

Inhalants

Inhalants include glues, sprays, or gases that are inhaled through the nose or the mouth to induce a mind-altering effect. Unlike the use of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs, prevalence rates for inhalants typically drop off as adolescents get older. Inhalants are the most popular drug type for 6th-grade students and the second most popular drug type among students in the other grades.

Inhalant use produces a rapid high similar to alcohol intoxication with symptoms including slurred speech, euphoria, dizziness, impaired judgment, general muscle weakness, inability to coordinate movements, and hallucinations. Exposure to high doses or successive inhalations can cause delirium, confusion, vomiting, nausea, loss of consciousness, and death.

For additional information on the dangers associated with inhalants, go to:

www.nida.nih.gov/researchreports/Inhalants

Hawaii Prevalence Rates

In 2003, the percentages of students having ever tried inhalants in Hawaii are lower than nationwide percentages. In Hawaii, 4% of 6th graders, 9% of 8th graders, 8% of 10th graders, and 9% of 12th graders reported they had used inhalants at some point in their lives to get high. Nationwide, 16% of 8th graders, 13% of 10th graders, and 11% of 12th graders reported trying inhalants.

Approximately half of Hawaii 6th graders who reported trying inhalants at least once indicated that they had used inhalants in the past 30 days (2%). Monthly prevalence reports among 8th-, 10th-, and 12th-grade students in Hawaii (3.6%, 2.0%, and 1.3%, respectively) are fairly similar to nationwide reports in the same grades (4.1%, 2.2%, and 1.5%, respectively).

Trends in Use

Inhalant use in Hawaii was basically on the decline from 1987 to 1991 and then rose in 1993. Inhalant use among 6th graders continued to slowly increase after 1993, but dropped by 50% in 2000, remained unchanged in 2002, and then dropped again in 2003. Inhalant use among 8th graders in Hawaii has steadily decreased after 1993, reaching record lows in 2002 and 2003. Inhalant use among 10th and 12th graders has been more volatile, with a sharp increase occurring in 1993, followed by a sharp decrease in 1996, a leveling off in 1998, a large decrease in 2000, and some slight increases since. Although use of most drugs has been on the decline in Hawaii and nationwide, inhalant use rose among 8th graders nationwide and rose among 12th graders in Hawaii.

Hawaii Subgroup Differences

In Hawaii, inhalants are more prevalent among females than males in grades 8 (11% vs. 6%) and 10 (9% vs 7%), but are less prevalent among females than males in grades 6 (4% vs. 5%) and 12 (7% vs. 11%).

White students tend to have among the highest inhalant prevalence rates compared to other ethnic groups. In grade 6, 5% of White and Filipino students reported trying inhalants, compared to 4% of Native Hawaiian students, 2% of Japanese students, and 1% of Chinese students. In grade 8, 10% of White and Filipino students reported trying inhalants, compared to 8% of Native Hawaiian students, 7% of Japanese students, and 5% of Chinese students. In grade 10, Native Hawaiian students surpass White students in reports of inhalant use (10% vs 8%); 7% of Filipino students, and 6% of Chinese and Japanese students in grade 10 reported trying inhalants. In grade 12, nearly

twice as many White students have tried inhalants (13%), compared to Filipino and Native Hawaiian students (8% each), Japanese students (6%), and Chinese students (3%).

No county can be singled out as having the highest inhalant prevalence rates across all grades. Maui County has the highest inhalant prevalence reports in grade 6, Kauai County has the highest inhalant prevalence reports in grade 8, and Hawaii County has the highest inhalant prevalence reports in grades 10 and 12.

Although inhalants are more prevalent among 6th graders in public schools (5%) than 6th graders in private or charter schools (3%), school type differences in all other grades are non-existent.

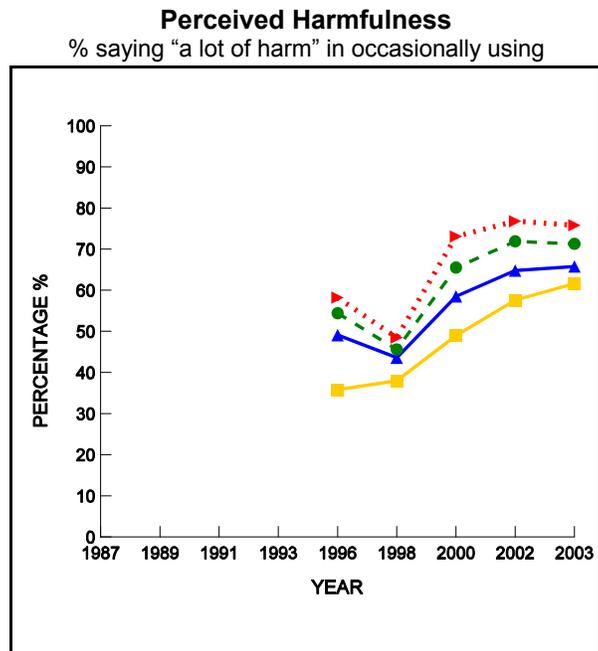
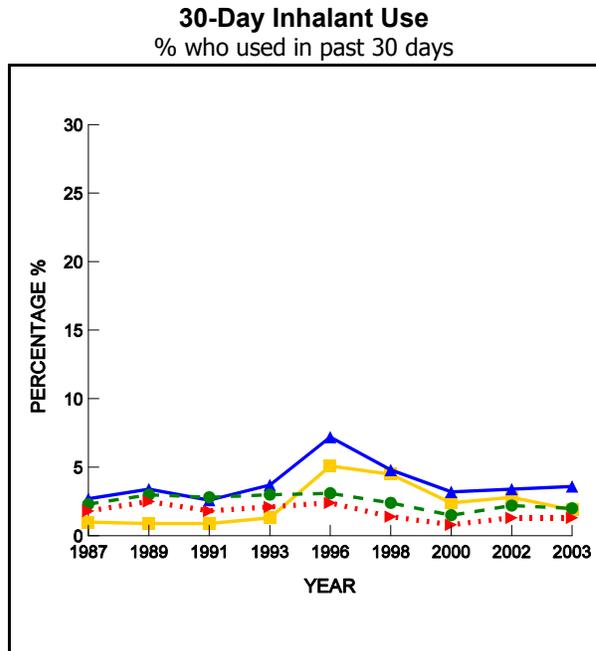
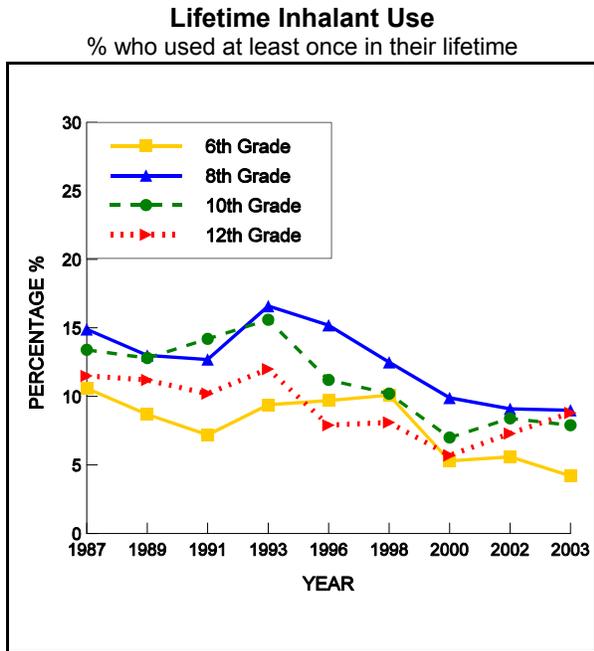
Harmfulness

Compared to other drug use, inhalant use is viewed by fewer students as risky. The percentages of Hawaii students viewing a lot of harm with inhalant use had been increasing over the years, but are currently down in the upper grades. In Hawaii, 62% of 6th graders, 66% of 8th graders, 71% of 10th graders, and 76% of 12th graders reported that the occasional use of inhalants is harmful. These rates are higher than nationwide rates, where 40% of 8th graders and 48% of 10th graders viewed the occasional use of inhalants as harmful.

Disapproval

The vast majority of Hawaii students in grades 6 (90%), 8 (88%), 10 (89%), and 12 (91%) indicate that their friends would disapprove of them trying inhalants to get high. The percentages of Hawaii students indicating peer disapproval with inhalant use have been increasing since 1998.

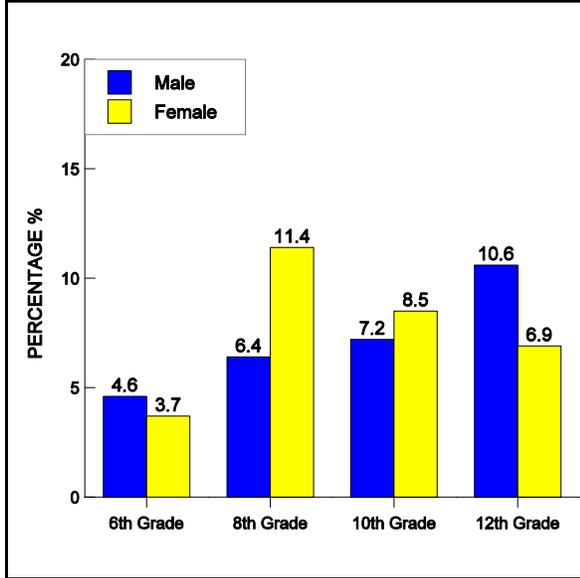
Inhalants
Hawaii Trends in Prevalence and Harmfulness
Sixth, Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Graders, 1987-2003



Inhalants
Hawaii Subgroup Differences in Lifetime Prevalence Reports, by Grade, 2003
 (Entries are percentages %)

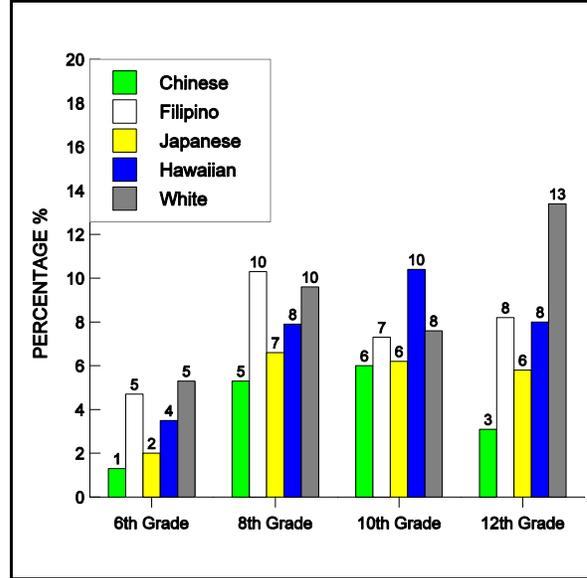
Sex Differences

% who used Inhalants at least once in their lifetime



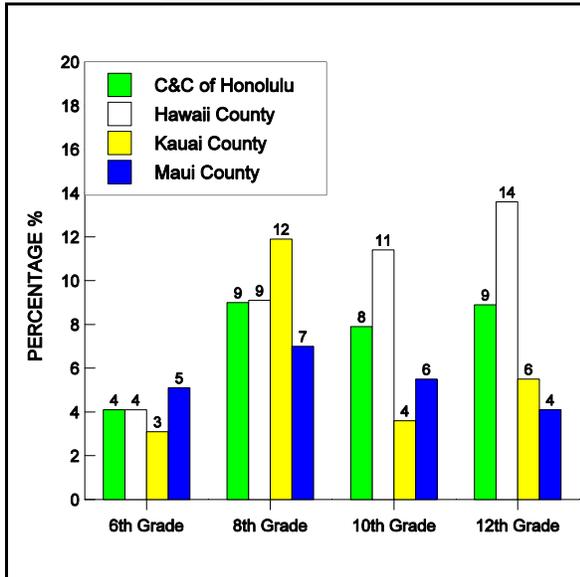
Ethnic Differences

% who used Inhalants at least once in their lifetime



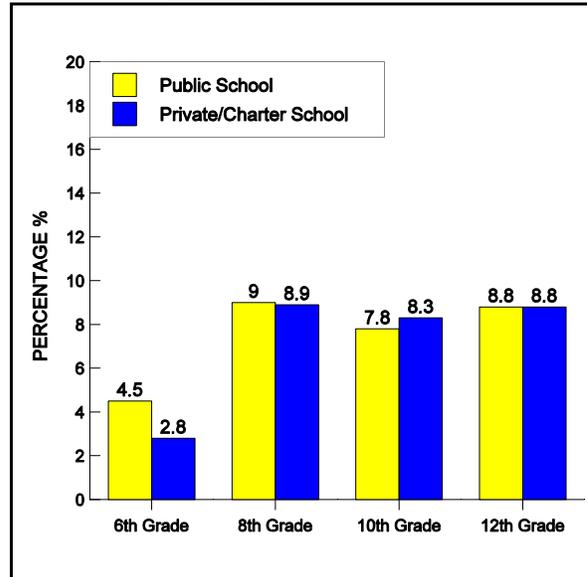
County Differences (Place of Residence)

% who used Inhalants at least once in their lifetime



School Type Differences

% who used Inhalants at least once in their lifetime



Notes: County includes public, private, and charter school students who reside in that particular county.

Inhalants Table
Hawaii Trends in Inhalant Prevalence, Harmfulness, and Disapproval
Grades 6 through 12, 1987-2003

(Entries are percentages %)

	Hawaii Results									Nationwide Results
	1987	1989	1991	1993	1996	1998	2000	2002	2003	2003
Lifetime Prevalence ^a										
6th Grade	10.6	8.7	7.2	9.4	9.7	10.1	5.3	5.6	4.2	–
7th Grade	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	7.2	–
8th Grade	14.9	13.0	12.7	16.6	15.2	12.5	9.9	9.1	9.0	15.8
9th Grade	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	8.9	–
10th Grade	13.4	12.8	14.2	15.6	11.2	10.2	7.0	8.4	7.9	12.7
11th Grade	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	7.3	–
12th Grade	11.5	11.2	10.2	12.0	7.9	8.1	5.7	7.3	8.8	11.2
30-Day Prevalence ^b										
6th Grade	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.3	5.1	4.5	2.4	2.8	1.9	–
7th Grade	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3.2	–
8th Grade	2.7	3.4	2.6	3.7	7.2	4.8	3.2	3.4	3.6	4.1
9th Grade	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2.5	–
10th Grade	2.3	3.0	2.8	3.0	3.1	2.4	1.5	2.2	2.0	2.2
11th Grade	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1.3	–
12th Grade	1.8	2.5	1.8	2.1	2.4	1.4	0.8	1.3	1.3	1.5
Perceived Harmfulness ^c										
6th Grade	–	–	–	–	35.8	38.0	49.0	57.6	61.6	–
7th Grade	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	63.4	–
8th Grade	–	–	–	–	49.1	43.6	58.5	64.8	65.8	40.3
9th Grade	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	67.2	–
10th Grade	–	–	–	–	54.4	45.6	65.5	71.9	71.3	47.7
11th Grade	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	76.1	–
12th Grade	–	–	–	–	58.2	48.5	73.1	76.8	75.8	–
Peer Disapproval ^d										
6th Grade	–	–	–	–	82.2	82.2	86.2	88.3	89.5	–
7th Grade	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	86.9	–
8th Grade	–	–	–	–	78.6	78.9	80.2	84.5	87.8	–
9th Grade	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	87.3	–
10th Grade	–	–	–	–	85.4	84.1	86.2	87.2	88.7	–
11th Grade	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	91.2	–
12th Grade	–	–	–	–	87.3	87.3	89.7	90.3	91.2	–

- (a) Lifetime Prevalence is the % using inhalants at least once in their lifetime.
- (b) 30-Day Prevalence is the % using inhalants at least once in the past 30 days.
- (c) Perceived Harmfulness is the % reporting a “lot of harm” associated with occasional inhalants use.
- (d) Peer Disapproval is the % reporting friends would “disapprove” or “strongly disapprove” of them using inhalants.