

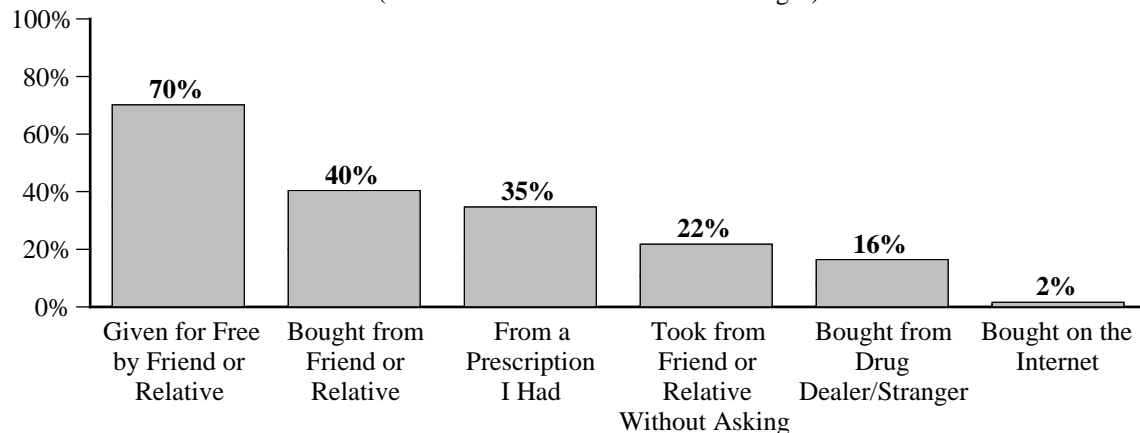
## A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

### *High School Seniors Who Misuse Prescription Narcotics Most Likely to Obtain Drugs from a Friend/Relative or a Personal Prescription*

Nearly one in ten U.S. 12<sup>th</sup> graders reported using prescription narcotics without a doctor's order in the past year, according to data from the 2011 Monitoring the Future survey. Users of prescription narcotics were most likely to report getting the drugs for free from friends or relatives (70%), followed by buying them from a friend or relative (40%), and getting them from their own prescription (35%). These findings are similar to those of the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), which asks about the use of prescription pain relievers that were not prescribed for the user or were used only for the experience or feeling the drug causes (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 20, Issue 41). Reducing the available supply of prescription drugs in households (e.g., through prescription drug takeback programs\*) and limiting over prescribing and doctor shopping (e.g., through prescription drug monitoring programs) may help reduce the diversion of prescription pain relievers for nonmedical use.

**Source of Narcotic Prescription Drugs Used Without a Doctor's Orders,  
Among U.S. 12<sup>th</sup> Graders Who Reported Use in the Past Year**  
(2009-2011 Combined Annual Averages)



NOTES: Percentages sum to more than 100% because respondents could indicate multiple sources from which they obtained narcotics other than heroin for past year use without a doctor's orders. The response option "Other Method" was reported by 11% of users of narcotics other than heroin.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from the University of Michigan, "Marijuana Use Continues to Rise Among U.S. Teens, While Alcohol Use Hits Historic Lows," Table 5: Source of Prescription Drugs, *Monitoring the Future Press Release*, December 14, 2011. Available online at <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/data/11data/pr11t5.pdf>.

#### **\*National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day to Be Held Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

As part of the DEA's 4<sup>th</sup> National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, collection sites around the country will take any expired, unused, or unwanted prescription drugs for safe, legal, and environmentally-friendly disposal. Visit [http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback/index.html](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html) to learn more and to view take-back locations.