

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

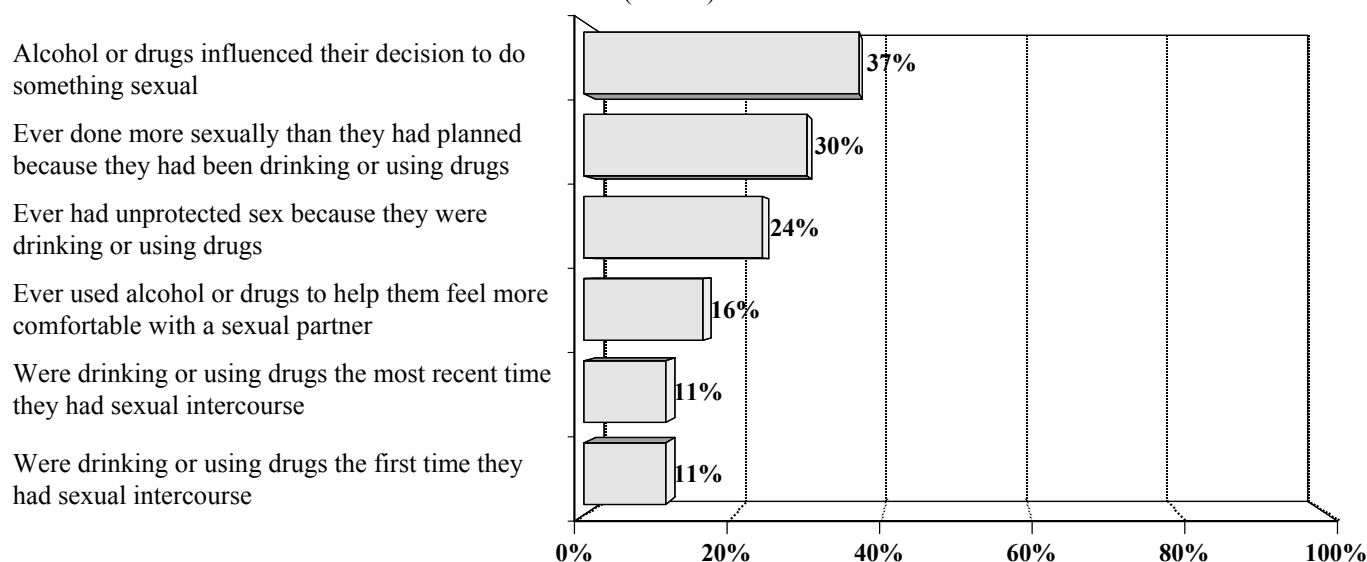
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One-Third of Sexually Active Young Adults Report Alcohol and Drug Use Influenced Their Decision to Do Something Sexual

Sexually active young adults report that drinking and drug use affect the decisions they make about sexual intercourse, according to the 2003 National Survey of Adolescents and Young Adults.* Overall, 80% of young adults age 18-24 have had sexual intercourse. Of these, more than one-third (37%) reported that alcohol or drugs have influenced their decisions about sex and thirty percent said that drinking or using drugs had caused them to do more sexually than they had planned. Nearly one-fourth (24%) reported that they had not used a condom during sex because they were drinking or using drugs. Drugs and alcohol were used by 16% of young adults in order to feel more comfortable with their sexual partner, and one in ten (11%) were under the influence of either drugs or alcohol the most recent time they had intercourse. These findings are consistent with those of previous studies of alcohol and drug-related sexual behavior among U.S. high school students (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 12, Issue 4).

Percentage of Sexually Active Young Adults (age 18-24) Reporting Alcohol or Drug Related Sexual Behaviors, 2003

(N=829)



*The National Survey of Adolescents and Young Adults is a nationally representative telephone survey of 1,854 youths and young adults age 13-24 conducted between November 2001 and February 2002.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Kaiser Family Foundation, Hoff T., Greene L., Davis J., *National Survey of Adolescents and Young Adults: Sexual Health Knowledge, Attitudes and Experience*. The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, 2003. For more information visit www.kff.org.

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