

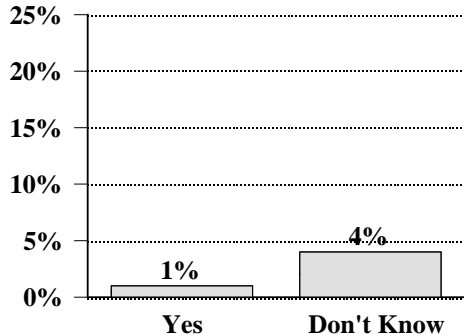
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

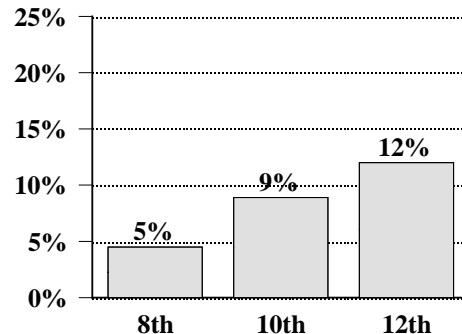
Study Suggests Parents May Underestimate Teen Misuse of Stimulant Medications

“Parents’ awareness of their teens using ‘study drugs’ does not match self-reported use by teens,” according to a nationally representative household survey of parents of 13- to 17-year-olds. Only 1% of parents of teens who have never been prescribed a stimulant medication for ADHD believe that their teens have used such drugs to stay awake to study for an exam or to do homework, and 4% reported that they did not know. In contrast, recent national data from the Monitoring the Future survey show that 5% of 8th graders, 9% of 10th graders, and 12% of 12th graders report ever using stimulants such as Ritalin® or Adderall® without a prescription (see figures below). The study also found that only slightly more than one-fourth (27%) of parents of teens reported that they had talked to their teens about using non-prescribed stimulant medications (data not shown).

While Only 1% of Parents Believe Their Teens Have Used a Stimulant to Stay Awake to Study for an Exam or To Do Homework . . .



. . . Between 5% and 12% of 8th, 10th, and 12th Grade Teens Say They Have Ever Used Stimulants Without a Prescription



NOTES: The National Poll on Children’s Health data is from a nationally representative household survey conducted by GfK Custom Research in January 2013 with a randomly selected, stratified group of 710 parents with a child age 13-17. The margin of error is +/- 1 to 5 percentage points. The Monitoring the Future data are from a survey of nationally representative samples of public and private secondary school students in the coterminous U.S. The sample sizes for the 2012 survey were about 15,700 (8th), 15,400 (10th), and 14,300 (12th).

SOURCES: Adapted by CESAR from University of Michigan, C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital, “One in Ten Teens Using ‘Study Drugs,’ But Are Parents Paying Attention?” *National Poll on Children’s Health*, 18(3), 2013 (available online at http://mottnpch.org/sites/default/files/documents/052013_StudyDrugs.pdf); and University of Michigan, Institute for Social Research, *Monitoring the Future National Results on Drug Use: 2012 Overview, Key Findings on Adolescent Drug Use*, 2013 (available online at www.monitoringthefuture.org).