

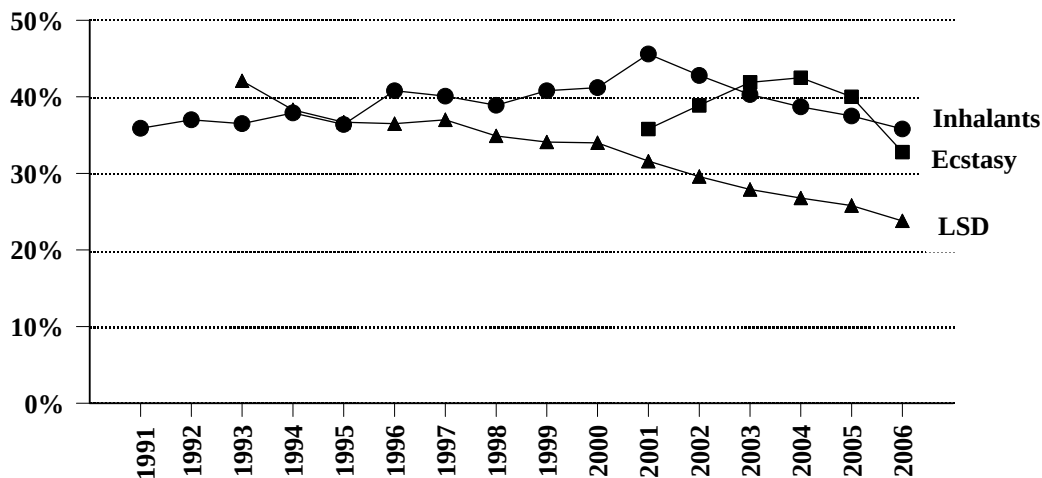
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Eighth Graders' Perceived Harmfulness of Ecstasy, LSD, and Inhalant Use Continues to Decrease; Suggests "Vulnerability to Resurgence of Use"

Decreases in the perceived harmfulness of using a drug are often leading indicators of future increases in actual use of that drug (see *CESAR FAX* Volume 16, Issue 4). Thus, it is disconcerting that data from the 2006 national Monitoring the Future survey show that the percentage of eighth grade students perceiving a "great risk" of harm in using ecstasy, LSD, or inhalants once or twice continues to decline. The percentage of students who perceived a great risk of harm from using ecstasy decreased from 43% in 2004 to 33% in 2006, while the perceived harmfulness of LSD use has been declining since 1997, reaching a low of 24% in 2006. Inhalant use began to decrease about five years ago, from a high of 46% in 2001 to 36% in 2006. The study authors suggest that these trends may reflect "generational forgetting" of the dangers of these drugs, "leaving the newer cohorts vulnerable to a resurgence of use" (p. 7).

Percentage of U.S. 8th Graders Perceiving a "Great Risk" in Using Inhalants, LSD, or Ecstasy Once or Twice, 1991 to 2006



*Perceived risk: The percentage reporting that people run a "great risk" in harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they try a drug once or twice.

NOTE: Data on the perceived risk of LSD use began being collected in 1993; that of ecstasy use in 2001.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), *Monitoring the Future: National Results on Adolescent Drug Use, Overview of Key Findings 2006, 2007*. Available online at <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/pubs/monographs/overview2006.pdf>.

Historic Drug Czar Conference DVD Now Available at a Reduced Price of \$75

The unedited 6 DVD set of the June 2006 Drug Czar Conference, which featured seven of the eleven men who have served as heads of the White House drug abuse prevention office, is now available at a reduced price of \$75. Ordering information is available online at <http://www.cesar.umd.edu>.

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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.