

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

University of Maryland at College Park\*

## ***LSD: The New "Rave"?***

Recent media reports have highlighted the resurgence of LSD, a hallucinogen that reached its height of popularity among the "hippie movement" of the 1960's. Almost 25 years later, the drug's availability and use among high school and college students remains a concern. Data from the Maryland Adolescent Survey (MAS) in 1990 indicates that 9.9% of 12th graders reported using LSD in the prior year, considerably higher than that found in the national survey (5.2%). In some media reports, LSD and designer drug use has been associated with "Raves". Raves are large, organized gatherings (mainly in warehouses or open fields) in which electric, synthesized music and laser light shows are the main attraction. While LSD and designer drug use has been reported in other contexts, anecdotal reports of Raves indicate that the sensation of the music and lights is heightened by the use of these drugs. However, research conducted primarily in the 1970's, found that there were sometimes unpredictable adverse consequences of LSD use.

### **Use of LSD in Past Year in Maryland and National Samples of High School Seniors and College Students from Three Surveys Conducted Between 1990 and 1991**

		Percent Who Used <u>LSD in Prior Year</u>
<u>High School Seniors:</u>		
Maryland	(N = 2,941)	9.9% <sup>1</sup>
National	(N = 15,000)	5.2% <sup>2</sup>
<u>College Students:</u>		
Maryland	(N = 1,286)	4.5% <sup>3</sup>
National	(N = 1,410)	5.1% <sup>2</sup>

#### SOURCES:

- <sup>1</sup> Maryland Adolescent Survey (MAS), Maryland State Department of Education. The MAS was conducted in school year 1990-91.
- <sup>2</sup> Monitoring the Future Surveys, National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research. The High School Senior and College Student Surveys were conducted in 1991.
- <sup>3</sup> University of Maryland Student Opinion Survey, sponsored by the University of Maryland's Health Center. The survey was conducted in school year 1991-92.

### **CESAR SPEAKER SERIES: VIDEOTAPES OF THE 1991-92 SEASON NOW AVAILABLE!**

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Dr. David Musto, Dr. Robert DuPont, Dr. Paul Goldstein, and Dr. Ethan Nadelman.  
For more information, contact Alicia Hobbs at (301) 405-3609.

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