

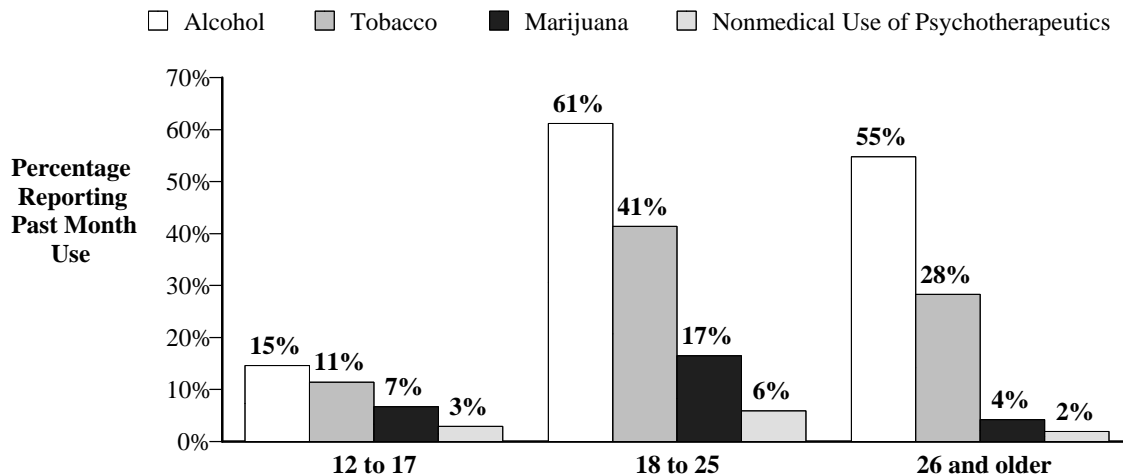
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Alcohol, Tobacco, Marijuana, and Prescription Drugs
Most Prevalent Substances Used Across All Age Groups in U.S.

The most popular substances used by U.S. residents is the same at all ages, according to data released last week from the 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). Alcohol is the most prevalent substance, followed by tobacco, marijuana, and the nonmedical use of psychotherapeutics* (primarily pain relievers). Among 18 to 25 year olds—the age group with the highest rates of substance use—61% reported using alcohol in the past month, 41% reported tobacco use, 17% reported marijuana use and 6% reported the nonmedical use of psychotherapeutic drugs. All other drugs were used by less than 1% of each age group, with the exception of cocaine use among 18 to 25 year olds (1.5%). The 2008 NSDUH report is available online at <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov>.

Most Prevalent Substances Used in the Past Month by U.S. Residents, by Age Group, 2008
(N=68,736)



*Nonmedical use of prescription-type psychotherapeutics includes the nonmedical use of pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, or sedatives and does not include over-the-counter drugs.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies, *Results from the 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings*, 2009.

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