Majority of U.S. Youths and Young Adults Who Have Used Club Drugs Have Used Three or More Types of Illicit Drugs

The majority of club drug users are multiple drug users, according to a recent analysis of data from the 2002 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Overall, 20% of youths and young adults ages 16 to 23 reported ever using at least one or more of the club drugs methamphetamine, MDMA, LSD, GHB, ketamine, or flunitrazepam. Nearly one-fifth (17%) of these lifetime club drug users reported using two different types of illicit drugs and 82% reported using three or more different types of drugs in their lifetime.* Users of GHB, ketamine, flunitrazepam, and methamphetamine were most likely to be multi-drug users—between 96% and 100% reported have ever used three or more types of illicit drugs. These findings are consistent with those of a study of multiple drug use among Maryland public high school students (see CESAR FAX, Volume 14, Issue 35), which found users of less common drugs were more likely to use multiple drugs.

Number of Types of Illicit Drugs Used by U.S. Club Drug Users Ages 16 to 23, 2002
(unweighted N=3,691)

*Drug types: cocaine, inhalants, marijuana, heroin, hallucinogens, sedatives, tranquilizers, pain relievers, and stimulants.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Wu, L.-T.; Schlenger, W.E.; and Glavin, D.M. Concurrent Use of Methamphetamine, MDMA, LSD, Ketamine, GHB, and Flunitrazepam Among American Youths, Drug and Alcohol Dependence, In Press, 2006. For more information, contact Dr. Li-Tzy Wu at litzywu@yahoo.com.