

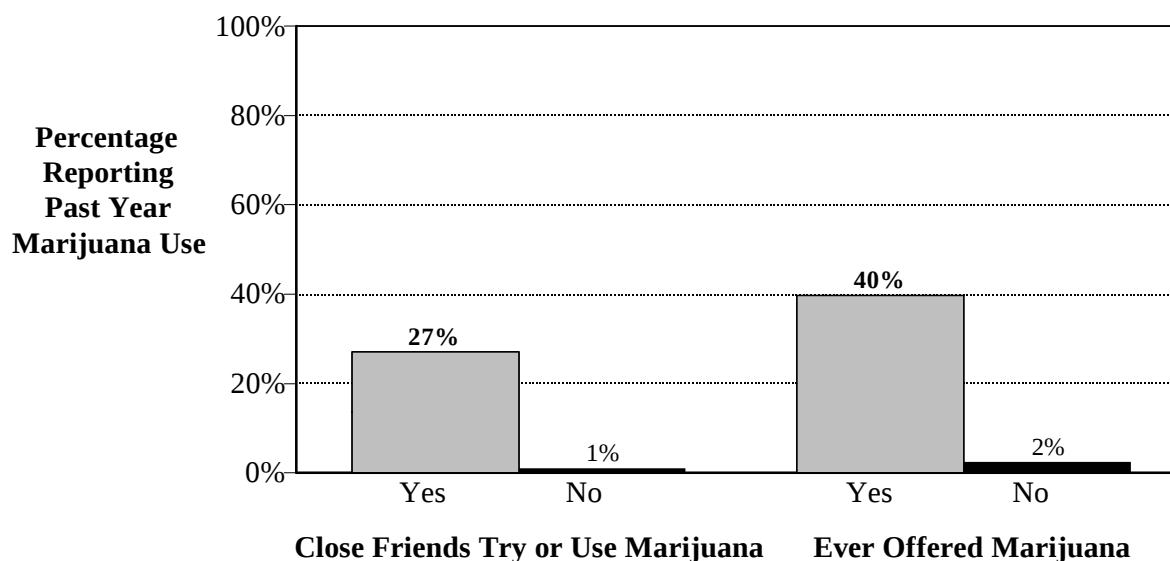
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Teen Marijuana Use Influenced Most by Friends' Use and Availability

According to an analysis of data from the 1997 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, the risk factors most associated with past-year marijuana use are having friends that use marijuana or being offered the drug. Nearly one-third of adolescents with friends who had tried or used marijuana reported that they had used marijuana in the past year, compared to only 1% of those who did not have friends using the drug. Forty percent of adolescents who had ever been offered marijuana reported past year use, compared to 2% of those who had never been offered marijuana. Other risk factors found to be strongly related to marijuana use were friends' positive attitudes towards marijuana use, ease of access to the drug, and a perception that marijuana use was associated with low risk.

Percentage of U.S. Household Residents (Ages 12-17) Reporting Past Year Marijuana Use, by Friends' Use of Marijuana and by Those Ever Offered Marijuana, 1997



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Lane L., Gerstein D., Huang L., Wright D., *Risk and Protective Factors for Adolescent Drug Use: Findings from the 1997 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse*, Analytic Series: A-12, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Rockville, Md., February 2001. Available online at www.samhsa.gov/oas/NHSDA/NAC97/Table_of_Contents.htm. For more information, contact Doug Wright at dwright@samhsa.gov or (301) 443-7982.