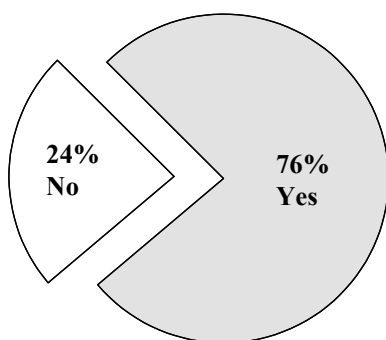


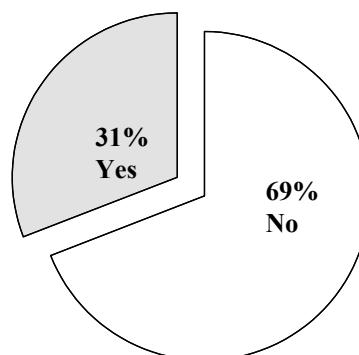
Most Maryland Residents Who Support Medicinal Use of Marijuana Do Not Support Legalizing the Drug

Earlier this year Maryland legislators introduced a bill that would have created a court defense for people who use marijuana for medicinal purposes. The bill passed the House but was rejected by the Senate Judicial Proceedings committee. Opponents of the bill argued that the “bill would pave the way for the drug’s legalization” (Mosk 2002). However, a telephone poll of Maryland residents conducted in 1999 found that very few people who support the medical use of marijuana also support legalizing the drug. While the majority (76%) of Maryland residents surveyed believed that physicians should be allowed to prescribe marijuana if it is proven to be effective in treating some health conditions, only 31% of those people also believed that the possession of small amounts of marijuana for personal use should be legal. Similar results were found in a 1994 statewide household poll (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 6, Issue 1).

**While the Majority of Maryland
Residents Support the Medical
Use of Marijuana . . .**
(n=933)



**Only 31% of Those Who
Do Also Support
Legalizing the Drug**
(n=712)



NOTES: The survey was conducted for CESAR by the Survey Research Center at the University of Maryland-College Park between July and October 1999. Results have been weighted to correct for differences in sample eligibility and to adjust the sample distribution to approximate that of the Maryland population for sex, age, education, and race. The estimated margin of error is ± 3 percentage points.

SOURCES: Center for Substance Abuse Research, Summer/Fall 1999 Maryland Household Opinion Poll. For more information, contact Erin Artigiani of CESAR at 301-403-8329.

Mosk, M. “Medical Marijuana Advances in Md., House Votes to Ease Punishment for Patients,” *Washington Post*, B1, March 26, 2002.