

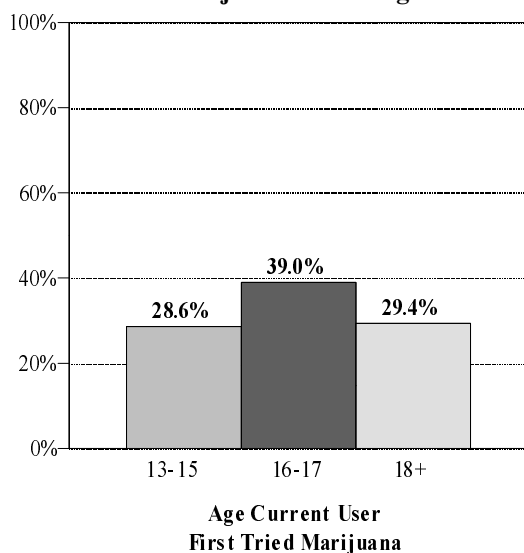
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

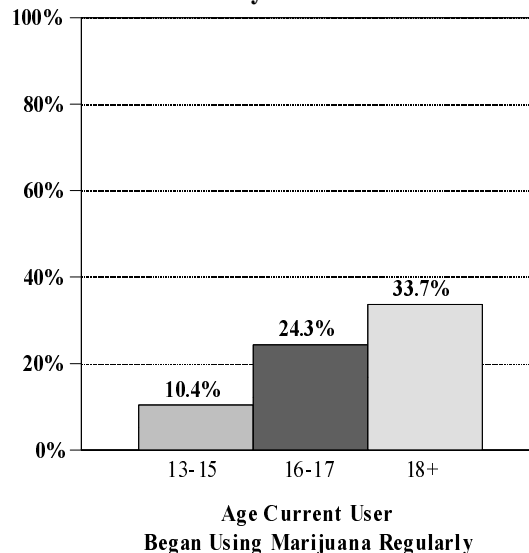
About One-Third of Marijuana-Using College Students Do Not Begin Using Regularly Until Age 18 or Older

A study examining patterns of marijuana use among U.S. college students found that while the majority of students who use marijuana started using prior to age 18, many users did not start using regularly until they were 18 or older. Just over one-third of college students who had used marijuana in the past 30 days reported that they started using marijuana regularly when they were age 18 or older, compared to 24% who started regular use at age 16 or 17 and 10% who started at ages 13 to 15. The authors point out that "...the findings demonstrate the need for intervention efforts to be carried out in the college years to prevent experimental illicit drug users from becoming regular users" (p. 1666).

While the Majority of U.S. College Students Who Use Marijuana First Tried Marijuana Before Age 18...



... Many Current Users Did Not Start Using Marijuana Regularly Until They Were 18 or Older



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Gledhill-Hoyt J., Lee H., Strote J., Wechsler H., "Increased Use of Marijuana and Other Illicit Drugs at US Colleges in the 1990s: Results of Three National Surveys," *Addiction* 95(11):1655-1667, 2000.

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