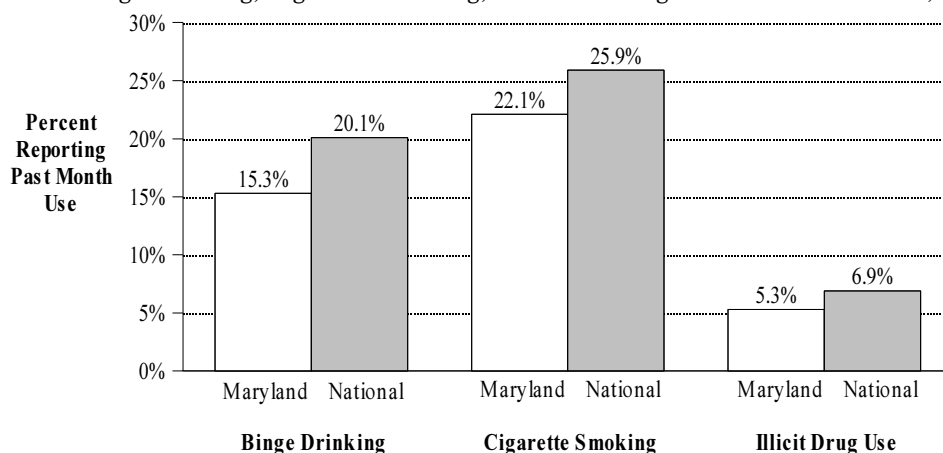


Maryland Ranks Below National Average for Binge Drinking, Cigarette Smoking, and Illicit Drug Use

The rates of binge drinking, cigarette smoking, and illicit drug use among Maryland household residents are below national averages, according to the first statewide estimates of substance use from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse. In 1999, 15.3% of Maryland residents aged 12 and older reported binge drinking in the past month, compared to 20.1% of residents nationally who reported binge drinking. Also, in Maryland, 22.1% of residents reported past month cigarette use, compared to 25.9% of residents nationally who reported such use. The rate of past month illicit drug use (primarily marijuana) among Maryland residents was slightly lower than the national average (5.3% vs. 6.9%). A full copy of the report is available online at www.samhsa.gov/household99.htm.

Percentage of Maryland and National Household Residents Reporting Binge Drinking, Cigarette Smoking, and Illicit Drug Use in the Past Month, 1999



NOTES: Binge Drinking is defined as drinking five or more drinks on the same occasion at least once during the past 30 days. Any Illicit Drug use is defined as at least one use of marijuana/hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP and LSD), heroin, or any prescription psychotherapeutic drug used nonmedically.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Office of Applied Studies (OAS), "Summary of Findings from the 1999 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse," August 2000. For more information, contact Erin Artigiani of CESAR at 301-403-8329.

Report on Underage Alcohol Use in Maryland Now Available

The report "Maryland's Youth and Drinking: Indicators of Underage Alcohol Use" is now available. To obtain a complimentary copy, contact CESAR at 301-403-8329, 301-403-8342 (fax), or cesar@cesar.umd.edu.

The Maryland Drug Early Warning System (DEWS) is an initiative of the Cabinet Council on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Chair, and is supported by a grant from the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention to the Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR), University of Maryland. The DEWS Fax is published monthly. 301-403-8329 • 1-877-234-DEWS (toll-free) • 301-403-8342 (fax) • dews@cesar.umd.edu • www.cesar.umd.edu/dews.htm