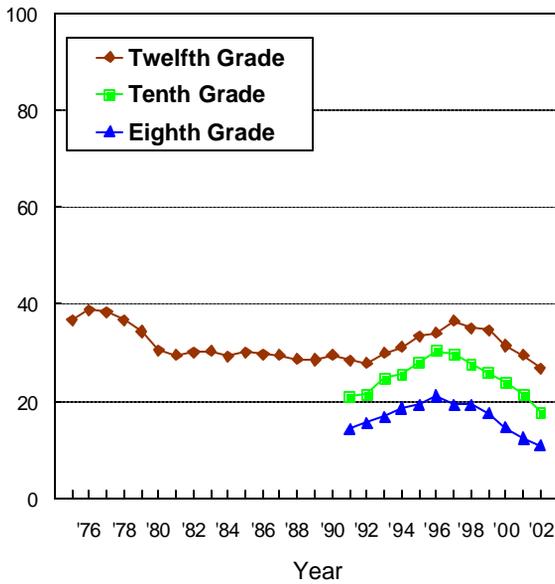


# Cigarettes: Trends in 30-Day Use, Risk, Disapproval, and Availability

## Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Graders

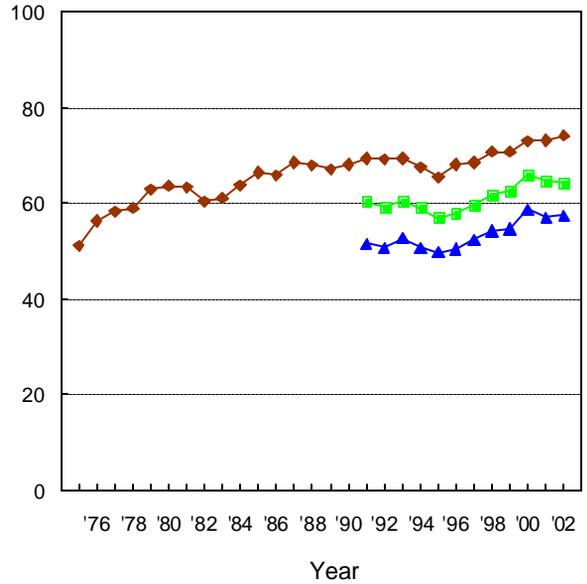
### Use

% who used in past 30 days



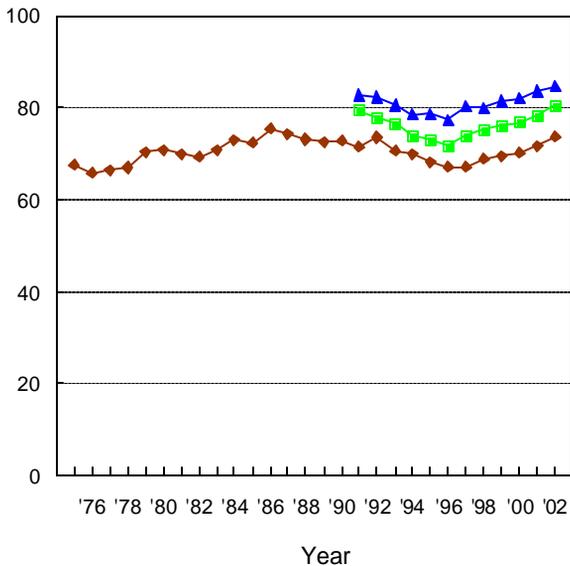
### Risk

% seeing "great risk" in smoking a pack or more per day



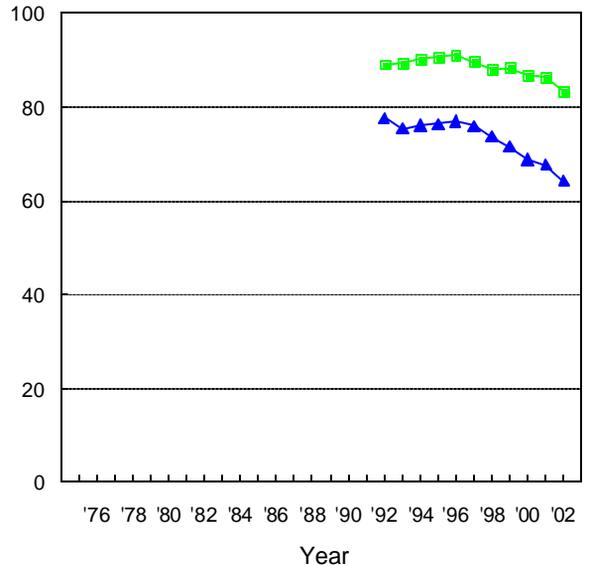
### Disapproval

% disapproving of smoking a pack or more per day



### Availability

% saying "fairly easy" or "very easy" to get

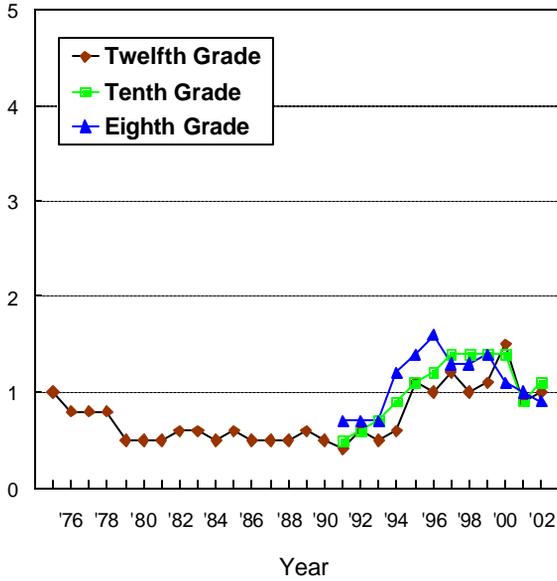


# Heroin: Trends in Annual Use, Risk, Disapproval, and Availability

## Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Graders

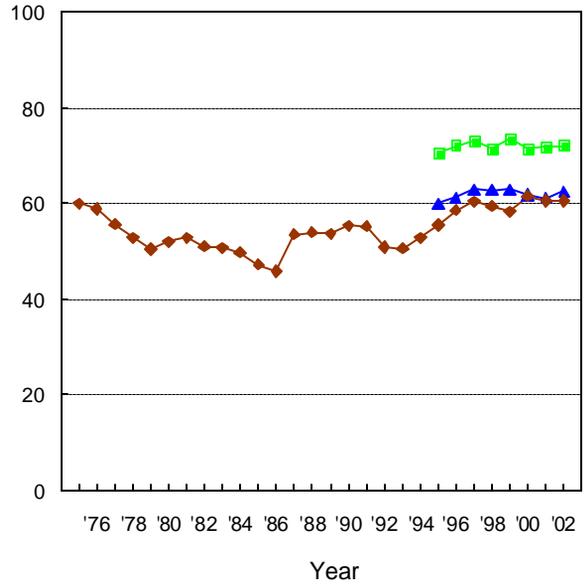
### Use

% who used in last twelve months



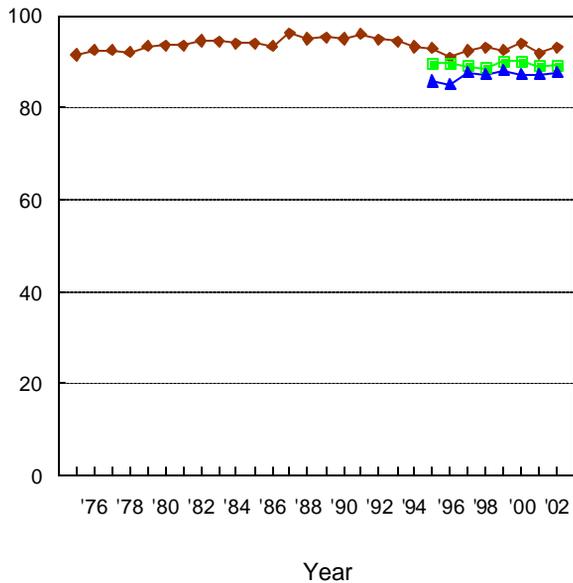
### Risk

% seeing "great risk" in using once or twice\*



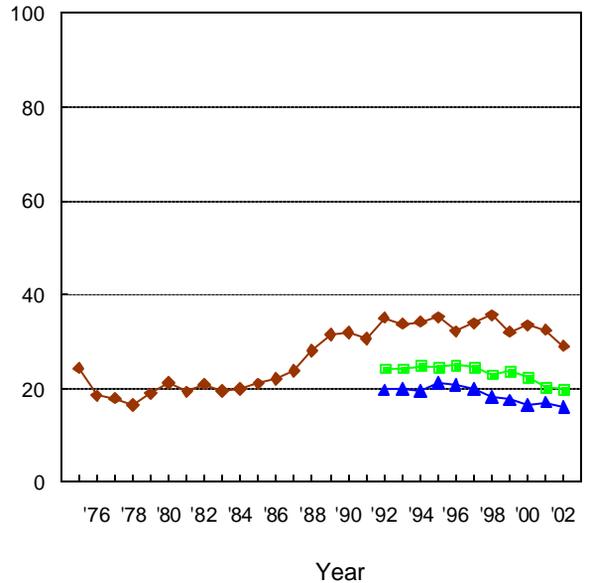
### Disapproval

% disapproving of using once or twice\*



### Availability

% saying "fairly easy" or "very easy" to get

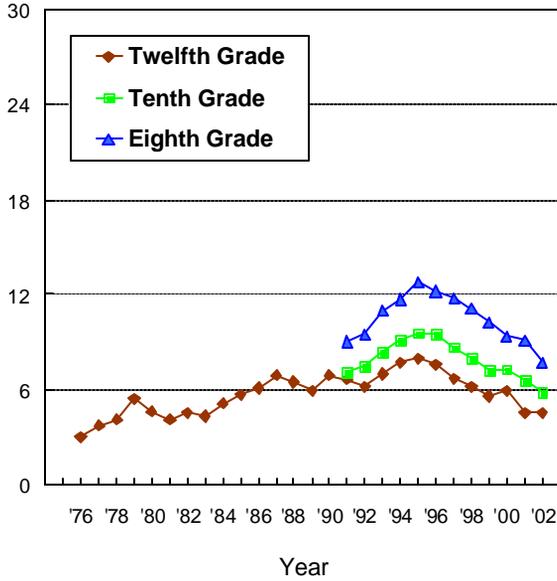


\*Prior to 1995, the question asked about heroin use in general. Since 1995, the question has asked about heroin use without a needle.

# Inhalants: Trends in Annual Use, Risk, and Disapproval Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Graders

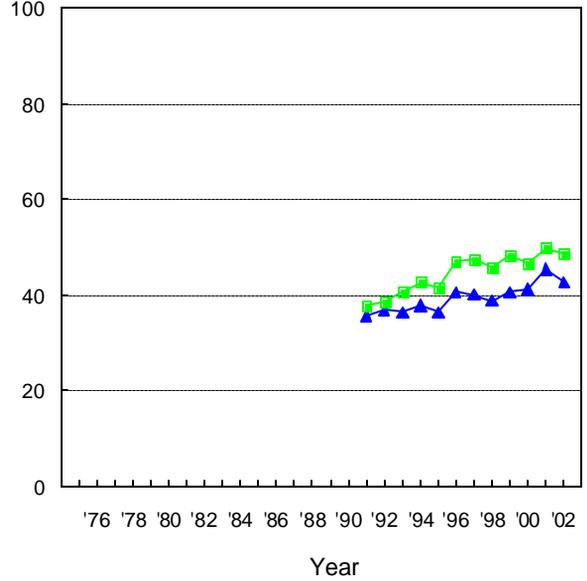
## Use

% who used in last twelve months



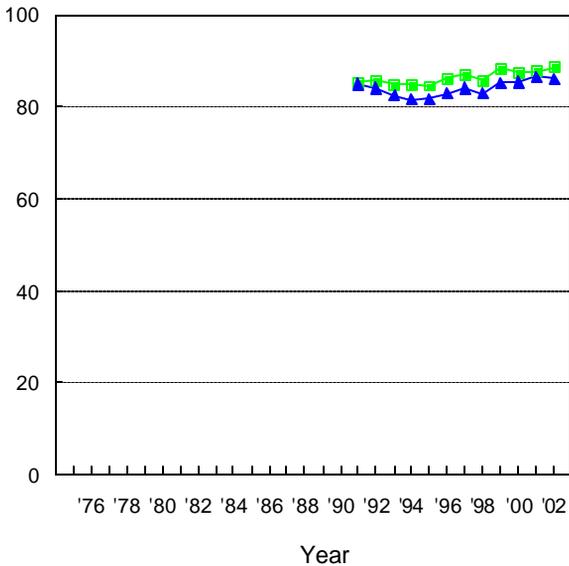
## Risk

% seeing "great risk" in using once or twice



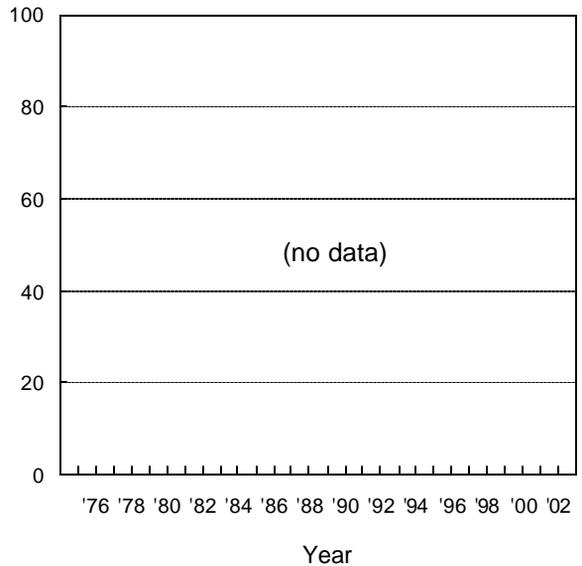
## Disapproval

% disapproving of using once or twice



## Availability

% saying "fairly easy" or "very easy" to get

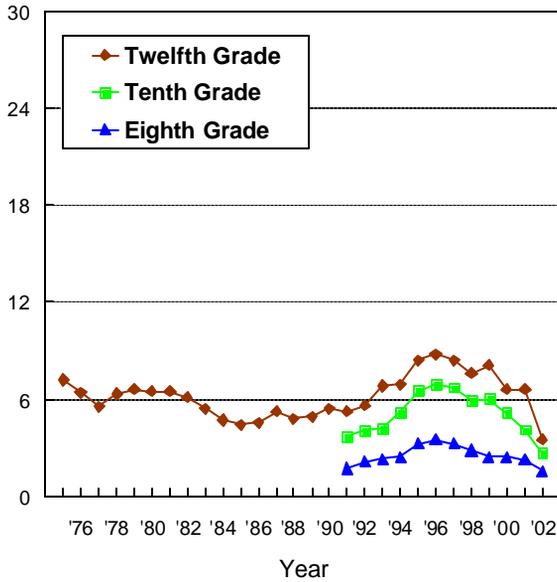


# LSD: Trends in Annual Use, Risk, Disapproval, and Availability

## Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Graders

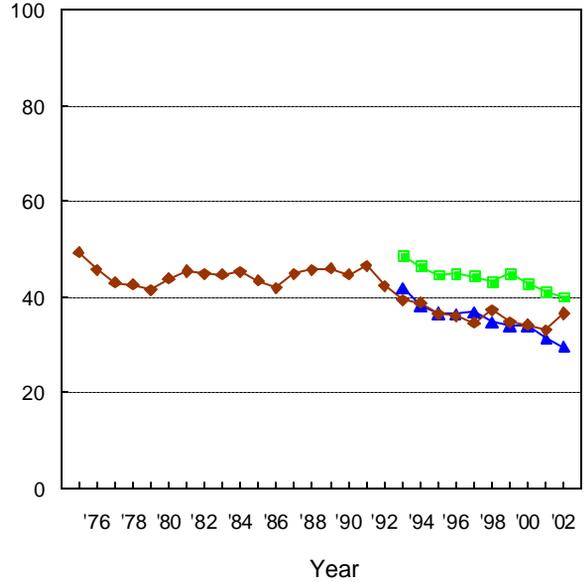
### Use

% who used in past year



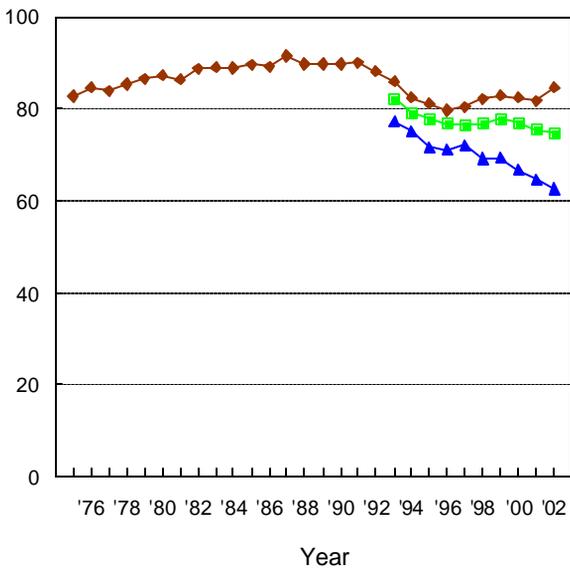
### Risk

% seeing "great risk" in using once or twice



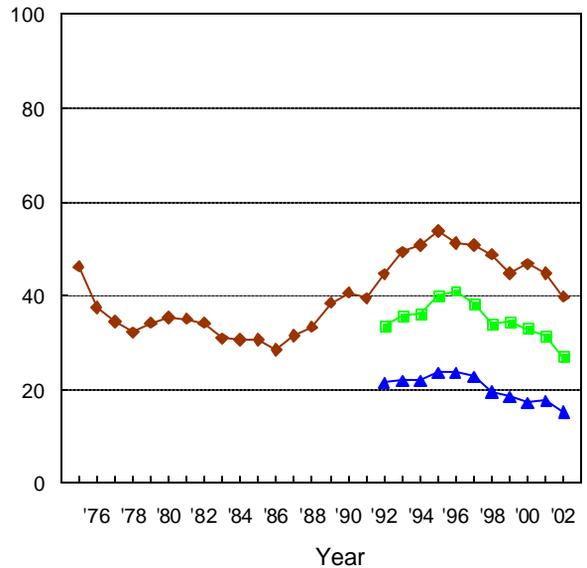
### Disapproval

% disapproving of using once or twice



### Availability

% saying "fairly easy" or "very easy" to get

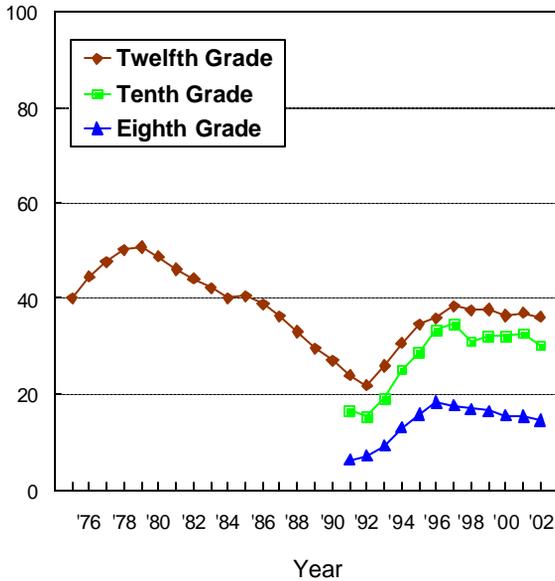


# Marijuana: Trends in Annual Use, Risk, Disapproval, and Availability

## Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Graders

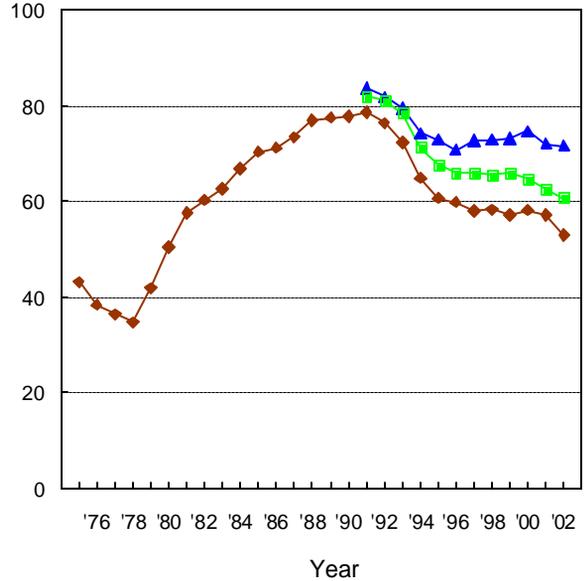
### Use

% who used in last twelve months



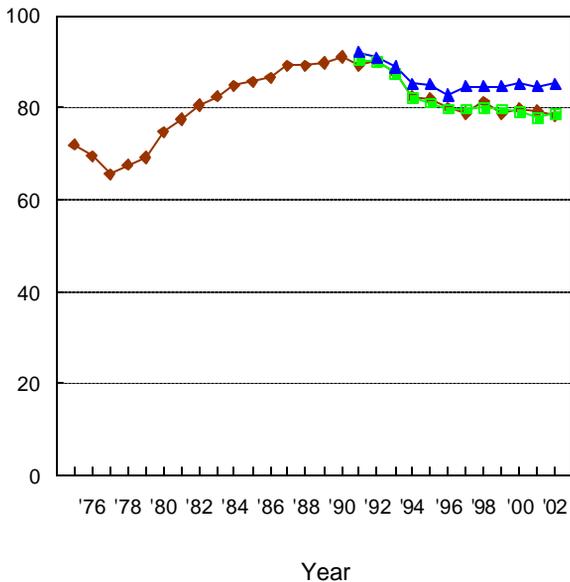
### Risk

% seeing "great risk" in using regularly



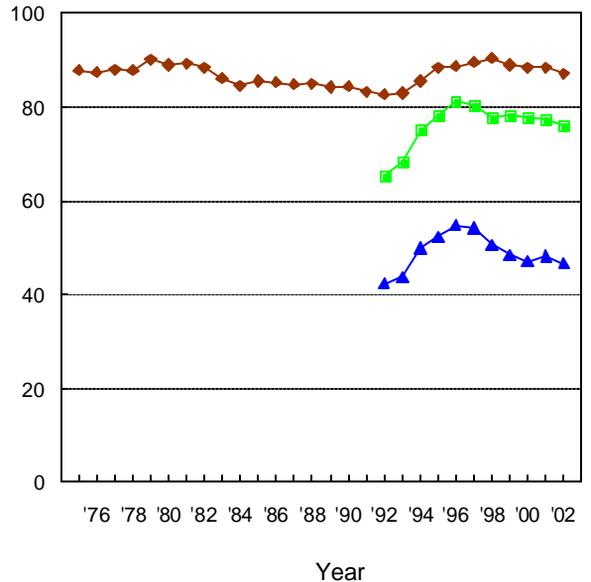
### Disapproval

% disapproving of using regularly



### Availability

% saying "fairly easy" or "very easy" to get

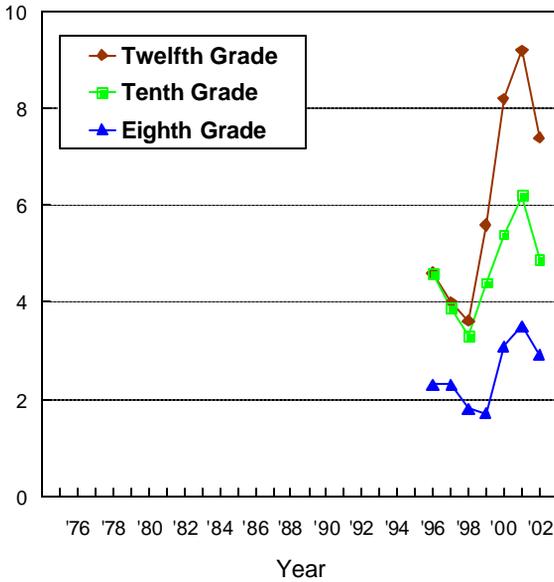


# MDMA (Ecstasy): Trends in Annual Use, Risk, Disapproval, and Availability

## Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Graders

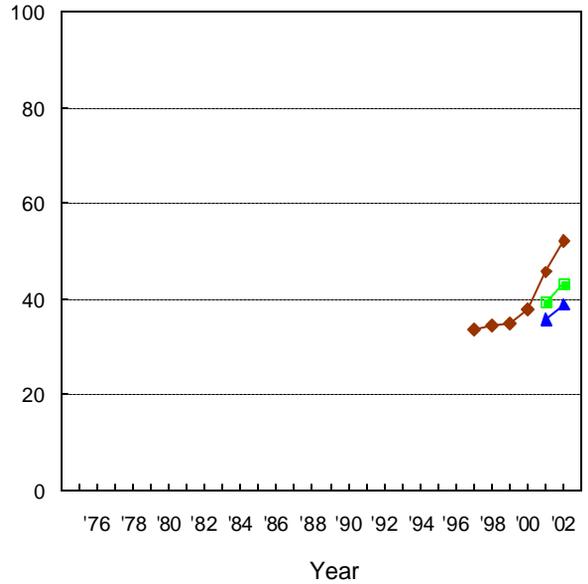
### Use

% who used in last twelve months



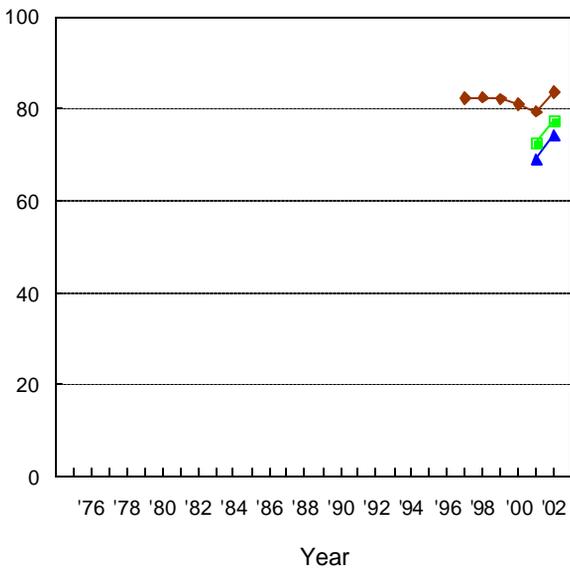
### Risk

% seeing "great risk" in using once or twice



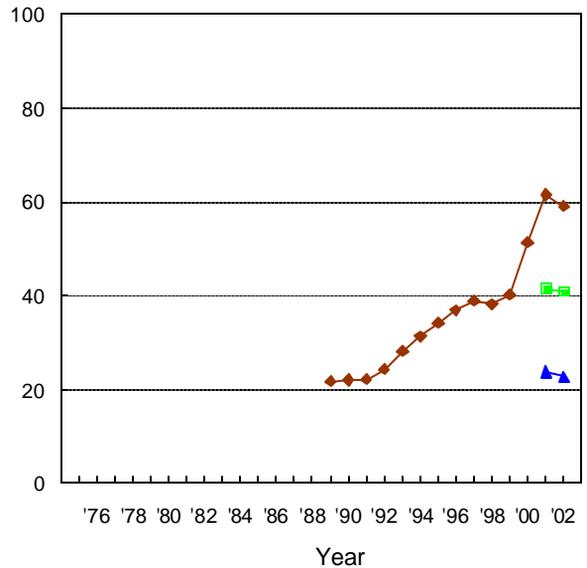
### Disapproval

% disapproving of using once or twice



### Availability

% saying "fairly easy" or "very easy" to get

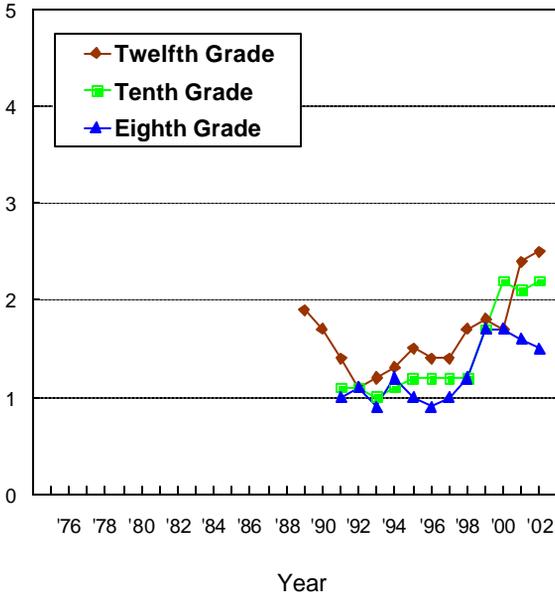


# Steroids: Trends in Annual Use, Risk, Disapproval, and Availability

## Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Graders

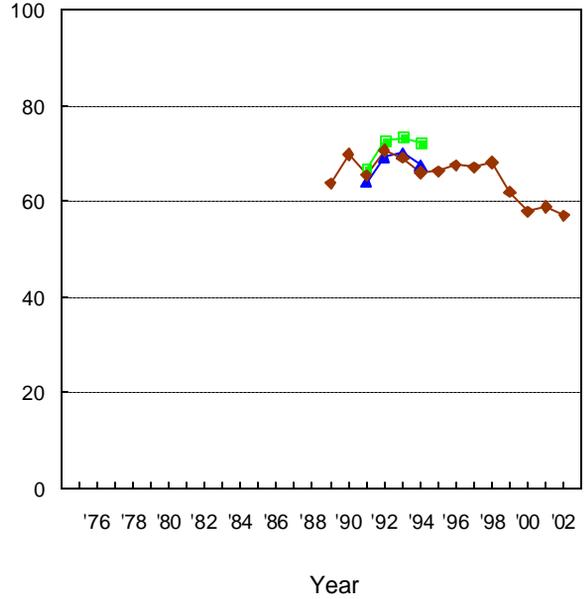
### Use

% who used in last twelve months



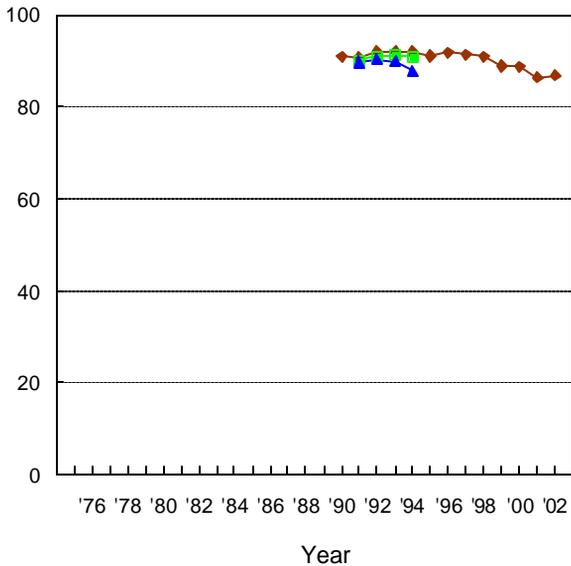
### Risk

% seeing "great risk" in using once or twice



### Disapproval

% disapproving of using once or twice



### Availability

% saying "fairly easy" or "very easy" to get

