

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

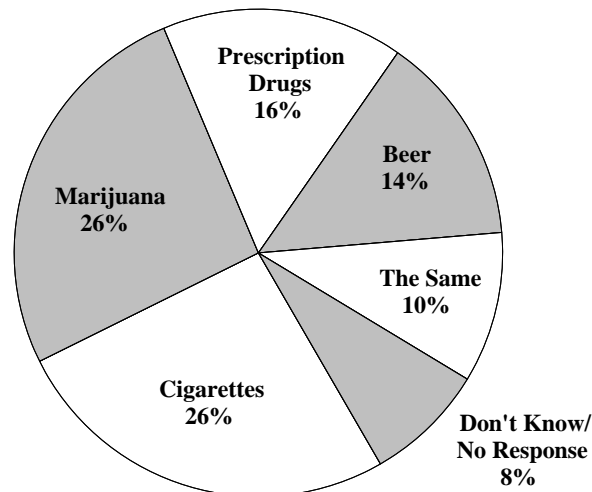
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Teens Cite Cigarettes and Marijuana as the Easiest Substances For Them to Buy

Teens are equally likely to say that cigarettes or marijuana are the easiest for them to buy, according to data from the 2009 National Survey on American's Attitudes on Substance Abuse. Slightly more than one-fourth (26%) of teens said that cigarettes were the easiest for someone their age to buy and the same percentage cited marijuana. The third most prevalent response was prescription drugs (16%), followed by beer (14%). Ten percent of teens reported that they thought all four substances were equally easy to buy. When the parents of these teens were asked which substance they thought was easier for teens their child's age to buy, more than one-third reported cigarettes (37%), 22% reported marijuana, 12% reported beer, and only 9% reported prescription drugs (data not shown).

Percentage of Teens (Ages 12 to 17) Reporting Which Substance Is the Easiest for Someone Their Age to Buy*, 2009

(n=1,000 teens)



*Teen respondents were asked, "Which is easiest for someone your age to buy: cigarettes, beer, marijuana, or prescription drugs such as Oxycontin, Percocet, Vicodin or Ritalin, without a prescription?" Parent respondents were asked "Which is easiest for someone your teenager's age to buy..."

NOTES: Data are from a random sample of households in the 48 continental states who had a youth ages 12 to 17 living in the household. Telephone interviews were conducted between March 2 and April 5, 2009 with 1,000 teens and between March 21 and April 10, 2009 with 452 parents of interviewed teens. The margin of error is +/-3.1 percent for the teen survey and +/-4.6 percent for the parent survey.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA), *National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse XIV: Teens and Parents*, August 2009. Available online at <http://www.casacolumbia.org/absolutenm/articlefiles/380-2009%20Teen%20Survey%20Report.pdf>.

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