

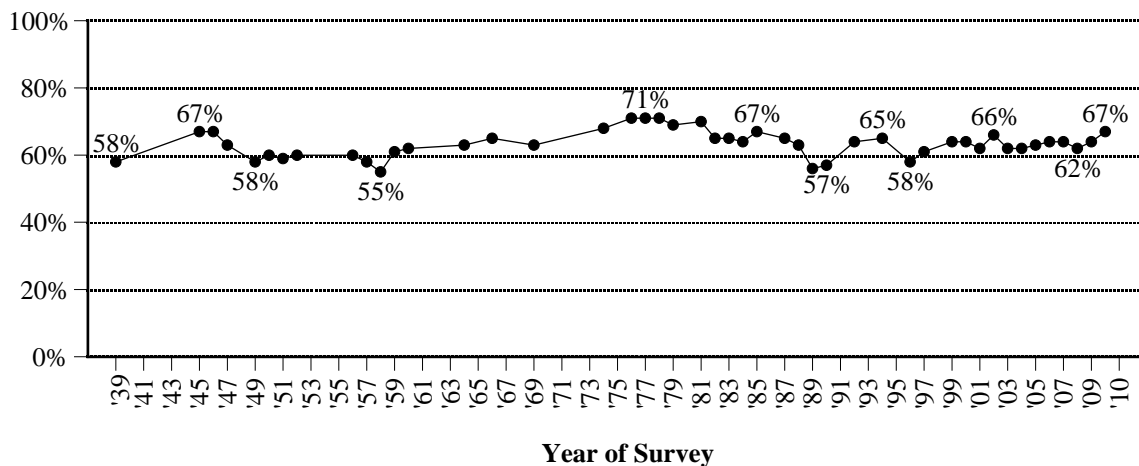
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Alcohol Use Among Adults Has Remained Relatively Stable Over Past 70 Years

Alcohol use among U.S. adults has remained relatively stable over the past 70 years, according to data from the Gallup Poll Social Series. Between 1939 and 2010, the percentage of Americans reporting that they “have occasion to use alcoholic beverages such as liquor, wine, or beer” averaged 63%, ranging from 55% in 1958 to 71% in 1976-1978 (see figure below). Beer was the preferred alcoholic beverage over the time period, followed by wine and liquor. For example, 41% of those who drank alcohol in 2010 reported drinking beer most often, 32% reported drinking wine, and 21% reported drinking liquor (data not shown). These trends are in contrast to those of smoking among American adults, which has decreased by one-half since 1944 (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 17, Issue 34).

Percentage of U.S. Adults Reporting That They Drink Alcohol, 1939 to 2010



NOTES: Respondents were asked “Do you have occasion to use alcoholic beverages such as liquor, wine, or beer, or are you a total abstainer?” Data for 2010 are based on national telephone (land-line and cellular) interviews conducted July 8-11, 2010 with a random sample of 1,020 adults (ages 18 and older) living in the continental U.S. The margin of error is ± 4 percentage points. If more than one poll was conducted in a year, the poll that occurred closest to the month of July was used in the above graph. Surveys were only conducted in years that have a data point marker.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Gallup, “U.S. Drinking Rate Edges Up Slightly to 25-year High,” July 30, 2010 (available online at <http://www.gallup.com/poll/141656/Drinking-Rate-Edges-Slightly-Year-High.aspx>) and Gallup News Service, Gallup Poll Social Series: Consumption Habits, undated (available online at http://www.gallup.com/poll/File/141671/Alcohol_July_30_2010.pdf).

VHS Tapes of Lectures by Renowned Scientists Available

In the early 1990s, CESAR sponsored a series of lectures with leading scientists in the fields of substance abuse and criminal justice, including David Musto, Robert Dupont, Ethan Nadelmann, David Nurco, and James Inciardi. Limited supplies of VHS tapes of these CESAR Speaker Series lectures are now available for the cost of shipping and handling (\$5 per tape). Don't miss this chance to add these unique lectures to your library! See the CESAR website (www.cesar.umd.edu) for a list of available tapes and for ordering information.