

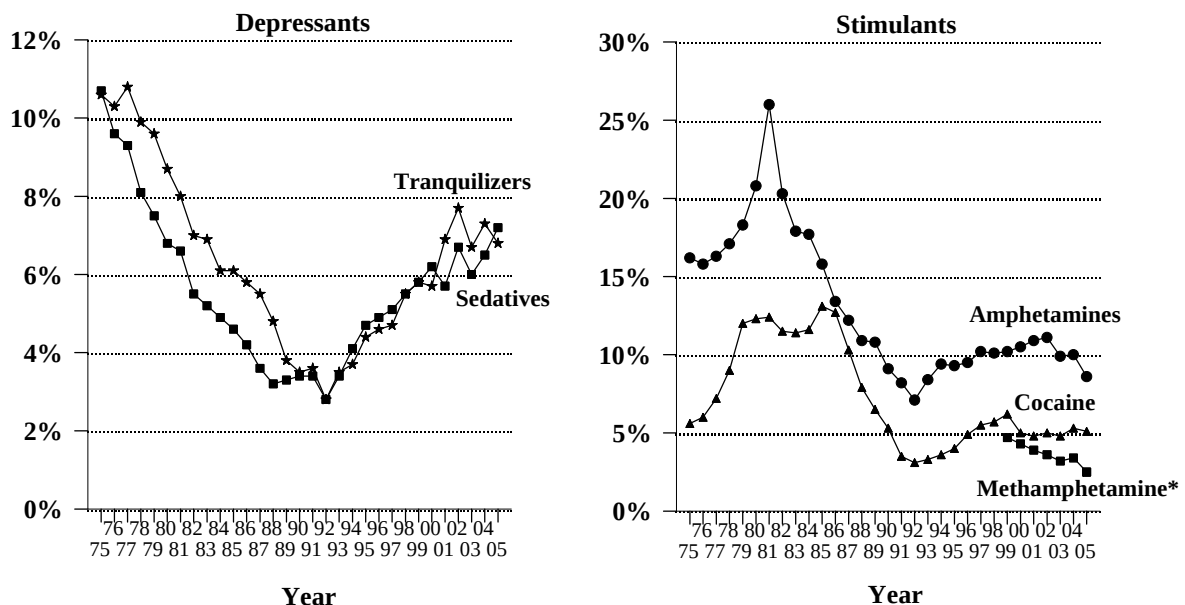
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Use of Depressants Among U.S. 12th Graders Increases While Amphetamine Use Decreases; Meth Use Not Spreading in This Population

The use of depressants among high school seniors in the U.S. continues to increase, according to recently released data from the 2005 Monitoring the Future survey. The percentage of 12th graders reporting past year use of tranquilizers and sedatives—central nervous system depressants—increased from a low of 2.8% in 1992 to around 7% in 2005. During the same time period the use of the stimulants cocaine and amphetamine increased slightly but has stabilized (cocaine) or declined (amphetamines) in recent years. Methamphetamine use has decreased as well, reaching a low of 2.5% in 2005. The authors acknowledge that “the pattern of declining meth use among adolescents seems to be inconsistent with recent press reports of a growing meth epidemic” but note that “if use is spreading, it does not seem to be doing so in this segment of the population” (p. 3).

Percentage of Twelfth Graders Reporting Use of Depressants and Stimulants in the Past Year, 1975 to 2005



*Methamphetamine is also included in amphetamines.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from University of Michigan, “Teen Drug Use Down But Progress Halts Among Youngest Teens,” Monitoring the Future press release, December 19, 2005. Available online at <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org>.

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The Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention funded this project under grant BJAG 2005-1206. All points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of any State agency.