

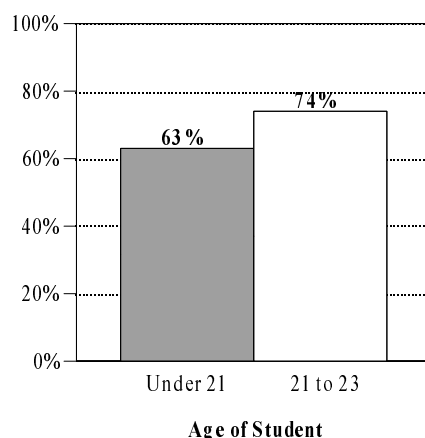
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

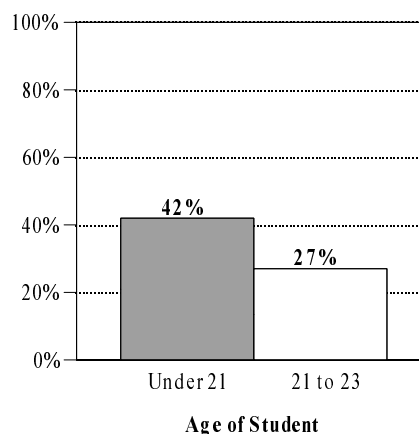
***Underage College Students Less Likely to Drink Than
Students of Legal Drinking Age, Yet More Likely to Binge Drink***

Sixty-three percent of college students under age 21 reported drinking alcohol in the past 30 days, compared to 74% of students ages 21-23, according to a survey of students attending four-year colleges across the United States. However, underage drinkers were more likely to report consuming five or more drinks per occasion (42% vs. 27%). Perhaps as a result of their heavy drinking, younger students were also more likely to experience alcohol-related problems. These findings suggest the need for prevention efforts to focus on educating college students, particularly those under age 21, about the dangers of binge drinking.

**While College Students Under 21
Are Less Likely to Have Drank
in the Past 30 Days...**



**They Are More Likely to Have
Consumed Five or More
Drinks Per Occasion**



NOTE: Data were collected from a self-administered survey of a random sample of 12,050 students at 116 nationally representative four-year colleges in 39 states.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Wechsler H., Kuo M., Lee H., Dowdall G.W., "Environmental Correlates of Underage Alcohol Use and Related Problems of College Students," *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* 19(1):24-9, 2000. This document is available online at www.hsph.harvard.edu/papers/cas6192000.pdf.

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