

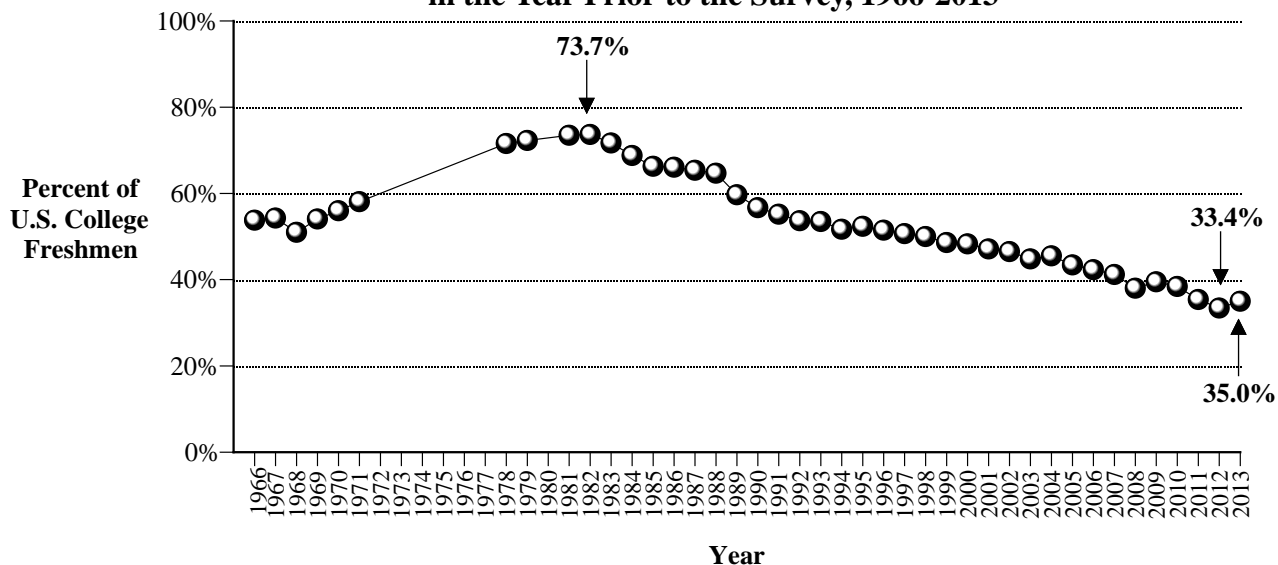
**A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research**

**University of Maryland, College Park**

## *Percentage of College Freshmen Drinking Beer in the Past Year Remains at Historically Low Levels*

The percentage of U.S. college freshmen reporting that they drank beer occasionally or frequently in the past year has declined significantly since the early 1980s, according to data from the Cooperative Institutional Research Program's annual college freshman survey. In 1982, a record 73.7% of college freshmen reported drinking beer in the year before entering college. Since then this rate has declined nearly every year, reaching a record low of 33.4% in 2012 before increasing slightly to 35% in 2013. Similar decreases were seen for the past year use of wine or liquor, with a record low of 39.2% in 2012 (data not shown). These findings are consistent with those from the national Monitoring the Future survey, which found that past month alcohol use among high school seniors has been decreasing, even as marijuana use is increasing (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 323, Issue 3).

**Percentage of U.S. College Freshmen Reporting Occasional or Frequent Beer Use  
in the Year Prior to the Survey, 1966-2013\***



\*The question about beer use was not asked in the 1972 to 1977 and 1980 year surveys.

NOTES: The 2013 results are based on the responses of 165,743 first-time, full-time, freshmen at 234 U.S. four-year baccalaureate colleges and universities. The survey is typically administered during the freshmen orientation process. The data have been statistically adjusted to reflect the responses of the approximately 1.5 million full-time undergraduate students entering 1,583 four-year colleges and universities as first-year students in the fall of 2013.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI), Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP), *The Freshman Survey*. Available online at <http://www.heri.ucla.edu/monographs/TheAmericanFreshman2013-Expanded.pdf>. For additional information, contact the Higher Education Research Institute at [heri@ucla.edu](mailto:heri@ucla.edu).

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