

Inhalant Abuse in Maine High Risk Youth by Public Health District

What is being used: Inhalants include fuels (butane, propane, gasoline), solvents, paints and paint thinners, glues and adhesives, engine starting sprays, computer cleaners, permanent magic markers, dry erase markers, typewriter correction fluid, nail polish remover, dry-cleaning agents, certain gasses (from air conditioners and fire extinguishers, nitrous oxide from cans of whipped cream), air fresheners and any product packaged in an aerosol can.

Patterns of use: There are many patterns of inhalant abuse. These patterns vary across the State of Maine and by age, sex, and race/ethnicity. For some children, this is not just dangerous experimentation but an addiction. Use may start as early as the third grade. Younger children may just abuse inhalants while older youth are more likely to abuse inhalants with alcohol and other drugs.

Facts about inhalant abuse among Maine students grades six through twelve:[†]

<u>Lifetime Inhalant Use- Middle School by Public Health District</u>		<u>Lifetime Inhalant Use- High School by Public Health District</u>	
York	16.6%	Western	18.0%
Central	16.5%	Mid-Coast	17.7%
Mid-Coast	14.9%	Downeast	17.0%
Western	14.7%	Penquis	15.9%
Cumberland	14.6%	Central	15.5%
Aroostook	14.3%	York	15.5%
Penquis	14.1%	Cumberland	15.2%
Downeast	11.6%	Aroostook	14.6%

<u>Past Month Use-Middle School by Public Health District</u>		<u>Past Month Use- High School by Public Health District</u>	
York	12.3%	Downeast	11.4%
Downeast	11.8%	Mid-Coast	10.3%
Central	11.0%	Western	9.7%
Mid-Coast	10.9%	Central	9.4%
Penquis	10.7%	York	9.1%
Cumberland	10.6%	Penquis	8.9%
Western	9.4%	Cumberland	8.8%
Aroostook	9.3%	Aroostook	7.1%

[†] "2009 Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey," Maine Office of Substance Abuse, 2009.

Maine Inhalant Abuse Prevention Work Group

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For more information about inhalants please contact

Maine Office of Substance Abuse Information and Resource Center

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