

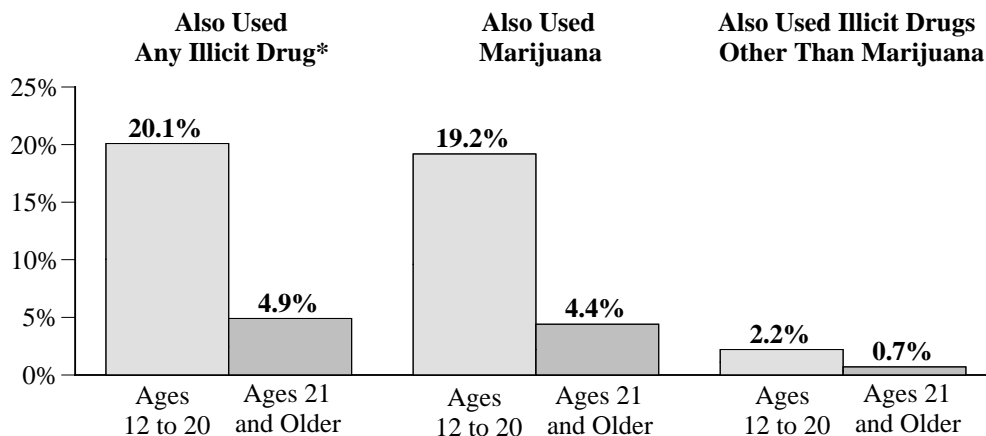
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Nearly One-Fifth of Underage Drinkers Report Current Use of Marijuana with Alcohol

Underage drinkers are more likely than alcohol users ages 21 or older to use illicit drugs within 2 hours of alcohol use, according to data from the 2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. One in five (20.1%) underage drinkers reported using at least one illicit drug the last time they used alcohol, compared to 4.9% of those ages 21 or older. Marijuana was the most commonly reported illicit drug used in combination with alcohol by both underage (19.2%) and older (4.4%) drinkers. In contrast, illicit drugs other than alcohol, including cocaine, heroin, and prescription drugs used nonmedically, were used with alcohol by only 2.2% of underage drinkers and less than 1% of drinkers ages 21 and older. Future research will be needed to study if the co-occurring use of alcohol and marijuana changes among residents of Colorado and Washington, which have both recently enacted laws legalizing the recreational use of marijuana by adults.

Percentage of U.S. Residents Reporting Marijuana and Other Illicit Drug Use with Alcohol[†] in the Past Month, by Age, 2011



[†]Used with alcohol or within two hours of alcohol use on the most recent use of alcohol in the past month.

*Illicit drugs include marijuana/hashish, cocaine (including crack), heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, or prescription-type psychotherapeutics used nonmedically.

NOTE: Data are from the 2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), an annual survey of the civilian, noninstitutionalized population of the U.S. ages 12 years old or older.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Results from the 2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Detailed Tables*, 2012. Available online at <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2011SummNatFindDetTables/Index.aspx>