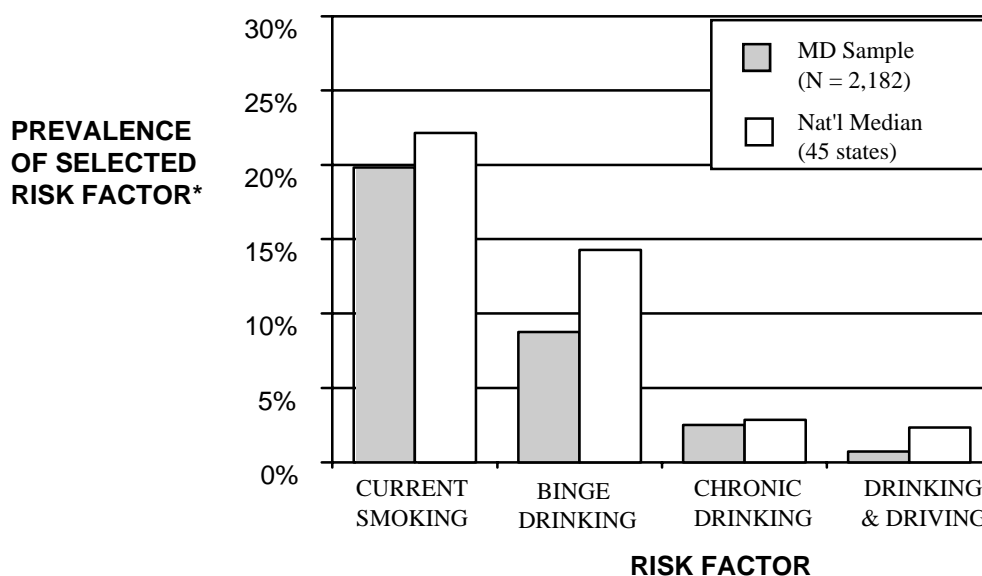


BRFSS Survey Shows That Maryland Ranks Near the Median on Smoking and Problem Drinking

Each year the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and participating state health departments conduct a telephone survey of adults age 18 years or older to provide state-specific prevalence estimates of selected health-risk behaviors. For 1992, the most current results available, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) indicates that Maryland ranked slightly below the national median on prevalence of the following risk factors: current smoking, binge drinking, chronic drinking, and drinking and driving. The largest difference was in the prevalence of binge drinking (14.3% national median vs. 8.7% in Maryland).

Prevalence of Smoking and Drinking in Maryland and the U.S., 1992



*** Risk Factor Definitions:**

Current Smoking = current use of cigarettes by someone who has smoked at least 100 cigarettes in his/her lifetime.

Binge Drinking = consumption of 5 or more alcoholic drinks on at least one occasion during the past month.

Chronic Drinking = having an average of 60 or more alcoholic drinks a month.

Drinking and Driving = operation of a motor vehicle after drinking too much alcohol at least once in the past month.

SOURCE: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

BRFSS data are collected by the MDHMH in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For more information about the BRFSS, please call Alyse Weinstein at (410) 225-6783.

VOLUME II OF THE CESAR FAX NOW AVAILABLE !

Issues 1 through 51 (1993) of the CESAR FAX are now available in a bound volume.

Please send written requests to: 4321 Hartwick Road, Suite 501, College Park, MD 20740

For more information about today's topic or to be placed on the distribution list, please call CESAR at 301-403-8329.

* CESAR FAX is supported by a grant from the Governor's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission.