

**A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research**

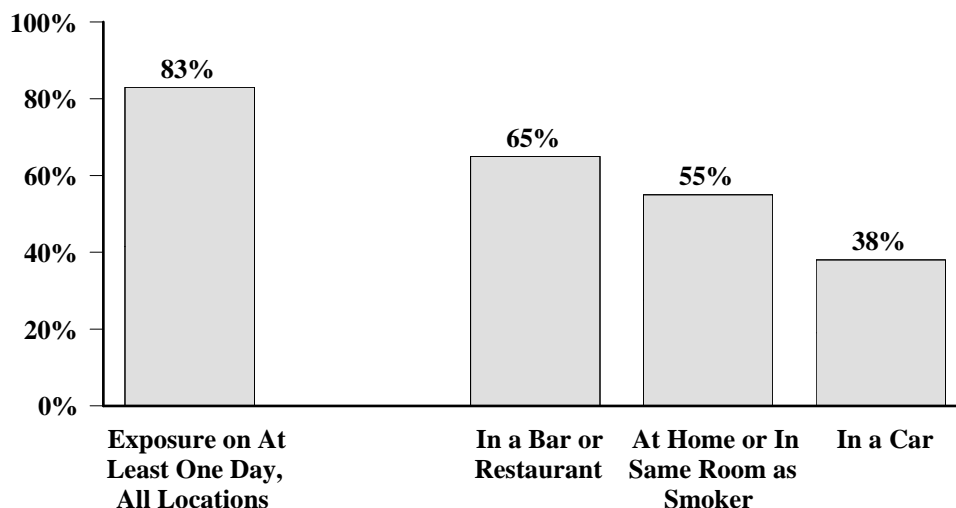
**University of Maryland, College Park**

***Study Finds High Rates of Secondhand Smoke Exposure Among NC College Students***

Exposure to secondhand smoke is common among North Carolina undergraduate college students, according to the first study to provide evidence of the high rates of secondhand smoke exposure among U.S. college students. Overall, 83% of undergraduate students at ten North Carolina universities reported being exposed to secondhand smoke in the seven days prior to the survey. The most common place of exposure reported was in a restaurant or bar (65%), followed by exposure at home or in the same room as a smoker (55%), and exposure in a car (38%). While smokers comprised only around one-fourth of the students surveyed, they were more likely to report exposure to secondhand smoke, most likely because they are apt to have friends who smoke and to hang out or live in places where smoking occurs. Other factors that were associated with exposure included female gender, binge drinking, and attending a public (rather than private) university (data not shown). The authors note that while “administrators may be limited in their ability to affect exposure in some locations—such as off-campus housing and bars and restaurants—they can take steps to reduce smoking and concomitant exposure to SHS among college students” such as enacting smoke-free campus policies and offering smoking cessation services (p. 982).

**Percentage of North Carolina College Students Reporting  
Exposure to Secondhand Smoke on at Least One Day in the Past Seven Days, 2006**

(N=4,223 undergraduate students at 10 public and private North Carolina universities)



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Wolfson, M., McCoy, T.P., and Sutfin, E.L. “College Students’ Exposure to Secondhand Smoke,” *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* 11(8):977-984, 2009. For more information, contact Dr. Mark Wolfson at [mwolfson@wfubmc.edu](mailto:mwolfson@wfubmc.edu).