

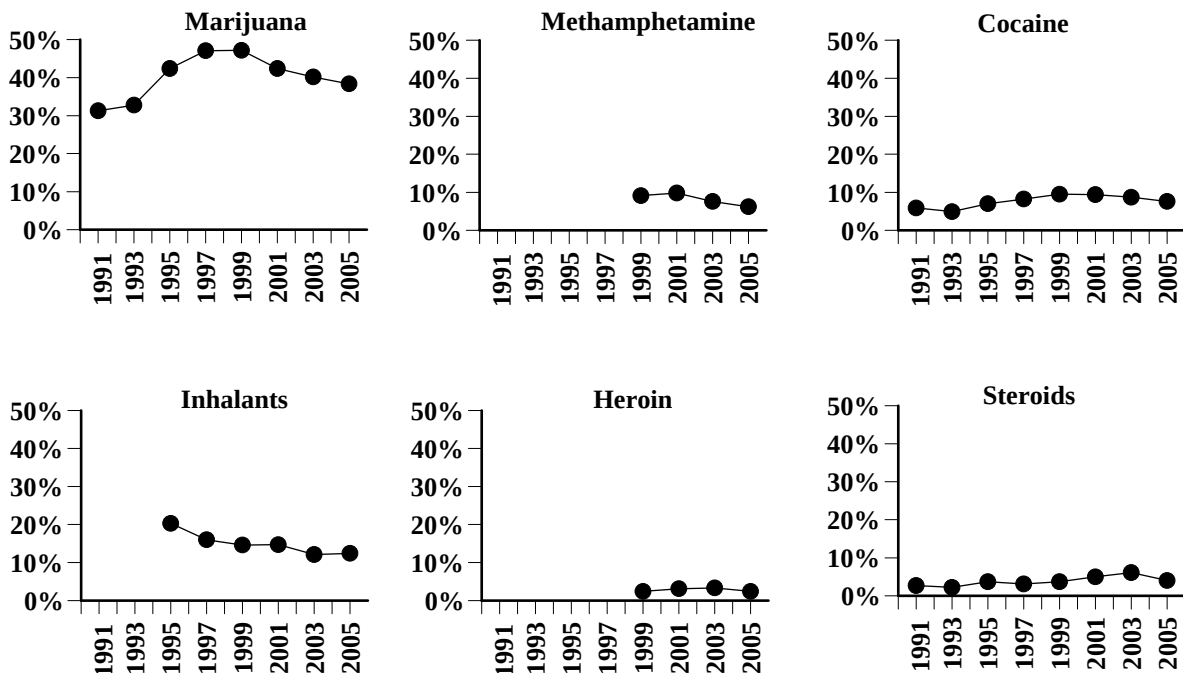
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Illicit Drug Use by U.S. High School Students Declining

The percentage of U.S. high school students reporting lifetime use of many illicit drugs has declined in recent years, according to data from the national Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). The percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 reporting lifetime use of marijuana has declined from a peak of 47% in 1999 to 38% in 2005. Methamphetamine use has also declined, from 9% when it was first measured in 1999 to 6% in 2005. The first half of this decade has also seen declines in cocaine and inhalant use while steroid use has only recently declined (from 6% in 2003 to 4% in 2005). Heroin use has remained stable at around 3%. These results are consistent with those of other national surveys of youths, such as the Monitoring the Future survey and the National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

Percentage of U.S. High School Students Reporting Lifetime Illicit Drug Use, 1991 to 2005



NOTE: The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance (YRBS) survey employs a three-stage cluster sample design to produce a nationally representative sample of public and private school students in grades 9 to 12.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2005," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 55 (SS-5), June 9, 2006. Available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm>.

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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.