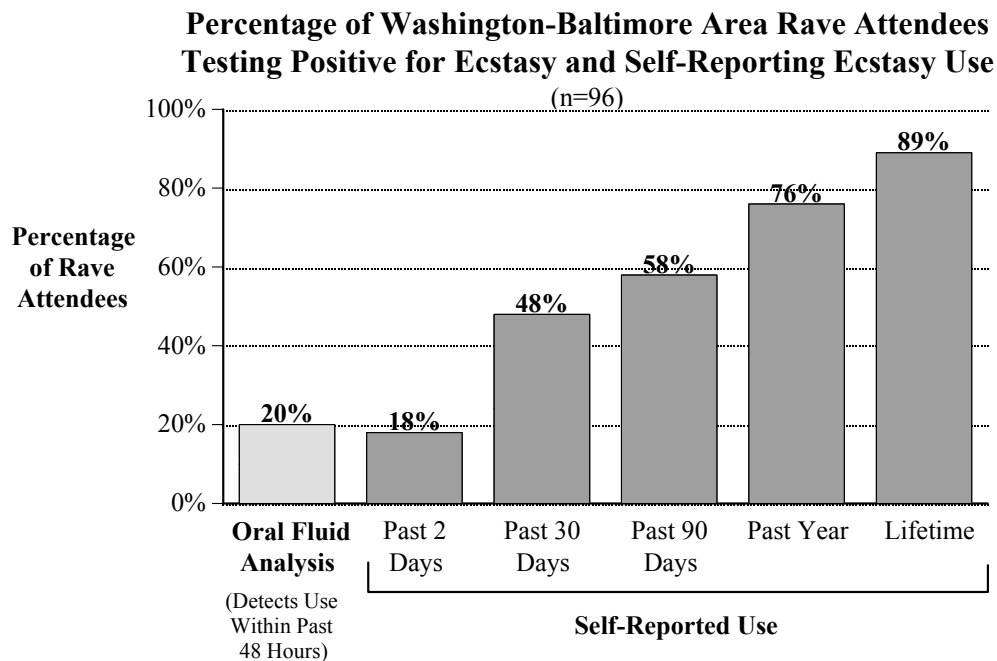


A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Twenty Percent of Rave Attendees Test Positive for Ecstasy, Nearly Half Report Use in Past Month

One in five people leaving raves tested positive for ecstasy—indicating use within the previous 48 hours—according to the first published study of drug use among U.S. rave attendees. Self-reported drug use information and oral fluid specimens were collected from attendees of raves at 5 nightclubs in the Baltimore-Washington corridor between 1 a.m. and 4 a.m. during the fall of 2000. The majority (89%) of the attendees reported ever using ecstasy, 48% reported using in the past month, and 18% reported using within the previous two days (see figure). Current ecstasy users were more likely than nonusers to have used marijuana (81% vs. 36%; $p \leq .001$) or powder cocaine (51% vs. 0%; $p \leq .01$) in the past 12 months. According to the authors, more research, including “longitudinal studies . . . to define the temporal patterning of ecstasy use within drug use in general,” is needed to learn about the risk factors and consequences of ecstasy use (p. 296).



NOTE: Of the club rave attendees approached for interviewing, 77% agreed to and completed the interview and 90% of those who completed the interview provided an oral fluid specimen.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Arria A.M., Yacoubian G.S., Jr., Fost E., Wish E.D. “Ecstasy Use Among Club Rave Attendees,” *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine* 156(3): 295-296, 2002. For more information, contact Dr. Amelia Arria at aarria@cesar.umd.edu or 301-403-8329.