

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

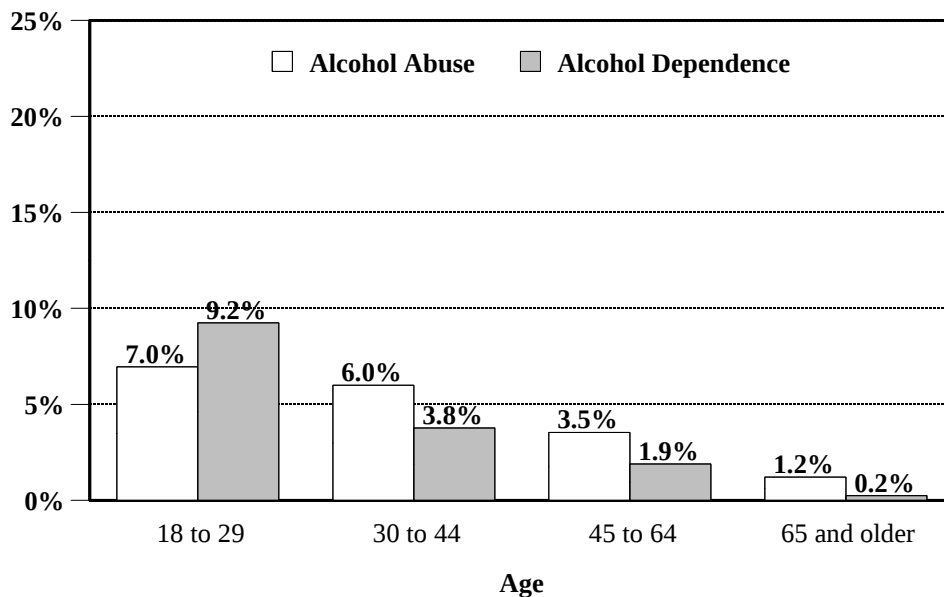
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***Young Adults Have Highest Rates of
Alcohol Abuse and Dependence Among U.S. Residents***

Younger adults are more likely to abuse or be dependent on alcohol, according to data from the 2001-2002 National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions (NESARC). Overall, 4.7% of Americans abuse and 3.8% are dependent on alcohol (data not shown). Young adults have the highest rates of abuse and dependence. Nearly one-tenth (9.2%) of adults age 18 to 29 met DSM-IV criteria for alcohol dependence, compared to 3.8% of adults age 30 to 44, 1.9% of adults age 45 to 64, and 0.2% of those age 65 and older. A similar inverse relationship was found for alcohol abuse rates, which ranged from 7% among 18- to 29-year-olds to 1.2% among those age 65 and older. The authors note that “these findings underscore the need for early prevention programs among all youth” (p. 231).

**Percentage of U.S. Adults Reporting 12-Month Prevalence of
Alcohol Abuse and Alcohol Dependence, by Age, 2001-2002**

(N = 43,093)



NOTE: Alcohol abuse and dependence definitions are based on DSM-IV criteria.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Grant, B., Dawson, D., Stinson, F., Chou, S., Dufour, M., and Pickering, R. “The 12-Month Prevalence and Trends in DSM-IV Alcohol Abuse and Dependence: United States, 1991-1992 and 2001-2002,” *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* 74(3):223-234, 2004. For more information, contact Bridget Grant at bgrant@willco.niaaa.nih.gov.