

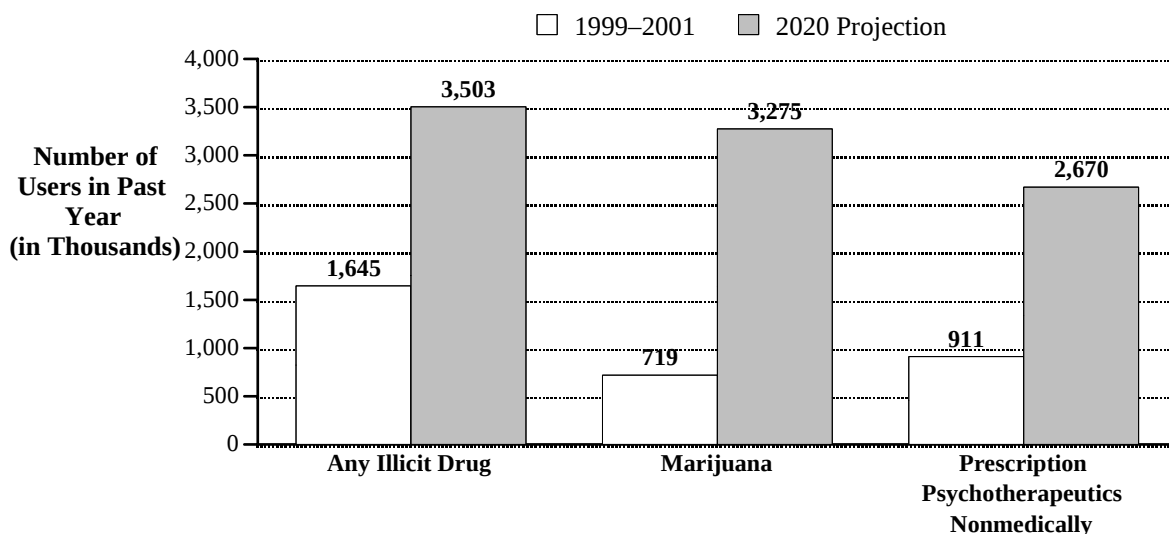
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Aging Baby-Boom Generation May Result in Increased Number of Older Adults Using Drugs

The number of older adults using drugs will increase dramatically as the baby-boom generation ages, according to an analysis of data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health. The number of adults ages 50 and older using illicit drugs in the past year is projected to increase from 1.6 million in 1999–2001 to 3.5 million in 2020. Even larger increases are projected for past year marijuana use and the nonmedical use of prescription psychotherapeutics (i.e., analgesics, tranquilizers, stimulants, or sedatives; see figure below). The projected increases are due to “an anticipated 52% increase in population in that age group and a projected increase in the rate of past-year use as more persons from younger higher-drug-using cohorts reach the age of 50 years” (p. 262). According to the authors, these findings suggest a “need for improved knowledge of the biomedical and psychosocial effects of nonmedical drug use on aging and elderly individuals” (p. 257).

Number (in Thousands) of Adults Ages 50 and Older Using Any Illicit Drug, Marijuana, or Prescription Psychotherapeutics Nonmedically in the Past Year, 1999–2001 and 2020



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Colliver, J.D.; Compton, W.M.; Gfroerer, J.C.; and Condon, T. “Projecting Drug Use Among Aging Baby Boomers in 2020,” *Annals of Epidemiology* 16(4):257-265, 2006. For more information, contact Dr. Wilson Compton at wcompton@nida.nih.gov.

New Job Announcement:

CESAR Seeking PhD-Level Candidate to Analyze Data on Alcohol Use Among College Students

CESAR is seeking a Research Associate to analyze and publish data from an ongoing, longitudinal prospective survey of alcohol use among college students. A PhD-level candidate with post-doctorate experience in public health and/or epidemiology is preferred. If you are interested in working in a supportive and stimulating, university-based team environment, please send a letter of interest and a resume to Dr. Amelia Arria at CESAR, 4321 Hartwick Rd, Ste 501, College Park, MD 20740; 301-403-8342 (fax); cesar@cesar.umd.edu.

•• 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.