

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

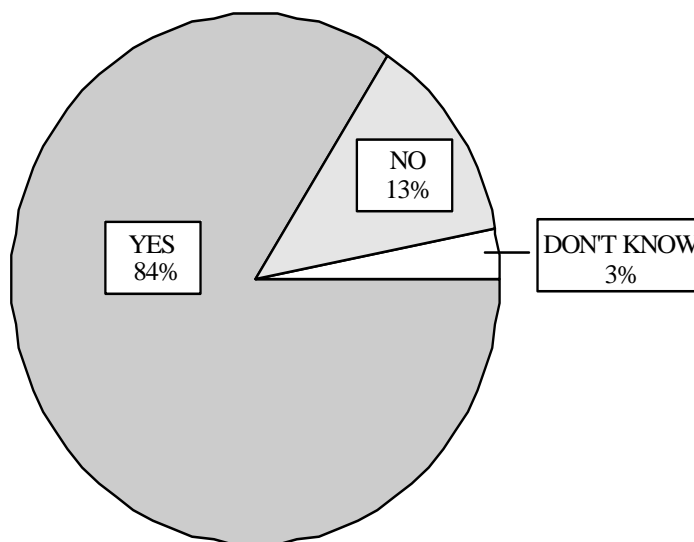
University of Maryland at College Park*

***Marijuana Use for Medicinal Purposes--
Supported by Majority of Marylanders, Maryland Court Now Faces Issue***

For the first time in Maryland, the medical-necessity defense of marijuana use may be brought before a jury. In November 1993, a Charles County man was charged with possession of 10 grams of marijuana and with manufacturing it with the intent to sell. He had been growing and using small amounts of the substance to lessen the side effects of an antiviral drug he was taking to treat his HIV infection. A Charles County Circuit Court judge has delayed judgment on whether a jury may hear this medical-necessity defense pending submission of further legal briefs.

The issue of medicinal use of marijuana was recently asked in a telephone poll of a representative sample of Maryland householders aged 18 and older. The poll, conducted for CESAR in the spring of 1994, found that 84% of Marylanders believe that physicians should be allowed to prescribe marijuana if it is proven to be effective in treating certain health conditions.

**If Marijuana Is Proven to Be Effective In Treating Some Health Conditions,
Do You Think Physicians Should Be Allowed To Prescribe It?**



SOURCE: "Marijuana as Medicine at Heart of Md. Case," The Washington Post, December 20, 1994, pp. D1, D3 and statewide telephone poll of adults aged 18 or older, conducted for CESAR by the University of Maryland Survey Research Center, College Park. (Margin of error in poll: $\pm 3\%$. N=1,018.)

**COMPILATION OF
MARYLAND SUBSTANCE ABUSE LAWS NOW AVAILABLE!**

The "Compilation of Maryland Alcohol, Controlled Dangerous Substance, and Tobacco Abuse Laws and Summary of 1991 - 1994 Legislation" includes statutory provisions, executive orders, and regulations that relate to controlled dangerous substances, alcohol, and tobacco.

To obtain a copy, contact the Maryland Department of Legislative Reference at 301-858-3810 (Washington area), 410-841-3810 (Baltimore area), or 800-492-7122 (other areas).

For more information about today's topic or to be placed on the distribution list, please call CESAR at 301-403-8329.

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