

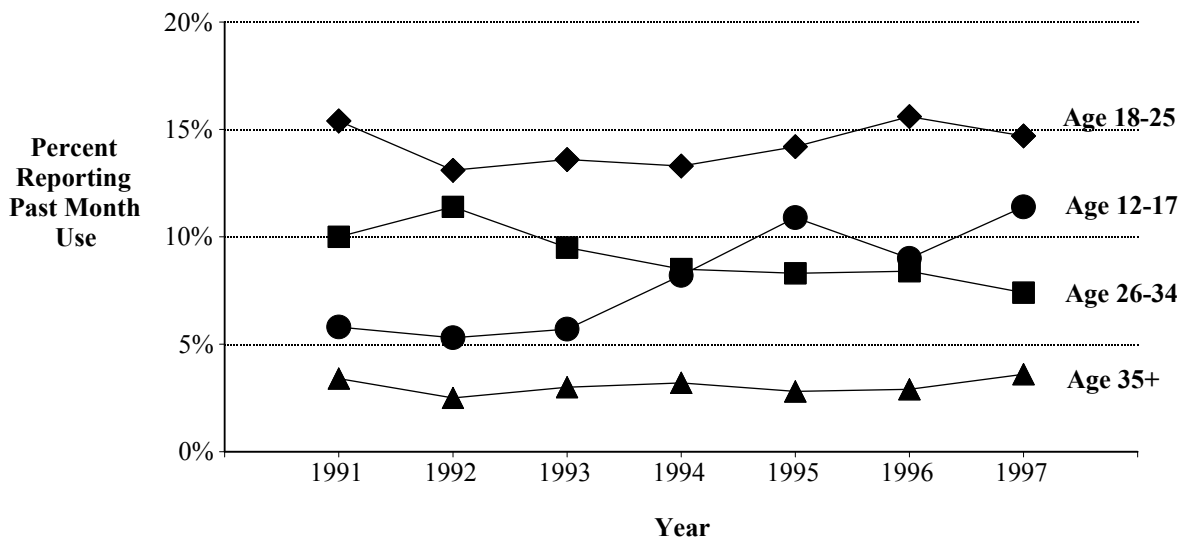
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Illicit Drug Use Continues to Rise Among Youth, Stable Among Other Age Groups

Current illicit drug use among youth continued to rise in 1997, according to data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse. After a slight decrease in 1996, past month illicit drug use by youth aged 12 to 17 increased again in 1997, rising from 9% to 11%. Current drug use rates among other age groups have remained stable or declined slightly over the past few years. The rise in use among youth aged 12 to 17 is the result of an increase in marijuana use, which has more than doubled since 1991 (from 4% to 9%). Regardless of age, marijuana is the most commonly used illicit drug; 80% of all past month illicit drug users reported using marijuana in 1997, either alone (60%) or in combination with other drugs (20%).

**Percentage of U.S. Household Residents Reporting
Past Month Use of Any Illicit Drug, by Age Group, 1991-1997**



NOTE: This survey is of residents of households, noninstitutional group quarters (e.g., shelters, rooming houses, dormitories), and civilians living on military bases. Any illicit drug use 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 (SAMHSA), "Preliminary Results from the 1997 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse," (WWW document; URL <http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/nhsda/nhsda97/httoc.htm>; accessed 8/21/98).