

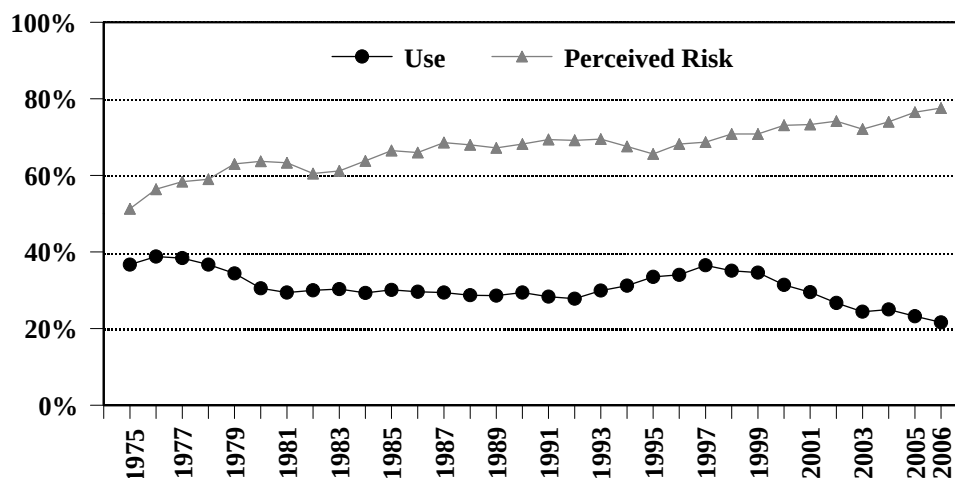
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Cigarette Use Reaches New Low Among High School Seniors; Perceived Risk of Smoking at All Time High

The prevalence of cigarette use among U.S. public high school seniors has reached the lowest point ever recorded, according to the most recent data from the national Monitoring the Future survey. Slightly more than one-fifth (21.6%) of 12th graders reported smoking cigarettes in the past thirty days, down from peaks of 36.5% in 1997 and 38.8% in 1976. At the same time, the percentage of students who perceived a “great risk” of harm from smoking one or more packs of cigarettes per day reached an all-time high of 77.6% in 2006. Previous research has found that increases in perceived risk of using a drug are related to decreases in the use of the drug (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 12, Issue 5 and Volume 7, Issue 26).

**Percentage of U.S. 12th Graders Reporting Cigarette Use in the Past Thirty Days
and Perceived Risk of Smoking One or More Packs Per Day,* 1975 to 2006**



*Perceived risk: The percentage reporting that people run a “great risk” in “harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day.”

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from University of Michigan, “Decline in Daily Smoking by Younger Teens Has Ended,” Monitoring the Future press release, December 21, 2006. Available online at <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org>.

Historic Drug Czar Conference DVD Now Available!

On June 17th, 2006, CESAR and the Institute for Behavior and Health sponsored a Drug Czar Conference at the University of Maryland. The one-day meeting featured seven of the eleven men who have served as heads of the White House drug abuse prevention office. An unedited 6 DVD set of this historic meeting is now available for \$95, including shipping. Ordering information is available online at <http://www.cesar.umd.edu>.

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