

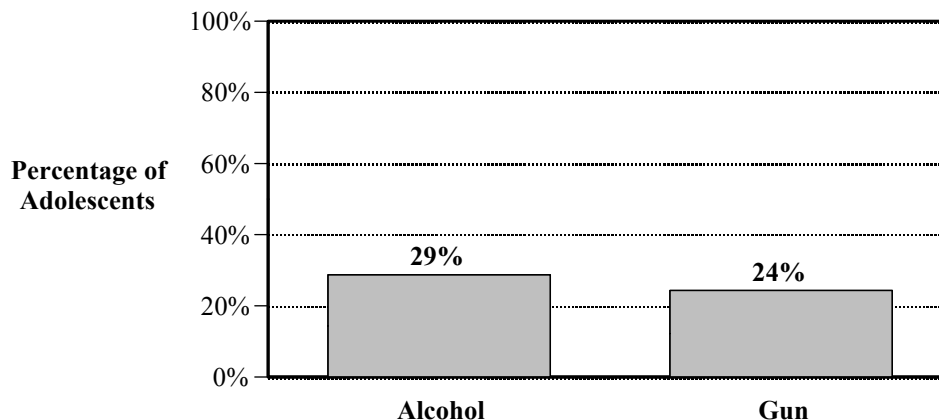
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

One in Four U.S. Adolescents Report Having Easy Access to Alcohol or a Gun in Their Home

One quarter of U.S. adolescents report that they have easy access to either alcohol or a gun in their home, according to a national study of adolescents in grades 7-12. Contrary to the belief that it is more common for adolescents to find alcohol than a gun, the study found that in-home availability of alcohol or a gun are similar (29% and 24%, respectively). Furthermore, one in ten U.S. adolescents report having access to both alcohol and a gun in their home. According to the authors, "Given the risks associated with the misuse of alcohol and guns among adolescents, efforts to increase public awareness of the availability of alcohol and guns in the home are needed. Raising public awareness of these issues, and making parents discuss them, will be necessary in order to increase safe storage practices of alcohol and guns" (p. 229).

Percentage of Adolescents Reporting Easy Access to Alcohol or a Gun in Their Home
(N=18,454)



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Swahn M.H., Hammig B. J., Ikeda R. M. "Prevalence of Youth Access to Alcohol or a Gun in the Home," *Injury Prevention* 8(3):227-230, 2002. For more information please contact Dr. Monica Swahn at mswahn@cdc.gov.

Receive the *CESAR FAX* by Email Each Week

To switch your subscription from fax to email, please send an email to cesar@cesar.umd.edu with your name, the fax number where you currently receive the *CESAR FAX*, and your email address.