

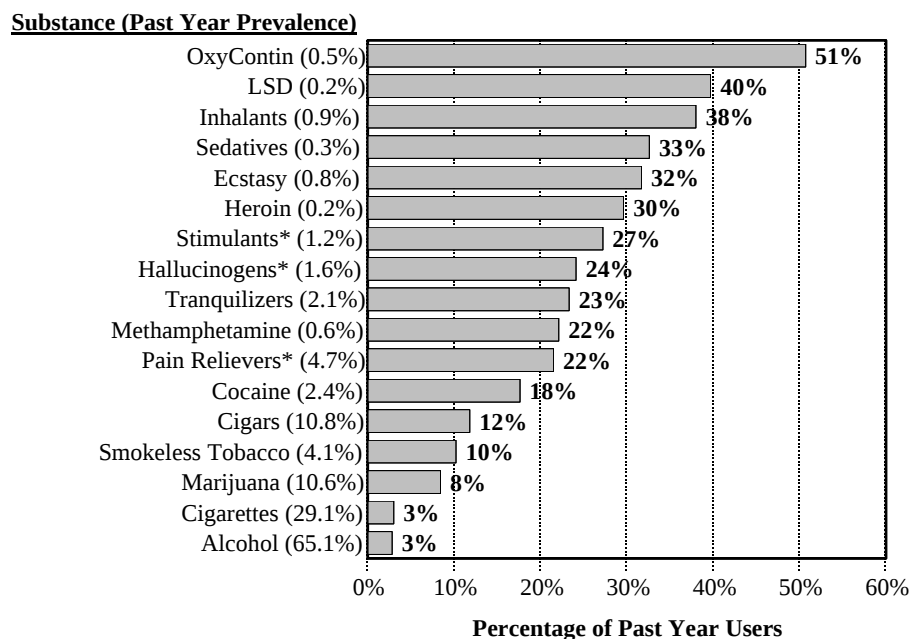
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

More than One-Third of Persons Who Used OxyContin®, LSD, and Inhalants in the Past Year Were First-Time Users

While less than one percent of persons had used OxyContin, LSD, or inhalants in the past year, more than one-third of these users were first-time users, according to data released last week from the 2004 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). More than 25% of persons who used sedatives, ecstasy, heroin, or stimulants in the past year had used the drug for the first time. As would be expected, first-time users comprised a very small percentage of the past year users of the most commonly used drugs, such as alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana. Although the estimated total number of users of many of these drugs is relatively small, a high rate of new use among past year users could precede a rise in use. According to the report, “Measures of initiation are often leading indicators of emerging patterns of substance use. They provide valuable information that can be used in the assessment of the effectiveness of current prevention programs and in determining where prevention efforts need to focus” (p. 45).

Percentage of Past Year Substance Users Who Were First-Time Users, U.S. Household Residents Age 12 or Older, 2004



*Some drugs occur in more than one category. The drug category “hallucinogens” includes LSD and ecstasy; “pain relievers” includes OxyContin; and “stimulants” includes methamphetamine.

NOTE: Beginning with the 2004 NSDUH, estimates for each year of substance use initiation are produced independently based on the data from the survey conducted that year, which should reduce recall bias. Previously, initiation estimates were based on questions about age and month at first use, which were subject to bias due to long recall periods.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Results from the 2004 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings*, September 2005. Available online at <http://oas.samhsa.gov/nsduh.htm#NSDUHinfo>.

•• 301-405-9770 (voice) •• 301-403-8342 (fax) •• CESAR@cesar.umd.edu •• www.cesar.umd.edu ••
CESAR FAX may be copied without permission. Please cite CESAR as the source.

The Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention funded this project under grant BJAG 2005-1206. All points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of any State agency.