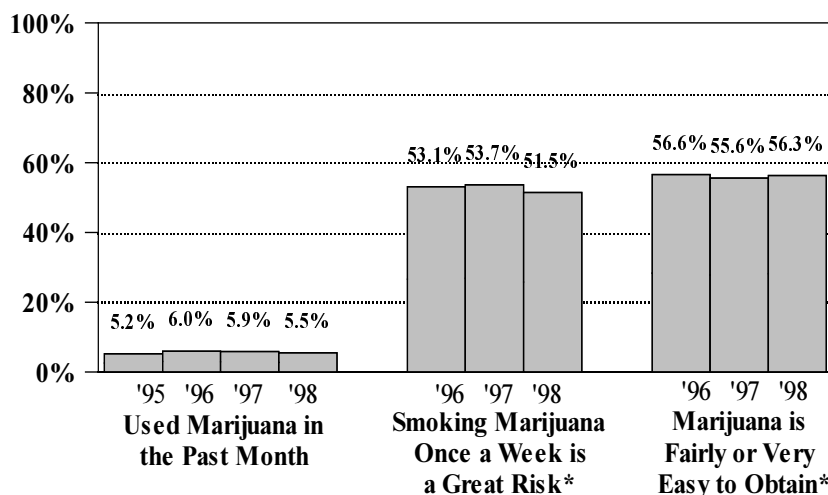


## ***1996 California Medical Marijuana Laws Have Not Increased Marijuana Use in the Household Population***

In 1996 voters in California passed Proposition 215, a bill which allows physicians to recommend use of marijuana for medical treatment (see CESAR FAX, Volume 5, Issue 44). Since that time, the percentage of California residents who reported using marijuana in the past month has remained unchanged at around 6%, according to data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA). Furthermore, the perceived risk of smoking marijuana and the availability of marijuana have also remained relatively stable since 1996. Comparable results were found in Arizona, whose residents passed a similar proposition in the same year.

### **California Household Residents' Past Month Marijuana Use, Perceived Risk of Marijuana Use, and Perceived Availability of Marijuana, 1995-1998\***



\*1995 data were not available for perceived risk of marijuana use and the availability of marijuana.

NOTE: Residents of California were oversampled in the 1997 and 1998 NHSDA. In addition, the California NHSDA sample for 1995 and 1996 was large enough to allow examination of longer term trends for the state.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Office of Applied Studies (OAS), "Summary of Findings from the 1998 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse," August 1999. Available online at [www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov).