

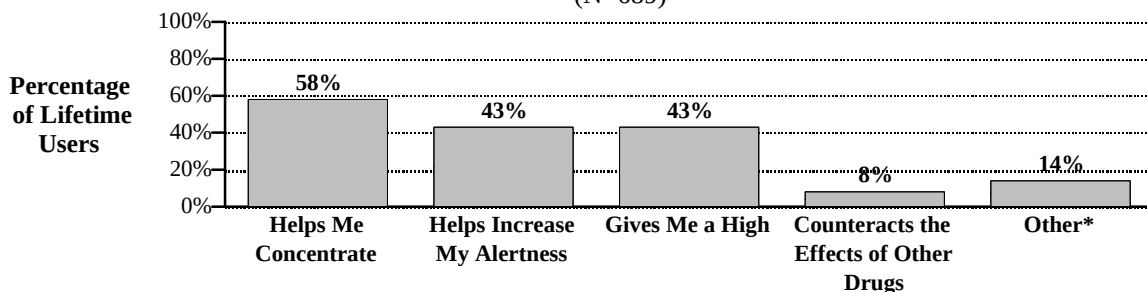
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

***College Students Who Use Prescription Stimulants Illicitly
Most Likely to Use the Drugs to Concentrate, Increase Alertness, and Get High***

Approximately 8% of college undergraduate students report using prescription stimulants that were not prescribed for them at least once in their lifetime, according to a random sample of full-time undergraduate students at the University of Michigan. The most common motive for use was to help with concentration (58%), followed by to increase alertness (43%), and to get high (43%) (see figure below), which is consistent with an ongoing University of Maryland undergraduate study (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 14, Issue 34). The proportion of users reporting each motive remained the same regardless of gender, having been previously prescribed stimulant medications, or the number of occasions of illicit prescription stimulant use. The study also found that students who reported using the drugs to counteract the effects of other drugs or to get high were more likely to also report past year cocaine and amphetamine use, which “may reflect a more extensive stimulant use profile for those students who use illicit prescription stimulants to counteract the effects of other drugs or to get high” (p. 260).

**Motives for Use Among Lifetime Users of Prescription Stimulants,
University of Michigan Undergraduate Students, 2003**
(N=689)



NOTE: Percentages do not add to 100 because each user could have reported more than one motive (31% reported 2 motives and 17% reported 3 or more motives).

*The most common motives specified under the category “other” were to enhance academic or work performance and curiosity and experimentation.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Teter, C.J.; McCabe, S.E.; Cranford, J.A.; Boyd, C.J.; and Guthrie, S.K. “Prevalence and Motives for Illicit Use of Prescription Stimulants in an Undergraduate Student Sample,” *Journal of American College Health* 53(6): 253-262, 2005. For more information, contact Christian Teter at c.teter@neu.edu.

New Job Announcement:

CESAR Seeking PhD-Level Candidate to Analyze Data on Alcohol Use Among College Students

CESAR is seeking a Research Associate to analyze and publish data from an ongoing, longitudinal prospective survey of alcohol use among college students. A PhD-level candidate with post-doctorate experience in public health and/or epidemiology is preferred. If you are interested in working in a supportive and stimulating, university-based team environment, please send a letter of interest and a resume to Dr. Amelia Arria at CESAR, 4321 Hartwick Rd, Ste 501, College Park, MD 20740; 301-403-8342 (fax); cesar@cesar.umd.edu.

•• 301-405-9770 (voice) •• 301-403-8342 (fax) •• CESAR@cesar.umd.edu •• www.cesar.umd.edu ••
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