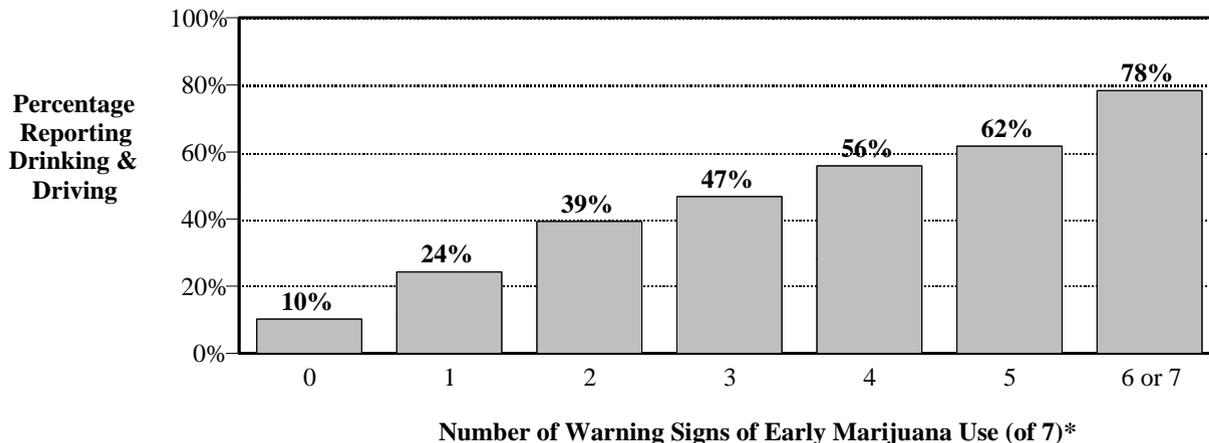


## Warning Signs for Early Marijuana Use Among High School Seniors Also Related to Drinking and Driving

A CESAR analysis of the 2002 Maryland Adolescent Survey data has found that the warning signs\* for early marijuana use (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 13, Issue 26) are also related to drinking and driving. The more warning signs a youth had, the more likely he or she was to have driven after drinking. For example, 10% of 12<sup>th</sup> graders with no warning signs had driven after consuming one or more drinks, compared to 47% of youths with 3 warning signs and 78% of youths with 6 or 7 warning signs (see figure). One reason why these warning signs are related to both early marijuana use and drinking and driving may be that the warning signs detect youths who are at risk for a variety of substance abuse behaviors. Nearly one-half (45%) of high school seniors who used marijuana before age 15 also reported drinking and driving in the past year.

**Percentage of Maryland 12<sup>th</sup> Graders Who Reported Drinking and Driving in the Past Year, by Number of Warning Signs for Early Marijuana Use,\* 2002**



\*Warning Signs: 1) Cigarette use before age fifteen, 2) alcohol use before age fifteen, 3) 20 or more unexcused absences, 4) believing that smoking cigarettes is safe, 5) believing that smoking marijuana is safe, 6) believing that parents think it's okay to smoke marijuana, and 7) believing that parents think it's okay to smoke cigarettes. Two of the original nine warning signs related to early marijuana use (prior drug arrest and alcohol arrest) were also related to drinking and driving but were deleted from this analysis.

SOURCE: Maryland Drug Early Warning System (DEWS), CESAR, Special analysis of 2002 Maryland Adolescent Survey data. For more information, contact Dr. Eric Wish ([ewish@cesar.umd.edu](mailto:ewish@cesar.umd.edu)) or Erin Artigiani ([erin@cesar.umd.edu](mailto:erin@cesar.umd.edu) or 301-405-9794).