NCADD
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG DEPENDENCE, INC.

Monitoring the Future Survey - Use of Alcohol By Teens Continues Its Steady Decline

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The use of alcohol by teens continues its steady decline.

For 12th-graders, alcohol use peaked in 1997, with more than half (52.7 percent) reporting drinking alcohol in the past month.

Only 39.2 percent of seniors reported past month use this year.

An indicator of binge drinking (defined in the survey as five or more drinks in a row at least once in the past two weeks) stayed the same as last year for eighth-graders (5.1 percent) but dropped considerably for 10th-graders (to 13.7 percent from 15.6 percent in 2012.)

The 2013 binge drinking rate for 12th-graders is 22.1 percent.

Other findings from this year's MTF survey include:

- The percentage of teens who think there is a great risk from being a regular marijuana user has dropped, according to a new survey. The survey found 39.5 percent of 12th graders think regular marijuana use is harmful, down from 44.1 percent last year.
- Use of synthetic marijuana, also known as K2 or Spice, decreased 3.4 percent among high school seniors. Less than 1 percent of all students surveyed said they used bath salts
- The abuse of the painkiller Vicodin has decreased in the last 10 years, from 10.5 percent of high school seniors in 2003, to 5.3 percent this year. The survey also found 7.4 percent of seniors said they took the ADHD drug Adderall for non-medical purposes in the past year, while 2.3 percent reported abusing Ritalin.
- For cocaine and heroin, while there was no significant change from the 2012 rates, there continues to be a gradual decline in use, with both drugs at historic lows in all three grades.
- The past year use of inhalants in all three grades has declined

Click here to read "American teens more cautious about using synthetic drugs" press release.

Click here to read "Teen smoking continues to decline in 2013" press release.

Monitoring the Future Survey (MTF) is one of three major surveys sponsored by the U.S Department of Health and Human Services that provide data on substance use among youth.MTF is an annual survey that measures drug use and attitudes among students in grades 8, 10 and 12.