

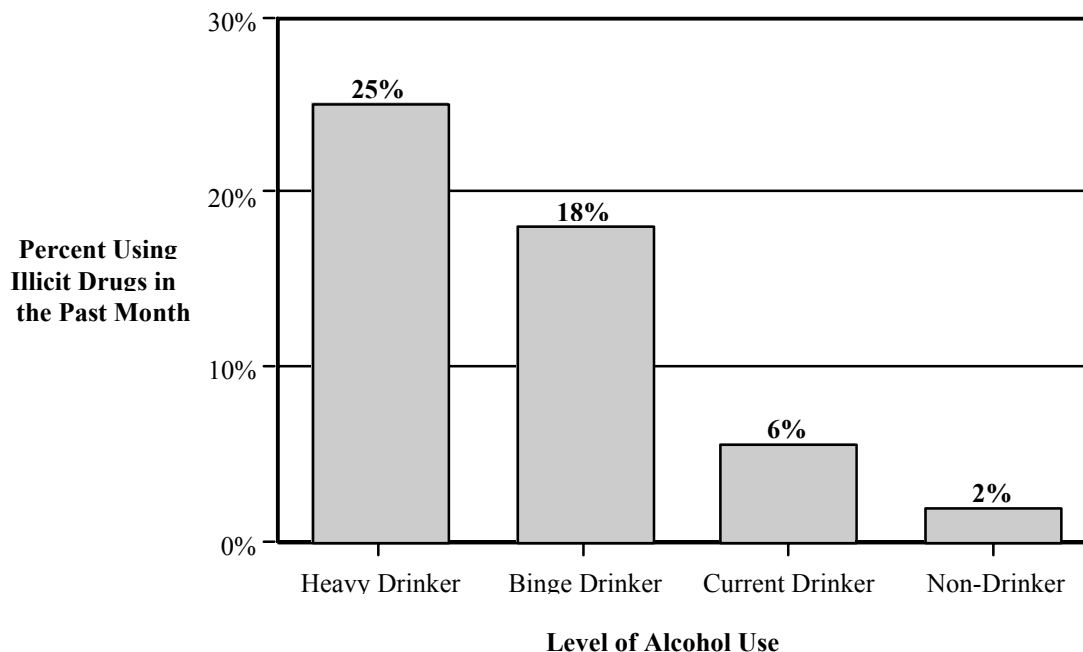
**A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research**

University of Maryland at College Park

***Level of Alcohol Use Strongly Associated with Use of Illicit Drugs***

The National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA), an annual survey conducted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), provides estimates of the prevalence of use of illicit drugs, alcohol, and tobacco among U.S. household residents aged 12 and older. Recently released data from the 1995 survey show that the level of alcohol use among U.S. householders was strongly associated with illicit drug use. Twenty-five percent of heavy drinkers and 18% of binge drinkers reported using an illicit drug (primarily marijuana) at least once in the month prior to the survey. Current drinkers and non-drinkers reported much lower rates of illicit drug use (6% and 2% respectively).

**Percentage of U.S. Household Residents (Aged 12 and Over) Reporting Past Month Use of Illicit Drugs, by Level of Alcohol Use, 1995\***



\*Heavy Drinker: Five or more drinks on the same occasion on at least five different days in the past month.  
 Binge Drinker: Five or more drinks on the same occasion at least once in the past month (excludes heavy drinkers).  
 Current Drinker: At least one drink in the past month (excludes heavy and binge drinkers).  
 Illicit Drug Use: Use at least once in the past month of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP and LSD), heroin, or any prescription-type psychotherapeutic used nonmedically.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies, "Preliminary Estimates from the 1995 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse," Advance Report Number 18, August 1996. To obtain a copy of the Advance Report, contact the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (NCADI) at 301-468-2600 or 800-729-6686.

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