Smoking initiation rates decrease with age, according to data from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). One-fifth of adults are current smokers, meaning that they have smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and currently smoke. Of these current smokers, nearly one-third (32%) began smoking fairly regularly at age 15 or younger, compared to around one-fourth who started smoking at ages 16 to 20 and 17% who began smoking at age 21 or older (see figure below). While cigarette use among youth has been declining in recent years (see CESAR FAX, Volume 18, Issue 45), these findings suggest that youth smoking prevention efforts need to continue unabated.

**Nearly One-Third of Current Smokers Began Smoking When They Were 15 or Younger**

Age at Which Current Adult Smokers Started Smoking Fairly Regularly, United States, 2005-2007 Annual Average

NOTES: Data are annual averages from the 2005 to 2007 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), a survey of the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population collected using computer-assisted personal interviews of adults aged 18 years and older. Estimates are age-adjusted using the projected 2000 U.S. population as the standard population.


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**CESAR Recruiting PI-Level NIH Researcher**

CESAR is seeking a PI-level NIH researcher who will relocate to CESAR and CAPER (Center for Addictions, Personality, and Emotion Research) with their existing grants and/or collaborate with CESAR/CAPER staff in obtaining new funding. Multi-year seed funding is possible. If you have a proven funding track record and are interested in working in a supportive and stimulating university-based team environment, please send a letter of interest and a resume to Dr. Eric Wish at CESAR, 4321 Hartwick Rd, Ste 501, College Park, MD 20740; 301-403-8342 (fax); cesar@cesar.umd.edu.

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