

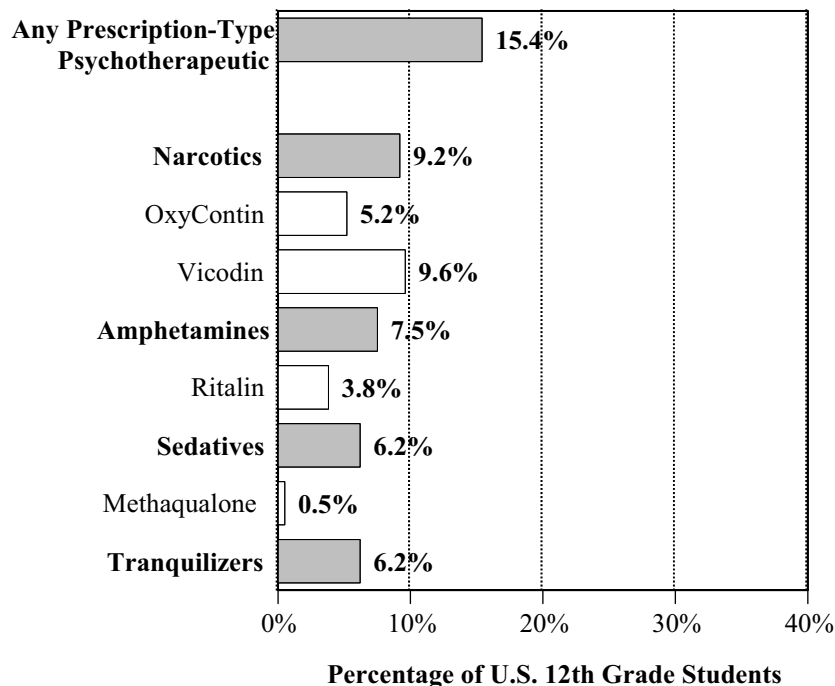
**A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research**

**University of Maryland, College Park**

## ***15% of U.S. 12<sup>th</sup> Graders Have Used Prescription Drugs Nonmedically in the Past Year***

The nonmedical use of prescription-type drugs continues to be a problem among 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, according to data from the 2007 national Monitoring the Future survey. Fifteen percent of 12<sup>th</sup> graders reported the nonmedical use of at least one prescription medication within the past year. Narcotic drugs, such as OxyContin® and Vicodin®, were the most prevalent (9.2%), followed by amphetamines (7.5%), sedatives (6.2%), and tranquilizers (6.2%). With the exception of amphetamines, the nonmedical use of these prescription-type drugs has gradually increased among this population over the past decade (data not shown).

### **Percentage of U.S. 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students Reporting Any Past Year Nonmedical Use of Prescription-Type Psychotherapeutic Drugs, 2007**



NOTE: Clear bars in the chart represent drugs asked about in the survey that are subcategories of the drug above. For example, Ritalin is a type of amphetamine.

SOURCES: Adapted by CESAR from National Institutes of Health, "NIDA Survey Shows a Decline in Smoking and Illicit Drug Use Among Eighth Graders," NIDA press release, December 11, 2007 (available online at <http://www.nida.nih.gov/newsroom/07/NR12-11.html>) and University of Michigan, "Overall, Illicit Drug Use by American Teens Continues Gradual Decline in 2007," Monitoring the Future press release, December 11, 2007 (available online at <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org>).

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