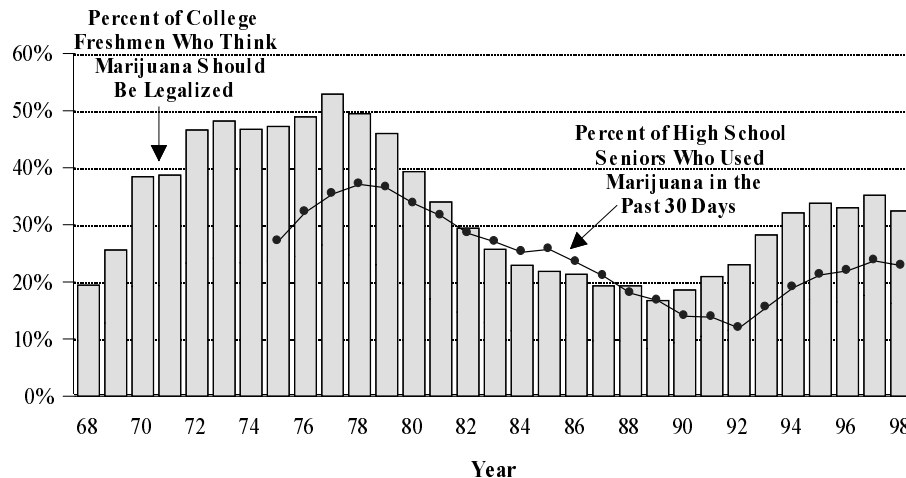


College Freshmen's Support for Legalizing Marijuana May Be Leveling Off

Support among college freshmen for the legalization of marijuana may be leveling off, according to a survey of over 275,000 freshmen at 469 two- and four-year institutions across the U.S. Since reaching a low of 17% in 1989, the percentage of U.S. college freshmen who believed marijuana should be legalized had steadily increased. Over the past few years, however, the percentages have stabilized at around 33%. This trend in support of marijuana legalization has mirrored that of marijuana use among high school seniors (see graph below).

Percentage of U.S. College Freshmen Who Somewhat or Strongly Agree That "Marijuana Should Be Legalized," and Percentage of U.S. High School Seniors Who Used Marijuana in the Past 30 Days, 1968-1998



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from Linda J. Sax, Alexander W. Astin, William S. Korn, Kathryn M. Mahoney, "The American Freshman: National Norms for Fall 1998," December 1998 and University of Michigan, Monitoring the Future Study Press Release, "Drug Use by American Young People Begins to Turn Downward," December 18, 1998. For more information, contact the Higher Education Research Institute at 310-825-1925 (college freshmen survey) or Lloyd Johnston of the University of Michigan at 734-763-5043 (high school senior survey).

CESAR Seeking Full-Time Librarian/Information Specialist for Drug Clearinghouse

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