Household and Student Surveys Show
Drug Use Down from Peaks Reached in the 70s

While the recent resurgence of drug use (primarily marijuana) among youths is cause for concern, the figure below shows that current drug use among household and student populations remains far below peak levels reached in the 1970s. These statistics suggest an overall decline in the use of drugs among the general population that is often overlooked in discussions of the persistent use among the more deviant and criminal segments of the population.

Percentage of Household Residents and 12th Grade Students
Reporting Use of Any Drug During the Past Month, 1975-1995, United States

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse and the National Institute on Drug Abuse, Monitoring the Future Study.

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