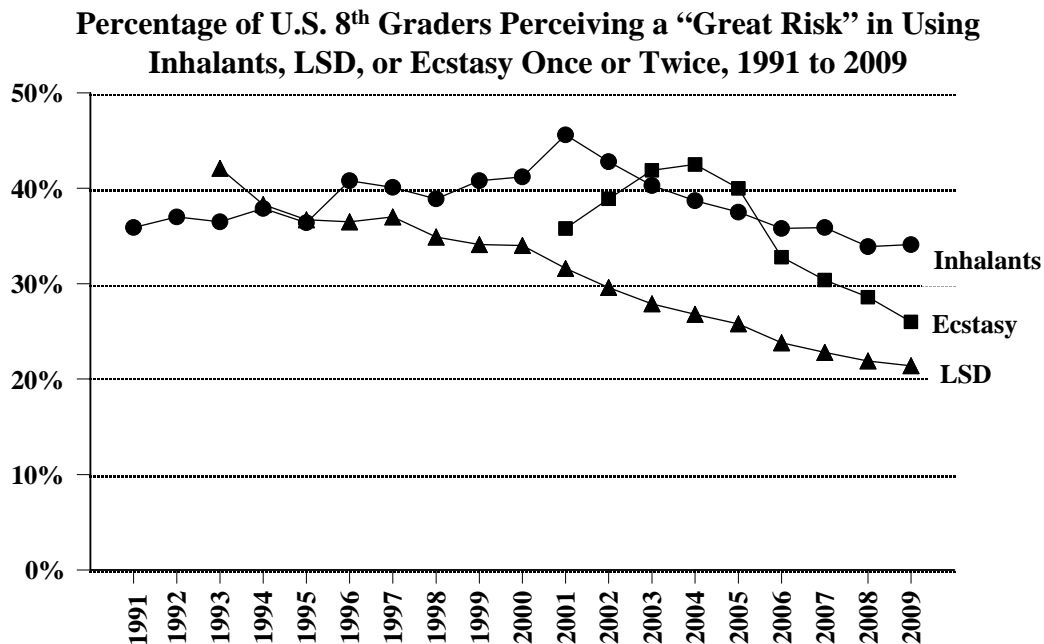


## A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

### *Perceived Risk of Inhalant, LSD, or Ecstasy Use Continues to Decline Among U.S. 8<sup>th</sup> Graders*

Eighth graders' perceived risk of using inhalants, LSD, or ecstasy continues to decline, according to data from the 2009 Monitoring the Future survey. The percentage of 8<sup>th</sup> graders perceiving a great risk from using ecstasy once or twice decreased from 43% in 2004 to 26% in 2009. The perception of harm from inhalant use began to decline in this population in 2001 (from 46% to 34% in 2008 and 2009). The most substantial decline, however, has occurred in the perceived risk of LSD use. In 1993, 42% of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in the U.S. perceived a great risk in using LSD once or twice. In 2009, half as many students (21%) reported that using LSD once or twice posed a great risk. According to lead MTF researcher Lloyd Johnston, this decline removes "a major obstacle to experimentation. We have seen LSD make a comeback before, clearly it could happen again" (p. 2).



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

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from University of Michigan, "Teen Marijuana Use Tilts Up, While Some Drugs Decline in Use," Press Release, 12/14/09. Available online at <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/data/09data.html#2009data-drugs>.

### **CESAR Wishes You a Very Happy Holiday Season!**

This is the final issue of the *CESAR FAX* for 2009. The *CESAR FAX* will resume with Volume 19, Issue 1 on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Thank you for your support during the past year!