

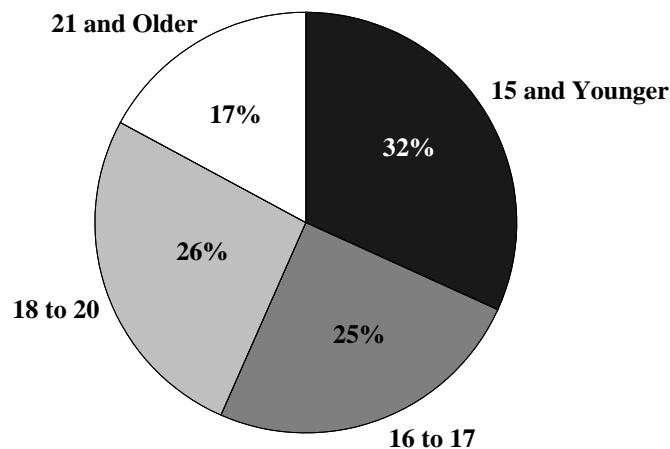
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Nearly One-Third of Current Smokers Began Smoking When They Were 15 or Younger

Smoking initiation rates decrease with age, according to data from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). One-fifth of adults are current smokers, meaning that they have smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and currently smoke. Of these current smokers, nearly one-third (32%) began smoking fairly regularly at age 15 or younger, compared to around one-fourth who started smoking at ages 16 to 20 and 17% who began smoking at age 21 or older (see figure below). While cigarette use among youth has been declining in recent years (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 18, Issue 45), these findings suggest that youth smoking prevention efforts need to continue unabated.

Age at Which Current Adult Smokers Started Smoking Fairly Regularly, United States, 2005-2007 Annual Average



NOTES: Data are annual averages from the 2005 to 2007 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), a survey of the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population collected using computer-assisted personal interviews of adults aged 18 years and older. Estimates are age-adjusted using the projected 2000 U.S. population as the standard population.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics, *Health Behaviors of Adults: United States, 2005-2007*, 2010. Available online at http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_10/sr10_245.pdf.

CESAR Recruiting PI-Level NIH Researcher

CESAR is seeking a PI-level NIH researcher who will relocate to CESAR and CAPER (Center for Addictions, Personality, and Emotion Research) with their existing grants and/or collaborate with CESAR/CAPER staff in obtaining new funding. Multi-year seed funding is possible. If you have a proven funding track record and are interested in working in a supportive and stimulating university-based team environment, please send a letter of interest and a resume to Dr. Eric Wish at CESAR, 4321 Hartwick Rd, Ste 501, College Park, MD 20740; 301-403-8342 (fax); cesar@cesar.umd.edu.