

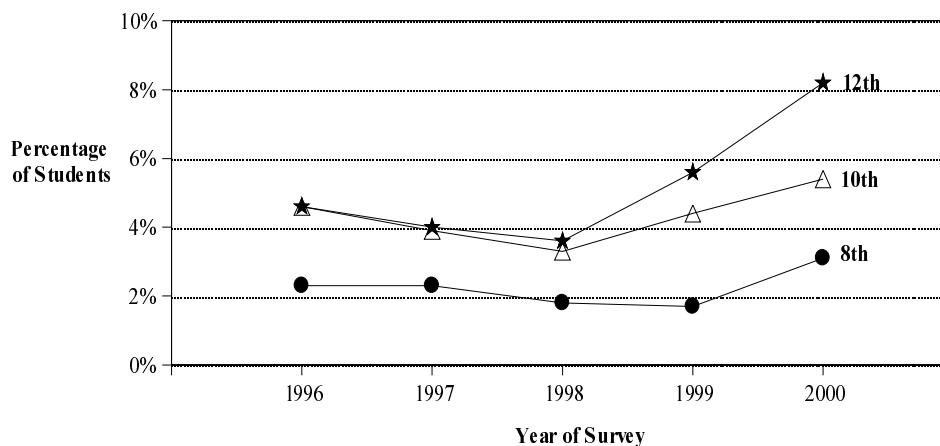
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Ecstasy Use Increases Among U.S. 8th, 10th, and 12th Grade Students

The growing popularity of ecstasy (MDMA) is now evident among 8th graders, according to data from the national Monitoring the Future survey. The percentage of 8th grade students reporting ecstasy use in the past year increased from 1.7% in 1999 to 3.1% in 2000. Increases in use were also evident among 10th (from 4.4% to 5.4%) and 12th graders (from 5.6% to 8.2%). Ecstasy is now one of the five most popular illicit drugs among 8th, 10th, and 12th graders. This increase in ecstasy use coincides with an increase in perceived availability of the drug—the percentage of high school seniors who reported that ecstasy is fairly or very easy to obtain increased from 40.1% in 1999 to 51.4% in 2000. Ecstasy use in Maryland was first detected by the state's Drug Early Warning System (DEWS) in 1999 (see *DEWS Fax*, Volume 1, Issue 10).

Percentage of U.S. Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Grade Students Reporting Ecstasy (MDMA) Use in the Past Year, 1996-2000



NOTE: The difference between the 1999 and 2000 prevalence rate for 8th graders was statistically significant at $p < .001$; for 12th graders at $p < .01$.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from University of Michigan, Monitoring the Future Study Press Release, "'Ecstasy' Use Rises Sharply Among Teens in 2000; Use of Many Other Drugs Stays Steady, But Significant Declines Are Reported for Some," December 13, 2000. For more information, contact Lloyd Johnston at 734-763-5043 or visit the Monitoring the Future website at www.monitoringthefuture.org.