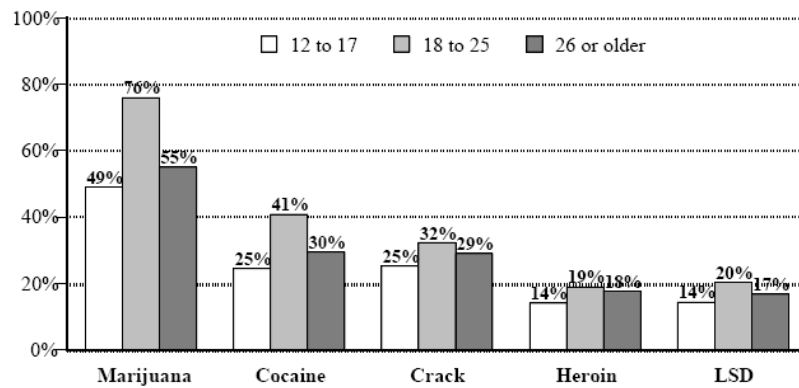


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Adults Ages 18 to 25 Most Likely to Report Easy Access to Illicit Drugs

Young adults are more likely than other ages to report easy access* to illicit drugs, according to recently released data from the 2007 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). Slightly more than three-fourths of 18 to 25 year olds reported that it would be fairly or very easy for them to get marijuana if they wanted to, compared to 49% of 12 to 17 year olds and 55% of those 26 and older. Similar results were found for the perceived availability of cocaine and crack, and, to a lesser extent, heroin and LSD (see figure below). While young adults had the highest rates of perceived access to illicit drugs, it is noteworthy that nearly half of youths ages 12 to 17 reported easy access to marijuana and one-fourth reported easy access to cocaine and crack.

Percentage of U.S. Residents Reporting That It Would Be “Fairly Easy” or “Very Easy” to Obtain Illicit Drugs*, by Age



*Respondents were asked to assess how difficult or easy it would be for them to get various illicit drugs if they wanted these drugs. Response alternatives were (1) probably impossible, (2) very difficult, (3) fairly difficult, (4) fairly easy, and (5) very easy.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), *Results from the 2007 National Household Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings*, 2008. Available online at <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/nsduhLatest.htm>.