

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

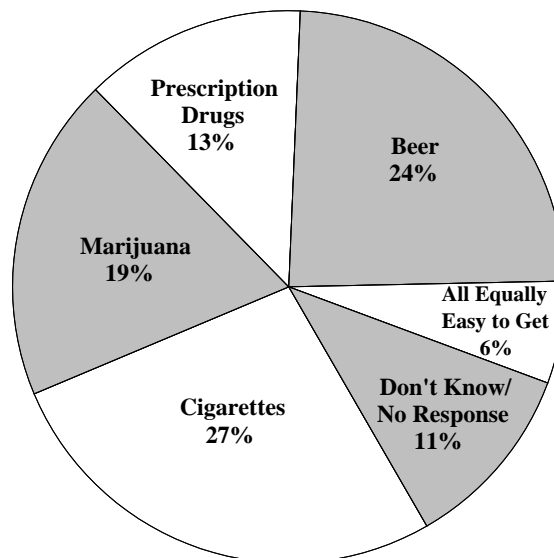
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Youths Cite Cigarettes and Beer as the Easiest Substances for Someone Their Age to Get

Youths are equally likely to say that cigarettes or beer are the easiest for them to obtain, according to data from the 2012 *National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse*. Slightly more than one-fourth (27%) of youths said that cigarettes were the easiest for someone their age to get while 24% cited beer. The third most prevalent response was marijuana (19%), followed by prescription drugs (13%). Slightly more youths say prescription drugs are easier to get than other drugs this year than in 2011 (13% vs. 10%), while slightly less say marijuana is easier to get (19% vs. 22%; data not shown). Previous research has shown that youths are most likely to obtain alcohol and prescription drugs from family members (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 20, Issue 9 and Volume 21, Issue 16).

Percentage of Youths Reporting Which Substance (Cigarettes, Beer, Marijuana, Prescription Drugs Without a Prescription) Is Easiest for Someone Their Age to Get*, 2012

(n=1,003 youths ages 12 to 17)



*Respondents were asked, "Which is easiest for someone your age to get: cigarettes, beer, marijuana, or prescription drugs without a prescription, drugs such as Oxycontin, Vicodin, Xanax or Ritalin?"

NOTES: Data are from a random sample of households in the 48 continental states who had a person ages 12 to 17 living in the household. Computer-assisted telephone interviews were conducted between April 18 and May 17, 2012 with 1,003 youths who were randomly selected from the nationally representative household sample frame. The margin of error is +/-3.1 percent at a 95 percent confidence level (unadjusted for weighting).

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 XVII: Teens*, 2012. Available online at <http://www.casacolumbia.org/upload/2012/20120822teensurvey.pdf>.