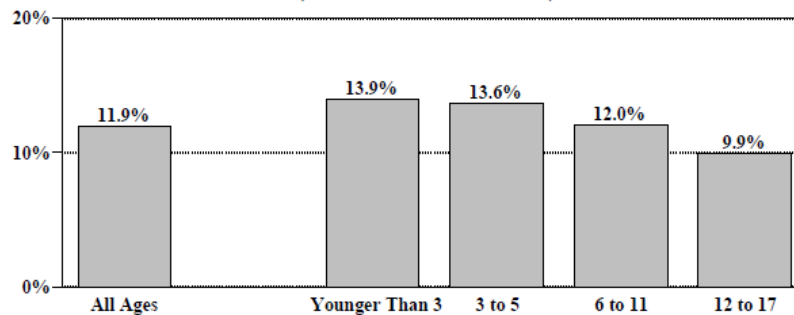


## CESAR FAX: May 11, 2009 (Vol. 18, Issue 18)

### *More Than One In Ten Children in the U.S. Live With Substance-Abusing or Substance-Dependent Parent*

An estimated 8.3 million children—11.9%—live with at least one parent (biological, step-, adoptive, or foster) who had abused or was dependent on alcohol or an illicit drug in the past year, according to a recent analysis of data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Younger children were slightly more likely than older children to live with a substance-abusing or –dependent parent (14% vs. 10%; see figure below). Since “substance use disorders can have a profound influence on the lives of individuals and their families, particularly their children,” the authors believe that these findings “highlight the potential breadth of needs for the whole family—from substance abuse treatment for the affected adults to prevention and supportive services for the children” (p. 3).

**Percentage of U.S. Children Living with One or More Parents with Past Year  
Alcohol or Illicit Drug Abuse or Dependence, by Age**  
(2002 to 2007 Data Combined)



NOTES: Children under 18 years of age who were not living with one or more parents were excluded from this analysis (approximately 4% of children). Abuse and dependence were defined using DSM-IV criteria.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). “Children Living with Substance-Dependent or Substance-Abusing Parents: 2002 to 2007,” *The NSDUH Report*, April 16, 2009. Available online at <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k9/SAParents/SAParents.cfm>.