

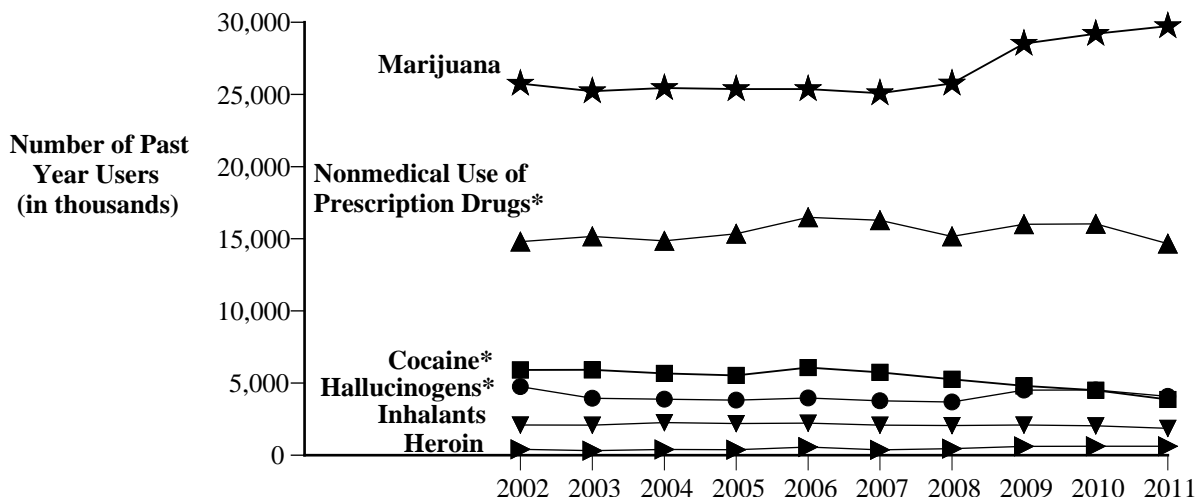
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

## *Marijuana Continues to Be the Most Commonly Used Illicit Drug Among U.S. Residents; Nonmedical Use of Prescription Drugs Decreases*

Marijuana continues to be the most commonly used illicit drug among U.S. residents ages 12 and older, according to recently released data from the 2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). An estimated 29.7 million residents reported using marijuana in the past year, a statistically significant increase from 25.9 million in 2008. While the nonmedical use of prescription drugs continues to be the second most commonly used illicit substance, the number of past year users declined for the first time since 2008, from an estimated 16.1 million in 2010 to 14.7 million in 2011. The number of past year cocaine users decreased 21% from 2006 to 2011 (from 4.5 million to 3.9 million), while the number of past year hallucinogen users decreased from 4.5 million in 2010 to 4.1 million in 2011. In contrast, the number of past year users of heroin and inhalants has not changed significantly in recent years.

**Estimated Number (in thousands) of Past Year Users of Marijuana, Prescription Drugs Used Nonmedically, Cocaine, Hallucinogens, Inhalants, and Heroin, U.S. Residents Ages 12 and Older, 2002-2011**



\*The difference between the 2010 and 2011 estimate is statistically significant at the  $p \leq 0.05$  level.

NOTES: While the NSDUH (previously named the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse) has been conducted since 1971, the survey underwent several methodological improvements in 2002 that affected prevalence estimates. As a result, the 2002 through 2010 estimates are not comparable with estimates before 2002.

Nonmedical Use of Prescription Drugs is defined as use of pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, and/or sedatives without a prescription belonging to the respondent or use that occurred simply for the experience or feeling the drug caused. It does not include the use of over-the-counter drugs.

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>.