

Special Interest Articles:

- 4 years of marijuana use on the rise
- K-2 Spice added to the study and 1 in 9 teens reported using in the last year.
- Teen alcohol use continues to decrease

Almost half of high school seniors have used in the last year.

1 in 15 seniors smokes pot

Compiled from the [MTF DATA](#)- We bring this to you as the 2012 data will be out in 6 weeks and making the comparisons will be informative

4th straight year that Marijuana Rose

Marijuana use among teens rose in 2011 for the fourth straight year—a sharp contrast to the considerable decline that had occurred in the preceding decade. Daily marijuana use is now at a 30-year peak level among high school seniors.

“Synthetic marijuana,” which until earlier this year was legally sold and goes by such names as “**K2**” and “spice,” was added to the study’s coverage in 2011; one in every nine high school seniors (11.4%) reported using that drug in the prior 12 months.

Alcohol use—and, importantly, occasions of heavy drinking—continued a long-term gradual decline among teens, reaching historically low levels in 2011.

Energy drinks are being consumed by about one third of teens, with use highest among younger teens.

A Bigger Picture

In 2011, 50% of high school seniors reported having tried an illicit drug at some time, 40% used one or more drugs in the past 12 months, and 25% used one or more drugs in the prior 30 days. The figures are lower for younger teens, though still disturbingly high: among 10th graders, 38% reported having tried an illicit drug, 31% used in the past 12 months, and 19% in the prior 30 days. Corresponding values for 8th graders are 20%, 15%, and 8.5%..

daily or near daily marijuana use, defined as use on 20 or more occasions in the prior 30 days. The rates of current daily marijuana use rose significantly in all three grades last year, and they rose slightly higher in all three grades again this year (though none of this year’s changes were large enough to reach statistical significance); but here again, the increases since 2007 are highly significant at every grade level.

Current daily prevalence levels in 2011 are 1.3%, 3.6%, and 6.6% in grades 8, 10, and 12.

“Put another way, one in every fifteen high school seniors today is smoking pot on a daily or near daily basis,” said [Lloyd Johnston](#), the principal investigator of the study, “And that’s the highest rate that we have seen over the past thirty years—since 1981.

K-2 Spice



In February of 2011, however, the DEA used its temporary emergency powers to declare a number of the chemicals used in such products to be Schedule I drugs—unsafe, highly abused substances with no legitimate medical use—for at least a year. In addition, at least 18 states have banned

synthetic marijuana. In 2011, 11.4% of high school seniors nationwide indicated using it in the prior 12 months; but they completed their questionnaires just shortly after the drugs were placed on the schedule of proscribed substances. “Next year’s results should tell

us a lot more about how successful these new control efforts are,” said Johnston. “We know that the great majority of those who have used synthetic marijuana also used regular marijuana during the year, as well as a number of other drugs.”

Ecstasy – Thizz – Molly



Ecstasy. Annual prevalence rates for ecstasy (MDMA) in 2011 are 1.7%, 4.5%, and 5.3% in grades 8, 10, and 12, respectively; these rates reflect an increase in 12th grade of 0.9 percentage points, no real change in 10th grade, and a small but significant decline in 8th grade (0.7%). Use in all three grades is above the recent low

points by 33%, 85%, and 77%, respectively, suggesting that a rebound seen in recent years is primarily among the older teens at this point. This rebound followed a period in which perceived risk (defined as the proportion of teens that see great risk to the user from using ecstasy) declined some in all three grades, as did

disapproval. “There may well be a generational forgetting of the dangers of ecstasy as newer cohorts of youth enter adolescence,” Johnston said. “Because they were quite young when the original ecstasy epidemic occurred, they have had less chance to hear the warnings about the dangers of the drug than did their predecessors.”

Inhalants



Inhalants. There has been a considerable decline in recent years among 8th and 10th graders in perceived risk associated with inhalant use, followed by a leveling off in the

last year or two. (Twelfth graders are not asked these questions.) Despite this disturbing decline in perceived risk, there has not been a resurgence in use; in fact, use declined in all

grades this year, significantly so in grades 8 and 10. Disapproval is quite high and has not slipped in recent years.

Vicodin

Vicodin. Vicodin is the most widely used of the narcotic drugs, most of which are analgesics. After a period of high use, annual prevalence is now down by between 23% and 30% from recent peak levels, and in 2011 is at 2.1%, 5.9%, and 8.1% for grades 8, 10, and 12. In 2011 annual prevalence fell by 0.6 percentage points in 8th grade (n.s.) and 1.8 percentage points ($p < .05$) in 10th grade, but there was no

further decline in 12th grade.



Adderall

Adderall. The most widely used amphetamine is Adderall, a drug commonly prescribed for the treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). A significant decline in annual prevalence of misuse from 4.5% to 4.1% was seen for the three grades combined in 2011 ($p < .05$). Annual prevalence held steady in 12th

grade, but declined in 8th and 10th grades by 0.6 and 0.7 percentage points, respectively (both n.s.) Only three years of data have been collected on the use of this drug so far, but it seems likely that Adderall use was rising in recent years as Ritalin use declined. Now it may be that the misuse of Adderall is also in decline, at least in 8th and 10th grades.

Cough and cold medication.

The misuse of over-the-counter cough and cold medicines to get high usually involves medicines that contain the cough-suppressant dextromethorphan. Youngsters take large doses of these medicines in order to get high, which is a dangerous practice. This misuse was first measured in 2006, and has fallen since then in 8th and 12th grades, where it fell further in 2011—by 0.5% (n.s.) and 1.2% ($p < .05$), respectively. Use at 10th grade has remained fairly steady at around 5.5%, including in 2011. The annual prevalence rates are now 2.7%, 5.5%, and 5.3%, for grades 8, 10 and 12, respectively.

Drugs that held steady

Quite a number of drugs held fairly steady this year. These include use of *any illicit drug other than marijuana, inhalants, LSD, hallucinogens other than LSD, salvia, heroin* used with and without a needle, *narcotics other than heroin, OxyContin*

specifically, *amphetamines, Ritalin* specifically, *Rohypnol, GHB, Ketamine, methamphetamine, crystal methamphetamine, Provigil*, and *steroids*. Also holding steady was the use of *any prescription drug* without medical supervision; this index is

available only for 12th graders.

Salvia

Short-acting dissociative effects when chewed, smoked, or taken as a tincture. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has designated it a “drug of concern,” but at present has not scheduled it for control under the

federal Controlled Substances Act. However, a number of states have restricted its sale and use, and others are considering doing so. Salvia use was first measured among 12th graders in 2009 and among 8th and 10th graders in 2010. The 2011 annual prevalence

rates were 1.6%, 3.9%, and 5.9% in grades 8, 10, and 12, respectively. These rates are very close to those observed in 2010, with no significant changes, which suggests that the use of this drug is not expanding among adolescents.



Alcohol

. In general there has been a long-term decline in the use of alcohol by teens going back to the 1980s (Figure 15). The early-to mid-1990s saw a pause in this decline as their alcohol use rose for several years along with the use of cigarettes and many of the illicit drugs.

However, a sustained further decline resumed in the latter half of the 1990s, similar to changes in use of cigarettes and a number of illegal drugs. This gradual decline in alcohol use continued into 2011, when all grades showed a further drop in all measures of alcohol use—lifetime,

annual, 30-day, daily, and 5+ drinks on one or more occasions during the prior two weeks. For the three grades combined, the one-year declines in 2011 were statistically significant on all of these measures.

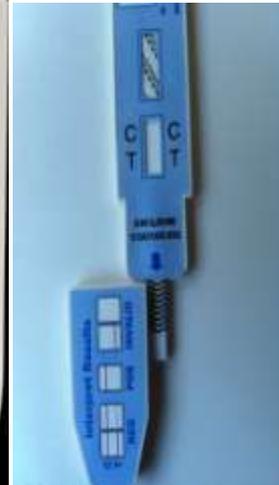
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Books:

