

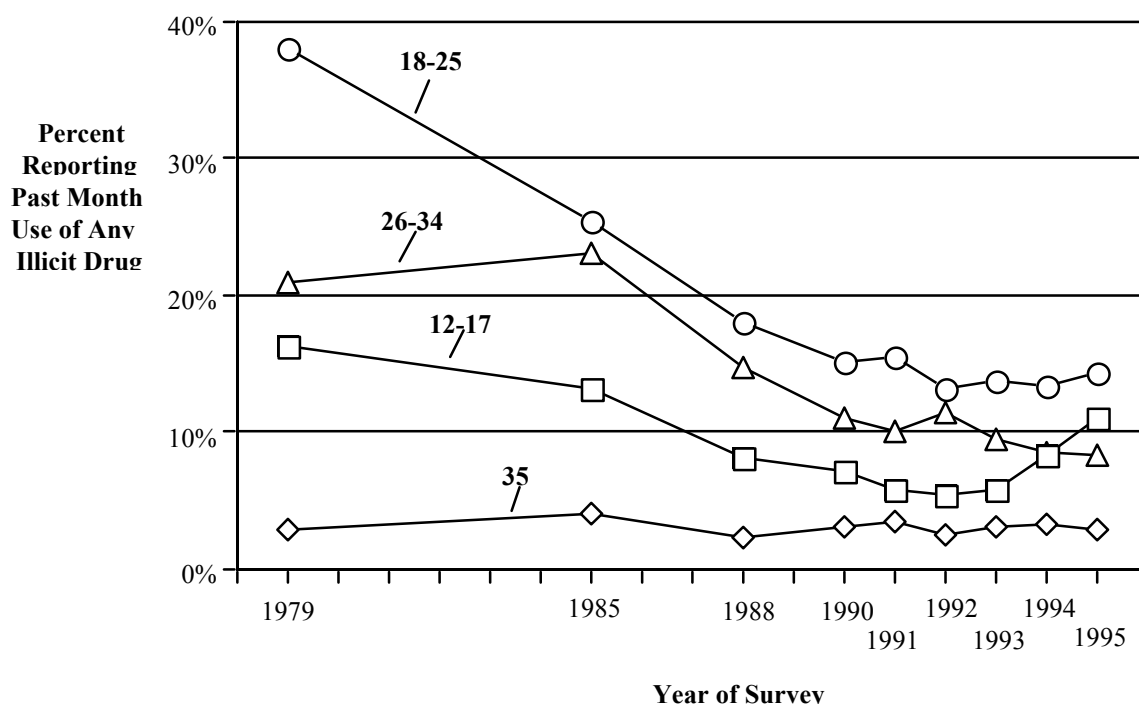
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland at College Park

Current Illicit Drug Use on the Rise Among Youth

According to the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA), current use of illicit drugs among U.S. youth (aged 12 to 17) has been on the rise since 1992. Since reaching a low of 5% in 1992, the reported rate of past month drug use (primarily marijuana) among youth has increased each year, most recently reaching 11% in 1995. Current use of illicit drugs among other age groups remained steady during this period. While this recent increase in drug use among youth is cause for concern, it is noteworthy that current levels of drug use among all age groups are substantially lower than or equal to rates reported in 1979, the peak year for illicit drug use reported in the NHSDA.

Percentage of U.S. Household Residents Reporting Past Month Use of Any Illicit Drug, by Age Group 1979-1995*



*The survey is of residents of households, noninstitutional group quarters (e.g., shelters, rooming houses, dormitories), and civilians living on military bases. Any illicit drug indicates use at least once of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP and LSD), heroin, or any prescription-type psychotherapeutic used nonmedically.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies, "Preliminary Estimates from the 1995 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse," Advance Report Number 18, August 1996. To obtain a copy of the Advance Report, contact the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (NCADI) at 301-468-2600 or 800-729-6686.

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