

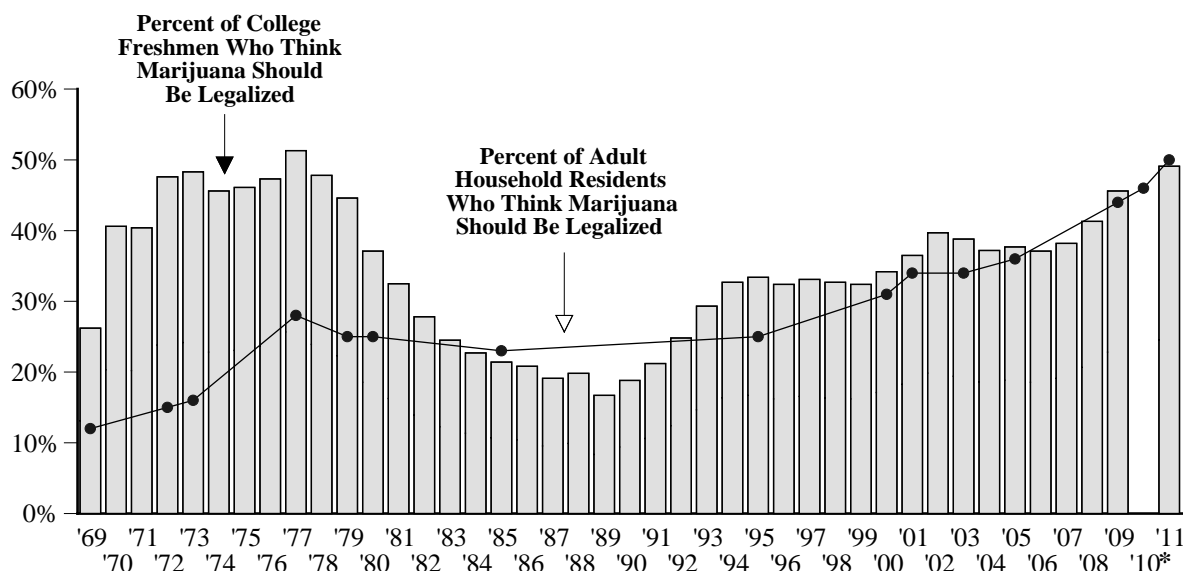
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

For the First Time One-Half of Both College Freshmen and Household Residents Believe That Marijuana Should be Legalized

One-half of both college freshmen and adult household residents in the believe that marijuana should be legalized, following a decade of increased support among both populations. In 2011, 49% of college freshmen reported that they though marijuana should be legalized, a percentage not seen since the record high of 51% in 1977. At that time, support by household residents for marijuana legalization was much lower, ranging from 15% to 28% during the 1970s. Since then, the percentage of household residents who think that marijuana should be legalized has increased, reaching a record high of 50% in 2011.

Percentage of U.S. College Freshmen and Household Residents (Ages 18 and Older) That Think Marijuana Should Be Legalized, 1969-2011



*In 2010 the CIRP Freshman Survey did not ask students of their views of whether marijuana should be legalized.

NOTES: College freshmen data are from the *CIRP Freshman Survey*, and are based on the responses of first-time, full-time first-year students entering a selected number of four-year colleges and universities in the United States. The data are statistically adjusted to reflect the responses of the number of actual first-time students. Household resident data are from the *Gallup Poll Social Series: Crime* survey, and are based on telephone interviews with a random sample of adults ages 18 and older living in the 50 U.S. States and the District of Columbia. Samples are weighted and the margin of error for the 2011 survey was ± 4 percentage points.

SOURCES: Adapted by CESAR from data from the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI), CIRP Freshmen Survey (available online at www.heri.ucla.edu); and Gallup, "Record-High 50% of Americans Favor Legalizing Marijuana Use," *Press Release*, October 17, 2011. Available online at <http://www.gallup.com/poll/150149/Record-High-Americans-Favor-Legalizing-Marijuana.aspx>.