

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

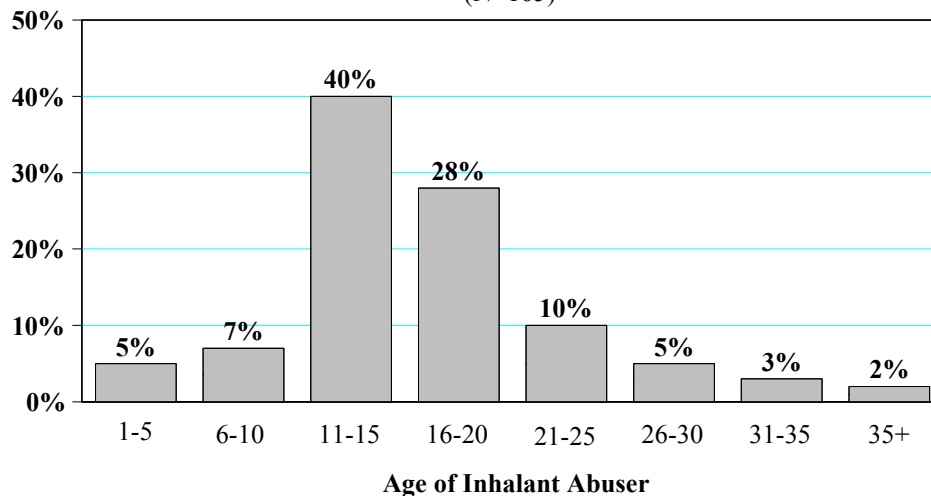
University of Maryland, College Park

### *Most Reported Incidents of Inhalant Abuse Occur Among 11-15 Year Olds*

Abuse of inhalants is highest among young adolescents according to data collected over 12 months from two Regional Poison Information Centers (RPICs).<sup>\*</sup> While the ages of the 165 people intentionally exposed to inhalants ranged from 4 to 45, the majority (40%) of the cases reported to the RPICs involved youth aged 11 to 15; 28% were 16 to 20 year olds. All other age groups each accounted for 10% or less of the total number of intentional exposures reported. The most commonly reported abused substances were spray paint (34%) and gasoline (27%). The authors encourage communities to utilize RPIC data in their inhalant abuse prevention efforts because the data may “act as an initial indicator for the patterns within the community” (p. 173).

**Intentional Inhalant Abuse Cases Reported to  
Two Regional Poison Information Centers, by Age  
August 1, 1994 to July 31, 1995**

(N=165)



<sup>\*</sup>All inhalant exposures with a reason of intentional abuse reported to two RPICs (Kentucky Regional Poison Center and Pittsburgh Poison Center) between August 1, 1994 and July 31, 1995.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from Henry A. Spiller and Edward Krenzelok, “Epidemiology of Inhalant Abuse Reported to Two Regional Poison Centers,” *Clinical Toxicology*, 1997, 35(2):167-173. For more information, contact Henry Spiller of the Kentucky Regional Poison Center at 502-629-5326.

### **Find Out More About Inhalant Abuse on the World Wide Web**

The National Inhalant Prevention Coalition’s website ([www.inhalants.org](http://www.inhalants.org)) contains a variety of inhalant resources, including current inhalant statistics, effects of inhalant use, and a directory of state poison control centers.

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•• 301-403-8329 (voice) •• 301-403-8342 (fax) •• [CESAR@cesar.umd.edu](mailto:CESAR@cesar.umd.edu) (e-mail) ••