

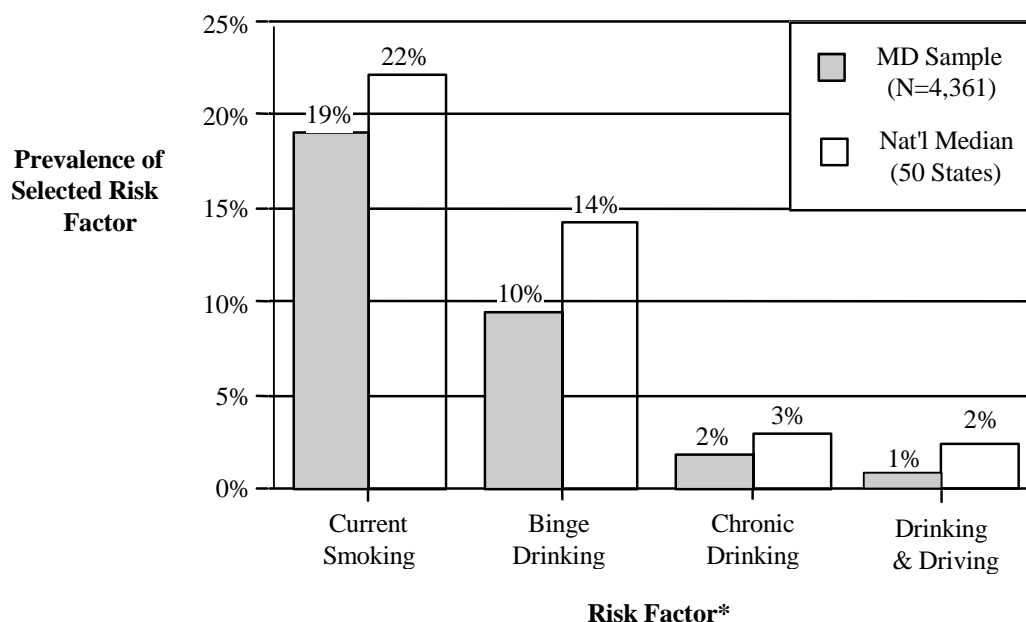
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland at College Park*

Maryland Continues to Rank Below National Median on Smoking and Problem Drinking

The most recent Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey shows that for the third year in a row Maryland has ranked below the national median on the prevalence of current smoking, binge drinking, chronic drinking, and drinking and driving. The largest difference was in the prevalence of binge drinking--10% in Maryland versus 14% nationally. The BRFSS is an annual telephone survey of selected health-risk behaviors of adults aged 18 years or older, conducted by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Prevalence of Smoking and Drinking Risk Factors in Maryland and the U.S., 1993



*** 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: Adapted by CESAR from data from the 1993 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. For more information about the BRFSS, please call Alyse Weinstein at (410) 225-6783.

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