

***Ecstasy-Using UMCP Students Report Polydrug Use;
Frequent Ecstasy Users More Likely to Report Illicit and Prescription Drug Use***

Ecstasy-using college students also use alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, according to preliminary results from focus groups conducted at the University of Maryland College Park (UMCP). Thirty students age 18-25, who reported using ecstasy at least once, completed an anonymous survey and participated in a focus group about their experiences with ecstasy and other drugs. Following are some of the findings from the focus groups.

- All of the ecstasy-using students reported also using marijuana at least once in their lifetime and most also reported using alcohol (97%) or tobacco (70%).
- Students who had used ecstasy five or more times were more likely to have used cocaine, LSD, or mushrooms than those who had used ecstasy less than five times. For example, six (40%) of the students who reported using ecstasy five or more times in their lifetime also reported using cocaine, compared to only one (8%) of those who reported using ecstasy less than five times.
- Approximately one-third of the students reported using the painkiller, oxycodone, at least once in their lifetime. Those with a history of more frequent use of ecstasy were more likely to report oxycodone use, often for the stated purpose of "easing the comedown."
- Over one-half of the students reported using the attention deficit disorder drug, Adderall; more frequent ecstasy users were slightly more likely to use this drug.
- Students commented that they typically did not know exactly what substances were in their ecstasy pills. For some, testing the pills added a bit of reassurance, as indicated by one student's remark, "There are ways to test pills to see if they are real MDMA and that has provided incentive, in some respects, to use it."

These findings are consistent with previous research findings of poly substance use among ecstasy-using rave attendees and students (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 11, Issue 13 and Volume 10, Issue 19).

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from unpublished data from a 2003 study conducted by Kira Levy, M.A. and Kevin O'Grady, Ph.D. at the University of Maryland College Park. For more information, contact Erin Artigiani at erin@cesar.umd.edu.

New Drugs in Maryland Report Now Available

The report "Drugs in Maryland: 2003 Update" provides a summary of the current status of drug use in Maryland, including problem areas and recommendations for actions. It is available online (www.cesar.umd.edu) or by contacting CESAR at 301-403-8329 or cesar@cesar.umd.edu.
