

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

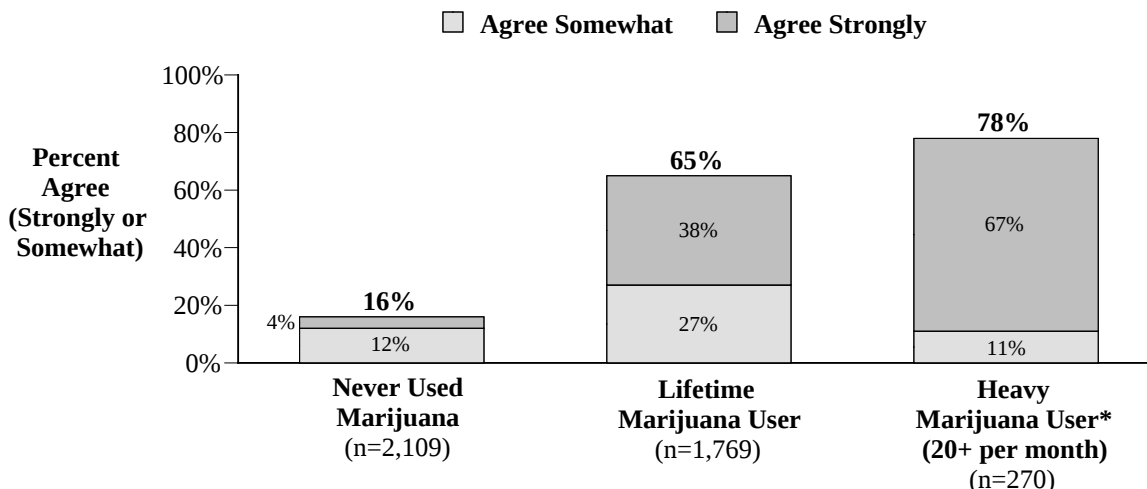
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Approximately Two-Thirds of Teens Who Already Use Marijuana Report That Legalizing the Drug Would Increase Their Likelihood of Using

Marijuana legalization would likely increase use among teens who already use marijuana, according to data from a survey of U.S. high school students. Nearly two-thirds (65%) of teens who reported using marijuana at least once in their lifetime said that legalizing the drug would make them more likely to use it. In addition, more than three-fourths (78%) of heavy marijuana users reported that legalizing the drug would make them more likely to use it. Only sixteen percent of teens who reported that they had never used marijuana agreed that they would be more likely to use marijuana if it were legal. According to the authors, "One possible scenario suggested by these data is that even if legalization does not drive up overall prevalence of teen marijuana use, it may lead to increased use among those already using, including teens who are already smoking marijuana almost daily" (p. 16). Both Colorado and Washington recently enacted laws legalizing small amounts of marijuana for recreational use by person over the age of 21.

"If Marijuana Were Legal I Would Be More Likely to Use It."

(Percent of High School Students Reporting They Agree Strongly or Somewhat, 2012)



*Heavy Marijuana Users are also included in the Lifetime Marijuana User category.

NOTE: Data are from the 2012 Partnership Attitude Tracking Study in-school survey of 3,884 students in grades 9 through 12, conducted from February to June 2012. The margin of error is +/- 2.1 percentage points.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from The Partnership for a Drug-Free America and the MetLife Foundation, *The Partnership Attitude Tracking Study (PATS): Teens and Parents*, 2013. Available online at <http://www.drugfree.org/newsroom/research-publication/full-report-and-key-findings-the-2012-partnership-attitude-tracking-study-sponsored-by-metlife-foundation>. For more information, contact Cassie Goldberg at 212-973-3524 or cassie_goldberg@drugfree.org.