

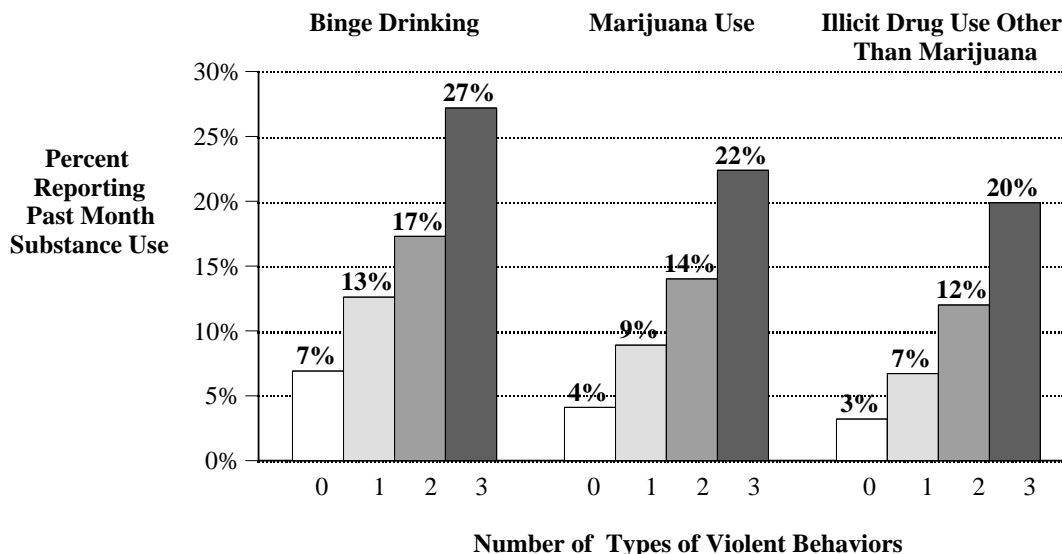
## A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

### *Adolescent Females Who Report Engaging in Violent Behavior More Likely to Also Report Alcohol and Illicit Drug Use*

Slightly more than one-fourth (27%) of adolescent females engaged in at least one of three types of violent behaviors in the past year (getting into a serious fight at school or work, participating in a group-against-group fight, or attacking others with the intent to seriously hurt them), according to data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health. These females were more likely to report binge drinking and illicit drug use than females who did not report violent behavior in the past year, and the rate of reported substance use increased with the number of violent behaviors reported (see figure below). Compared to girls who reported no violent behavior, girls who reported engaging in all three types of violent behaviors in the past year were nearly four times more likely to report binge drinking in the past month, five times more likely to use marijuana, and nearly seven times more likely to use other illicit drugs. It should be noted that while these findings show a relationship between violent behavior and substance use, they do not provide evidence of a causal relationship between the two (i.e., that the violent behavior causes substance use or vice versa).

**Percentage of Females Ages 12 to 17 Reporting Past Month Substance Use,  
by Number of Types of Violent Behaviors in the Past Year, 2006 to 2008**



NOTES: Binge drinking is defined as drinking five or more drinks on the same occasion (i.e., at the same time or within a couple of hours of each other) on at least 1 day in the past 30 days. Illicit drugs include cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens, heroin, or prescription-type drugs used nonmedically.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), "Violent Behaviors Among Adolescent Females," *The NSDUH Report*, December 17, 2009. Available online at <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k9/171/171FemaleViolence.cfm>.