

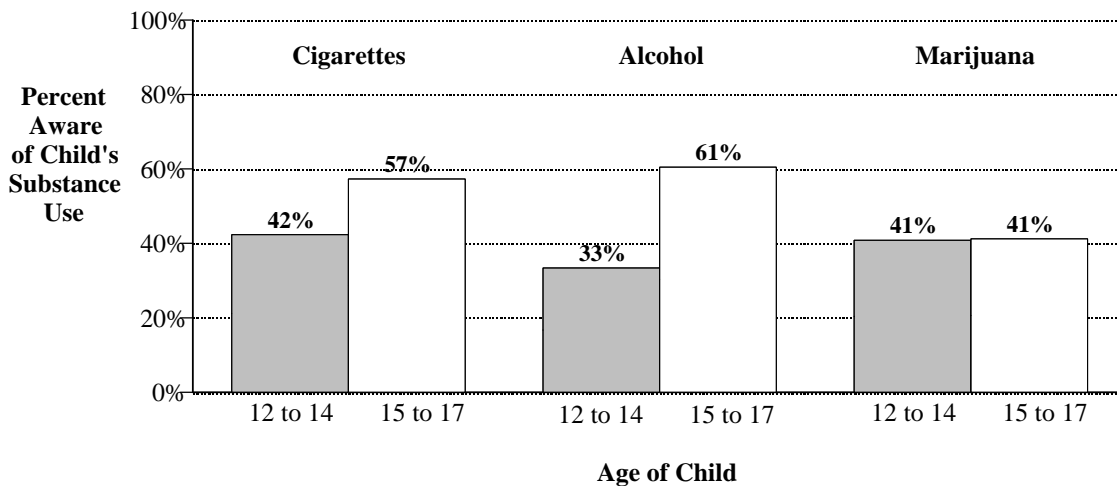
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Parents Less Likely to Be Aware of Cigarette and Alcohol Use by Children Age 12 to 14 Than That of Older Children; Equally Likely to Be Unaware of Marijuana Use

Parents are less likely to be aware of a younger child's cigarette and alcohol use than that of an older child, according to analysis of multiyear data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). Less than half of mothers knew that their 12- to 14-year-old child had used cigarettes (42%) or alcohol (33%) in the past year, compared to 57% and 61%, respectively, of mothers of 15- to 17-year-olds. In contrast, age made no difference for the mother's awareness of marijuana use—less than half (41%) of parents of both younger and older children were aware of their child's marijuana use. Similar results were found for fathers (data not shown). These findings illustrate the need for parent-oriented substance abuse prevention programs, with a particular need for alcohol and tobacco education for parents of middle school age youth.

Percentage of Mothers Who Were Aware of Their Child's Substance Use in the Past Year, by Age of Child



NOTES: Analyses are from 2002 to 2006 combined NSDUH data weighted to be nationally representative of mother-child and father-child pairs in the United States. Parents were considered to be aware of their child's substance use if both the parent and the child reported that the child used a specific substance in the past year.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), "Parent Awareness of Youth Use of Cigarettes, Alcohol, and Marijuana," *The NSDUH Report*, April 24, 2008. Available online at <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k8/parents/parents.cfm>.

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