

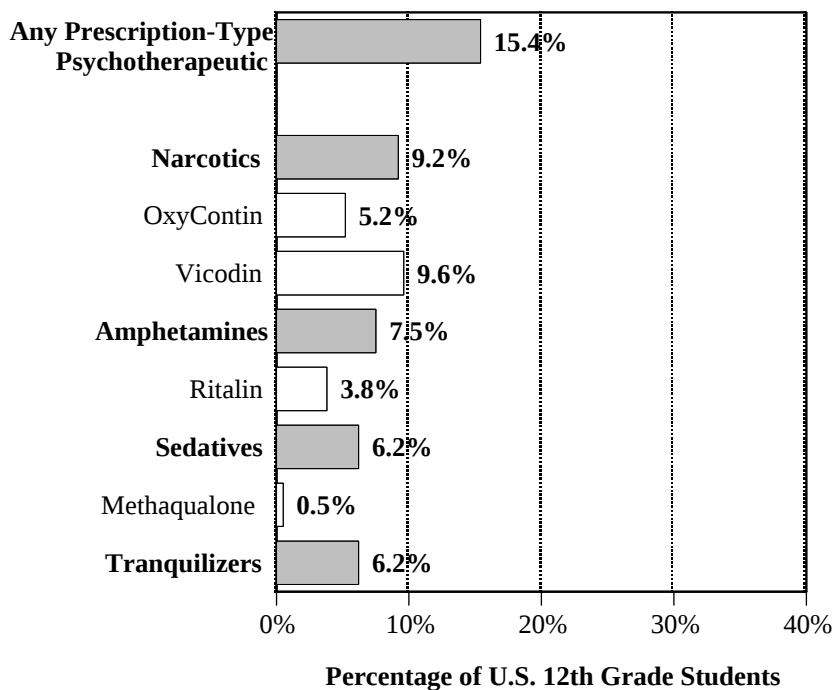
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

15% of U.S. 12th Graders Have Used Prescription Drugs Nonmedically in the Past Year

The nonmedical use of prescription-type drugs continues to be a problem among 12th grade students, according to data from the 2007 national Monitoring the Future survey. Fifteen percent of 12th graders reported the nonmedical use of at least one prescription medication within the past year. Narcotic drugs, such as OxyContin® and Vicodin®, were the most prevalent (9.2%), followed by amphetamines (7.5%), sedatives (6.2%), and tranquilizers (6.2%). With the exception of amphetamines, the nonmedical use of these prescription-type drugs has gradually increased among this population over the past decade (data not shown).

**Percentage of U.S. 12th Grade Students Reporting Any Past Year
Nonmedical Use of Prescription-Type Psychotherapeutic Drugs, 2007**



NOTE: Clear bars in the chart represent drugs asked about in the survey that are subcategories of the drug above. For example, Ritalin is a type of amphetamine.

SOURCES: Adapted by CESAR from National Institutes of Health, "NIDA Survey Shows a Decline in Smoking and Illicit Drug Use Among Eighth Graders," NIDA press release, December 11, 2007 (available online at <http://www.nida.nih.gov/newsroom/07/NR12-11.html>) and University of Michigan, "Overall, Illicit Drug Use by American Teens Continues Gradual Decline in 2007," Monitoring the Future press release, December 11, 2007 (available online at <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org>).

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