

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

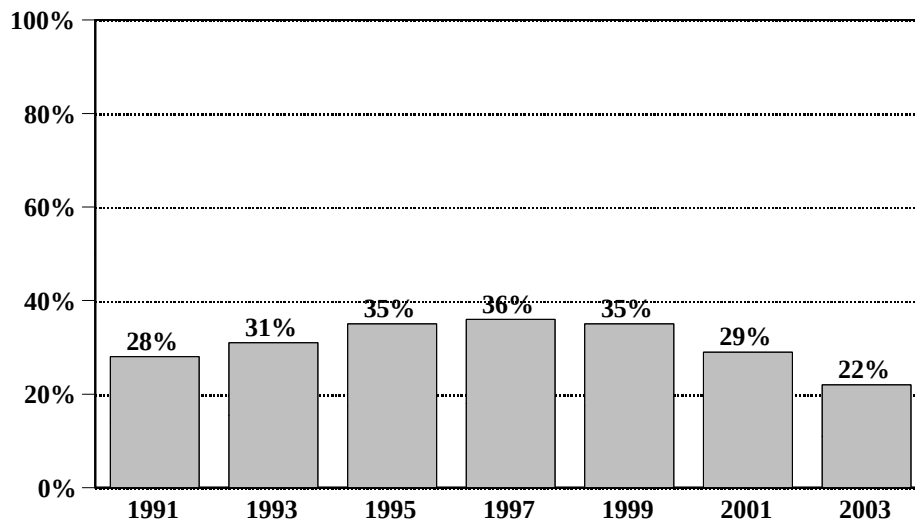
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Cigarette Smoking Among U.S. High School Students Reaches Record Low

The prevalence of current cigarette use among high school students has declined significantly since the late 1990s, according to data from the national Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). Current cigarette use (smoking cigarettes on one or more days in the 30 days prior to the survey) among high school students peaked at 36% in 1997. By 2003, current cigarette use had decreased to 22%, the lowest level since the YRBS was initiated in 1991. The authors note that “although the declines in cigarette use are encouraging, prevention efforts must be sustained if the nation is to reach its 2010 national health objective” of 16% prevalence or less (p. 501). They encourage continuing current efforts such as media campaigns, presenting more non-smoking role models, and instituting school-based programs in conjunction with community activities.

Percentage of U.S. High School Students (Grades 9-12) Who Reported Current Cigarette Use, 1991-2003

(N ranged from 10,904 to 16,296)



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services “Cigarette Use Among High School Students—United States, 1991-2003,” *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 53(23): 499-502, 2004. Available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm5323.pdf>.

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