

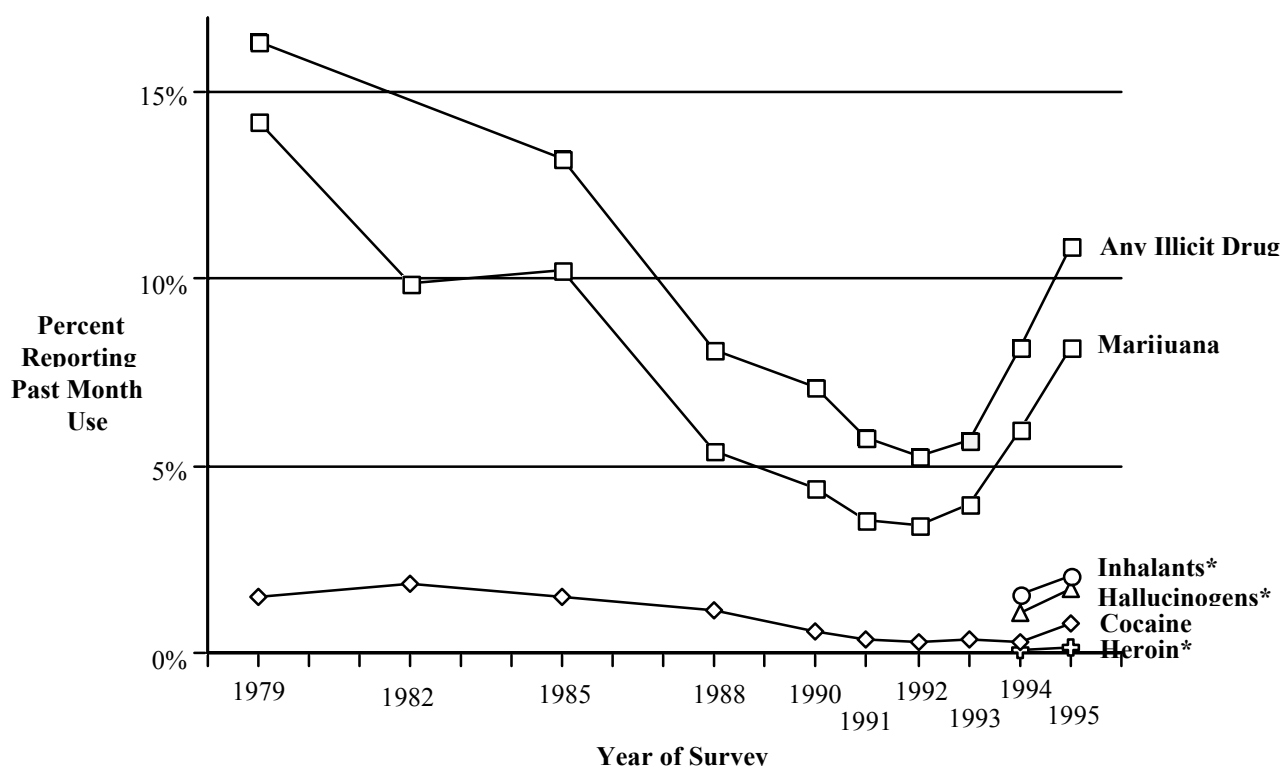
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland at College Park

Rise in Drug Use Among Youth Fueled Primarily by Marijuana

Last week's issue of the CESAR FAX highlighted the rise in current illicit drug use among U.S. youth. Further analysis of data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse shows that this rise has been primarily fueled by marijuana use. Past month use of marijuana among youth aged 12 to 17 has risen from a low of 3% in 1992 to 8%--an estimated 1.8 million youth--in 1995. Current use of other illicit drugs has remained steady at 2% or below over this time period, although a statistically significant increase in cocaine and hallucinogen use occurred between 1994 and 1995.

Percentage of U.S. Household Residents Age 12 to 17 Reporting Past Month Use of Illicit Drugs, by Type of Drug, 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.

* 1979-1993 data are based on adjusted estimates designed to be comparable to data obtained from a revised questionnaire implemented in 1994. Adjusted data are not available for inhalants, hallucinogens, and heroin.

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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