

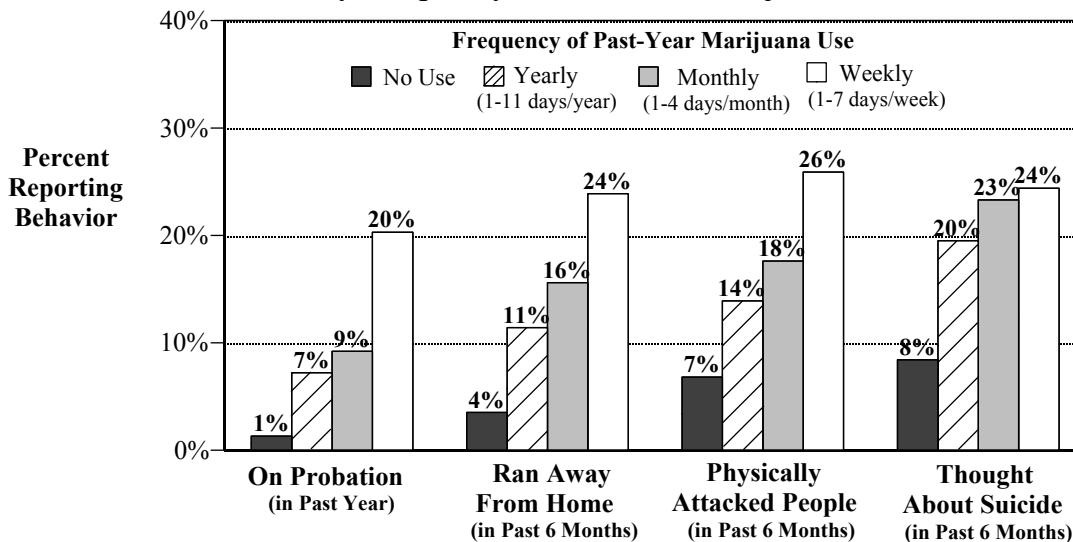
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Practitioners Should Be Aware of Co-Occurring Marijuana Use and Delinquent/Depressive Behaviors Among Youth

The more frequently adolescents used marijuana in the past year, the more likely they were to report delinquent and depressive behaviors, according to recently analyzed data from the 1994, 1995, and 1996 National Household Surveys on Drug Abuse. Of the delinquent behaviors examined, being on probation, running away from home, and physically attacking people had the strongest relationship with frequency of marijuana use; marijuana users were 2 to 20 times more likely to exhibit these behaviors than nonusers. Adolescents who used marijuana were also more likely to report behaviors symptomatic of depression, such as thinking about killing themselves. Teachers, counselors, and others who work with adolescents should be aware that marijuana use and delinquent/depressive behaviors frequently co-occur in this population.

Percentage of Adolescents (Aged 12-17) Reporting Delinquent and Depressive Behaviors, by Frequency of Past-Year Marijuana Use, 1994-96



NOTE: Marijuana users were more likely than nonusers to be aged 16-17, white, male, and live in a metro area, and less likely than nonusers to live in a two-parent home. In logistic regression analyses controlling for these variables, the differences in delinquent and depressive behaviors between users and nonusers were still seen (unpublished data from SAMHSA's Office of Applied Studies).

SOURCE: Janet C. Greenblatt, "Adolescent Self-Reported Behaviors and Their Association with Marijuana Use," Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies, 1998. For more information, contact Janet Greenblatt at 301-443-7981.

CESAR Seeking Manager for Treatment Outcome Project

CESAR is currently seeking a project manager for a three year substance abuse treatment outcome assessment. Applicants must have a Ph.D. in a relevant discipline and experience in generating grant/contract income. Please contact CESAR at 301-403-8329 or cesar@cesar.umd.edu for a complete job description.

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