

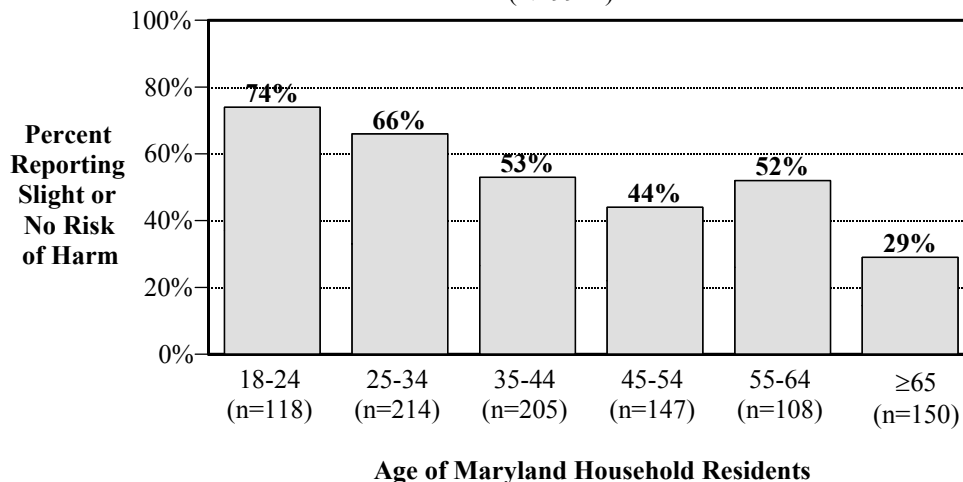
## A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

### *Three-Fourths of Maryland Young Adults Perceive Little or No Harm in Smoking Marijuana Once or Twice*

Younger Maryland residents are more likely than older residents to believe that smoking marijuana once or twice is not harmful, according to the results of a 1998 Maryland household telephone survey, conducted for the Center for Substance Abuse Research by the University of Maryland Survey Research Center. Nearly three-quarters of Maryland residents aged 18-24 and 66% of those aged 25-34 reported that smoking marijuana once or twice involved slight or no risk of harm, compared to about 50% of residents aged 35-64 and 29% of residents aged 65 and older. These differences may, in part, explain the high rates of marijuana use among young adults--decreased perceptions of harm are often related to increased drug use (see CESAR FAX, Volume 6, Issue 14).

**Percentage of Maryland Adult Household Residents Perceiving Slight or No Risk of Harm from Trying Marijuana Once or Twice, Winter 1998**  
(N=994\*)



\*Individual Ns for age groups do not equal total sample because of missing cases. Results are weighted to correct for differences in sample eligibility and to adjust the sample distribution to approximate that of the Maryland population for the following demographic variables: sex, age, education, race, and region.

SOURCE: Winter 1998 statewide household telephone poll of 994 adults 18 and older, conducted for CESAR by the University of Maryland Survey Research Center, College Park, Md. For more information, contact Brook Wraight of CESAR at 301-403-8329.

### **Have You Heard of the Drugs “Silk” or “Totem Poles”?**

CESAR has recently received inquiries about the identity of two drugs with the slang names of “silk” and “totem poles.” If you have heard of either of these drugs, please contact CESAR at [cesar@cesar.umd.edu](mailto:cesar@cesar.umd.edu). Thank you!