

# NIAAA

## National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism



Department of Health and  
Human Services



National Institutes of Health



**NIAAA**

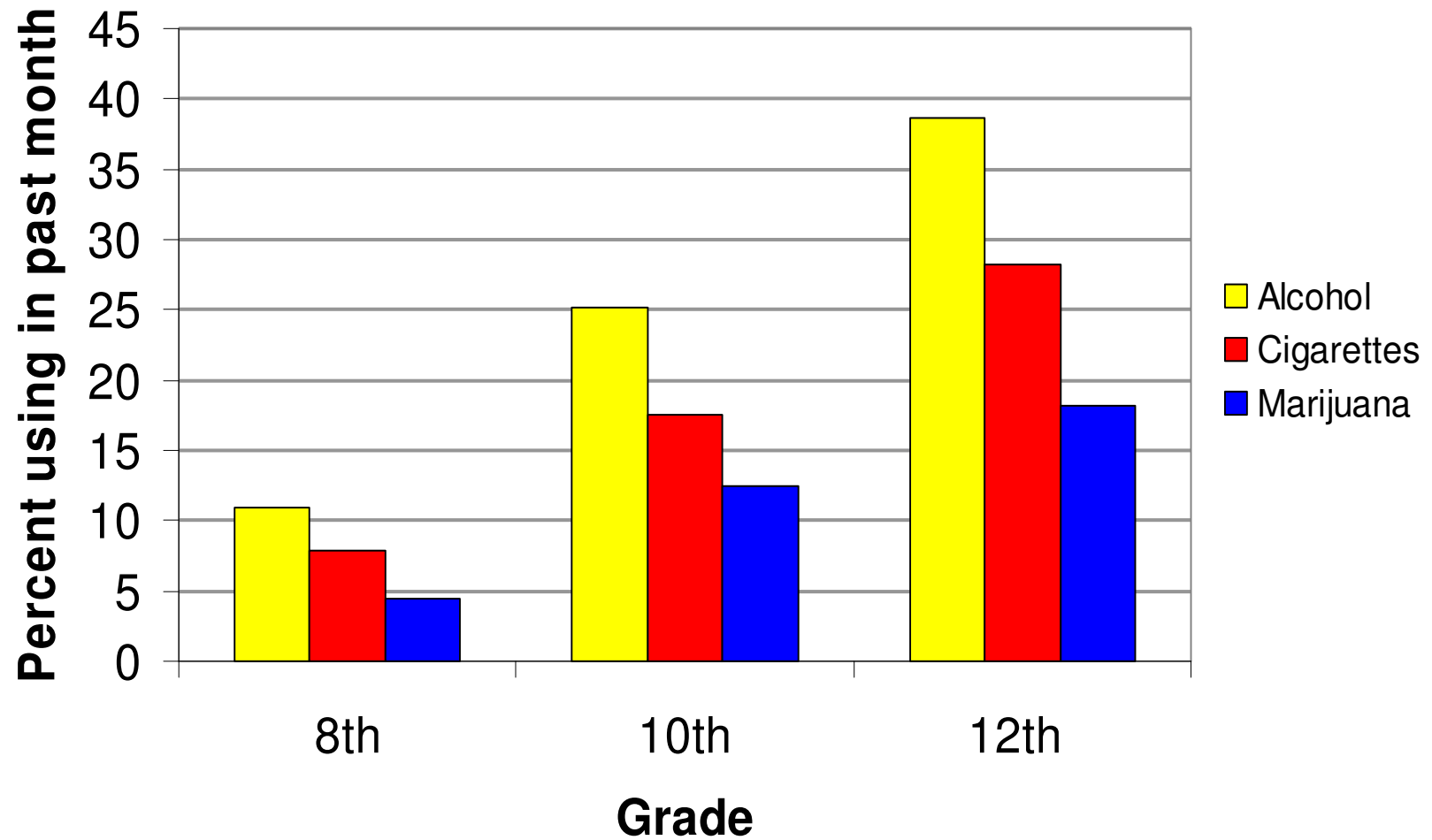
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

2003

# Why Does NIAAA Care about Adolescent Decision Making?

- Adolescents make decisions every day that will affect their future health and well-being
- Too many underage youth are choosing to drink
- And when they drink, they tend to engage in risky drinking

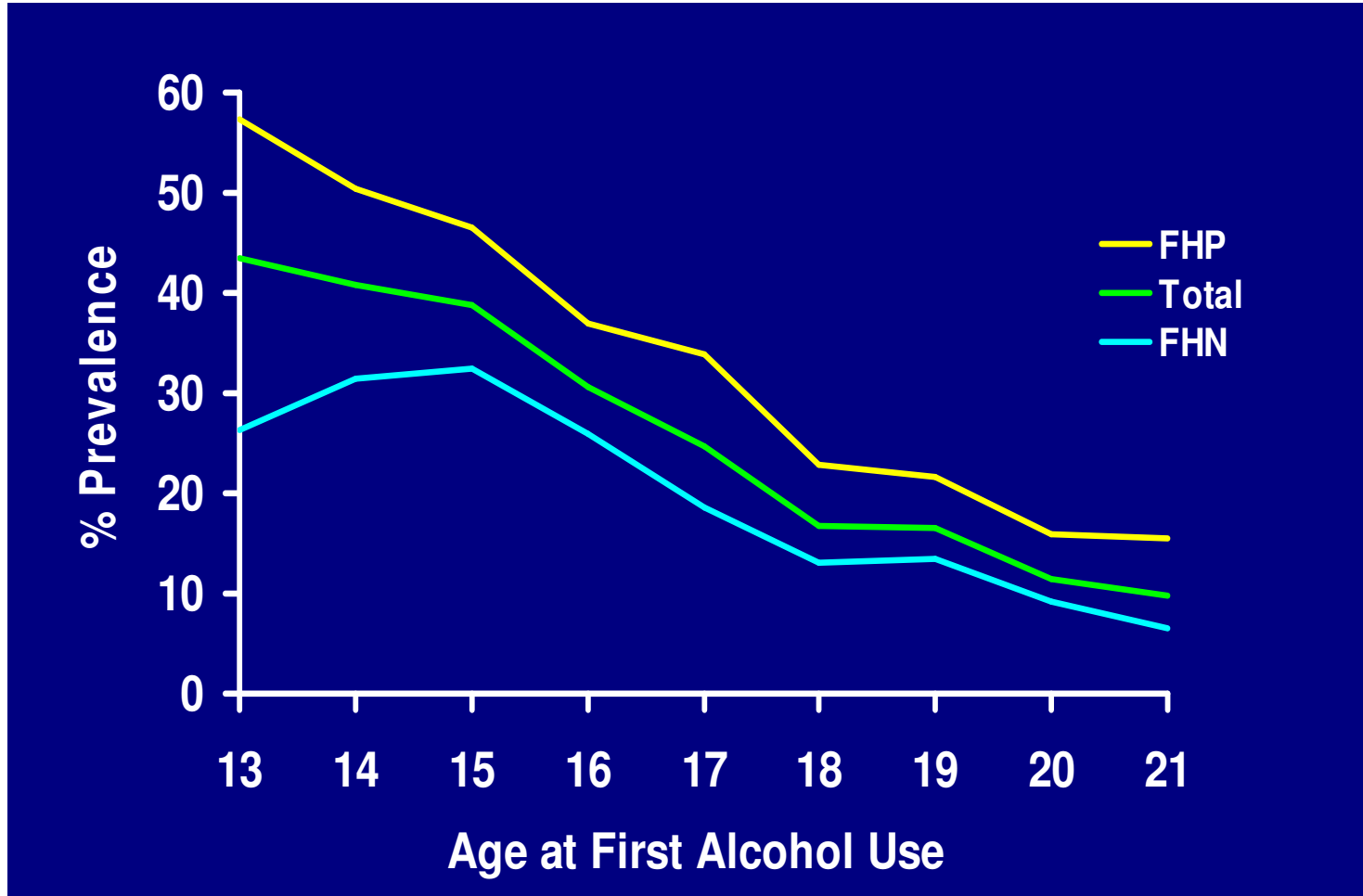
# Alcohol is the Drug of Choice Among 12-20 Year Olds



NSDUH Survey, 2002

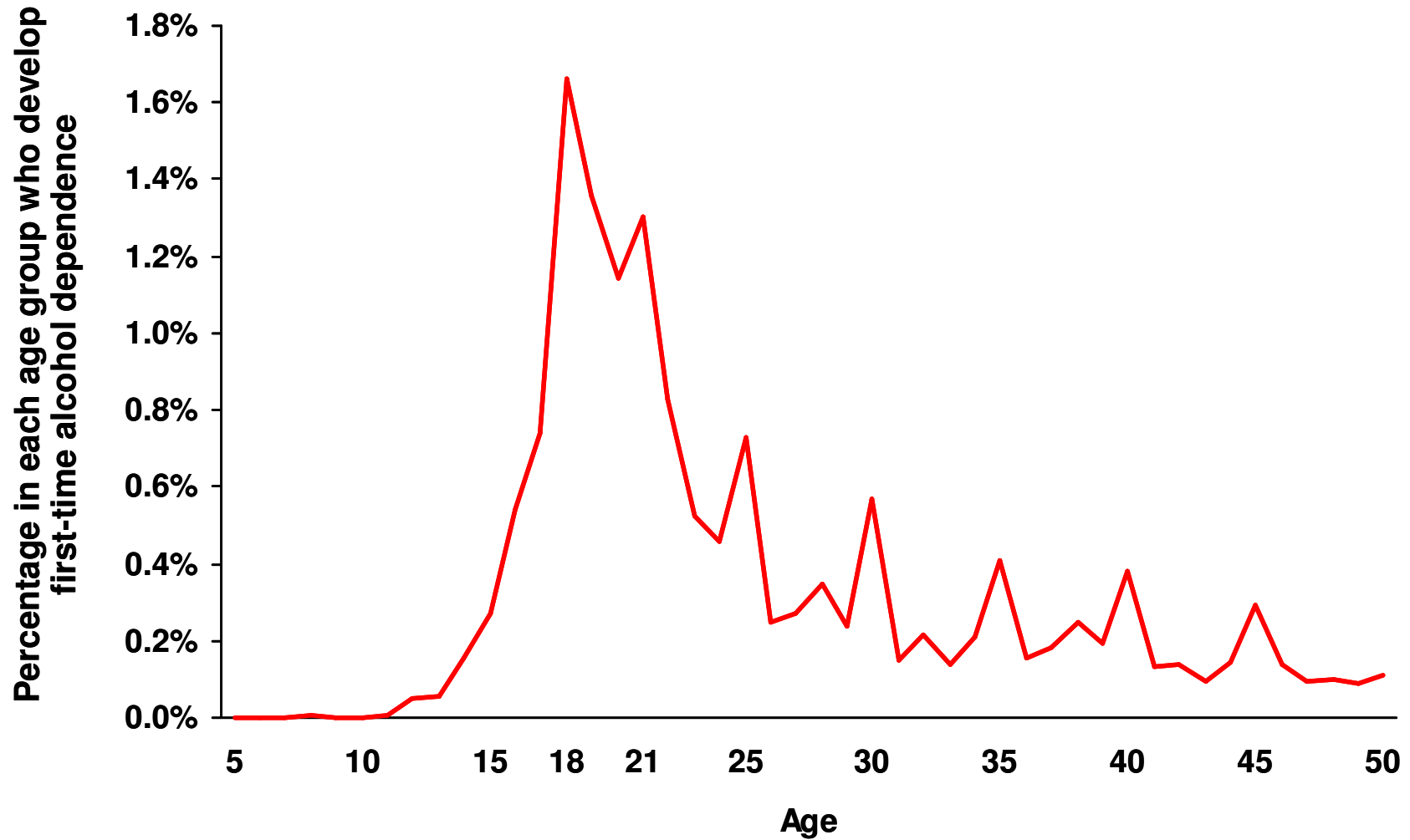


# Prevalence of Lifetime Alcohol Dependence by Age of First Alcohol Use and Family History of Alcoholism



Grant and Dawson. *J Subst Abuse*. 1998;10(2):163-73.

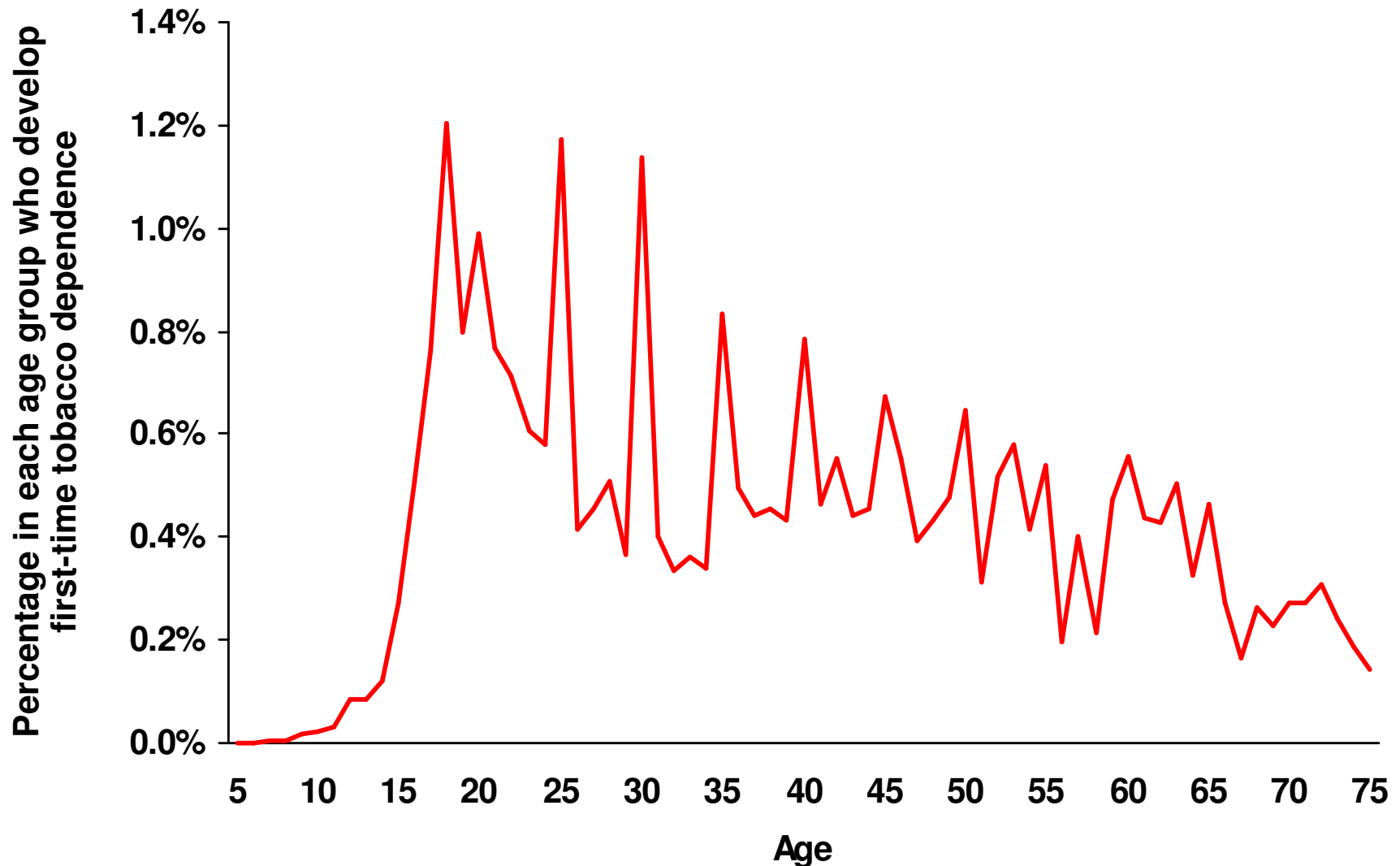
# Age at Onset of DSM-IV Alcohol Dependence



Source: NIAAA National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions, 2003



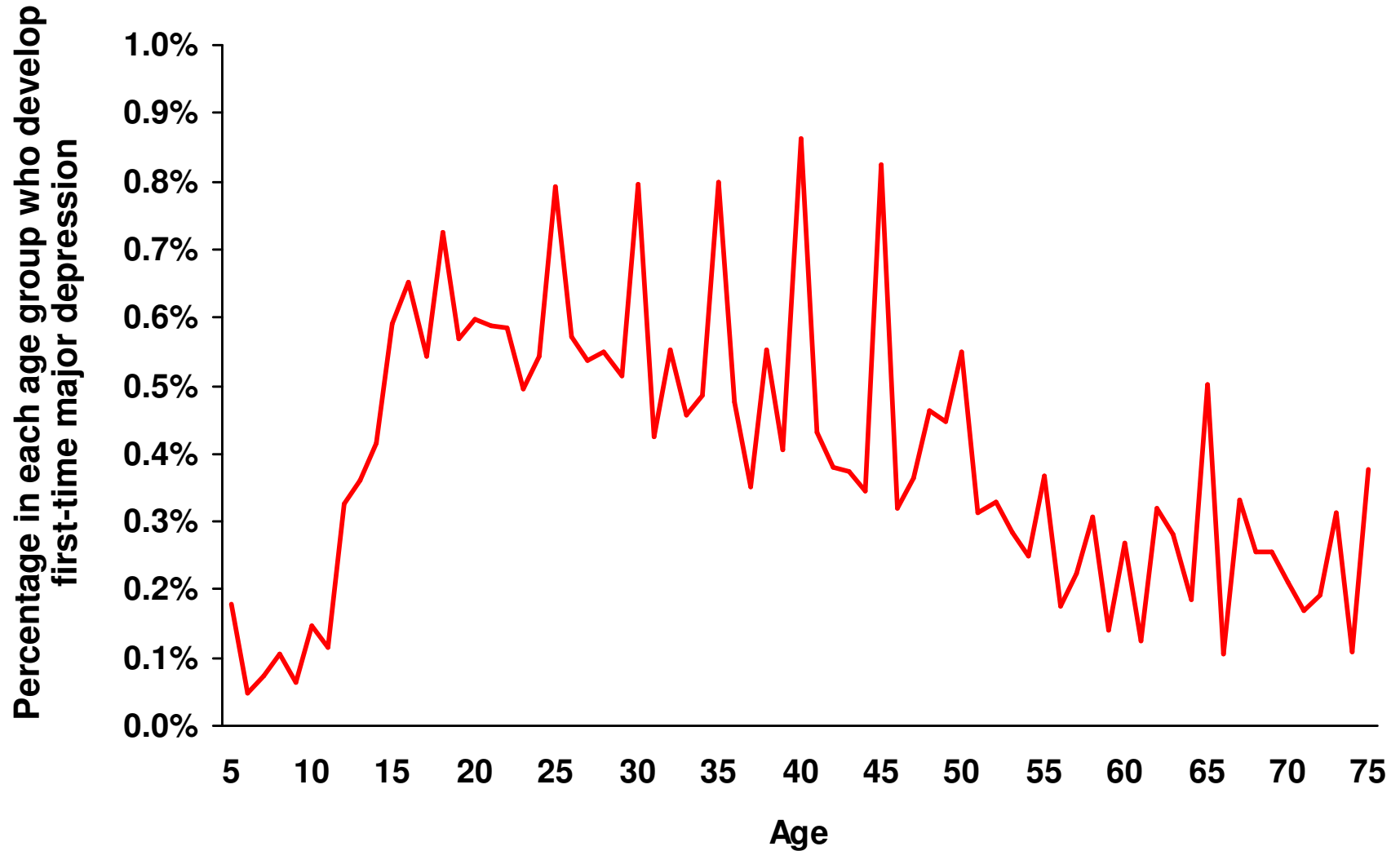
# Age at Onset of Any Tobacco Dependence



Source: NIAAA National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions, 2003.



# Age at Onset of DSM-IV Major Depression



Source: NIAAA National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions, 2003



# Future Directions

- We are looking beyond the alcohol field to better understand the choices that adolescents make about drinking
- We want to understand how development during childhood and adolescence intersects with decision making