

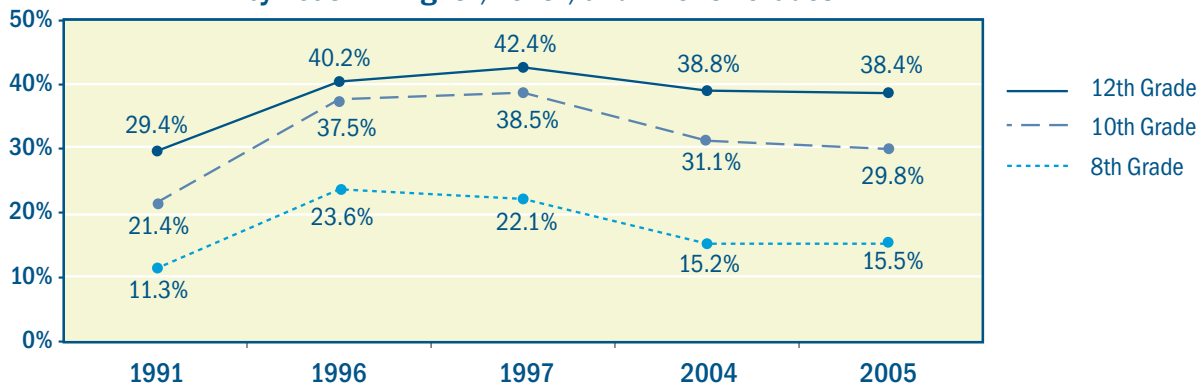


Overall Teen Drug Use Continues Slight Downward Trend or Levels Off; Sedative, OxyContin, and Inhalant Use Rises Slightly

Overall rates of self-reported use of any illicit drug in the past 12 months by youth in eighth, tenth, and twelfth grades continued its slight downward trend or leveled off since peaking in 1996 and 1997, according to the latest *Monitoring the Future* study (2005). Since peaking, use by eighth graders decreased from 23.6% in 1996 to 15.5% in 2005; among tenth graders from 38.5% in 1997 to 29.8% in 2005; and among twelfth graders from 42.4% in 1997 to 38.4% in 2005. While changes in use since the previous (2004) study by all three age groups were statistically insignificant, tenth and twelfth graders continued their pattern of a slight decline in use, while use by eighth graders leveled off.

Of note are reports of a slight increase in past-year use of sedatives, OxyContin, and inhalants in 2005. After a decade-long rise from 2.8% in 1992, sedative use among twelfth graders (the only age group surveyed) leveled off in 2003, and rose slightly in both 2004 and 2005 to a current level of 7.2%. There has been an increase in OxyContin use among all three age groups since it was included in the survey in 2002 (eighth graders from 1.3% to 1.8%; tenth graders from 3.0% to 3.2%; and twelfth graders from 4.0% to 5.5%). After a steady decline in inhalant use since its peak among all three age groups in 1995, use among eighth graders rose in 2003 (from 12.8% in 1995 to 8.7% in 2003). In 2005, use among eighth graders and tenth graders remained level (eighth graders: from 9.6% in 2004 to 9.5% in 2005; tenth graders: from 5.9% in 2004 to 6.0% in 2005), while use among twelfth graders increased (from 4.2% in 2004 to 5.0% in 2005).

**Trends in Past-Year Use of Any Illicit Drug
by Youth in Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Grades**



Source: University of Michigan. (2006). Press Release: Teen drug use down but progress halts among youngest teens. Based on findings reported in: Johnston, L. D., O'Malley, P. M., Bachman, J. G., & Schulenberg, J. E. (2006). *Monitoring the Future national results on adolescent drug use: Overview of key findings, 2005*. NIH Publication. Bethesda MD: National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Prepared by TASC, Inc. TASC is an independent, not-for-profit agency that provides clinical case management and other services to men, women and adolescents with a variety of social and health-related needs. TASC serves approximately 30,000 clients in Illinois each year. For more information visit www.tasc.org.

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