

A Weekly FAX From the Center For Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland At College Park*

Use of Alcohol and Cigarettes Surpasses the Use of Other Drugs by Maryland Public School Students

More than 60,000 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th grade students are estimated to have used alcohol in the 30 days prior to the 1990-91 Maryland Adolescent Survey. More than 30,000 of these youths drank five or more servings of alcohol on the same occasion. An estimated 1,600 6th graders and a total of 29,500 students in the four grades smoked cigarettes in the prior 30 days. Marijuana, inhalants and crack cocaine were used by smaller numbers of students. Underage alcohol and cigarette use by Maryland public school students deserves the type of attention and prevention programs that have been targeted towards the use of illicit drugs.

STATEWIDE ESTIMATES* OF THE NUMBER OF MARYLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO USED SELECTED DRUGS IN THE PRIOR 30 DAYS IN 1990-91

Drugs Used in Prior 30 days	Students in Grade				Total
	6	8	10	12	
Alcohol	4,800	13,800	20,400	21,400	60,400
Binge Drinking**	1,400	5,100	10,900	13,100	30,500
Cigarettes	1,600	6,400	10,500	11,000	29,500
Marijuana	800	1,500	4,100	5,600	12,000
Inhalants***	2,400	3,700	3,200	1,900	11,200
Crack Cocaine	200	300	400	400	1,300
Total Students enrolled, 1990-91	53,811	49,864	46,389	40,529	190,593

* Estimates rounded to nearest hundred.

** Drank 5 or more servings of alcohol on the same occasion.

*** Excludes amyl or butyl nitrates.

Source: Adapted by CESAR from Maryland Biennial Adolescent Survey, 1991.

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