

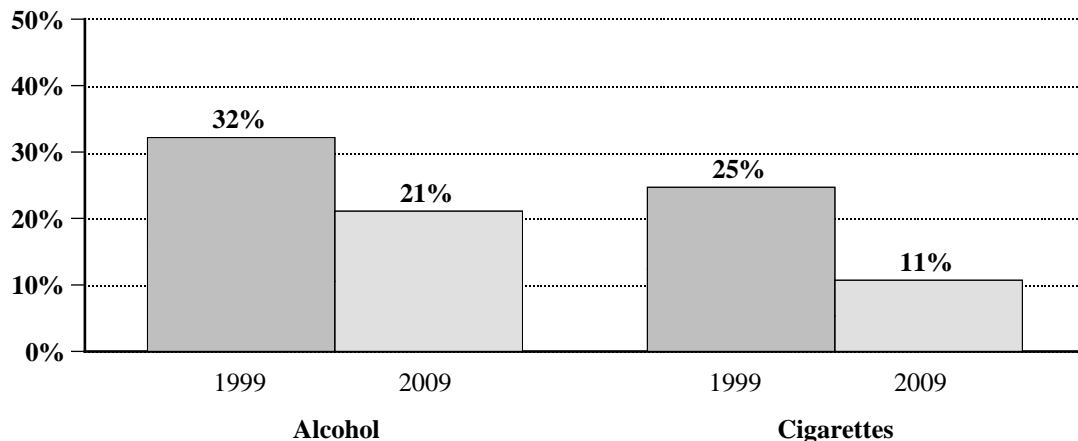
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

U.S. High School Students Less Likely to Begin Drinking or Smoking Before Age 13 in 2009 Than in 1999

The percentage of high school students who first tried alcohol or cigarettes before age 13 has decreased over the past decade, according to data from the recently released 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey. In 1999, nearly one-third of high school students had reported drinking more than a few sips of alcohol and one-fourth reported smoking a whole cigarette for the first time before age 13. These rates decreased to 21% and 11%, respectively, in 2009. While these declines in early alcohol and tobacco use are encouraging many students still began drinking and smoking before age 13. Previous research has shown a relationship between early alcohol initiation and alcohol abuse and dependence.

Percentage of High School Students Who Tried Alcohol or Cigarettes for the First Time Before Age 13, 1999 and 2009



NOTES: The Youth Risk Behavior Survey employs a three-stage cluster sample design to produce a nationally representative sample of public and private school students in grades 9 to 12.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2009," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 59 (SS-5), June 4, 2010. Available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm>.

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.