

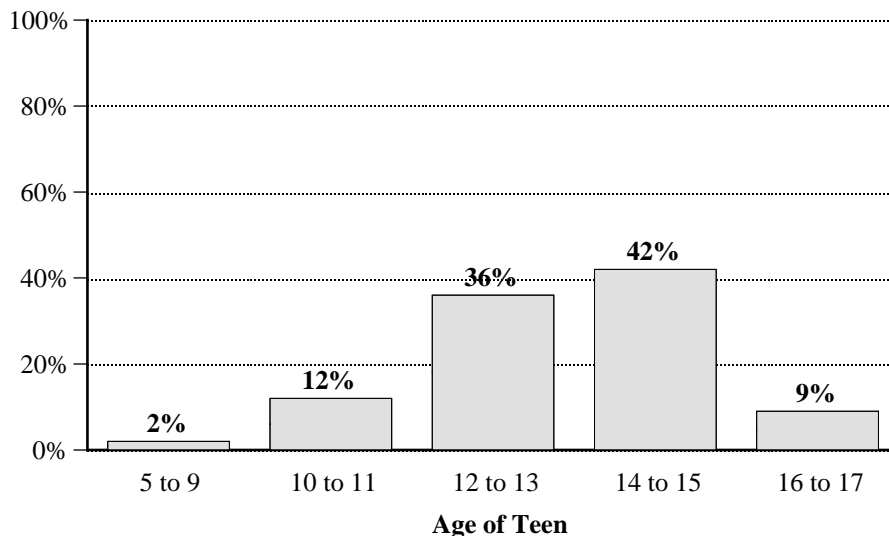
## A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

### ***Forty Percent of U.S. Youth Report Seeing Pictures of Alcohol and Drug Use on Social Networking Sites; Majority Report First Seeing Pictures Before Age 16***

Forty percent of U.S. youth report seeing pictures of kids getting drunk, passed out, or using drugs on Facebook, Myspace, or other social networking sites, according to data from a 2011 survey by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University. Of these youth, approximately 90% had first seen such pictures at age 15 or younger. While the majority reported that their first exposure was at age 12 or 13 (36%) and 14 or 15 (42%), more than one in ten reported that their first exposure was as young as 10 or 11. These findings corroborate those of another study that found that much of the alcohol-related content on Facebook is easily accessible by those under the age of 21 (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 20, Issue 8).

### **Age U.S. Youth Ages 12 to 17 Report First Seeing Pictures of Kids Drunk, Passed Out, or Using Drugs on a Social Networking Site, 2011\***



\*Percentages do not sum to 100 due to rounding.

NOTE: Data were collected from an internet-based survey of a nationally representative sample of 1,037 youth ages 12 to 17 from March 27 to April 27, 2011. Sampling error is +/- 3.1 for teens.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, *National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse XVI: Teens and Parents*, August 2011. Available online at <http://www.casacolumbia.org/download.aspx?path=/UploadedFiles/ooc3hqnl.pdf>.