

CESAR FAX: April 23, 2007 (Vol. 16, Issue 16)

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).

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from the Office of Applied Studies, SAMHSA, *Treatment Episode Dataset (TEDS) Highlights—2005, National Admissions to Substance Abuse Treatment Services, 2007*. Available online at <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/dasis.htm#teds2>.