

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

***Newly Released National Household Survey Data Reveal
No Significant Change in Youth Drug Use Over the Past Year***

Past month use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs among youth aged 12 to 17 remained stable from 1998 to 1999, according to data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse. While the prevalence rates for some substances did decrease over this period, the changes were not large enough to be statistically significant. However, some substances (cigarettes, marijuana, and inhalants) have significantly declined since 1997. Alcohol continues to be the primary substance of abuse among this age group (19%), followed by cigarettes (16%), and marijuana (7%).

**Percentage of U.S. Household Residents Aged 12-17
Reporting Past Month Substance Use, 1998 and 1999**

Substance	1998	1999*
Alcohol	19.1%	19.0%
Cigarettes	18.2%	15.9%
Any Illicit Drug**	9.9%	9.0%
Marijuana	8.3%	7.0%
Binge Drinking	7.7%	7.8%
Any Illicit Drug Other Than Marijuana**	4.0%	4.4%
Hallucinogens	1.8%	1.6%
Inhalants	1.1%	0.9%
Cocaine	0.8%	0.7%
Heroin	0.2%	0.1%

*1999 estimates have been adjusted to reflect the 1998 distribution of past NHSDA interviewing experience among field interviewers. See the full report for more information on other modifications to the methodology of the 1999 survey.

**Any Illicit Drug indicates at least one use of marijuana/hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP and LSD), heroin, or any prescription-type psychotherapeutic used nonmedically. Any Illicit Drug Other Than Marijuana indicates at least one use of any of these listed drugs, regardless of marijuana/hashish use.

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 1999 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse," August 2000. Available online at www.samhsa.gov/household99.htm.

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