According to combined data from the 2006 to 2008 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUHs), 6.9 percent of 12 year olds have used an inhalant to get high or to make them feel good. This exceeds the rate of use of cigarettes, marijuana, hallucinogens, and cocaine, as well as the rate of nonmedical use of prescription drugs. Only alcohol had a higher rate of use. This same pattern was found among both girls and boys.

Inhalants are legal, everyday products—such as spray paints, glue, and gasoline—the vapors of which can be inhaled intentionally to get high. When used as intended, these products are harmless; however, when they are used as inhalants, they can be dangerous and even deadly.