

First Use of Inhalants, Cigarettes, and Beer/Wine Begins Before Age 15, Liquor and Marijuana After Age 15

Data from the most recent Maryland Adolescent Survey show that over one-half of Maryland high school seniors who had ever used inhalants, cigarettes, or beer/wine did so before age 15. Use of inhalants (such as paint thinners, aerosols, and gasoline) began at a particularly early age—63% reported first use by age 12. Use of liquor and marijuana came later, mostly at ages 15 and 16. These findings illustrate the need for youth-oriented prevention programs that are both age and substance specific.

Percentage of Maryland High School Senior Users* Who First Tried the Substance Before Age 15

Use of	Percentage
Inhalants	99.8%
Cigarettes	64.5
Beer/Wine	55.1
Liquor	44.4
Marijuana	30.2

*Those who ever tried the substance.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from the 1994 Maryland Adolescent Survey (MAS), Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). For more information, contact Lu Morrissey of MSDE at 410-767-0301.

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The National Evaluation Data and Technical Assistance Center (NEDTAC) is an evaluation resource funded by the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT). Over 200 pages of abstracts from the NEDTAC data base of evaluation-related materials are available on CESAR's electronic bulletin board, under the NEDTAC Conference, via:

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