

MYTH 6

Marijuana is not as popular as MDMA (Ecstasy) or other drugs among teens today.

Recent survey data show that about 15 million people—6.2 percent of the U.S. population—are current marijuana users,⁴⁴ and that nearly a third of them (4.8 million people) used the drug on 20 or more days in the past month.⁴⁵ Among kids age 12 to 17, more than two million (8.2 percent) reported past-month marijuana use. By contrast, fewer than 250,000 young people (1 percent) reported past-month use of hallucinogens, and of that number, only half (124,000) had used MDMA.⁴⁶

In a recent survey, more than two million kids age 12 to 17 reported past-month marijuana use.⁸²

The 2003 Monitoring the Future Study showed that marijuana is not only popular today, it has been the most widely used illicit drug among high school seniors for the entire 29 years of the study.⁴⁷ Meanwhile, Ecstasy use among American teens appears to be declining after record increases. Between 2001 and 2003, past-month use of MDMA among students in the three grades surveyed dropped by more than half, from 1.8 percent to 0.7 percent (8th grade), 2.6 percent to 1.1 percent (10th grade), and 2.8 percent to 1.3 percent (12th grade).⁴⁸

Lifetime prevalence (ever used) rates for students in the 8th, 10th, and 12th grades in 2003.⁴⁹

	Marijuana/ Hashish	Amphetamines	Ecstasy	Hallucinogens
8th Grade	17.5%	8.4%	3.2%	4.0%
10th Grade	36.4%	13.1%	5.4%	6.9%
12th Grade	46.1%	14.4%	8.3%	10.6%