

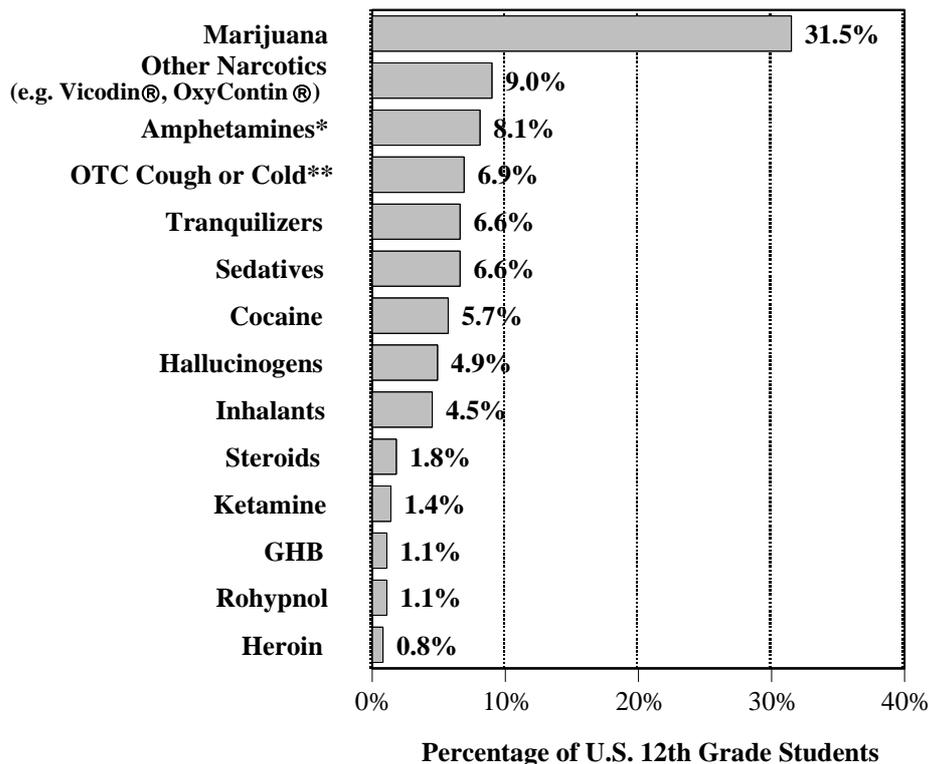
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Nonmedical Use of Narcotic Drugs Such as Vicodin® and OxyContin® More Prevalent Among U.S. High School Seniors Than Any Illicitly Used Drug Except Marijuana

While marijuana continues to be the most prevalent illicit drug used among U.S. high school seniors, the nonmedical use of narcotic drugs is the second most prevalent drug used among this population, according to data from the national 2006 Monitoring the Future study. Nearly one in ten twelfth grade students reported using prescription-type narcotic drugs, such as Vicodin® (9.7%) and OxyContin® (4.3%), in the past year without a doctor's order. Other drugs used by more than 5% of 12th graders include amphetamines* (8.1%), over-the-counter cough or cold medicines** (6.9%), tranquilizers (6.6%), sedatives (6.6%), and cocaine (5.7%). The nonmedical use of prescription pain relievers is also the second most prevalent illicitly used drug among the U.S. household population ages 12 and older (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 15, Issue 36).

Percentage of U.S. 12th Grade Students Reporting Past Year Use of Drugs (Other Than Alcohol and Tobacco), 2006



*Amphetamines include Ritalin® (4.4%) and methamphetamine (2.5%).

**Used for the explicit purpose of getting high.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from University of Michigan, "Teen Drug Use Continues Down in 2006, Particularly Among Older Teens; But Use of Prescription-Type Drugs Remains High," Monitoring the Future press release, December 21, 2006. Available online at <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org>.

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