

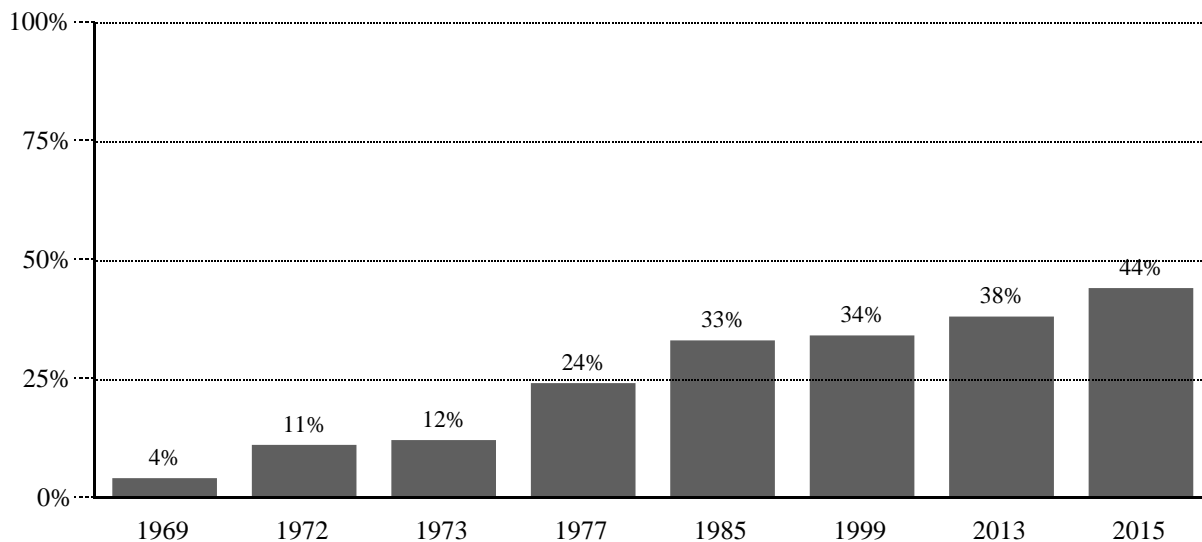
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

## ***2015 National Poll Finds More Than Four in Ten U.S. Adults Report Ever Trying Marijuana; Highest Since Question First Asked in 1969***

Forty-four percent of U.S. adults have ever tried marijuana, according to a telephone poll conducted in July 2015. When the question was first asked in 1969, only 4% of U.S. adults reported ever trying marijuana. The percentage increased sharply from 1973 (12%) to 1985 (33%), and then remained relatively stable until reaching a high of 44% in 2015. The authors note that “[t]he changes over time may reflect either an increase in the percentage who have tried the drug, or an increased willingness to admit to having done so in the past. The latter possibility certainly seems plausible given Americans’ growing support for legalizing marijuana in recent decades” (p. 2). A national survey in 2013 found that the majority of the sampled U.S. adults (58%) believed marijuana use should be legalized (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 22, Issue 43).

### **“Have You, Yourself, Ever Happened to Try Marijuana?” U.S. Adults (ages 18 and older), 1969-2015**



NOTES: Data in the figure are from the *Gallup Poll Social Series: Consumption Habits* survey and are based on telephone interviews with a random sample of adults ages 18 and older living in the 50 U.S. States and the District of Columbia. The 2015 survey was conducted July 8-12, 2015 with a random sample of 1,009 adults. Samples are weighted and the margin of error for the 2015 survey was  $\pm 6$  percentage points. Each sample of national adults included a minimum quota of 50% cellphone respondents and 50% landline respondents.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from Gallup, “More Than Four in 10 Americans Say They Have Tried Marijuana,” July 22, 2015. Available online at <http://www.gallup.com/poll/184298/four-americans-say-tried-marijuana.aspx>