

DATA BYTES

Did you know?

- The highest rates of illicit drug use are found among youth ages 18-20 (between 20 percent and 21 percent) with marijuana the most commonly used illicit drug (*NIDA, 1999 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse*).
- 80 percent of high school seniors have used alcohol; in comparison, 62 percent have smoked cigarettes; 49 percent have used marijuana; and 9 percent have used cocaine (*NIDA, 2000 Monitoring the Future Study, Secondary School Students*).

- First use of alcohol typically begins around the age 13; marijuana around 14 (*NIDA, Drug Use Among Racial/Ethnic Minorities, 1995, p.31*).
- Among high school seniors, current use of alcohol is higher for whites and Hispanics than Blacks; the same is true of marijuana, but with greater similarity in the rates of use (*NIDA, Drug Use Among Racial/Ethnic Minorities, 1995, pp.32, 34*).

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