

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

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

## *Maryland Adolescent Alcohol Use Increases Dramatically With Grade Level*

Results from the most recent Maryland Adolescent Survey conducted in the 1990-91 school year reveal a dramatic increase in alcohol use by students as they progress through the junior high and high school level. Use of alcohol by students in the 30 days prior to the survey increases from 9% of 6th grade students to over 50% of high school seniors. Primarily, this use involves the consumption of beer, wine or wine coolers. In addition to the prevalence of alcohol use, 'binge drinking', the consumption of 5 or more servings of alcohol on at least one occasion, increases with grade level. Nearly one third of those reporting current alcohol use in grade 6 reported binge drinking. This ratio increases to about two out of three drinkers by grade 12. Given these levels of alcohol use among students, alcohol prevention programs need to target students at all grade levels.

### **PREVALENCE OF CURRENT ALCOHOL USE ACROSS GRADE LEVELS FOR MARYLAND YOUTH 1990-91 SCHOOL YEAR**

Type of Alcohol	6th Grade	8th Grade	10th Grade	12th Grade
Beer, Wine or Wine Coolers	7.8%	25.2%	42.1%	50.8%
Liquor	2.5%	13.0%	25.2%	30.6%
5 or More Servings (Binge)	2.6%	10.2%	23.4%	32.3%
Any Form of Alcohol	9.0%	27.6%	43.9%	52.8%

Source: Maryland Adolescent Survey Report; October 1991. To obtain a copy, please contact the Governor's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission at 410-321-3521 or CESAR at 301-403-8329.

**THE CESAR BOARD, AN ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARD FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
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301-403-8343 or 1-800-842-3727 (in Maryland)**

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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