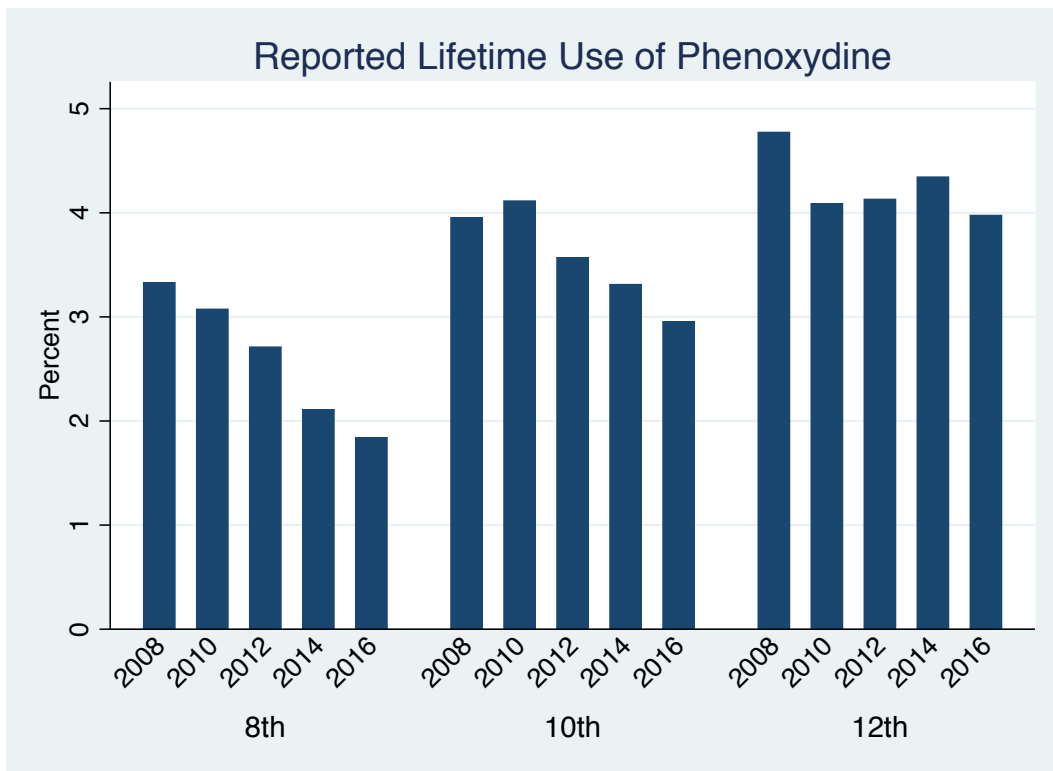


Changes in Analysis Methods to the Arizona Youth Survey 2016 Reports

In previous years, the Arizona Youth Survey data was analyzed on a subset of respondents. This subset included most respondents who replied that they had not used the drug Phenoxydine, which is not an actual substance. The theory was that by removing individuals who claimed to use an imaginary substance, the results for other substances would be better estimations.

In the 2016 round, we decided to include all responses, regardless of their answer to using Phenoxydine. We do this to include all data and not make assumptions about how responses to one item influence responses to other items. Naturally, this does increase the prevalence rates of substance use to a certain degree because it is plausible that some youth are not truthful. However, given the choice between removing between 1,300 and 1,425 cases based on a large assumption and keeping those cases with fewer assumptions, we choose to let the data speak for themselves and include all cases.

It should be noted that reported use of Phenoxydine has decreased over time for all grades since 2008, and so it is overall less of an issue.



Because of the change in methodology, we caution users to not make direct comparisons between previous reports and the current report.