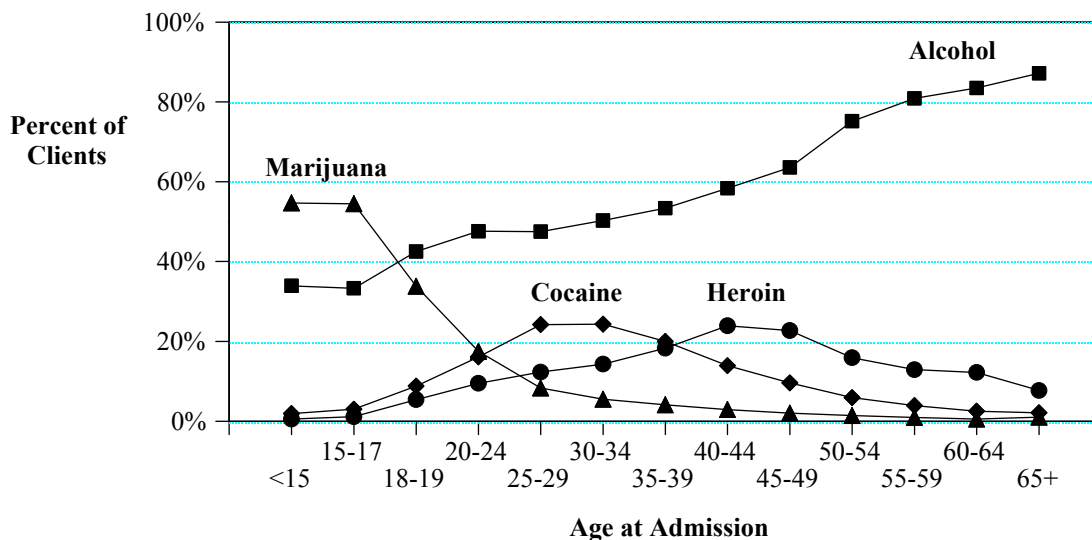## A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland at College Park

National Treatment Data Reveal Age-Specific Substance Abuse Patterns

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has been collecting national treatment data under the Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) since 1992. The TEDS comprises state-collected data on client admissions to treatment programs receiving any public funds. Recently released 1995 data show distinct age differences in the primary substance of abuse reported by treatment clients. Reporting of alcohol as the primary substance of abuse increased with age while reporting of marijuana decreased with age. A different pattern emerges with cocaine and heroin. Cocaine abuse peaked between the ages of 25 and 34, while heroin abuse peaked between the ages of 40 and 49.

Percentage of Treatment Clients Reporting Selected Drugs as the Primary Substance of Abuse, by Age at Treatment Admission, 1995

SOURCE: Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Treatment Episode Data Set Advance Report 12*, WWW document; URL http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/teds (accessed 4/16/97).

National Treatment Report Now Available from SAMHSA's Web Site

Treatment Episode Data Set Advance Report 12, featuring data from publicly funded treatment programs across the United States, is now available at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's World Wide Web site (**www.samhsa.gov**) under "Publications, Reports, and Statistical Information."