

Cocaine

Cocaine is an addictive stimulant that can be inhaled through the nostrils (i.e. “snorting”), injected directly into the bloodstream, rubbed onto mucous tissues, or smoked.

Cocaine can come in the form of hydrochloride salt, which is a powdered form of cocaine that can be taken intranasally or dissolved in water and taken intravenously. The other chemical form of cocaine is freebase which has not yet been neutralized by an acid to make the hydrochloride salt. The user of the freebase form processes the substance with ammonia or sodium bicarbonate and water, and heats the substance to remove the hydrochloride. The street name “crack” refers to the crackling sound that occurs when the substance is heated and then the smoke or vapors are inhaled into the lungs to give the user a high in less than 10 seconds.

Cocaine’s short-term effects after a single dose include increased energy, decreased appetite, mental alertness, increased heart rate and blood pressure, constricted blood vessels, increased temperature, and dilated pupils. Large doses or repeated doses can intensify the high and lead to violent behavior, tremors, muscle twitches, paranoia, toxic reactions, or sudden death caused by cardiac arrest or seizures.

Cocaine is a powerfully addictive drug that, over time, can lead to addiction, irritability and mood disturbances, restlessness, paranoia, and auditory hallucinations. For more information on the long-term effects and the medical complications of cocaine abuse, refer to the following web site:

<http://www.drugabuse.gov/drugpages/cocaine.html>

Hawaii Prevalence and Trends in Use

In 1987, cocaine was one of the most prevalent illicit drugs among Hawaii students, preceded only by marijuana. In 1987, 1% of 6th graders, 4% of 8th graders, 8% of 10th graders, and 15% of 12th graders reported they had tried cocaine at least once in their lifetimes. The percentages of Hawaii students who reported they had tried cocaine started to decline in 1989 and have basically continued on that course over the years. In 2003, reports of cocaine use by students in grades 6, 10, and 12 remain stable; in grade 8, prevalence reports dropped 1 percentage point.

Lifetime prevalence reports for cocaine use among Hawaii students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 are currently <1%, 1%, 3%, and 5%, respectively. In comparison to use of other stimulants, 2003 prevalence reports of cocaine use by Hawaii students in the upper grades are lower than ecstasy prevalence reports, but similar to methamphetamine prevalence reports.

Lifetime prevalence reports for cocaine use nationwide are higher than reports in Hawaii. In 2003, nationwide lifetime prevalence reports for cocaine use by students in grades 8, 10 and 12 were 4%, 5%, and 8%, respectively; compared to 1%, 3%, and 5% in the same grades in Hawaii. Unlike Hawaii’s consistent downward trend in cocaine use that occurred between 1987 and 2000, nationwide reports for cocaine use declined from 1986 to 1992, but then increased from 1992 to 1999. Nationwide cocaine reports began to decline in the early 2000s, but then stabilized by 2002. In 2003, both Hawaii and nationwide reports are stable across most grades.

Hawaii monthly prevalence reports for cocaine use were quite high in 1987, with 1% of 8th graders, 3% of 10th graders, and 5% of 12th graders reporting they had tried cocaine in the past 30 days. Since that time, monthly prevalence reports in Hawaii have been declining. In 2003, Hawaii monthly prevalence reports for cocaine use remain stable at 1% or less across all grade levels. Hawaii's monthly prevalence reports for cocaine use are only slightly lower than nationwide reports.

Hawaii Subgroup Differences

Sex differences in lifetime prevalence reports for cocaine use are minimal in 2003. A slight difference is noted in grade 10 where 4% of the males report having tried cocaine, compared to 3% of the females.

Ethnic differences in lifetime prevalence reports for cocaine use are most apparent in grade 12. In 2003, White students in grade 12 had considerably higher lifetime prevalence reports of cocaine use (8%) than all other ethnic groups; Native Hawaiian students had the second highest lifetime prevalence reports of cocaine use in grade 12 (5%), followed by Filipino (3%), Japanese (2%), and Chinese students (1%). Similar ethnic differences have been noted in previous years, with White students having substantially higher cocaine prevalence rates than other ethnic groups, and Native Hawaiians having the second highest cocaine prevalence rates.

The City & County of Honolulu typically has among the lowest illicit drug prevalence rates. Cocaine prevalence reports in the City & County of Honolulu, however, are currently higher than or equal to cocaine prevalence reports in other counties. In grade 12, 5% of the seniors from the City & County of Honolulu and Hawaii County have tried cocaine, compared to 3% in Kauai County and 4% in Maui County.

Harmfulness

Perceived risk associated with cocaine use coincides with cocaine prevalence rates, such that decreases in cocaine prevalence rates correspond with increases in cocaine risk perceptions. In 1987 and 1993, when cocaine prevalence reports in Hawaii were at their highest, perceived harmfulness of cocaine use among Hawaii students was relatively low with 60% or fewer of the students reporting that they believed there was a lot of harm or risk associated with using cocaine occasionally. Perceived harmfulness reports among Hawaii students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 increased by at least 28 percentage points between 1987 and 1996. Although some decreases have been noted during some of the years, in some of the grades, perceived harmfulness reports for cocaine use have remained high over the years.

In 2003, 72% of 6th graders, 77% of 8th graders, 79% of 10th graders, and 82% of 12th graders in Hawaii reported that occasional cocaine use would result in a lot of harm for the user. The percentages of Hawaii students in grades 8, 10, and 12 associating harm with cocaine use are higher than nationwide reports in the same grades (70%, 76%, and 69%, respectively).

Availability

Perceived availability of cocaine was first assessed in Hawaii in 1993 with 14% of 8th graders, 27% of 10th graders, and 32% of 12th graders reporting that it would be "very easy" or "fairly easy" for them to get cocaine if they wanted some. Perceived availability of cocaine decreased substantially in Hawaii between 1993 and 1998. In 1998, 4% of 6th graders, 8% of 8th graders, 15% of 10th graders, and 19% of 12th graders reported that cocaine was easy to obtain.

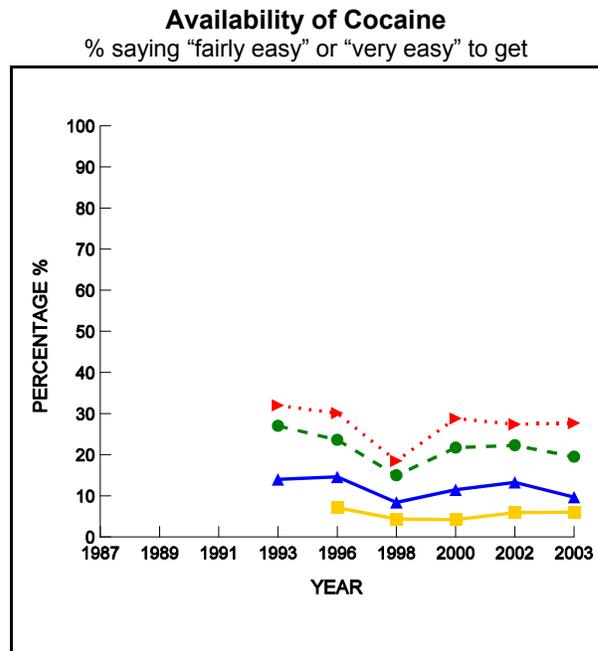
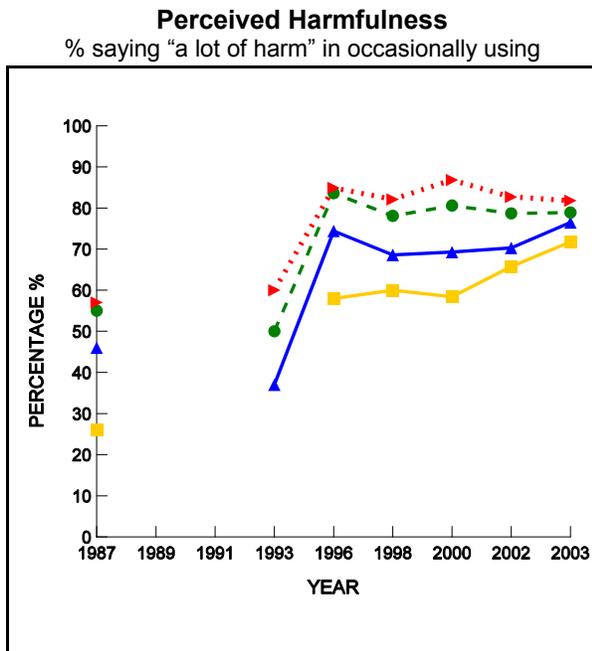
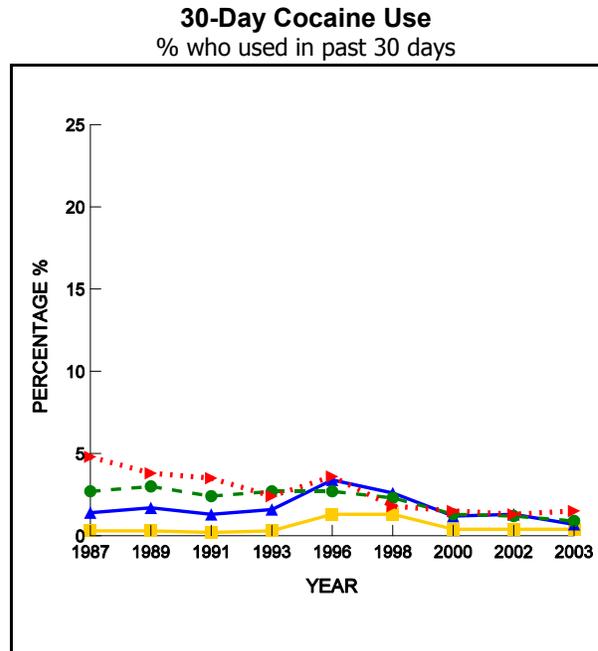
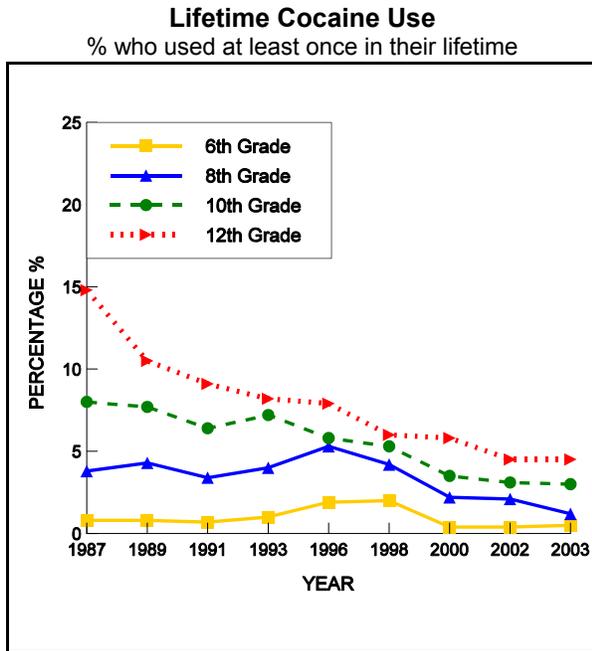
Hawaii students' perceptions of cocaine availability started on an upward trajectory in 2000. In 2003, reports of perceived availability of cocaine began to stabilize in grades 6 and 12, and declined in grades 8 and 10. Currently, 6% of 6th graders, 10% of 8th graders, 20% of 10th graders, and 28% of 12th graders believe that it would be "very easy" or "fairly easy" for them to get access to cocaine. The percentages of students in Hawaii viewing cocaine as easily accessible are much lower than nationwide; nationwide, 22% of 8th graders, 30% of 10th graders, and 43% of 12th graders believe that cocaine is easily obtainable.

Disapproval

Disapproval of cocaine use has been, and continues to be, very high among Hawaii students. In 2003, 90% of 6th, 8th, and 10th graders, and 91% of 12th graders reported that their friends would "disapprove" or "strongly disapprove" of them using cocaine once or twice. Disapproval ratings for cocaine use have been on the rise since 1996, but have begun to stabilize in grades 6 and 12.

Cocaine

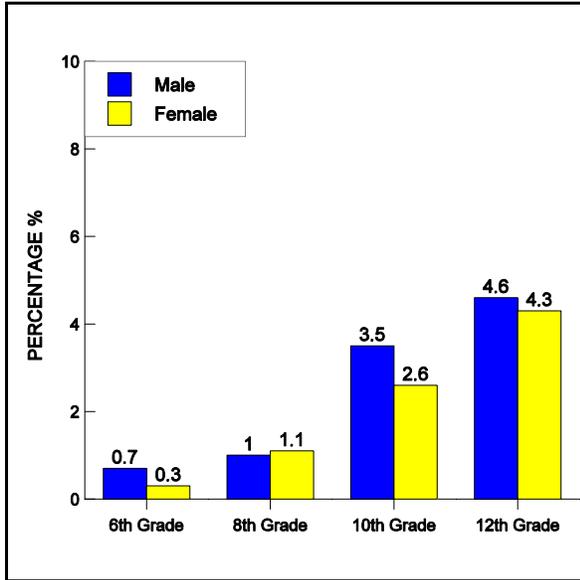
Hawaii Trends in Prevalence, Harmfulness, and Availability Sixth, Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Graders, 1987-2003



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

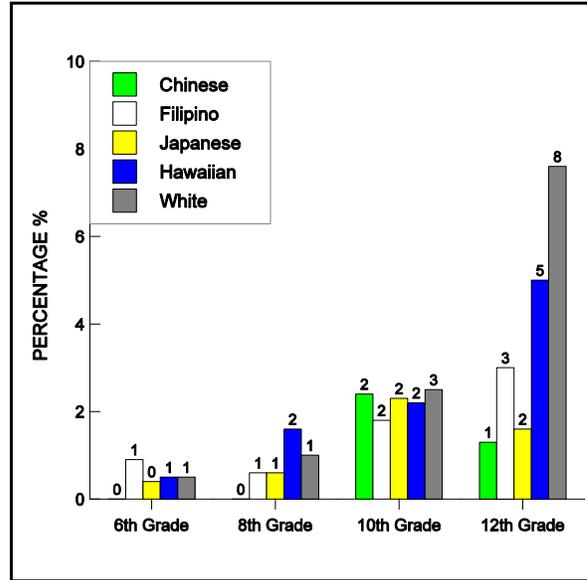
Sex Differences

% who used Cocaine at least once in their lifetime



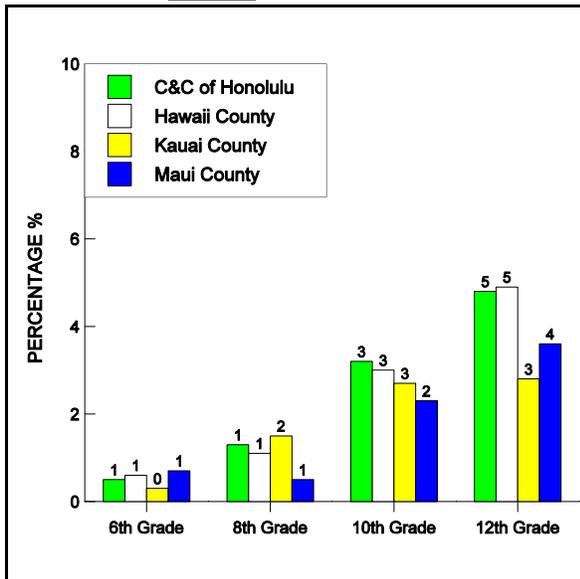
Ethnic Differences

% who used Cocaine at least once in their lifetime



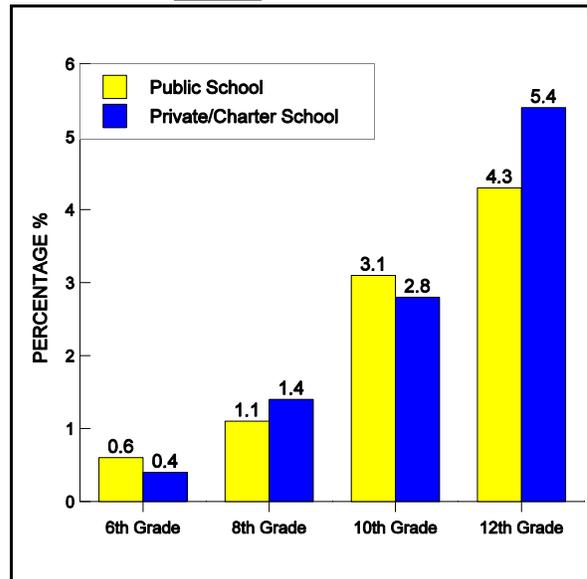
County Differences (Place of Residence)

% who used Cocaine at least once in their lifetime



School Type Differences

% who used Cocaine at least once in their lifetime



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

Cocaine Table
Hawaii Trends in Prevalence, Harmfulness, Availability, 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	0.8	0.8	0.7	1.0	1.9	2.0	0.4	0.4	0.5	–
7th Grade	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.8	–
8th Grade	3.8	4.3	3.4	4.0	5.3	4.2	2.2	2.1	1.2	3.6
9th Grade	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1.9	–
10th Grade	8.0	7.7	6.4	7.2	5.8	5.3	3.5	3.1	3.0	5.1
11th Grade	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2.8	–
12th Grade	14.8	10.5	9.1	8.2	7.9	6.0	5.8	4.5	4.5	7.7
30-Day Prevalence ^b										
6th Grade	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	1.3	1.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	–
7th Grade	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.6	–
8th Grade	1.4	1.7	1.3	1.6	3.4	2.6	1.2	1.3	0.7	0.9
9th Grade	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1.0	–
10th Grade	2.7	3.0	2.4	2.7	2.7	2.3	1.3	1.2	0.9	1.3
11th Grade	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.9	–
12th Grade	4.8	3.8	3.5	2.4	3.6	1.8	1.5	1.3	1.5	2.1
Perceived Harmfulness ^c										
6th Grade	26.0	–	–	–	58.0	60.0	58.4	65.8	71.8	–
7th Grade	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	74.0	–
8th Grade	46.0	–	–	37.0	74.4	68.6	69.3	70.3	76.5	70.3
9th Grade	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	77.6	–
10th Grade	55.0	–	–	50.0	83.6	78.1	80.6	78.7	78.9	76.4
11th Grade	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	83.8	–
12th Grade	57.0	–	–	60.0	84.9	82.1	86.8	82.7	81.8	69.1
Perceived Availability ^d										
6th Grade	–	–	–	–	7.1	4.4	4.2	5.9	6.0	–
7th Grade	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	7.5	–
8th Grade	–	–	–	14.0	14.6	8.4	11.5	13.3	9.7	21.6
9th Grade	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	15.4	–
10th Grade	–	–	–	27.0	23.6	15.0	21.7	22.3	19.5	29.6
11th Grade	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	21.7	–
12th Grade	–	–	–	32.0	30.1	18.5	28.8	27.4	27.7	43.3

(Table continued on next page)

Cocaine Table (continued)
Hawaii Trends in Prevalence, Harmfulness, Availability, 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
Peer Disapproval °										
6th Grade	-	-	-	-	86.1	86.2	87.5	89.8	90.3	-
7th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	89.3	-
8th Grade	-	-	-	-	82.5	82.4	82.2	86.5	89.8	-
9th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	89.6	-
10th Grade	-	-	-	-	87.0	86.8	87.3	88.3	90.1	-
11th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	91.7	-
12th Grade	-	-	-	-	86.5	88.7	89.8	90.8	90.6	-

- (a) Lifetime Prevalence is the % using cocaine at least once in their lifetime.
- (b) 30-Day Prevalence is the % using cocaine at least once in the past 30 days.
- (c) Perceived Harmfulness is the % reporting a "lot of harm" associated with occasional cocaine use.
- (d) Perceived Availability is the % reporting "fairly easy" or "very easy" to get cocaine.
- (e) Peer Disapproval is the % reporting friends would "disapprove" or "strongly disapprove" of them using cocaine.