

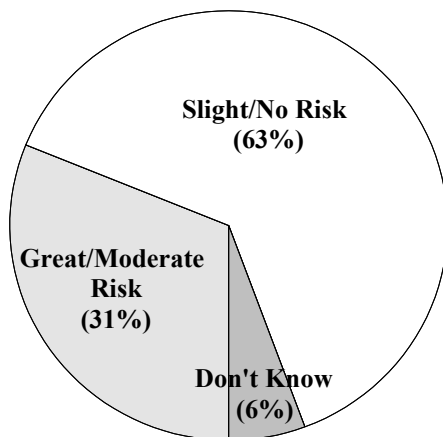
## A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland at College Park

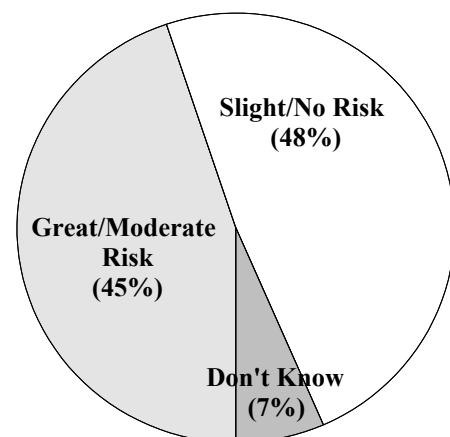
### *Marylanders Increasingly Likely to Perceive Occasional Marijuana Use as Great/Moderate Risk*

One of the issues raised in the recent debate over the medical use of marijuana (see CESAR FAX Volume 5, Issue 44) is the possibility of incurring physical harm from smoking marijuana. According to the results of statewide telephone polls, an increasing number of Maryland residents believe there is a great or moderate risk of harm resulting from occasional marijuana use. In a Fall 1995 poll, 45% reported that smoking marijuana once or twice was a great or moderate risk, up from 31% just six months earlier. Future polls will attempt to discern whether the debate over the medical use of marijuana changes residents' perceptions of the risks of using marijuana.

#### **Perceived Risk of Harm from Smoking Marijuana Once or Twice, Maryland Household Residents, Spring 1995 and Fall 1995**



**Spring 1995  
(April-June)  
(N=989)**



**Fall 1995  
(October-December)  
(N=1,002)**

NOTE: The response category "Don't Know" also includes those who did not respond to the question.

SOURCE: Jonathan Sushinsky, Margaret Hsu, and Eric Wish, What Marylanders Think About Drugs: Fall 1995 Maryland Household Opinion Poll, Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR), College Park, MD, December 1996. For more information, contact Maggie Hsu at [mhsu@cesar.umd.edu](mailto:mhsu@cesar.umd.edu).

#### **COMPLIMENTARY COPIES OF MD HOUSEHOLD POLL NOW AVAILABLE**

"What Marylanders Think About Drugs: Fall 1995 Maryland Household Opinion Poll" is now available, free of charge, from CESAR. You may request your copy via phone (301-403-8329), fax (301-430-8342), or e-mail ([cesar@cesar.umd.edu](mailto:cesar@cesar.umd.edu)).

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