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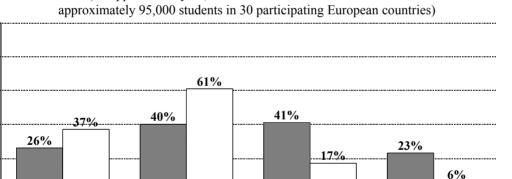
## A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

## U.S. 10th Graders Less Likely Than Those in European Countries to Drink or Smoke; More Likely to Use Marijuana and Other Illicit Drugs

Specifically designed to be comparable to the U.S.'s Monitoring the Future (MTF) high school survey, the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Drugs (ESPAD) was conducted in 1999 with 10<sup>th</sup> grade students in 30 participating European countries.\* According to the 1999 MTF survey, just over one-fourth (26%) of U.S. 10<sup>th</sup> graders reported that they had smoked at least one cigarette in the past 30 days, compared to an average of 37% of 10<sup>th</sup> grade students in the participating European countries (ranging from 16% to 67%). Forty percent of U.S. 10<sup>th</sup> grade students reported using alcohol in the past 30 days, compared to 61% of European students (ranging from 36% to 85%). U.S. 10<sup>th</sup> graders, however, were much more likely to have ever used illicit drugs. For example, 41% of U.S. 10<sup>th</sup> grade students reported ever using marijuana, compared to 17% of European students (ranging from 1% to 35%).

## Percentage of 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Students Reporting Substance Use, United States and European Countries, 1999 (N=approximately 14,000 students in the United States and



United

States

European

Countries

United

States

European

Countries

Smoked Cigarettes Any Alcohol Use Ever Used Ever Used Any Illicit in Past 30 Days in Past 30 Days Marijuana Drug Other Than Marijuana

European

Countries

United

States

100%

80%

60%

40%

20%

0%

United

States

European

Countries

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from State University of New York at Albany, Press Release, 2/20/01. For more information regarding the ESPAD, contact Dr. Thor Bjarnason at <a href="mailto:thor@albany.edu">thor@albany.edu</a>. For more information regarding the MTF study, contact Dr. Lloyd Johnston at lloydj@umich.edu.

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<sup>\*</sup> The ESPAD survey in each country is representative of the national 10<sup>th</sup> grade student population with the exception of the survey in Russia, which is representative of Moscow only.