

WHEREAS, the deliberate inhalation of vapors, fumes, and gases by school-age children has still been prominent, but decreasing in specific age groups, currently affecting approximately one ninth of school-age children;¹

WHEREAS, approximately 16.1% of 8th graders, 13.3% of 10th graders, and 11.1% of 12 graders reported using inhalants during their lifetime;¹

WHEREAS, prior to grade eight, inhalant abuse is more common than marijuana use²

WHEREAS, legally available substances with breathable chemical vapors are abused by the methods of huffing, sniffing, bagging and/or ballooning with paraphernalia not commonly associated with drug abuse thus possibly being overlooked or not recognized as dangerous;²

WHEREAS, a variety of legally available household products that can be abused by inhalation are accessible to youth;⁵

WHEREAS, inhalants are a cheap and accessible alternative to alcohol;²

WHEREAS, inhalation of legally available products or substances can lead to serious damage to the brain and major organs, such as the liver, kidneys and bone marrow;^{2,3,4} and

WHEREAS, "sudden sniffing death" or suffocation can result from even a single inhalant use.^{2,3,4}

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the American School Health Association calls upon health and education professionals and parents to make eliminating inhalant use a priority by:

1) becoming informed about inhalant abuse to better educate their colleagues, students, parents, school staff/authorities, and community;

2) encouraging school authorities to educate staff, students, and parents concerning inhalant abuse through coordinated school health programming; and

3) encouraging school authorities to prohibit inappropriate use, possession, or sale of inhalant substances on school grounds as part of their overall district policies and procedures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: the American School health Association calls upon local businesses and community groups to prevent and reduce the incidence of inhalant abuse through monitoring of sales of potential inhalants to minors.

References

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