

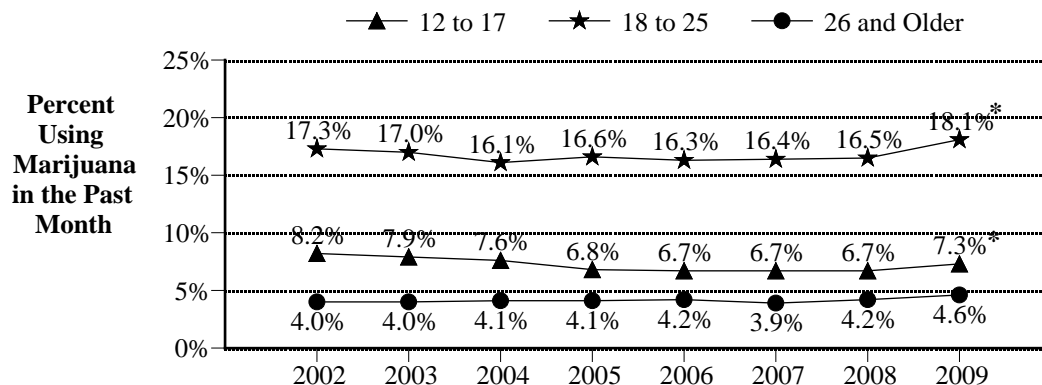
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Current Marijuana Use Among Youth and Young Adults Increases for First Time Since 2002

The percentage of youth and young adults reporting past month marijuana use increased slightly for the first time since 2002, according to recently released data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). In 2009, 7.3% of 12- to 17-year-olds and 18.1% of 18- to 25-year-olds reported using marijuana in the past month, compared to 6.7% and 16.5%, respectively, in 2008. While these statistically significant differences are slight, they mirror recent increases in marijuana use found by the national Monitoring the Future survey of high school youth (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 19, Issue 2). The NSDUH also found that less than one-half (49.3%) of youth ages 12 to 17 now perceive a great harm in smoking marijuana once or twice a week, down from the most recent high of 55.0% in 2005. Research has shown that decreases in the perception of harm associated with use of a drug are often associated with increases in the use of that drug.

Percentage of U.S. Residents Reporting Past Month Marijuana Use, by Age, 2002 to 2009



NOTES: The NSDUH is an annual survey of a representative sample of the civilian, noninstitutionalized population of the United States aged 12 years old or older, conducted through face-to-face interviews at the respondent's place of residence. The survey excludes homeless persons who do not use shelters, military personnel on active duty, and residents of institutional group quarters (such as jails and hospitals).

*Difference between the 2009 and 2008 estimate is statistically significant at the $p \leq .05$ level.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), *Results from the 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Volume I, Summary of National Findings*, September, 2010. Available online at <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/nsduhLatest.htm>.

First National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day to Be Held Saturday, September 25th

On Saturday, September 25th, 2010, collection sites around the country will take any expired, unused, or unwanted prescription drugs for safe, legal, and environmentally-friendly disposal. Sponsored by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and government, community, public health, and law enforcement partners, this initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Studies have shown that a majority of prescription drugs are easily obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet.

Go to www.dea.gov to view collection sites in your local community.