

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

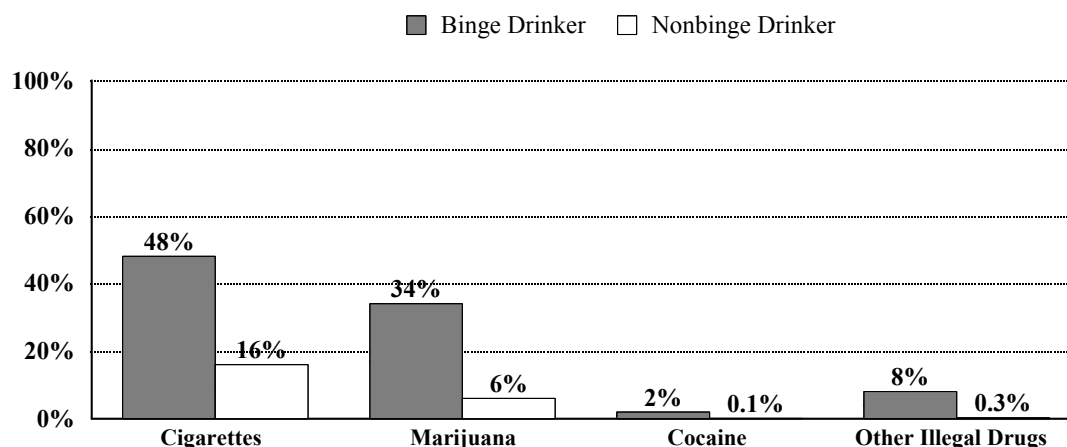
University of Maryland, College Park

Binge Drinkers More Than Five Times More Likely to Use Marijuana; Three Times More Likely to Use Cigarettes

According to a study of U.S. college students, binge drinkers are significantly more likely than nonbinge drinkers to report past-month use of cigarettes, marijuana, cocaine, and other drugs. One-third of binge drinkers reported past-month marijuana use, compared to 6% of nonbinge drinkers. Similarly, students who reported binge drinking in the past month were three times more likely than nonbinge drinkers to also report using cigarettes during that time (48% vs. 16%). The researchers also found that as the number of days per month of binge drinking increased, the odds of other substance use increased significantly. According to the authors, "Alcohol-use reduction programs may be most effective if they also address other substance use that occurs among many alcohol-using college students" (p. 37).

Percentage of Current Substance Use Among U.S. College Students, by Current Binge-Drinking Status

(N=2,857 U.S. undergraduate college students ages 18-24 years)



NOTE: Binge drinkers were students who consumed five or more alcoholic drinks in a row within a couple of hours. Current substance use was defined as using the substance on one or more of the 30 days preceding the survey. Other illegal drugs included LSD, PCP, ecstasy, mushrooms, speed, ice, or heroin.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Jones S.E., Oeltmann J., Wilson T.W., Brener N.D., Hill C.V. "Binge Drinking Among Undergraduate College Students in the United States: Implications for Other Substance Use," *Journal of American College Health* 50:33-38, 2001. For further information, please contact Dr. Sherry Everett Jones at severettjones@cdc.gov.