

A Weekly FAX From the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland At College Park *

***Federal Study Finds School Dropout Rate in Baltimore City
Among the Highest in the Northeast*****

CESAR staff obtained the full report of the study cited by the recent Washington Post article on school dropout rates. The report to Congress by the National Center for Education Statistics revealed that the status dropout rate for all Maryland residents age 16 - 19 in 1990 was 11.0%, slightly below the national average of 11.2%. The *status* dropout rate measures the proportion of the population who have not completed high school and are not enrolled at one point in time, regardless of when they dropped out. Rates are calculated from the 1990 Decennial Census file. For individual counties in Maryland (presented in the table below), the status dropout rates ranged from a low of 4.2 % in Howard County to 22.8% in Baltimore City. School dropouts are at high-risk for substance abuse and should be a continued focus of prevention and treatment efforts.

1990 STATUS DROPOUT RATES FOR MARYLAND COUNTIES
(RATES CALCULATED BASED ON PERSONS AGE 18 - 19)

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>RATE</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>RATE</u>
Baltimore City	22.8%	Talbot	10.2%
Dorchester	20.2%	Prince George's	9.3%
Caroline	18.8%	Baltimore County	9.2%
Somerset	18.7%	Garrett	8.3%
St. Mary's	15.5%	Carroll	8.2%
Wicomico	14.4%	Charles	7.6%
Washington	13.9%	Harford	7.6%
Queen Anne's	11.9%	Worcester	7.0%
Anne Arundel	11.8%	Montgomery	5.5%
Kent	10.9%	Allegany	5.2%
Cecil	10.7%	Calvert	4.5%
Frederick	10.2%	Howard	4.2%

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, "Dropout Rates in the United States: 1991". (NCES) 1-800-424-1616 ** The Washington Post, September 17, 1992. (A-1,14).

1992 CESAR SPEAKER SERIES: NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAMS, OCTOBER 16th

CESAR is proud to announce the opening presentation of the 1992 Speaker Series. Scheduled panelists for the discussion on needle exchange programs are Dr. Don DesJarlais, Director of Research at the Chemical Dependency Unit of Beth Israel Medical Center; The Honorable Stuart Simms; State's Attorney for Baltimore City; and Dr. David Vlahov, Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Medicine at The Johns Hopkins University. The discussion is scheduled for October 16, 1992 at the Center for Adult Education, Room 0105 from ten a.m. to twelve noon. The Speaker Series is open to the general public.

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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