



National Drug Control Strategy

The White House

February 2006



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TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

I am pleased to transmit the 2006 National Drug Control Strategy prepared by my Administration, consistent with the Office of National Drug Control Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1705).

Four years ago, my Administration issued its first National Drug Control Strategy. That Strategy set out an ambitious, balanced plan to reduce drug use in our Nation. Since 2001, drug use by 8th, 10th, and 12th graders has dropped by 19 percent, translating to nearly 700,000 fewer young people using drugs.

I appreciate the support the Congress has given for previous Strategies. I look forward to your continued support as we work together on this critical endeavor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George W. Bush". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

THE WHITE HOUSE

When President George W. Bush took office in 2001, drug use had risen to unacceptably high levels. Over the past decade, drug use by young people had nearly doubled, as measured by those who reported having used drugs in the past month: 11 percent of young people had used drugs in the past month in 1991, and 19 percent had done so in 2001. Indeed, in 2000, over half of all 12th graders in the United States had used an illicit drug at least once in his or her life before graduation.

Determined to fight this trend, the President set aggressive goals to reduce drug use in the United States, including reducing youth drug use by 10 percent in two years. That goal has been met and exceeded.

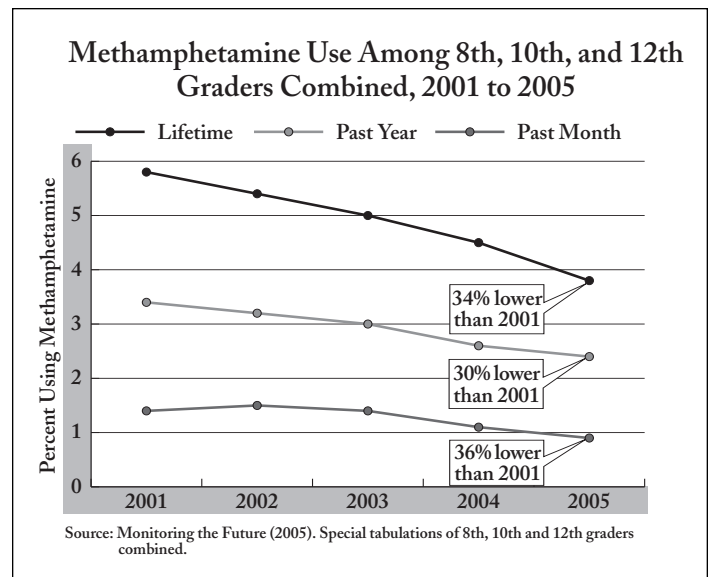
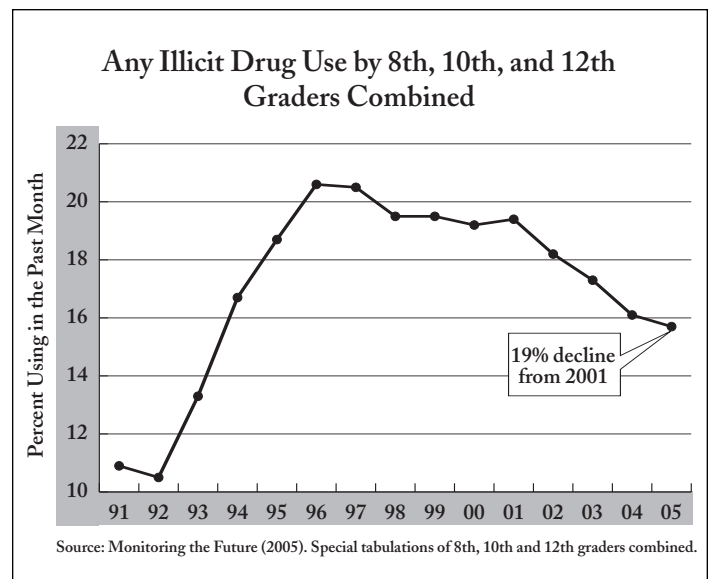
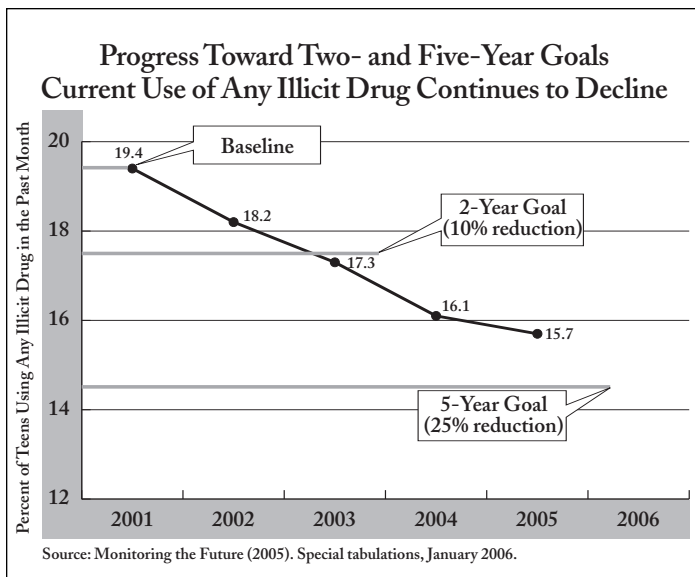
To achieve the goal of reducing drug use, the President set out an ambitious, balanced strategy that focuses on three primary elements: stopping drug use before it starts, healing drug users, and disrupting the market for illicit drugs.

The President's strategy is producing results. According to the latest University of Michigan *Monitoring the Future* survey of youth drug use that was released in December 2005, overall teen drug use has declined significantly since the President took office. Current use of illicit drugs by 8th, 10th, and 12th graders combined has dropped 19

percent since 2001. This translates into nearly 700,000 fewer young people using illicit drugs.

The survey reports other positive trends for this age group:

- The use of methamphetamine by 8th, 10th, and 12th graders combined has dropped by approximately one-third since 2001. The declines were 34 percent for lifetime use, 30 percent for past-year use, and 36 percent for past-month use.



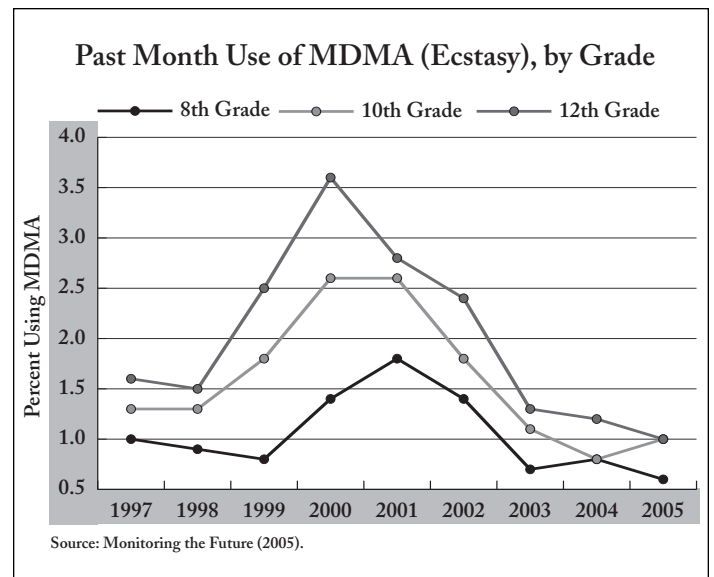
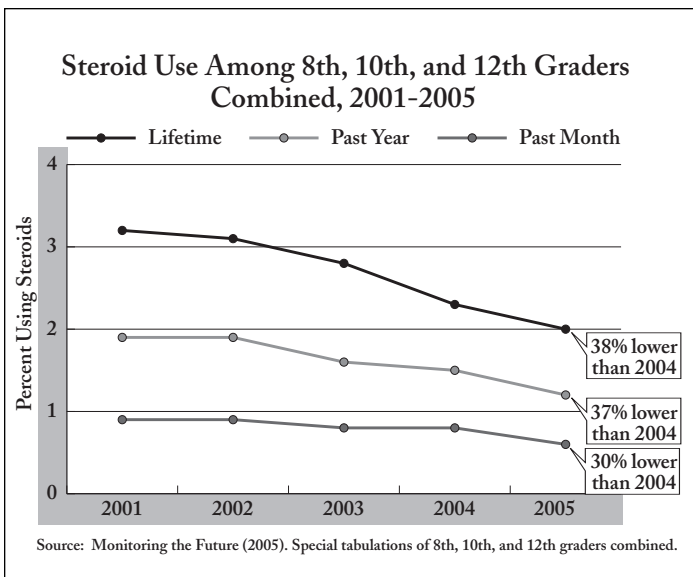
- Steroid use has dropped dramatically among young people since 2001, particularly in the past year. According to the survey, the use of steroids by 8th, 10th, and 12th graders was down 38 percent for lifetime use, 37 percent for past-year use, and 30 percent for past-month use.
- Although marijuana remains the most commonly used illicit drug among teens, usage rates are declining. Since 2001, marijuana use among 8th, 10th, and 12th graders combined dropped 13 percent for lifetime use, 15 percent for past-year use, and 19 percent for past-month use. Current use of marijuana decreased 28 percent (from 9.2 percent among 8th graders to 6.6 percent) and 23 percent among 10th graders (from 19.8 percent to 15.2 percent).
- There has been a steep decline in LSD use since 2001. Current use of LSD dropped approximately 50 percent among 8th graders (from 1.0 percent to 0.5 percent), 60 percent among 10th graders (from 1.5 percent to 0.6 percent), and 70 percent among 12th graders (from 2.3 percent to 0.7 percent).
- Use of Ecstasy (MDMA) has declined by nearly two thirds since 2001. Current use dropped 66 percent among 8th graders (from 1.8 percent to 0.6 percent), 61 percent among 10th graders (from 2.6 percent to 1.0 percent), and approximately 64

percent among 12th graders (from 2.8 percent to 1.0 percent).

- The use of certain other club drugs has also decreased, including rohypnol, GHB, and ketamine.
- In addition, consumption of alcohol and cigarettes by minors is down, including the rate of young people reporting being drunk.

The President’s strategy has an impressive record of accomplishment, but important work remains to be done. *Monitoring the Future* reports that cocaine and heroin use, while low, has remained stable. And prescription drug abuse remains troubling. Oxycontin, a prescription drug used as a painkiller, is the only drug for which the survey reports an increase in use across all three age groups: past-year use increased from 2.7 percent in 2002 to 3.4 percent in 2005, a 26 percent increase. (The survey began monitoring this drug in 2002.) And, despite the declines in use of many other drugs reported in the most recent survey, overall illicit drug use remains too high among America’s young people.

This year’s *National Drug Control Strategy* seeks to build on the progress that has already been made by outlining a balanced, integrated plan aimed at achieving the President’s goal of reducing drug use. Each pillar of the strategy is crucial, and each sustains the others. The three components are outlined in the following chapters.



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