

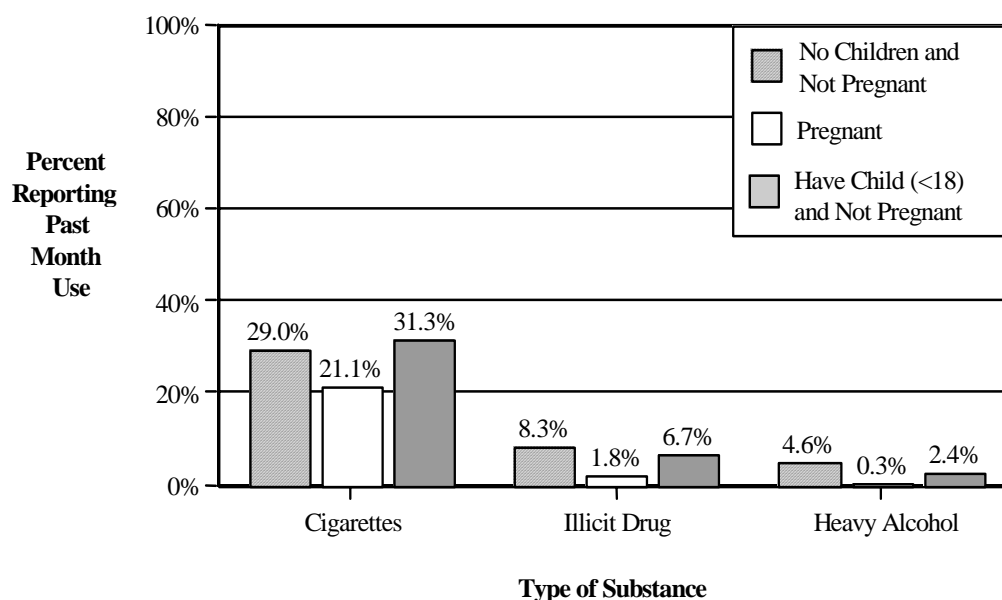
## A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland at College Park

### *Pregnant Women Report Less Substance Use Than Other Women*

According to the recently released National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, pregnant women report less use of cigarettes, alcohol or illicit drugs in the past month than other women of childbearing age, even when age and marital status are controlled for. However, nonpregnant women with children reported substance use at rates almost equal to those of nonpregnant women who had never had children. According to the report, these differences suggest "that many drug using women resume their drug use after their pregnancy" (p. 27). It is also possible that these findings reflect a reluctance among pregnant women to admit to substance use.

**Percentage of Women Aged 12-44 Reporting the Use of Cigarettes, Heavy Alcohol\*, or Illicit Drugs in the Month Prior to the Survey, by Pregnancy Status (Adjusted for Age and Marital Status), 1994**



\*Heavy alcohol use is defined as drinking five or more drinks per day on each of five or more days in the past 30 days.

SOURCE: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies, "Preliminary Estimates from the 1994 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse," Advance Report Number 10, September 1995. To receive a copy of the Advance Report, contact the Office of Applied Studies at 301-443-7980.

### **SOUTHERN MARYLAND DRUG ABUSE MEETING TO BE HELD**

The St. Mary's County Alliance for Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention will be meeting on Thursday, October 12, 1995 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm in Leonardtown, MD. As part of the Alliance meeting, we will examine data on substance use in Southern Maryland and discuss forming Drug Epidemiology Networks (DENs) in Southern Maryland counties. If you would like to attend this meeting and share your knowledge of drug abuse trends and patterns with other professionals from Southern Maryland, contact Walter Biscoe of the Alliance at 301-475-4632.

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