

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

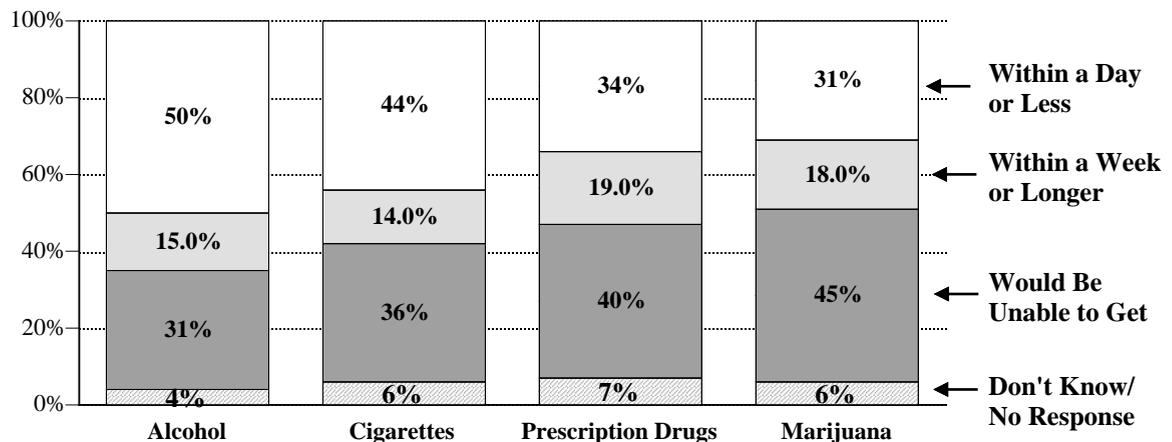
University of Maryland, College Park

About One-Third to One-Half of Youth Report That They Can Get Alcohol, Cigarettes, Prescription Drugs to Get High, or Marijuana Within a Day or Less

Between 31% and 50% of youth ages 12 to 17 report that they can get alcohol, cigarettes, prescription drugs to get high, or marijuana within a day or less, according to data from the 2012 *National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse*. Alcohol and cigarettes were the most readily accessible substances, with 50% and 44%, respectively, of youth reporting that they could obtain them within a day. Youth were least likely to report that they could get marijuana within a day (31%); 45% report that they would be unable to get marijuana at all. It will be interesting to see if reported access to marijuana increases if more states pass medical marijuana and marijuana decriminalization laws. While marijuana use remains illegal under federal law, 17 states and the District of Columbia have some type of law allowing for the medical use of marijuana and 14 states have some type of marijuana decriminalization law. Medical marijuana laws are on the ballot in two states (Arkansas and Massachusetts) in the coming election, and initiatives to legalize marijuana for recreational use are on the ballot in three states (Colorado, Washington, and Oregon).

Percentage of U.S. Youths Reporting How Long It Would Take Them to Get Alcohol, Cigarettes, Prescription Drugs to Get High, or Marijuana, 2012

(n=1,003 youths ages 12 to 17)



*Respondents were asked "If you wanted to get [cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana, prescription drugs in order to get high] right now, how long would it take you to get them: an hour or less, a few hours, within a day, within a week, longer than a week, or would you be unable to get them?"

NOTES: Data are from a random sample of households in the 48 continental states who had a person ages 12 to 17 living in the household. Computer-assisted telephone interviews were conducted between April 18 and May 17, 2012 with 1,003 youths who were randomly selected from the nationally representative household sample frame. The margin of error is +/-3.1 percent at a 95 percent confidence level (unadjusted for weighting).

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA), *National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse XVII: Teens*, 2012. Available online at <http://www.casacolumbia.org/upload/2012/20120822teensurvey.pdf>.