

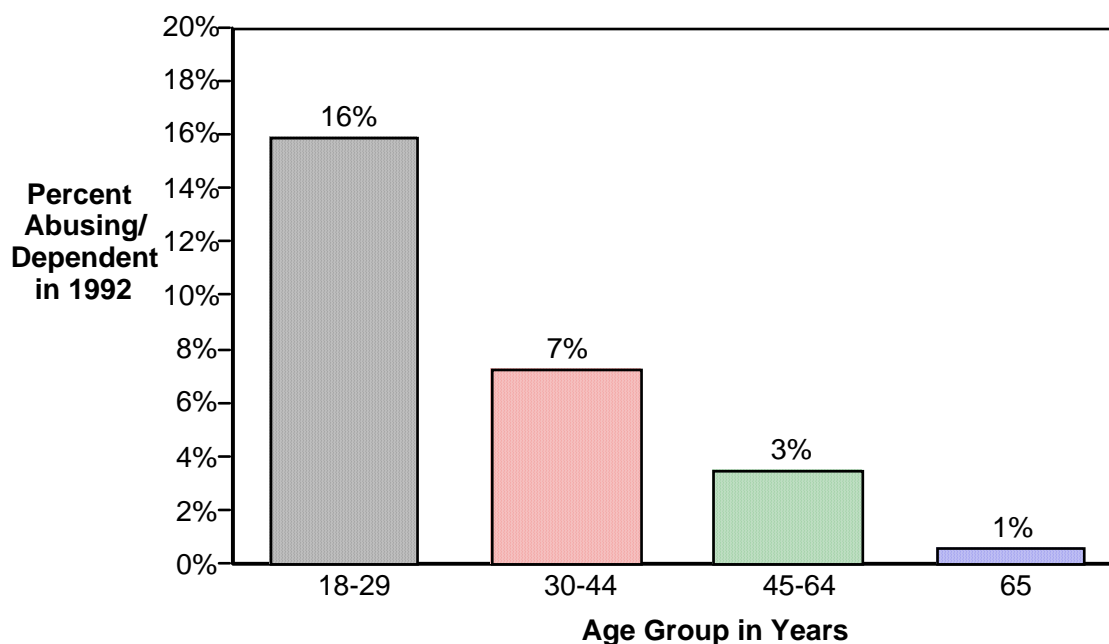
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland at College Park

***More Than 13 Million Adult Americans Have an Alcohol Problem;
Highest Rates Found Among Young Adults***

According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, 7% of adult Americans (an estimated 13,760,000) abused or were dependent on alcohol during 1992. The prevalence of alcohol abuse and dependence was highest among respondents aged 18-24 (an estimated 7,415,000 persons), regardless of sex or ethnicity. While it is possible that alcohol abuse and dependence are more prevalent in this age group, there are other plausible explanations for the decline in prevalence with age. These may include "faulty recall accompanying increasing age, lower survival rates among alcoholics, and various response styles" (p. 246).

Prevalence of DSM-IV Alcohol Abuse and Dependence*, by Age



* Prevalence estimates were based on face-to-face interviews conducted with 42,862 respondents, 18 years of age and older, in the contiguous United States. Criteria for abuse and dependence were based on the most recent criteria from the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition (DSM-IV)*.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from B. Grant et al. "Prevalence of DSM-IV Alcohol Abuse and Dependence: United States, 1992," *Alcohol Health and Research World*, Volume 18 (3), 1994, pp. 243-248.

**CESAR CAN HELP YOU RESPOND TO RESEARCH SOLICITATIONS AND
EVALUATE YOUR PROGRAMS**

State and local government agencies in Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Northern Virginia can get help from CESAR in responding to substance-abuse related research solicitations and in evaluating their programs. For more information on how CESAR's experienced team of researchers, evaluators, and proposal writers can be of assistance, contact CESAR's Director, Eric Wish, at 301-403-8329.

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