

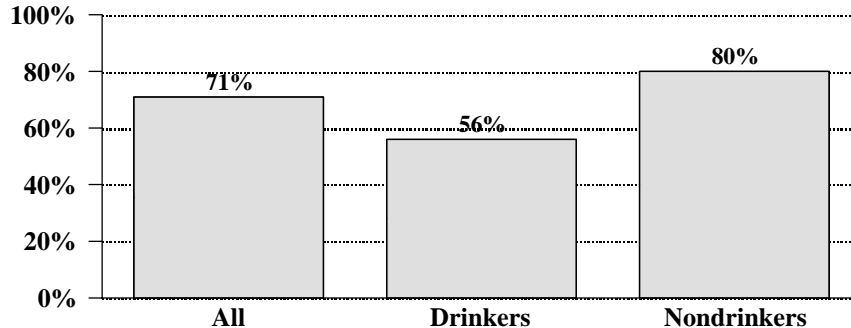
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Majority of Drinkers and Nondrinkers Support an Increase in National Tax on Alcohol

Nearly three-fourths (71%) of U.S. residents support an increase in the national tax on alcohol of five cents per drink, according to the results of a nationally representative telephone survey. While 80% of nondrinkers supported such an increase, 56% of drinkers also did so (see figure below). Furthermore, when asked whether they prefer raising alcohol taxes or cutting social programs as a way of generating revenues to offset the budget deficit, the majority of drinkers (70%) and nondrinkers (90%) preferred raising alcohol taxes (data not shown). In the past 55 years, federal taxes have been raised once for beer and wine and twice for liquor. In addition, "federal taxes on alcoholic beverages have effectively fallen dramatically due to inflation . . . because such taxes are typically assessed not as a percentage of the purchase price, but as a flat dollar amount" (p. 1).

Percentage of U.S. Household Residents Supporting an Increase in the National Tax on Alcohol of Five Cents per Drink, 2005
(N=512 U.S. adults age 18 and older)



NOTES: Survey was conducted by the Global Strategy Group in November, 2005. Margin of error is ± 4.3 percentage points for all respondents, $\pm 6.9\%$ for drinkers, and $\pm 5.5\%$ for nondrinkers.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Center for Science in the Public Interest, "Alcohol Tax Hikes Prove Popular in New Poll," Press Release, 12/7/2005. Available online at

CESAR Looking to Hire Principal Investigator-Level Researchers

CESAR is seeking to hire PI-level researchers with proven funding track records. If you 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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