

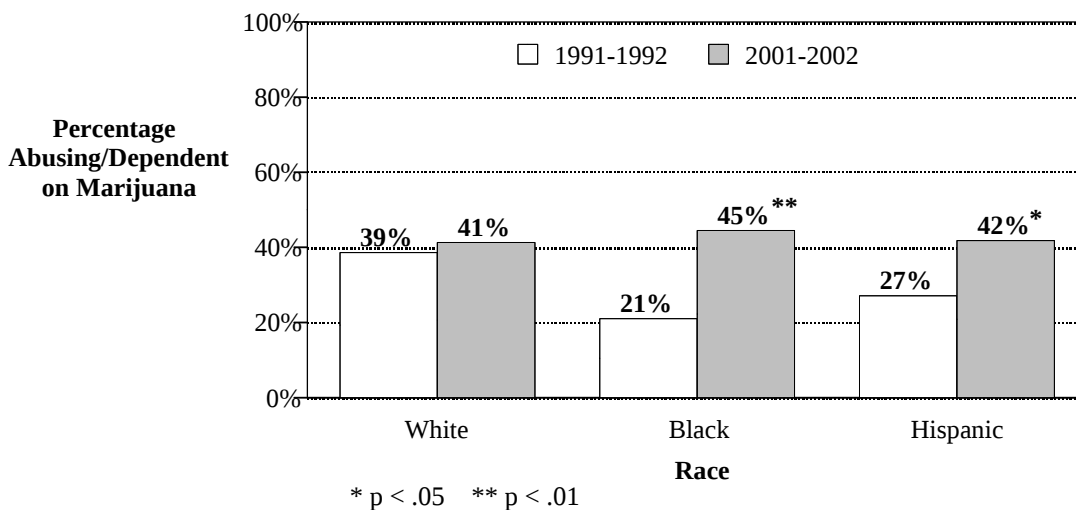
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Marijuana Abuse and Dependence Among Black and Hispanic Young Adults Increased Over Past Decade; Rates Now Equal Those of Whites

Black and Hispanic young adults now have the same rates of marijuana use disorders as their white counterparts, according to data from two national surveys of U.S. residents conducted ten years apart. The percentage of black adults age 18 to 29 who met the criteria for marijuana abuse or dependence more than doubled, increasing from 21% in 1991-1992 to 45% in 2001-2002. Similar increases occurred among Hispanic young adults (from 27% to 42%). In contrast, the percentage of white adults diagnosed with marijuana abuse or dependence did not increase significantly over this period, remaining at around 40%. According to the authors, numerous demographic, economic, and lifestyle factors may be related to the increases in marijuana use disorders in these minority populations.

Percentage of Past-Year Marijuana Users Age 18 to 29 with Marijuana Abuse or Dependence in Past Year, 1991-1992 and 2001-2002



NOTES: Data are from the 1991-1992 National Longitudinal Alcohol Epidemiologic Survey (NLAES) (n = 42,862) and the 2001-2002 National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions (NESARC) (n=43,093). Criteria for marijuana abuse and dependence are based on *DSM-IV* criteria.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Compton, W., Grant, B., Collier, J., Glantz, M., and Stinson, F. "Prevalence of Marijuana Use Disorders in the United States," *Journal of American Medical Association* 291(17):2114-2121, 2004. For more information, contact Dr. Wilson M. Compton at wcompton@nida.nih.gov.