

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

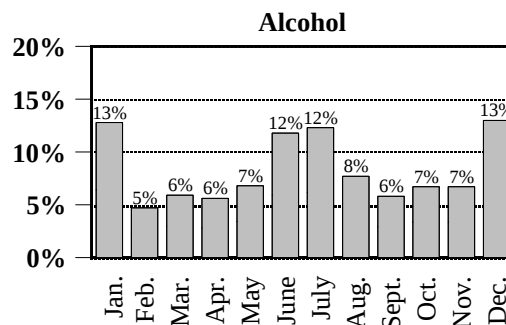
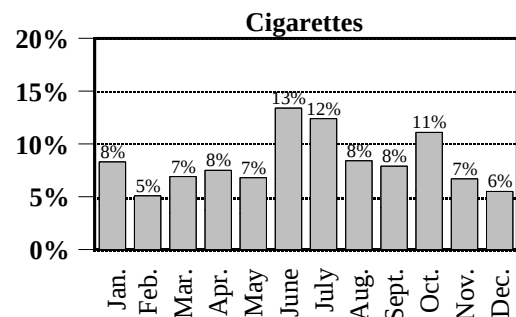
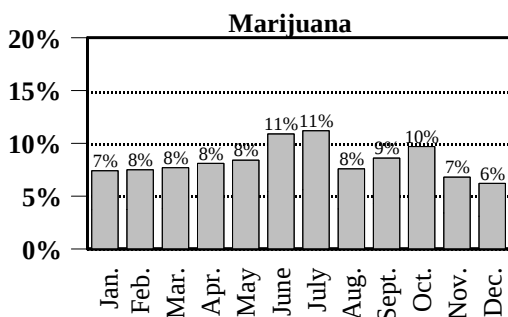
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Youths More Likely to Try Alcohol, Cigarettes, and Marijuana for First Time During Summer

Youths who recently initiated the use of marijuana, cigarettes, and alcohol reported the increased rates of initiation to these substances primarily during the summer months of June and July, according to a recent analysis of data from the 2002 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). For both new users of marijuana and cigarettes, initiation was highest during June and July, with another slight increase occurring in October. Alcohol also had high rates of initiation in June and July (12% each month), yet also had high rates of first time use in January and December (13% each month). It is possible that the increases in first-time use during the summer months corresponds with a lack of supervised and structured activities. Previous research shows that unsupervised youths are more likely to engage in risky behaviors, including alcohol and other drug use.*

Percentage of Initiates Among Persons Who Recently Initiated Marijuana, Cigarette, or Alcohol Use When Younger Than Age 18, by Month, 2002

(N = 7,287 persons who initiated use within the past year and who reported their month of first use)



*e.g., Borawski, EA, et al., "Parental monitoring, negotiated unsupervised time, and parental trust: the role of perceived parenting practices in adolescent health risk behaviors," *Journal of Adolescent Health* 33(2):60-70, 2003; Cottrell, L et al., "Parent and adolescent perceptions of parental monitoring and adolescent risk involvement," *Parenting: Science and Practice* 3(3):179-195, 2003.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), "Seasonality of Youth's First-Time Use of Marijuana, Cigarettes, or Alcohol," *The National Survey on Drug Use and Health Report*, June 4, 2004. Available online at <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k4/season/season.cfm>.

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