

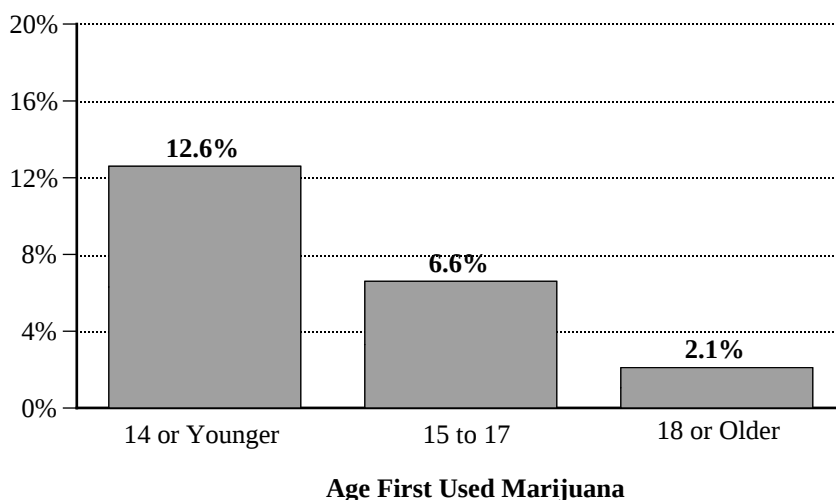
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Early Marijuana Use Related to Later Illicit Drug Abuse and Dependence

Adults who first started using marijuana at or before the age of 14 are most likely to have abused or been dependent on illicit drugs in the past year, according to data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). Adults who first used marijuana at age 14 or younger were six times more likely to meet the criteria for past year illicit drug abuse or dependence than those who first used marijuana when they were 18 or older (12.6% vs. 2.1%) and almost twice as likely as those who started between the ages of 15 and 17 (12.6% vs. 6.6%). Similar results have been found for early alcohol use (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 19, Issue 40) and the early non-medical use of prescription drugs (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 17, Issue 8).

Percentage of Adults (Ages 18 or Older) Who Abused or Were Dependent on Illicit Drugs in the Past Year, by Age of First Marijuana Use, 2009



NOTE: Abuse or dependence are defined using DSM-IV criteria.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Results from the 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Detailed Tables*, 2010. Available online at <http://oas.samhsa.gov/WebOnly.htm#NSDUHtabs>.

VHS Tapes of Lectures by Renowned Scientists Available

In the early 1990s, CESAR sponsored a series of lectures with leading scientists in the fields of substance abuse and criminal justice, including David Musto, Robert Dupont, Ethan Nadelmann, David Nurco, and James Inciardi. Limited supplies of VHS tapes of these CESAR Speaker Series lectures are now available for the cost of shipping and handling (\$5 per tape). Don't miss this chance to add these unique lectures to your library! See the CESAR website (www.cesar.umd.edu) for a list of available tapes and for ordering information.