

# KETAMINE

Ketamine hydrochloride is a powerful hallucinogen that has a history of being used as a dissociative anesthetic; it has mostly been used as an animal tranquilizer in veterinarian offices. Keta-



mine comes in a clear liquid form or as a white powder. The powder form is usually snorted but can also be injected when dissolved. The liquid form of Ketamine was first used as an anesthetic on the battlefields during the Vietnam War. Liquid Ketamine, like its powder form, can be injected, but it can also be added and consumed in drinks; because of this, there have been reports of Ketamine being used as a date rape drug. Ketamine falls into the family of other “club drugs” that have become increasingly popular among teens and young adults in the rave scene. Street names for the drug include K, Special K, vitamin K, jet, super acid, cat Valium, and green.

## EFFECTS

Ketamine is a rapid acting anesthetic that may produce hallucinations such as visual distortions, and a lost sense of time and/or identity. Low doses of Ketamine can result in impaired memory, learning ability, and attention. Higher doses of the drug can result in cognitive difficulties and more harmful consequences including delirium, amnesia, impaired motor function and even fatal respiratory problems.



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INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
Bloomington



**DEPARTMENT OF  
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School of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation  
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The Indiana Prevention Resource Center is operated by the Department of Applied Health Science, School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation at Indiana University. Funded, in part, by a contract with the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Mental Health and Addiction, financially supported through Health and Human Services/Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant.

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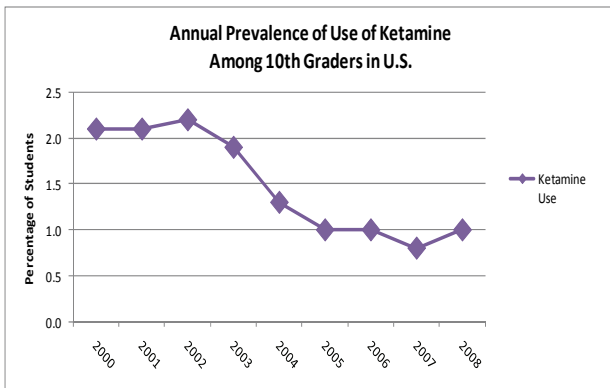
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## INCIDENCE & PREVALENCE

In 2001, the Indiana Drug Threat Assessment, conducted by the National Drug Intelligence Center, stated that other dangerous drugs, including Ecstasy, GHB, and Ketamine, were becoming increasingly popular among teenagers and young people, especially in college towns statewide. In 2008, the Drug Enforcement Agency Indiana fact sheet indicated that club drugs, including Ketamine, were not a significant problem and that abuse of these drugs has remained relatively stable. Nationally, the annual prevalence of use of Ketamine among 10<sup>th</sup> graders has been declining since 2002 and has remained relatively stable since 2005.



Source: 2008 Monitoring the Future Survey, Univ. of Michigan

## LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

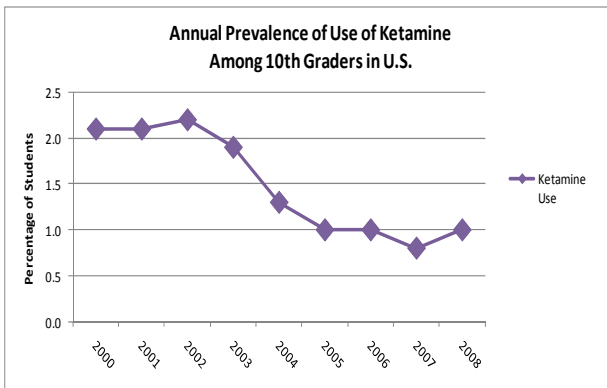
The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has classified Ketamine as a Schedule III drug under the Controlled Substances Act of 1970. This means that Ketamine has currently accepted medical uses in the U.S. and has potential for abuse but less than that of Schedule I or Schedule II drugs. Its abuse, however, can still lead to dependence on the drug, whether physical or psychological.

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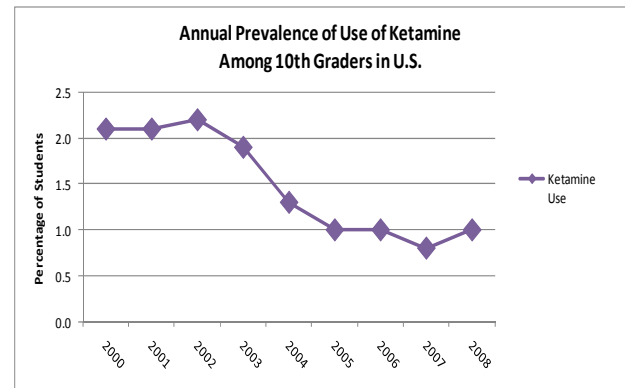
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