

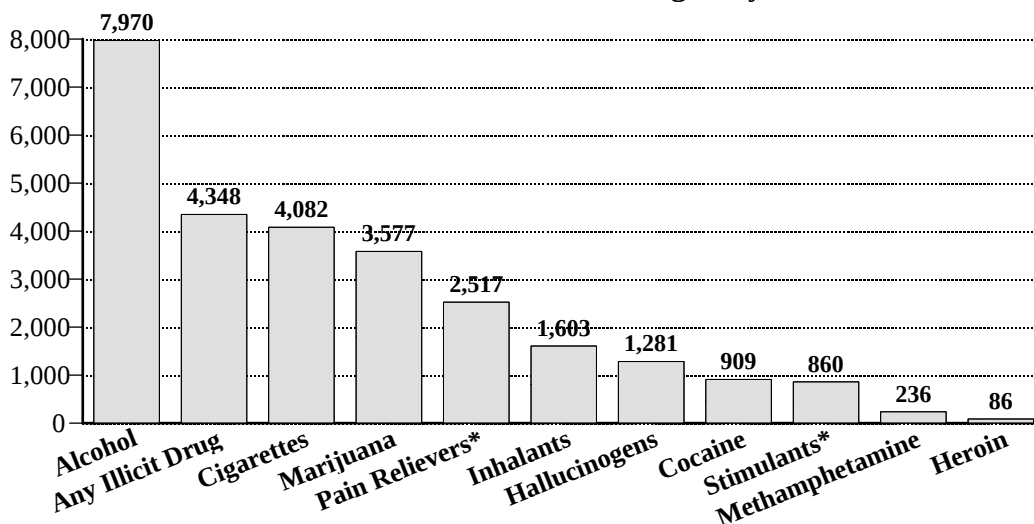
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Nearly 8,000 Youths Drink Alcohol for the First Time on An Average Day; More than 4,000 Use Illicit Drugs for the First Time

Thousands of youths use alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs for the first time each day in the United States, according to a recent analysis of data from the 2006 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). On an average day in the past year, 7,970 youths ages 12 to 17 drank alcohol for the first time and 4,082 smoked cigarettes. More than 4,300 youths per day used at least one kind of illicit drug for the first time, primarily marijuana (3,577 new initiates on an average day) and used pain relievers used nonmedically (2,517 new initiates). The substances with the lowest number of initiates on an average day were methamphetamine (236) and heroin (86). A copy of the report, which also describes average daily substance use prevalence and treatment admissions by youth, is available online at <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k7/youthFacts/youth.cfm>.

**Number of U.S. Youths Ages 12 to 17 Who Used Substances
for the First Time on an Average Day, 2006**



*Nonmedical use of pain relievers and stimulants.

NOTE: The number of youths who use a substance for the first time on an average day was calculated by summing the weighted counts of respondents ages 12 to 17 who initiated substance use in the past year and dividing by 365.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies, "A Day in the Life of American Adolescents: Substance Use Facts," *The OAS Report*, October 18, 2007.

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