

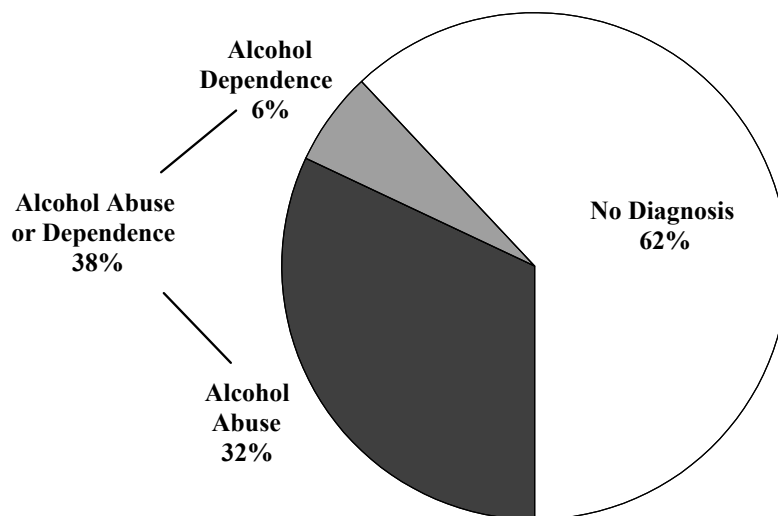
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

***Nearly 40% of College Students Abuse or Are Dependent on Alcohol;
Few Seek Treatment***

Thirty-eight percent of college students abuse or are dependent on alcohol, according to a survey of students attending colleges and universities in 40 states across the U.S. Nearly one-third (32%) of the students were diagnosed as alcohol abusers and 6% were classified with alcohol dependence (see figure). However, only 2% of the students diagnosed as alcohol abusers and 6% of students diagnosed as alcohol dependent sought treatment while in college. The authors suggest, "In addition to strengthening prevention programs, colleges should implement new strategies for screening and early identification of high risk student drinkers and ensure that treatment is readily available for those with alcohol disorders" (p. 263).

Percentage of College Students Diagnosed With Alcohol Abuse or Dependence
(N=14,115)



NOTES: The study analyzed data from the 1999 Harvard School of Public Health College Alcohol Study (supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation) which surveyed students at 119 4-year colleges and universities from 40 U.S. states. Diagnoses of abuse and dependence are based on self-report of DSM-IV criteria.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Knight J.R., Wechsler H., Meichun K., Seibring M., Weitzman E.R., Schuckit M.A., "Alcohol Abuse and Dependence among U.S. College Students," *Journal of Studies on Alcohol* 63(3):263-270, 2002. For more information, contact John R. Knight at john.knight@tch.harvard.edu.