

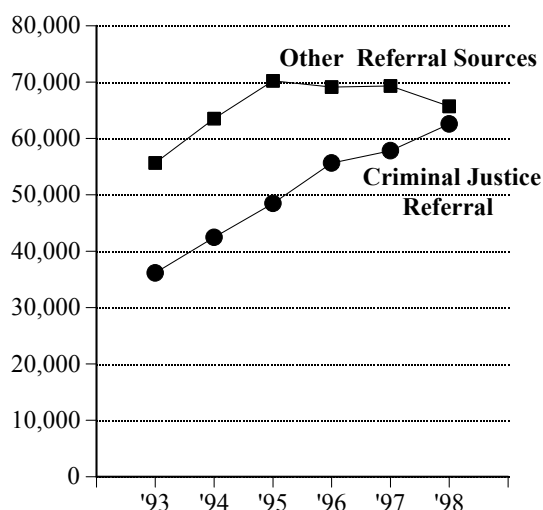
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

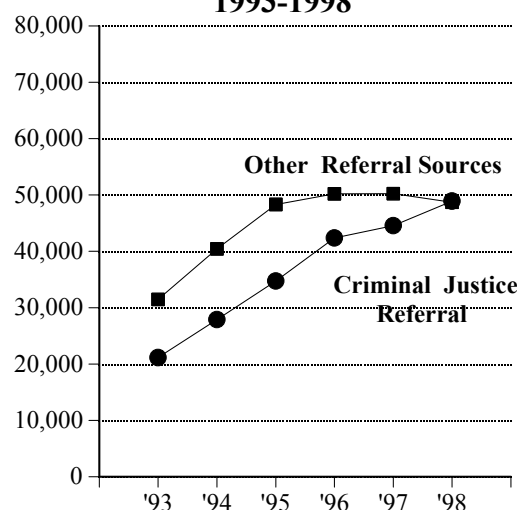
Significant Increase in Criminal Justice-Referred Youth Treatment Admissions Fueled by Marijuana

Between 1993 and 1998 the number of youths referred for substance abuse treatment by the criminal justice system increased by 73% while admissions from other referral sources remained relatively stable, according to data from the Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS). This increase was primarily driven by marijuana-involved admissions referred from the criminal justice system. Criminal justice-referred treatment admissions involving the use of marijuana as either a primary or secondary drug more than doubled from 1993 (21,148) to 1998 (48,919), while marijuana-related referrals from other sources reached a plateau around 1995. Several factors may explain this increase in marijuana-related criminal justice referrals, including “increased use of marijuana, increased resources for treatment of youth marijuana use, and increased referral to treatment instead of jail for marijuana-related offenses” (p. 2).

Number of Youth Treatment Admissions, by Referral Source, 1993-1998



Number of Youth Treatment Admissions Involving Marijuana Use, by Referral Source, 1993-1998



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Coerced Treatment Among Youths: 1993-1998*, The DASIS Report, August 10, 2001. Available online at www.samhsa.gov/oas/coercedTX.cfm.