

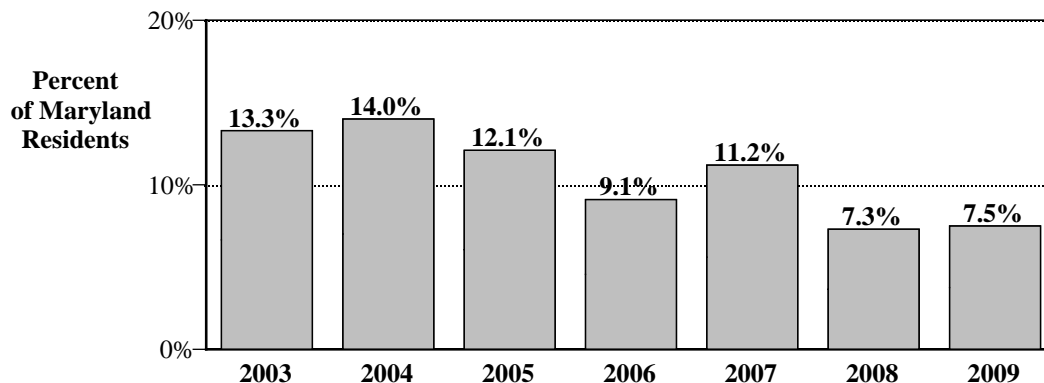
## A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

### *Percentage of Maryland Drivers Reporting Drinking and Driving Decreased by Nearly Half Since 2004*

The percentage of Maryland drivers reporting drinking and driving has decreased by 46% since 2004, according to data from an annual state-wide telephone survey of licensed drivers. In 2004, 14% of Maryland drivers reported drinking and driving, the highest recorded since the inception of the survey in 2003. This rate decreased to 7.3% in 2008 and remained at approximately this level in 2009. Despite these long-term decreases in reported drinking and driving, slightly less than 35% of drivers surveyed in 2009 believed that it was almost certain or very likely they would be stopped by the police if they drove after drinking too much (data not shown), suggesting that there is an opportunity to further decrease drinking and driving rates in Maryland. The author suggests that “increased media attention as well as high visibility enforcement efforts, such as sobriety checkpoints, should enhance the public’s perception that drinking and driving is a serious offense and one for which they will be apprehended” (p. 8).

**Percentage of Maryland Licensed Drivers Reporting  
Driving After Having a Few Drinks in the Past 30 Days, 2003 to 2009**  
(N=800 to 850 per year)



NOTES: Data are from an annual state-wide telephone survey of licensed drivers (Monitoring the Future of Maryland) conducted by the University of Maryland, School of Public Health with the support of the Maryland Highway Safety Office. Data are weighted by gender, age, and race to be representative of the state’s driving population. The survey asks about beliefs, knowledge, attitudes, concerns, and behaviors regarding a variety of traffic safety issues and is used by the Highway Safety Office to help in their highway safety planning, implementation, and evaluation efforts.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from Beck, K.H., *Seven Years of Surveillance: A Report on Selected Trends of Reported Behaviors, Concerns and Beliefs of Maryland Drivers*, 2009. Available online at <http://www.dpch.umd.edu/research/Surveillance.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](mailto:cesar@cesar.umd.edu).