

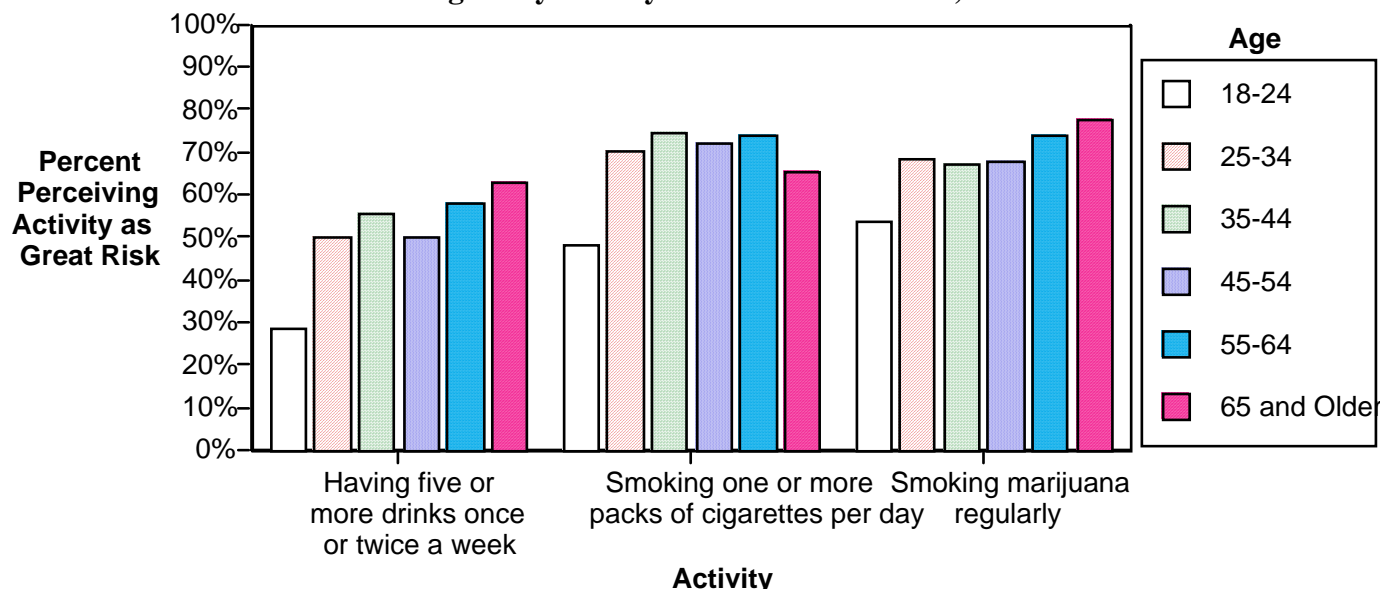
**A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research**

University of Maryland at College Park

***Montgomery County Young Adults Less Likely Than Older Adults to Perceive Risk in Using Alcohol, Cigarettes, and Marijuana***

Recently released data from a survey of Montgomery County residents indicates that young adults' perceptions of the risks of substance use are dramatically lower than those of older age groups. Having five or more drinks once or twice a week was seen as a great risk by 29% of respondents aged 18 to 24, compared with between 50% and 63% of persons aged 25 and older. Similar relationships were found for the perceptions of the risks of cigarette and marijuana use. According to the survey, "these findings suggest that the county needs to focus on debunking the myths that support tolerance of . . . regular marijuana use, heavy alcohol consumption, and cigarette smoking" (p. 20).

**Perceived Risk of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Marijuana Use, by Age,  
Montgomery County Household Residents, 1994**



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from the 1994 *Montgomery County Household Survey of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse*, sponsored by the Montgomery County Community Partnership (MCCP) and conducted by Macro International, Inc. The survey was conducted via telephone with 1,244 Montgomery County householders aged 18 or older. For more information contact the Montgomery County Community Partnership at (301) 929-8550.

**NEEDLE EXCHANGE DOCUMENTARY RECENTLY RELEASED**

"Fire in Our House" is a 10-minute documentary that illustrates the "positive impact that needle exchange programs have on addicts, their families and communities. As a strategic tool that personalizes the terms of the debate, 'Fire in Our House' increases public awareness about needle exchange, influences policies and assists grassroots mobilization." For a free preview copy and the Resource Guide, contact MayDay Media at (202) 338-1094.

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• 301-403-8329 (voice) • 301-403-8342 (fax) • CESAR@cesar.umd.edu (internet) •