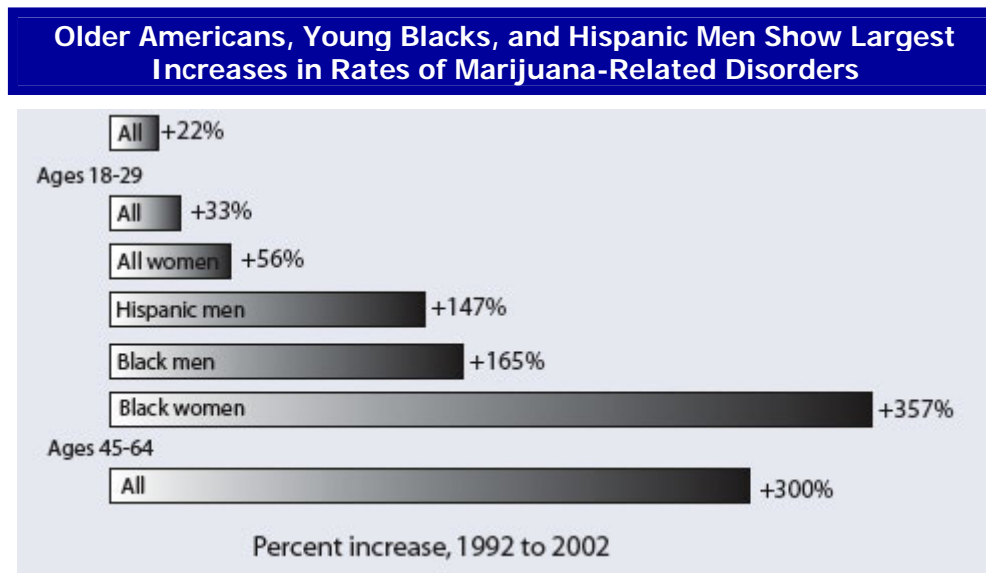


Marijuana-related Disorders on the Rise

According to NIDA, compared to a decade ago, the prevalence of marijuana smoking has not changed. Survey results have shown that from 1992 to 2002, rates of marijuana consumption remained at 4 percent for respondents. However, the number of Americans who suffer from marijuana-related disorders has increased. NIDA states that the conditions are defined by the American Psychiatric Association, and have increased from 1.2 percent to 1.5 percent of respondents, or from 30.2 percent overall to 35.6 percent among marijuana smokers. According to the NIDA chart below, marijuana consumption rose modestly for Black men and women aged 18-29, while the prevalence of disorders tripled. There was also a moderate increase in disorders for Hispanic men aged 18-29.



*Chart from NIDA NOTES Number 19, Volume 6

Marijuana-Related Disorders, but not Prevalence Of Use, Rise Over Past Decade

“The rise in marijuana related disorders shows that there were approximately 800,000 more adults in the United States with marijuana abuse or dependence in 2002

than a decade earlier,” says Dr. Wilson Compton of NIDA’s Division of Epidemiology, Services and Prevention Research. “In the 1992 Survey, these problems were more common among Whites than among minorities, but in 2002 the differences in rates among the different ethnic groups had narrowed, in large part because of a rate that more than tripled among young African American men and women and more than doubled among young Hispanic men.”

Dr. Compton and colleagues at NIDA, and Dr. Bridget Grant and colleagues at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, evaluated data from two large, national epidemiologic surveys that showed a shift in marijuana use and marijuana-related problems among older adults. Dr. Compton also observed that “Marijuana smoking increased by 167 percent and the prevalence of marijuana-related disorders quadrupled among men and women ages 45 to 64.”

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Information found at NIDA located at www.nida.nih.gov

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