

A Weekly FAX From the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland At College Park *

Drug Use Among College Students: U.S. Students Compared with Students at the University of Maryland at College Park

CESAR recently received results from a 1989-91 survey of drug use among students attending colleges and universities across the United States. We thought it might be interesting to compare results from the national survey with the results from a recent survey conducted at the University of Maryland at College Park. In spite of the time differences in the two surveys, the results appear quite similar. Alcohol and marijuana were the drugs most likely to be used in the past year. Use of all drugs except hallucinogens was slightly higher in the national sample. These variations may be the result of several differences in the demographic characteristics of the two samples.

**Drug Use in Year Prior to Survey Among College Students:
U.S. Sample** and University of Maryland at College Park Sample*****

Drugs Used In Prior Year	1989-91 U.S. Sample (N = 56,361)	1991-92 U of MD Sample (N = 1,286)
Alcohol	85.4%	72.9%
Marijuana	27.0%	21.3%
Cocaine	6.1%	2.6%
Amphetamines	4.9%	1.3%
Hallucinogens	4.9%	6.8%
Sedatives	2.2%	<1%
Designer Drugs	2.0%	1.9%
Opiates	<1%	<1%

SOURCE: ** Presley, C. and Meilman, P. *Alcohol and Drugs on American College Campuses: A Report to College Presidents*. Based on 1989-91 data collected from the CORE Alcohol and Drug Survey sponsored by the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE).

*** 1991-92 Student Opinion Survey sponsored by the University of Maryland's Health Center.

The Maryland Compendium of Drug Abuse Indicators Available!

A limited number of Maryland Compendia are now available on a first come, first served basis. This document serves as a single source of information on state drug use trends and patterns; its modular design in a three ring binder enables CESAR staff to update sections in a timely manner. Request your copy in writing and designate the person to whom updates should be sent. Send requests to CESAR, 4321 Hartwick Road, Suite 501, College Park, Maryland 20740.

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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