

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

**University of Maryland At College Park \***

## *Survey of University Students Uncovers Underage Drinking Practices*

A survey of undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Maryland, College Park in November and December 1991 indicated that the consumption of alcohol was widespread. The table below presents findings for students under age 21. These students find it easy to obtain alcohol and about half have used a fake ID. Drinking is often heavy, and a significant minority of students were present in a vehicle where drinking was a factor. Their drinking did not begin in college, however. The median age of first alcohol use was 14 and the median age of first regular use was 16. Alcohol prevention programs should be targeted towards both college and grade school students.

### **USE OF ALCOHOL BY COLLEGE STUDENTS UNDER AGE 21** (N = 543 students )

Indicated it was "very easy" to get alcohol on campus:	89%
Ever used or possessed with intent to use, a fake ID:	50%
Used alcohol in the last month:	64%
When drinking, typically has 5 or more drinks at a time:	43%
During the past year, drove a vehicle on 3 or more occasions within one hour of having a drink:	11%
During the past year, was driven on 3 or more occasions by someone drinking within the past hour:	20%

SOURCE: Student Opinion Survey 1991-92. Sponsored by the University of Maryland's Health Center.

#### **NOW AVAILABLE**

Complete set of the substance abuse responses to the 1992 telephone survey of Maryland residents.  
Call CESAR at 301-403-8329 to request your complimentary copy.

For further information about today's topic or to be placed on the distribution list, please call CESAR at 301-403-8329

\* CESAR FAX is supported by a grant from the Governor's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission.