

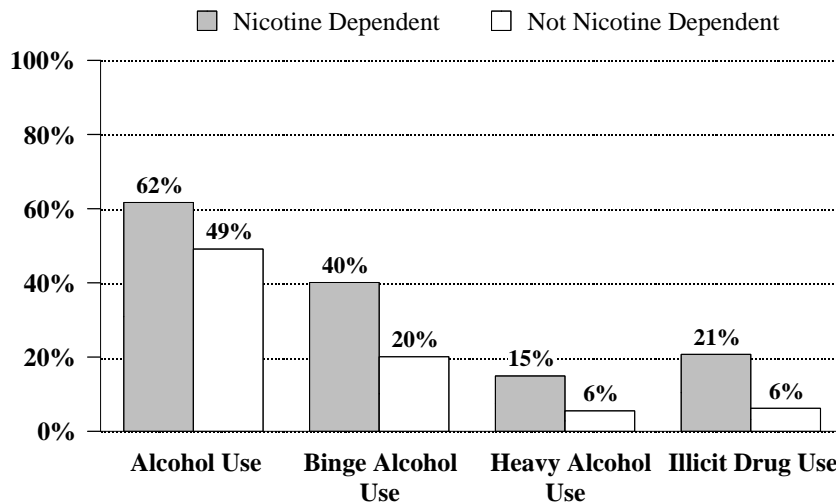
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

## *Nicotine Dependence Associated with Increased Risk of Alcohol and Illicit Drug Use*

Persons dependent on nicotine are more likely to report alcohol and illicit drug use, according to a recent analysis of data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health. In 2006, 58% of the estimated 61.6 million current (past month) smokers aged 12 or older met the criteria for past month nicotine dependence. Persons dependent on nicotine were more likely than those who were not dependent to have used alcohol in the past month, report binge alcohol use, and report heavy alcohol use (see figure below). Nicotine dependence was also related to a three-fold higher rate of illicit drug use (21% vs. 6%). Health care providers should be aware that clients dependant on nicotine may also be using alcohol or illicit drugs, and should screen them accordingly.

### Percentage of U.S. Household Residents Ages 12 or Older Reporting Past Month Alcohol and Illicit Drug Use, by Nicotine Dependence, 2006



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, "Nicotine Dependence: 2006," *The NSDUH Report*, January 24, 2008. Available online at [www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k8/nicotine/nicotine.cfm](http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k8/nicotine/nicotine.cfm).

#### Find Listings and Directions to Maryland Treatment and Other Community Resources

The interactive Maryland Community Services Locator (MDCSL) website ([www.mdcsll.org](http://www.mdcsll.org)) allows users to quickly find detailed resource listings for a variety of Maryland community resources, including substance abuse treatment and housing services. As this website is a beta version that is currently under development, we welcome your comments and suggestions ([mdcsll@cesar.umd.edu](mailto:mdcsll@cesar.umd.edu)).

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