

Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine is an addictive stimulant that has long been reported as a dominant problem drug in Hawaii. Methamphetamine use among Hawaii students was first assessed by the survey in 1989. Hawaii methamphetamine prevalence rates in 1989 were higher than any subsequent year. Although methamphetamine use has been on the decline among Hawaii students in the last few years, Hawaii has witnessed continued abuse and the ramifications of abuse in the adult population.

Methamphetamine, known as “meth,” “speed,” “ice,” “crystal,” “batu,” and “crank,” is similar to other stimulants in that the drug causes increased attention, decreased appetite, and a general sense of well-being. However, unlike stimulants such as cocaine and amphetamine, methamphetamine has a much longer duration of action and is removed from the body much slower.

Methamphetamine can be smoked, snorted, injected, or orally ingested. Tolerance for methamphetamine occurs within minutes, although the drug concentration in the blood remains high. As a result, users often engage in a “binge and crash” pattern to maintain their high.

Methamphetamine is a highly addictive drug which results in the user engaging in compulsive drug-seeking behavior. In addition to addiction, other long-term effects of methamphetamine abuse include violent behavior, paranoia, hallucinations, mood disturbances, homicidal and suicidal thoughts, stroke, and weight loss. Withdrawal symptoms include depression, anxiety, aggression, fatigue, paranoia, and a craving for the drug. For additional information on methamphetamine, go to:

www.drugabuse.gov/drugpages/methamphetamine.html

Hawaii Prevalence Rates

Although recent news stories have highlighted the significant problem of methamphetamine use in the Hawaii population, the percentages of students having ever tried methamphetamine in Hawaii are currently lower than nationwide percentages. In 2003, 0% of 6th graders, 1% of 8th graders, 3% of 10th graders, and 4% of 12th graders in Hawaii reported they had tried methamphetamine at least once in their lifetime. In comparison, lifetime prevalence reports of methamphetamine use by students nationwide in grades 8, 10, and 12 are 4%, 5%, and 6%, respectively.

Monthly prevalence reports among Hawaii students in grades 8, 10, and 12 are currently only 1%, which are equal to or lower than nationwide monthly prevalence reports in grades 8, 10, and 12 (1%, 1%, and 2%, respectively). Thus, in 2003, fewer Hawaii students have experimented with this drug than students nationwide, but Hawaii students are fairly similar to nationwide students in regards to reports of using methamphetamine on a more regular basis.

Trends in Use

In Hawaii, lifetime prevalence reports for methamphetamine use decreased from 1989 to 1991, and then remained fairly stable through 1993. In 1996, 10th- and 12th-grade methamphetamine prevalence rates decreased. In 1998, lifetime prevalence reports of methamphetamine use stabilized in all grades except grade 10 where a 1 percentage point increase was noted. In 2000, methamphetamine prevalence rates among Hawaii students began on a downward trajectory, which has continued over the years.

In 2003, 0% of 6th graders, 1% of 8th graders, 3% of 10th graders, and 4% of 12th graders in Hawaii reported they had tried methamphetamine. This is in sharp contrast to Hawaii's 1989 reports where 1% of 6th graders, 6% of 8th graders, 10% of 10th graders, and 12% of 12th graders reported they had tried the drug.

Monthly methamphetamine prevalence rates began to decline in Hawaii after 1989. In 1989, 3% of 8th graders, 5% of 10th graders, and 6% of 12th graders reported that they had used the drug in the past 30 days. In 2003, 1% of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders reported monthly use of the drug.

Hawaii Subgroup Differences

Over the years, Hawaii reports of illicit drug use have typically been higher among 10th- and 12th-grade males than 10th- and 12th-grade females; sex differences among 8th-grade students are often minimal. Unlike most of the other illicit drugs, however, Hawaii methamphetamine reports by females in the upper grades have often been higher than reports by males in corresponding grades. In 2003, reports of having tried methamphetamine by 10th-grade males and 10th-grade females were similar to one another (3% each); reports of having tried methamphetamine by 12th-grade females (5%), however, were higher than 12th-grade males (4%).

From an ethnic standpoint, Native Hawaiian, White, and Filipino students have had higher methamphetamine prevalence rates over the years than Japanese and Chinese students. In 2003, ethnic differences for methamphetamine use are most apparent in the 12th grade, where 1% of Chinese seniors and 3% of Japanese seniors report having tried methamphetamine, compared to 5% of Filipino and White seniors, and 6% of Native Hawaiian seniors.

County differences in reports of having ever tried methamphetamine vary by grade level reporting, with no single county having higher prevalence reports across all grades. In grades 6 and 8, lifetime prevalence reports for methamphetamine use are 1% or less across all counties. In grade 10, Hawaii County has higher lifetime prevalence reports for methamphetamine use (4%) than the City & County of Honolulu (3%), and Kauai and Maui Counties (2% each). In grade 12, Maui County has higher lifetime prevalence reports for methamphetamine use (6%) than the City & County of Honolulu (4%), Hawaii County (4%), and Kauai County (2%).

Reports of having tried methamphetamine among 6th, 8th, and 12th graders from public schools are similar to reports by students in the same grades who attend private or charter schools. In grade 10, twice as many public school students reported trying methamphetamine (3%) as private/charter school students (1.4%).

Harmfulness

The percentages of Hawaii students viewing occasional methamphetamine use as causing great harm or risk for the user increased by more than 8 percentage points across all grades from 1996 to 2003. In 1996, 50% of 6th graders, 63% of 8th graders, 70% of 10th graders, and 74% of 12th graders viewed methamphetamine use as causing a lot of harm to the user, compared to 72% of 6th graders, 76% of 8th graders, 80% of 10th graders, and 83% of 12th graders in 2003.

The 2003 nationwide *Monitoring the Future Study* asked seniors to report on how much harm is associated with methamphetamine use. More seniors in Hawaii associate a lot of harm with methamphetamine use (83%) than seniors nationwide (51%).

Availability

Hawaii students typically view access to illicit drugs as substantially more difficult than students nationwide. The exception has been for methamphetamine. In 2003, fairly similar proportions of 10th and 12th graders in Hawaii (19% and 27%, respectively), compared to nationwide students in the same grades (19% and 26%), reported obtaining methamphetamine was fairly easy. However, in grade 8, more students nationwide (14%) reported easy access to methamphetamine than in Hawaii (9%).

Hawaii students' availability perceptions of methamphetamine decreased from 1993 to 1998, but increased slightly from 1998 to 2000. Methamphetamine availability perceptions dropped in grade 12 in 2002, but continued to climb slightly in the other grades. In 2003, methamphetamine availability perceptions decreased by 2 percentage points in grades 8 and 10, and rose by less than 1 percentage point in grades 6 and 12.

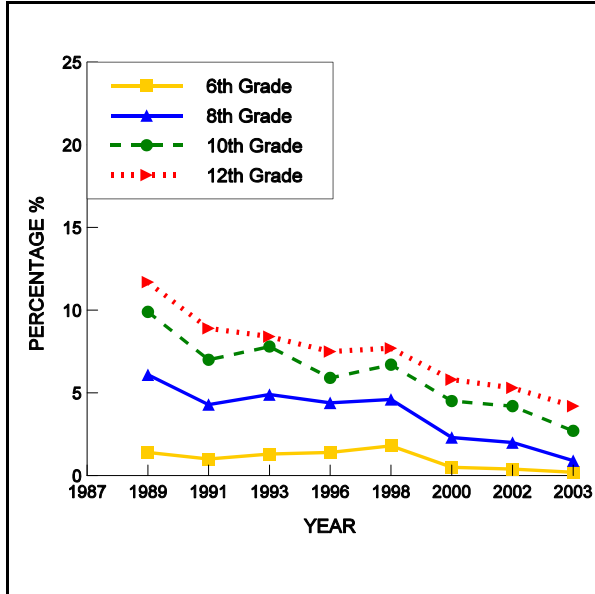
Disapproval

Disapproval ratings for methamphetamine use among Hawaii students have been quite high over the years and the percentages reporting their friends would disapprove of them using this illicit drug have been gradually increasing each year. In 2003, at least 90% of students in all grades reported that their friends would disapprove of them using methamphetamine once or twice.

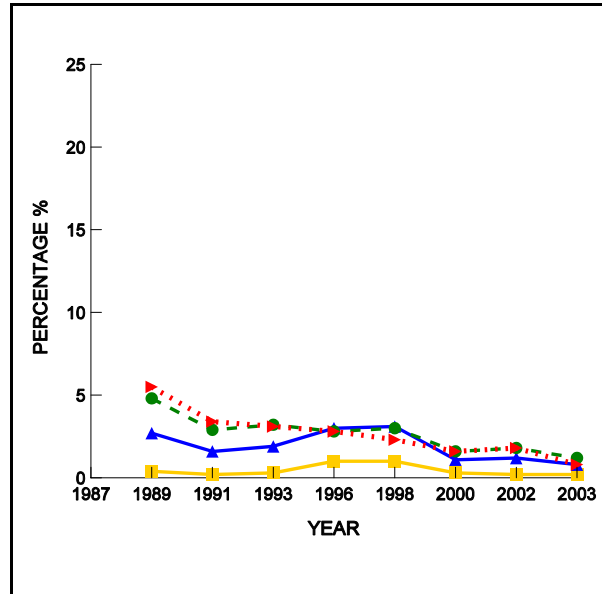
Methamphetamine

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

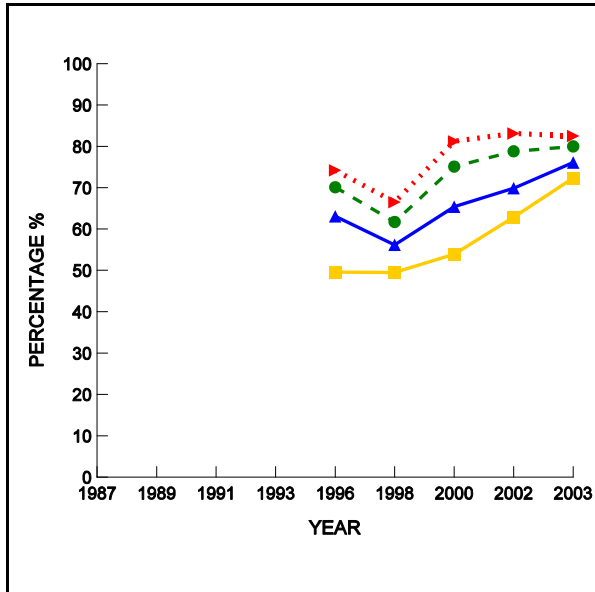
Lifetime Methamphetamine Use
% who used at least once in their lifetime



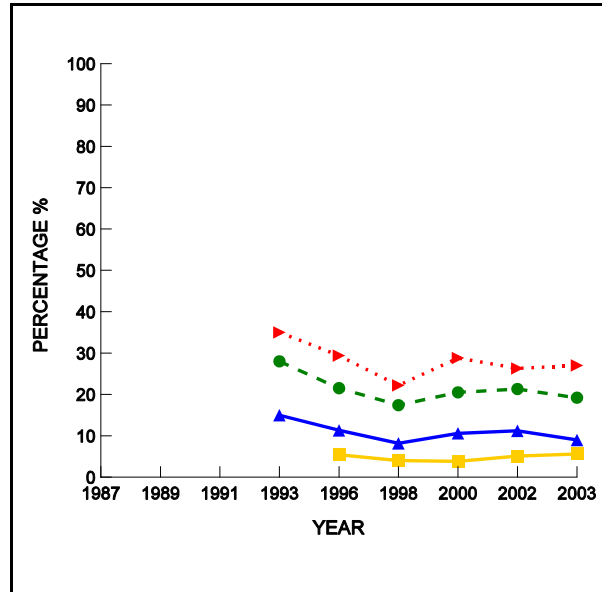
30-Day Methamphetamine Use
% who used in past 30 days



Perceived Harmfulness
% saying "a lot of harm" in occasionally using



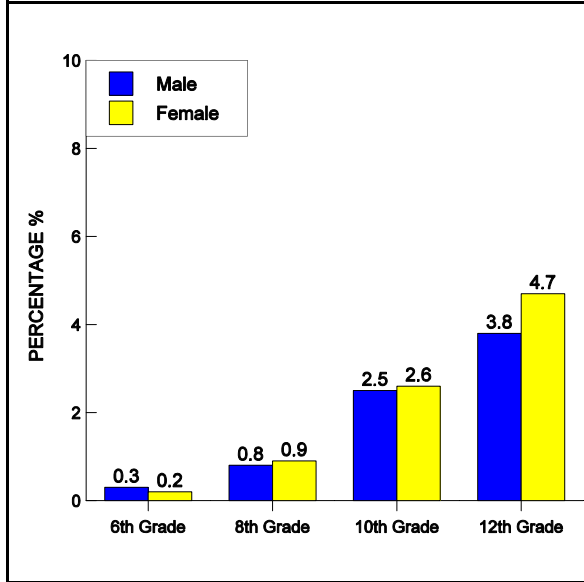
Availability of Methamphetamine
% saying "fairly easy" or "very easy" to get



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

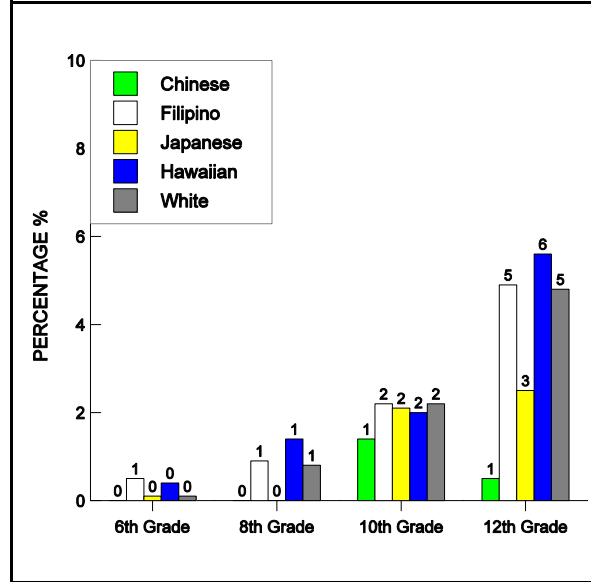
Sex Differences

% who used Methamphetamine at least once in their lifetime



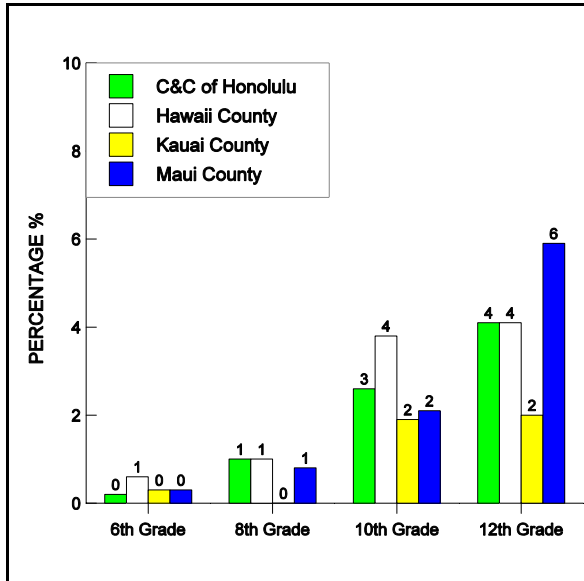
Ethnic Differences

% who used Methamphetamine at least once in their lifetime



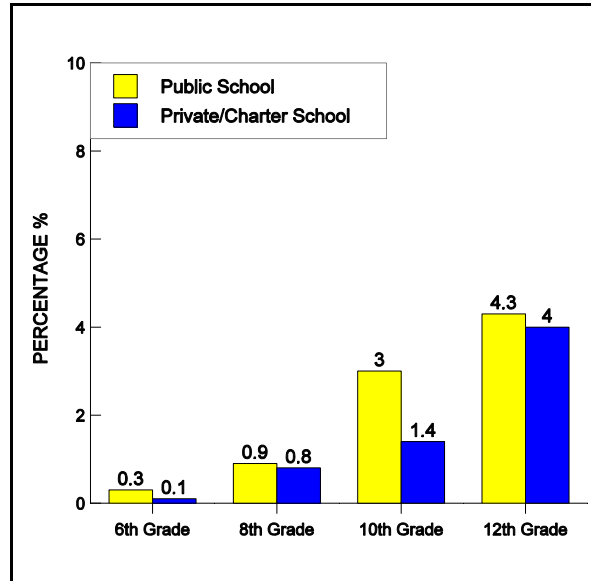
County Differences (Place of Residence)

% who used Methamphetamine at least once in their lifetime



School Type Differences

% who used Methamphetamine at least once in their lifetime



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

Methamphetamine 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 | – | 1.4 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.8 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.2 | – |
| 7th Grade | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 0.6 | – |
| 8th Grade | – | 6.1 | 4.3 | 4.9 | 4.4 | 4.6 | 2.3 | 2.0 | 0.9 | 3.9 |
| 9th Grade | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 2.0 | – |
| 10th Grade | – | 9.9 | 7.0 | 7.8 | 5.9 | 6.7 | 4.5 | 4.2 | 2.7 | 5.2 |
| 11th Grade | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 3.2 | – |
| 12th Grade | – | 11.7 | 8.9 | 8.4 | 7.5 | 7.7 | 5.8 | 5.3 | 4.2 | 6.2 |
| 30-Day Prevalence ^b | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6th Grade | – | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | – |
| 7th Grade | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 0.4 | – |
| 8th Grade | – | 2.7 | 1.6 | 1.9 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 0.8 | 1.2 |
| 9th Grade | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1.0 | – |
| 10th Grade | – | 4.8 | 2.9 | 3.2 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.2 | 1.4 |
| 11th Grade | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1.3 | – |
| 12th Grade | – | 5.5 | 3.4 | 3.1 | 2.8 | 2.3 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 0.8 | 1.7 |
| Perceived Harmfulness ^c | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6th Grade | – | – | – | – | 49.6 | 49.5 | 53.9 | 62.9 | 72.3 | – |
| 7th Grade | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 74.4 | – |
| 8th Grade | – | – | – | – | 63.1 | 56.2 | 65.4 | 69.9 | 76.1 | – |
| 9th Grade | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 76.9 | – |
| 10th Grade | – | – | – | – | 70.1 | 61.7 | 75.1 | 78.8 | 80.0 | – |
| 11th Grade | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 83.7 | – |
| 12th Grade | – | – | – | – | 74.2 | 66.5 | 81.2 | 83.1 | 82.5 | 51.2 |
| Perceived Availability ^d | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6th Grade | – | – | – | – | 5.4 | 4.0 | 3.8 | 5.1 | 5.6 | – |
| 7th Grade | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 6.9 | – |
| 8th Grade | – | – | – | 15.0 | 11.3 | 8.2 | 10.6 | 11.2 | 9.0 | 14.1 |
| 9th Grade | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 14.4 | – |
| 10th Grade | – | – | – | 28.0 | 21.5 | 17.4 | 20.5 | 21.3 | 19.2 | 19.0 |
| 11th Grade | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 21.2 | – |
| 12th Grade | – | – | – | 35.0 | 29.4 | 22.2 | 28.8 | 26.3 | 27.0 | 26.1 |

(Table continued on next page)

Methamphetamine 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^e | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6th Grade | - | - | - | - | 87.9 | 87.1 | 87.3 | 90.2 | 90.7 | - |
| 7th Grade | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 89.5 | - |
| 8th Grade | - | - | - | - | 85.1 | 83.8 | 82.5 | 87.1 | 90.5 | - |
| 9th Grade | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 90.0 | - |
| 10th Grade | - | - | - | - | 89.4 | 88.0 | 87.6 | 88.6 | 90.5 | - |
| 11th Grade | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 92.3 | - |
| 12th Grade | - | - | - | - | 90.3 | 90.4 | 90.3 | 91.0 | 92.1 | - |

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