

CESAR FAX: April 3, 2006 (Vol. 15, Issue 13)

College Students Who Use Prescription Stimulants Illicitly Most Likely to Use the Drugs to Concentrate, Increase Alertness, and Get High

Approximately 8% of college undergraduate students report using prescription stimulants that were not prescribed for them at least once in their lifetime, according to a random sample of full-time undergraduate students at the University of Michigan. The most common motive for use was to help with concentration (58%), followed by to increase alertness (43%), and to get high (43%) (see figure below), which is consistent with an ongoing University of Maryland undergraduate study (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 14, Issue 34). The proportion of users reporting each motive remained the same regardless of gender, having been previously prescribed stimulant medications, or the number of occasions of illicit prescription stimulant use. The study also found that students who reported using the drugs to counteract the effects of other drugs or to get high were more likely to also report past year cocaine and amphetamine use, which “may reflect a more extensive stimulant use profile for those students who use illicit prescription stimulants to counteract the effects of other drugs or to get high” (p. 260).

NOTE: Percentages do not add to 100 because each user could have reported more than one motive (31% reported 2 motives and 17% reported 3 or more motives).

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Teter, C.J.; McCabe, S.E.; Cranford, J.A.; Boyd, C.J.; and Guthrie, S.K. “Prevalence and Motives for Illicit Use of Prescription Stimulants in an Undergraduate Student Sample,” *Journal of American College Health* 53(6): 253-262, 2005. For more information, contact Christian Teter at c.teter@neu.edu.

*The most common motives specified under the category “other” were to enhance academic or work performance and curiosity and experimentation.

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Youth May Curtail Drug Dealing and Use in the AM on Nonschool Days

The time of day juveniles are most likely to be caught committing drug law violations depends on whether it is a school day, according to a recent analysis of data from the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System. Drug law violations by both male (see figure below) and female (data not shown) juveniles are most likely to be reported to law enforcement in the morning and early afternoon hours on school days, with a second, slightly lower peak occurring in the evening between 8 and 10 p.m. In contrast, drug law violations on nonschool days are most likely to be reported to law enforcement only in the late evening hours (between 10 and 11 p.m.). The greater likelihood of drug law violations during the day on school days may be due to

- 1) increased opportunity to use and sell drugs at school
- 2) increased detection and enforcement of such behaviors at school
- 3) increased parental supervision of youth during the morning hours of non school days
- 4) inactivity of youth during the morning hours on nonschool days, such as sleeping late.

NOTE: The NIBRS collects information on each crime reported to contributing law enforcement agencies, including the date and time of day crime occurred. For calendar year 2001, agencies in 20 states and the District of Columbia reported information on the time of day of reported crimes.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 2006 national report, 2006. Available online at <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=234394>.

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National Treatment Admissions for Primary Alcohol and Cocaine Abuse Decrease While Admissions for Marijuana Double and Stimulants Triple

The percentage of admissions to state-funded substance abuse treatment facilities for primary* alcohol abuse declined from 1993 to 2003, according to data from the national Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS). While alcohol continues to be the substance most frequently cited as a primary substance of abuse, primary alcohol abuse accounted for less than one-half (41%) of all admission in 2003 (the most recent year for which data are available), down from 57% in 1993. The percentage of admissions for primary cocaine abuse also decreased, from 17% to 14%. At the same time, the percentage of admissions for primary abuse of stimulants (including methamphetamine and prescription stimulants) tripled and marijuana more than doubled while primary opiate admissions also increased (from 13% to 18%).

NOTE: TEDS is based on admissions not individuals. Therefore, an individual could be admitted to treatment more than once during the course of a calendar year, accounting for more than one admission.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from the Office of Applied Studies, SAMHSA. "Trends in Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions: 1993 and 2003," *The DASIS Report*, 2006. Available online at <http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k6/TXtrends/TXtrends.cfm>.