



Reducing Drug Use in America

Office of National Drug Control Policy December 2008

LSD, Steroids, & Ecstasy Use by Young People Also Continue to Decline

- Hallucinogens, particularly LSD and MDMA (Ecstasy) use among young people, are down dramatically over the past seven years. Hallucinogens overall are down by more than a third - 39% - for past-month use
- LSD use is down by more than half (53%) for past-month use
- Ecstasy use is down 50% for past-month use
- Steroid use is down 33% for past-month use

Alcohol and Tobacco Use are Down

- Youth alcohol use overall is down 21% for past-month use
- Past-month cigarette use also is down 38%

Adult Use of Cocaine is Decreasing

- According to Quest Diagnostics, there has been an unprecedented 38% decline in the number of positive cocaine tests among the U.S. workforce between June 2006 and June 2008
- According to STRIDE, the price per pure gram of cocaine has increased 89 percent, from \$97 to \$183 between January 2007 and September 2008. During the same period of time, the purity of cocaine decreased 32 percent, from 67 percent pure to 46 percent pure

Progress Can Reverse if Anti-Drug Attitudes Soften

- According to MTF, trends in perceived harmfulness (those saying there is "great risk") of some individual drugs moved in the wrong direction between 2007 and 2008 among 8th and 12th graders.
- Among 8th graders, there was weakening in perceived harmfulness for trying marijuana once or twice (down 6%), smoking marijuana occasionally (down 4%), and smoking marijuana regularly (down 3%); taking inhalants regularly (down 4%); trying one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (down 9%).
- Unlike last year, disapproval ("disapprove" or "strongly disapprove") of people who use drugs weakened for selected drugs among 8th and 12th graders. Specific drugs include: trying marijuana once or twice (down 3%), smoking marijuana occasionally (down 2%), and trying inhalants once or twice (down 2%) among 8th graders, and smoking marijuana regularly (down 4%) and taking heroin occasionally (down 2%) among seniors.

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