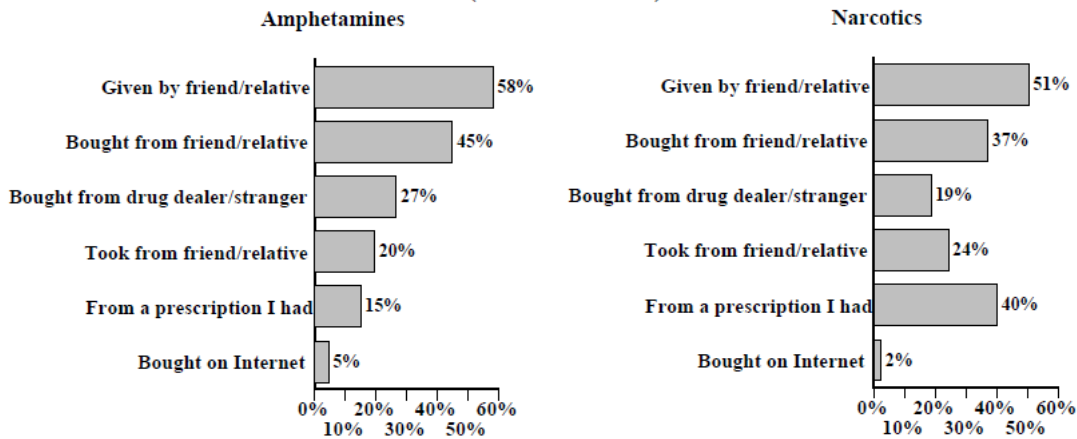


CESAR FAX: February 2, 2009 (Vol. 18, Issue 4)

Friends and Family Are Most Common Source of Prescription Amphetamines and Narcotics Used Nonmedically by 12th Graders

Friends and family are the most common source of prescription amphetamines and narcotics used by high school seniors without a doctor's orders, according to data from the national Monitoring the Future Survey. More than one-half of 12th graders who used these prescription drugs nonmedically in the past year reported getting them for free and more than one-third reported buying them from a friend or relative. While "clearly the informal network of relatives and friends play a major role in the distribution of these prescription drugs to young users," high school seniors also report getting prescription drugs from other sources, such as from drug dealers or buying them on the internet. Of particular interest is that 40% of 12th graders who had used their prescription narcotics nonmedically reported obtaining the drugs from a prescription they already had (see figure below), compared to only 15% of those using prescription amphetamines nonmedically.

Source of Prescription Drugs Used Nonmedically in the Past Year by U.S. 12th Graders
(2007-2008 Combined)



NOTE: Percentages sum to more than 100 because respondents could report more than one source.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from University of Michigan, Various Stimulant Drugs Show Continuing Gradual Declines Among Teens in 2008, Most Illicit Drugs Hold Steady, Monitoring the Future press release, December 11, 2008. Available online at <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org>.