

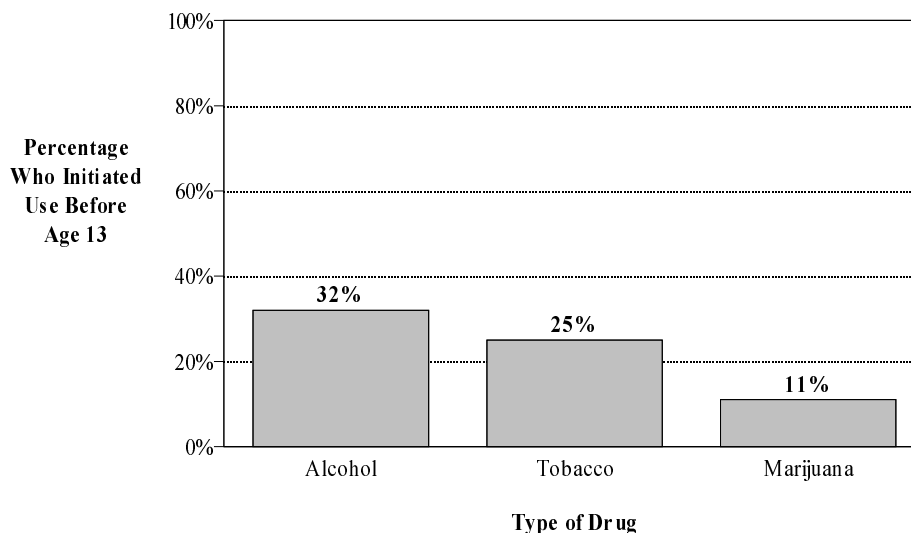
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

***Nearly One-Third of U.S. High School Students
Initiated Alcohol Use and One-Fourth Began Tobacco Use Before Age 13***

According to the 1999 National Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey, a large number of high school students reported using alcohol or tobacco for the first time before they were teenagers. Twenty-five percent of students reported first using tobacco before the age of 13 and 32% reported first using alcohol before that age. More than one in ten students reported using marijuana before age 13. A recent study found that using alcohol for the first time before age 14 increased the likelihood of experiencing an alcohol-related injury (see *CESAR FAX*, Vol. 10, Issue 5).

**Percentage of High School Students Who Began Using
Alcohol, Tobacco, or Marijuana Before Age 13, 1999**



NOTE: Alcohol use is defined as having more than a few sips of alcohol; tobacco use is defined as having smoked a whole cigarette; and marijuana use is defined as having tried marijuana.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance – United States, 1999," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 49(SS05):1-96, June 9, 2000.

Senior Research Analyst Position Available

CESAR is seeking a full-time Senior Research Analyst to assist with a federally-funded project on alcohol and other drug abuse treatment outcomes. Interested applicants should send resume to Amelia M. Arria, Deputy Director of Research, CESAR, 4321 Hartwick Rd, Ste 501, College Park, MD 20740; 301-403-8342 (fax); aaarria@cesar.umd.edu.

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