

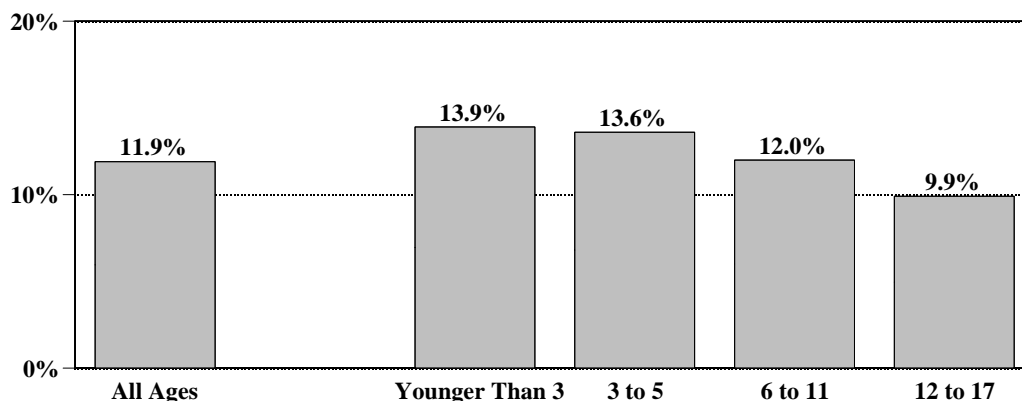
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

More Than One In Ten Children in the U.S. Live With Substance-Abusing or Substance-Dependent Parent

An estimated 8.3 million children—11.9%—live with at least one parent (biological, step-, adoptive, or foster) who had abused or was dependent on alcohol or an illicit drug in the past year, according to a recent analysis of data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Younger children were slightly more likely than older children to live with a substance-abusing or –dependent parent (14% vs. 10%; see figure below). Since “substance use disorders can have a profound influence on the lives of individuals and their families, particularly their children,” the authors believe that these findings “highlight the potential breadth of needs for the whole family—from substance abuse treatment for the affected adults to prevention and supportive services for the children” (p. 3).

**Percentage of U.S. Children Living with One or More Parents with Past Year
Alcohol or Illicit Drug Abuse or Dependence, by Age**
(2002 to 2007 Data Combined)



NOTES: Children under 18 years of age who were not living with one or more parents were excluded from this analysis (approximately 4% of children). Abuse and dependence were defined using DSM-IV criteria.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), “Children Living with Substance-Dependent or Substance-Abusing Parents: 2002 to 2007,” *The NSDUH Report*, April 16, 2009. Available online at <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k9/SAParents/SAParents.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.mdcs1.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 mdcs1@cesar.umd.edu.

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The Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention funded this project under grant BJAG 2005-1206. All points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of any State agency.