

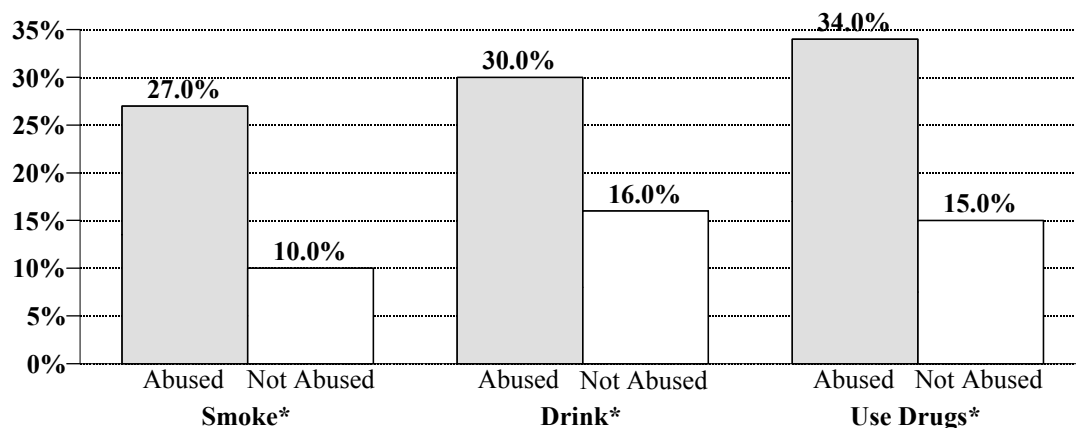
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Physically/Sexually Abused Adolescent Boys Twice As Likely to Smoke, Drink, or Use Drugs

High school boys who have been physically or sexually abused are at least twice as likely as non-abused boys to drink, smoke, or use drugs, according to data from a national school survey conducted in 1997. Thirteen percent of boys in 9th-12th grades said that they had been physically or sexually abused. Thirty percent of abused boys reported that they drank frequently, and 34% reported that they had used drugs in the past month, compared to 16% and 15%, respectively, of non-abused boys. Abused boys were also nearly three times more likely to smoke frequently (27% vs. 10%). These findings suggest that practitioners who deal with physically and/or sexually abused adolescents should also conduct assessments for co-occurring substance abuse problems.

**Percentage of Male High School Students (Grades 9-12)
Reporting Smoking, Drinking, or Using Drugs, by Physical/Sexual Abuse Status, 1997**



*Smoke: smoked at least several cigarettes in the past week; Drink: drank at least once a month; Use Drugs: used illegal drugs at least once in the past month.

NOTE: The survey was an in-class questionnaire completed by 3,162 boys in grades 5-12 at a nationally representative sample of 265 public, private, and parochial schools from December 1996 to June 1997. The survey included roughly equal samples of adolescent boys in grades 5-8 and 9-12. All responses were weighted to reflect grade, region, race and ethnicity, and gender.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Cathy Schoen et al., "The Health of Adolescent Boys: Commonwealth Fund Survey Findings" (WWW document; URL <http://www.cmf.org/women/boysv271.html>; accessed 7/22/98). The survey was conducted by Louis Harris and Associates, Inc. for the Commonwealth Fund.