

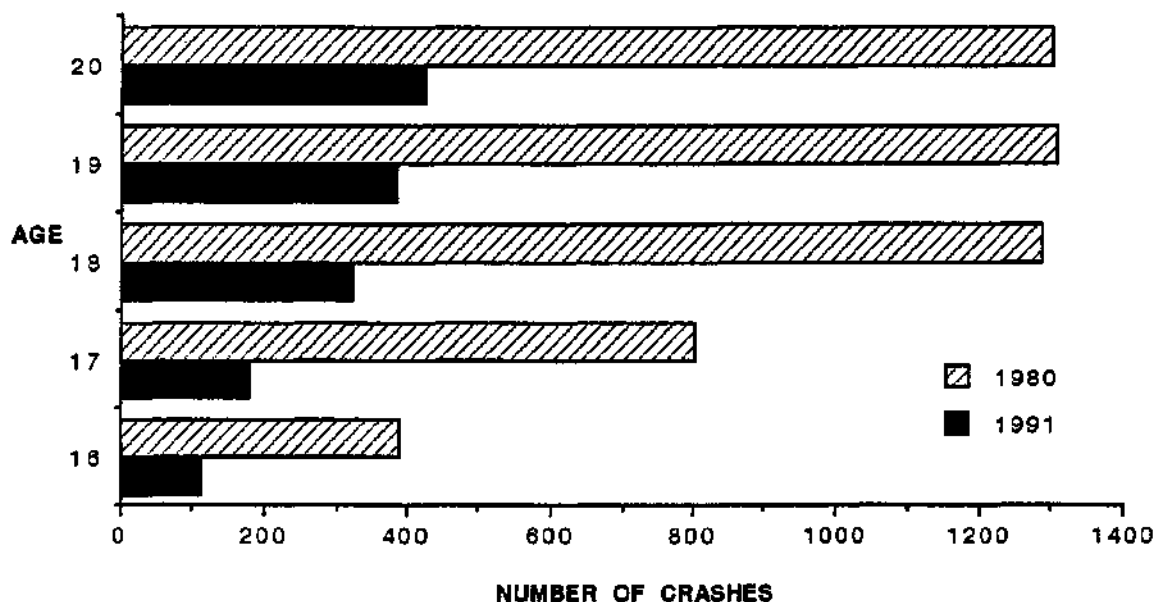
**A Weekly FAX From the Center for Substance Abuse Research**

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

## *Reported Alcohol and Drug Related Crashes Decline in Maryland*

The number of reported alcohol or drug (AOD) related motor vehicle crashes in Maryland that involve persons under the age of 21 has decreased significantly since 1980. For the 16 to 20 age group 1,424 crashes were AOD related in 1991, a decline from the 5,092 in 1980. The total number of AOD crashes in Maryland among all age groups declined from 30,866 in 1980 to 14,631 in 1991. The reduction in AOD crashes coincided with a decade in which a substantial shift in societal attitudes towards drinking occurred. The increase in the legal drinking age from 18 to 21, the emergence of organizations such as MADD, education and prevention programs targeting school children, and the increased penalties within the criminal justice system have probably had a marked effect on the problem. Regardless of what caused the decline, this reduction is welcome news in the fight against alcohol and drug abuse.

### **REPORTED ALCOHOL OR DRUG (AOD) RELATED CRASHES INVOLVING MARYLAND DRIVERS UNDER AGE 21: 1980-1991**



Figures are for crashes in which alcohol or drugs were a factor for any party involved, not solely for the driver under 21 years old.  
SOURCE: Maryland Automated Accident Reporting System

### **MD. POLL RESULTS 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.

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