

Table 29. Substance Use Experiences by Homeless Status, 1996

	Currently Homeless (N=2938)	Formerly Homeless Clients (N=677)	Other Service Users (N=518)
When first started drinking³ or more alcoholic beverages a week			
Before age 15	36(%)	29(%)	13(%)
Between ages 15 and 17	29	28	33
When first started using illegal drugs			
Before age 15	31	28	27
Between ages 15 and 17	32	21	22

Source: Interagency Council on the Homeless. *Homelessness: Programs and the People They Serve*. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 1999.