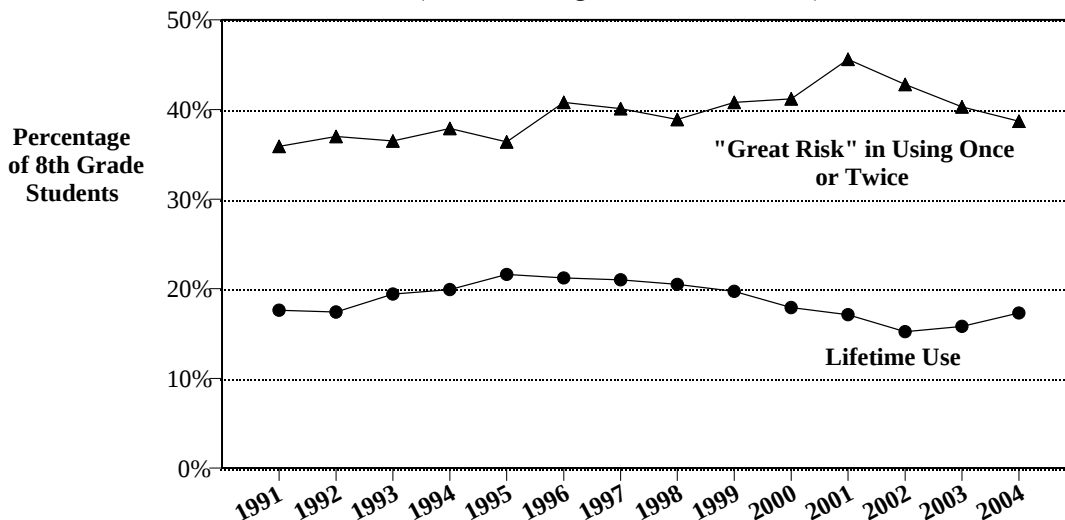


Lifetime Use of Inhalants by U.S. 8th Graders Continues to Increase as Perception of Risk Declines

The percentage of 8th grade students who have used inhalants at least once in their life has been increasing since 2002, according to data from the national Monitoring the Future survey. Nearly one-fifth (17.3%) of 8th graders reported lifetime inhalant use in 2004, compared to 15.2% in 2002. At the same time, the percentage of 8th graders reporting that there is a “great risk” in trying inhalants once or twice has decreased, from 45.6% in 2001 to 38.7% in 2004. Past research has shown that decreases in perceived risk of using a drug are often related to increases in use. According to the study’s principal investigator, Lloyd Johnston, “This turnaround in their use continues to suggest the need for greater attention to the dangers of inhalant use in our media messages and in-school prevention programs” (p. 5).

Percentage of U.S. 8th Grade Students Reporting Lifetime Use of Inhalants and Perceived Risk of Use, 1991 to 2004

(N=17,413 8th graders in 147 schools)



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from University of Michigan, “Overall teen drug use continues gradual decline; but use of inhalants rises,” Monitoring the Future press release, December 21, 2004. Available online at <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org>.

Want to Know More About Inhalants?

The *CESAR FAX* “Inhalant Abuse: Nothing to Sniff At” (Volume 13, Issue 12) provides answers to frequently asked questions about inhalant abuse. It is available online at <http://www.cesar.umd.edu/cesar/cesarfax/vol13/13-12.pdf>.