

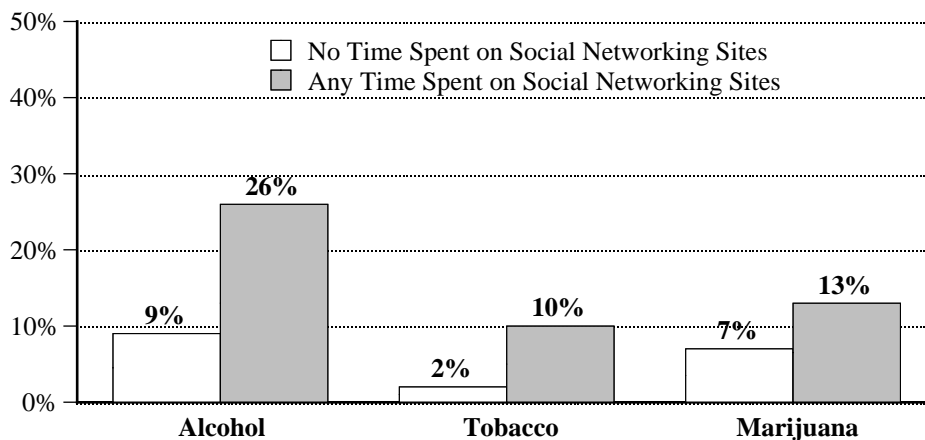
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Teens Who Spend Any Time on Social Networking Sites in a Typical Day More Likely to Report Tobacco, Alcohol, or Marijuana Use

Seventy percent of U.S. teens spend at least some time on a social networking site in a typical day and 29% spend more than an hour online, according to data from a recent survey conducted by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University. While many of the teens visiting these sites report seeing pictures of substance use (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 20, Issue 38), they also are more likely to use tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana themselves. Teens who spend any time* on a social networking site—such as Facebook or Myspace—are five times more likely to have ever used tobacco, three times more likely to have ever used alcohol, and nearly twice as likely to have ever used marijuana (see figure below). These findings may be due to differences between social networking site users and nonusers., such as age or socioeconomic status. The survey also found that more than one-third (36%) of parents of teens with a social networking page say that they do not monitor it, suggesting that another difference between the groups may be the degree of parental monitoring.

**Percent of U.S. Teens Reporting Lifetime Use of Alcohol, Tobacco, or Marijuana,
by Time Spent on Social Networking Sites in a Typical Day, 2011**



*The survey did not find significant differences in substance use among teens spending 1 to 30 minutes, 31 to 90 minutes, or more than 90 minutes on a social networking site in a typical day.

NOTE: Data were collected from an internet-based survey of a nationally representative sample of 1,037 teens and 528 of their parents from March 27 to April 27, 2011. Sampling error is +/- 3.1 for teens and +/- 4.4 for parents.

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>.