

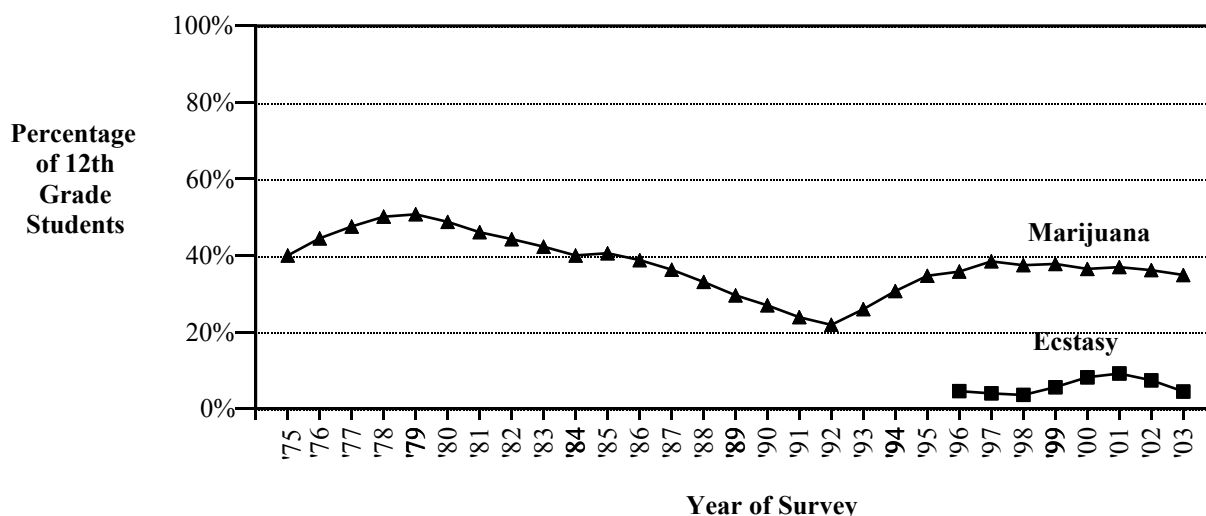
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Marijuana and Ecstasy Use by U.S. High School Seniors Continues to Decline

Marijuana and ecstasy use by U.S. high school seniors continues to decline, according to data from the recently released 2003 Monitoring the Future survey. The percentage of 12th graders reporting use of marijuana in the past year peaked in 1979 at 51%, then declined for more than a decade, reaching a low of 22% in 1992. During the 90s, annual use of marijuana among high school seniors increased again, peaking at 39% in 1997. Since then, marijuana use has continued to decrease—35% of high school seniors reported past year use of the drug in 2003. Ecstasy use by 12th graders has followed a similar pattern. After peaking at 9% in 2001, the percentage of high school seniors reporting past year ecstasy use declined to 5% in 2003.

Percentage of U.S. 12th Grade Students Reporting Past Year Use of Marijuana or Ecstasy, 1975-2003



NOTE: The 2003 survey sample included 15,200 12th graders located in 141 schools.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from University of Michigan, Monitoring the Future Study Press Release, "Ecstasy Use Falls for Second Year in a Row, Overall Teen Drug Use Drops" December 19, 2003. Available online at www.monitoringthefuture.org. For more information, contact Lloyd D. Johnston at 734-763-5043. Available online at <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org>.

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