

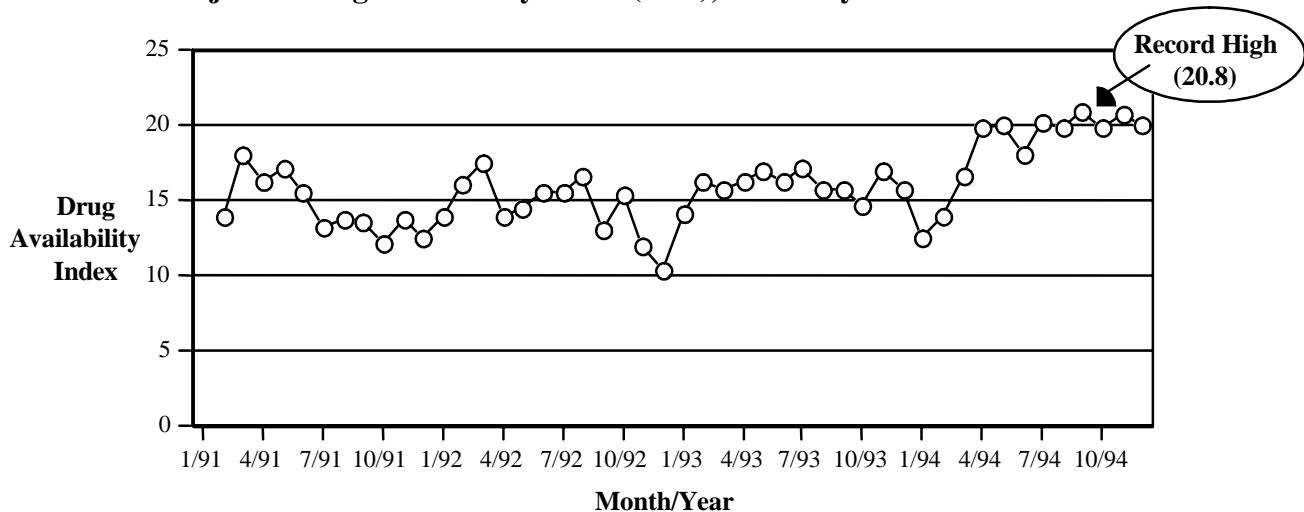
## A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland at College Park

### *Maryland State Police Drug Availability Index Shows Marijuana Availability Increasing*

Since 1991 the Maryland State Police (MSP) has been using its Drug Availability Index (DAI) to better understand trends in drug supply. The DAI is a combination of several indicators that are directly affected by changes in drug availability--price, purity, the number of seizures, the average amount of drugs seized, the number of drug samples submitted to the MSP Crime Laboratory, and the percent of total laboratory submissions for each drug. While the value of the DAI has no intrinsic meaning, the current level of the index and how it changes over time provide a means of tracking drug availability. The DAI data indicate that marijuana availability is continuing to increase in Maryland.

**Marijuana Drug Availability Index (DAI), February 1991 to December 1994\***



\*The DAI for October, November, and December 1994 is estimated.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from "Drug Availability Index Assessment," Maryland State Police, Criminal Intelligence Division. For more information about the DAI, or to receive a complimentary copy of the "Drug Availability Index Assessment," contact Tom Slahetka of the Maryland State Police, Criminal Intelligence Division at (410) 290-0780.

### **"DRUG AVAILABILITY INDEX ASSESSMENT" AVAILABLE ON CESAR BOARD!**

The Maryland State Police, Criminal Intelligence Division's "Drug Availability Index Assessment" is available for viewing or downloading from CESAR's electronic bulletin board. Call the board at 800-842-3727 (toll free from Maryland) or 301-403-8343 and access the "CRIMINAL JUSTICE" conference.

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