

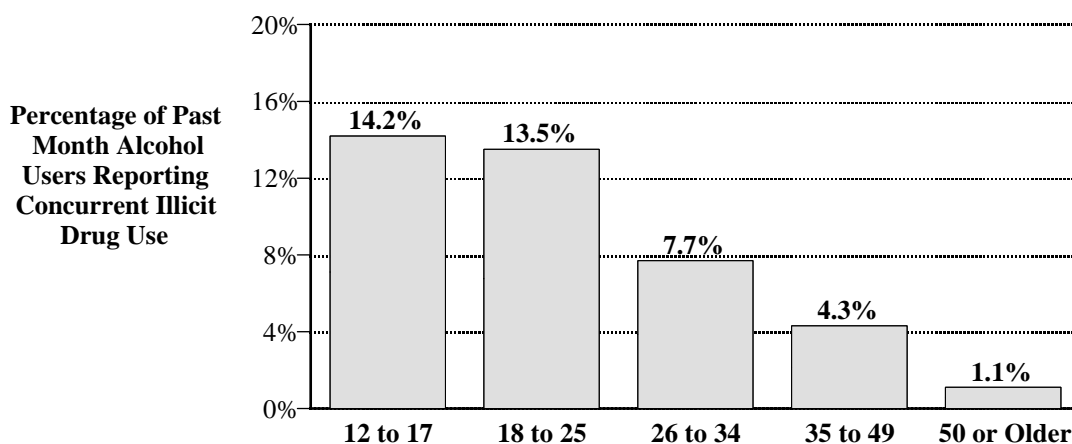
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Youths and Young Adults More Likely Than Older Persons to Have Used Alcohol and Illicit Drugs Together in the Past Month

An estimated 7.1 million current alcohol users reported using illicit drugs (primarily marijuana) at the same time they last used alcohol, according to an analysis of data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). Youths ages 12 to 17 and young adults ages 18 to 25 were most likely to report concurrent alcohol and illicit drug use (14.2% and 13.5%, respectively), compared to 7.7% of adults ages 26 to 34 and less than 5% of older adults (see figure below). Concurrent alcohol and illicit drug use was also more prevalent among males (7.1% vs. 3.9% for females) and among binge drinkers (13.9% vs. 3.8% for non-binge drinkers; data not shown). The authors suggest that “prevention and treatment providers should continue to emphasize the risks of using alcohol and illicit drugs together, with targeted messages for those groups at greatest risk for this behavior” (p. 3).

**Percentage of Past Month Alcohol Users Reporting
Concurrent Illicit Drug and Alcohol Use, by Age Group**
(2006 and 2007 data combined)



NOTES: Marijuana was the drug most frequently used concurrently with alcohol (4.8%). All other illicit drugs (cocaine/crack, inhalants, hallucinogens, heroin, and prescription-type drugs used nonmedically) were each used concurrently with alcohol by less than 1% of respondents.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), “Concurrent Illicit Drug and Alcohol Use,” *The NSDUH Report*, March 19, 2009. Available online at <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k9/alcDrugs/alcDrugs.cfm>.

Want to Establish a Community Services Locator in Your County or State?

Since 2007, CESAR has operated the interactive Maryland Community Services Locator (MDCSL) website (www.mdcs.org), which allows users to quickly find detailed resource listings and directions to a variety of Maryland community resources, including substance abuse treatment, housing services, and job readiness programs. If you are interested in establishing a community services locator in your county or state, CESAR can share lessons learned, provide consultant services, or manage the development of your program. Please send inquiries to mdcs@cesar.umd.edu.