

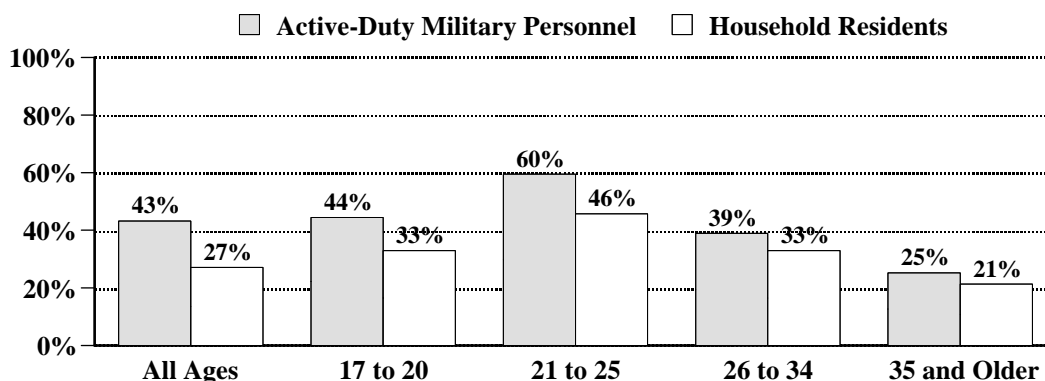
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Military Personnel More Likely to Binge Drink Than Household Residents; Largest Discrepancy Seen Among Underage Youth and Young Adults

Military personnel are more likely than household residents to report binge drinking in the past month, according to data from the Survey of Health Related Behaviors Among Military Personnel and the National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Overall, 43% of active-duty military personnel (ADMP) reported binge drinking in 2005 (the most current year for which data are available), compared to 27% of household residents*. While ADMP had higher rates across all age groups, the largest difference in binge drinking rates were found among underage youth ages 17 to 20 (44% vs. 33%) and young adults ages 21 to 25 (60% vs. 46%). Noting that “most alcohol programs in the military have tended to focus exclusively on screening and treating alcoholism,” the authors suggest that other interventions be implemented, such as increasing the price of alcoholic beverages on military bases, establishing and enforcing “rules restricting the use of alcohol in dormitories, in single housing, and onboard ships,” and offering alcohol-free activities.

Percentage of U.S. Active-Duty Military Personnel and Household Residents Reporting Binge Drinking in the Past Month, by Age, 2005



NOTE: Binge drinking is the consumption on a single occasion of 5 or more drinks for men or 4 or more drinks for women.

*Data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health are for persons ages 17 to 64.

SOURCES: Adapted by CESAR from Stahre, M.A., Brewer, R.D., Fonseca, V.P., and Naimi, T.S. “Binge Drinking Among U.S. Active-Duty Military Personnel,” *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* 36(3):208-217, 2009. For more information contact Mandy Stahre at mstahre@cdc.gov; and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Results from the 2005 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Detailed Tables*, 2006. Available online at <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/NSDUH/2k5nsduh/tabs/2k5tabs.pdf>

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