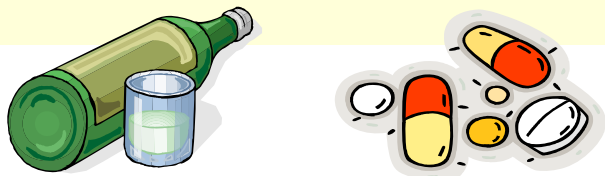


**TEEN DRUG USE CONTINUES DECLINE**

“Overall, illicit drug use by American teens continues gradual decline in 2007,” is the headline for the release of the 33<sup>rd</sup> national survey in the Monitoring the Future (MTF) series conducted by scientists at the University of Michigan’s Institute for Social Research. It goes on to offer even more good news: Among the youngest students surveyed - 8<sup>th</sup> graders - **cumulative declines since peak levels of drug involvement in the mid-1990s are substantial.**



According to the latest MTF survey, **long-term trends of decreasing youth drug use** have continued from 2001 to 2007:

- Use of any illicit drug dropped 24%
- Marijuana use decreased 25%
- Steroid use dropped by 1/3<sup>rd</sup>
- Ecstasy use is less than 1/2 of what it was in 2001 (54% decline)
- Methamphetamine use plummeted a staggering 64%
- Alcohol use, including binge drinking, decreased by 15%
- Cigarette smoking decreased by 33%

The **drugs most responsible for this year’s decline are marijuana** and various **stimulant drugs**, including **Ritalin, amphetamines, methamphetamine, and crystal methamphetamine**. The only drug showing signs of an increase in use is MDMA (ecstasy).

**In 2007, 860,000 fewer youth were using illicit drugs than in 2001**

<b>Percent Reporting Past Month Use</b>			
	2001	2007	Change as a % of 2001
<b>Any Illicit Drug</b>	<b>19.4%</b>	<b>14.8%</b>	<b>-24*</b>
<i>Marijuana</i>	16.6%	12.4%	-25*
<i>MDMA (Ecstasy)</i>	2.4%	1.1%	-54*
<i>LSD</i>	1.5%	0.6%	-60*
<i>Amphetamines</i>	4.7%	3.2%	-32*
<i>Inhalants</i>	2.8%	2.6%	-7
<i>Methamphetamine</i>	1.4%	0.5%	-64*
<i>Steroids</i>	0.9%	0.6%	-33*
<i>Cocaine</i>	1.5%	1.4%	-7
<i>Heroin</i>	0.4%	0.4%	0
<i>Alcohol</i>	35.5%	30.1%	-15*
<i>Cigarettes</i>	20.2%	13.6%	-33*

\* Denotes statistically significant change from 2001.  
 Note: Past month use, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades combined; percent change calculated from figures having more precision than shown.  
 Source: 2007 Monitoring the Future (MTF) study special tabulations for combined 8th, 10th, and 12th graders, December 2007.



In the context of the continuing long-term progress, these data show that there are still challenges that remain:

- Overall, youth prescription drug abuse is second largest category of abuse, only behind marijuana
- Past-year use of Oxycontin increased 30 percent between 2002–2007
- Attitudes toward perceived risk of Ecstasy use have softened.

**Challenges remain...but Connecticut is ready for them.**

To draw meaning from these national data, **Connecticut’s Strategic Prevention Framework** (see August 23, 2007 *Information...*) is focusing resources to collect, analyze, and report data on drug use among Connecticut’s youth, including alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, heroin, prescription drugs, and cocaine. This information will not only allow us to understand drug use and consequences in our state, but by looking behind the numbers, we will also be able to identify specific factors that contribute to youth drug use and find the right kinds of strategies and programs to prevent it.