

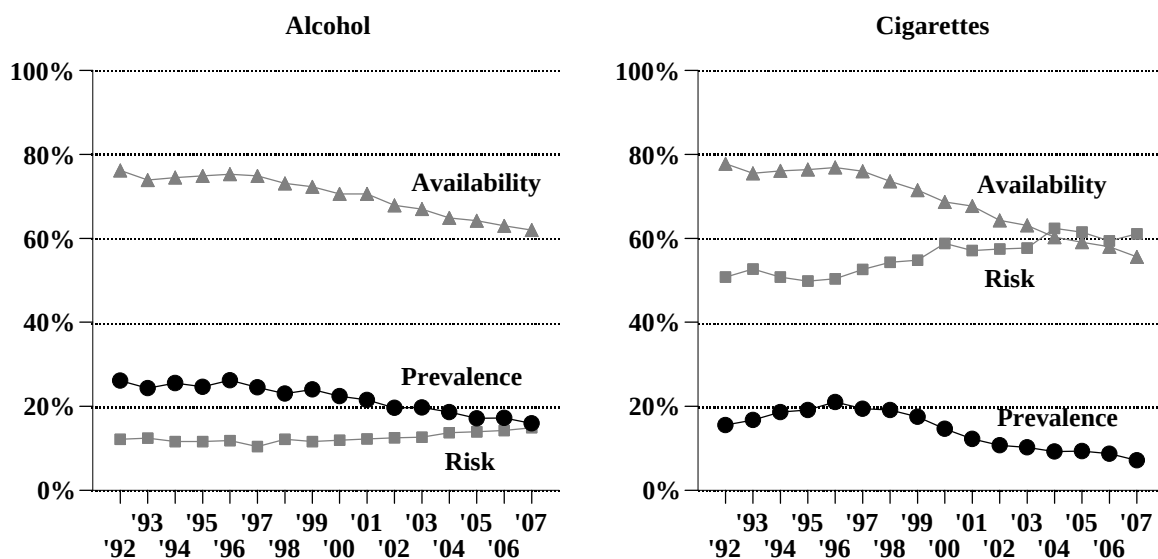
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Alcohol and Cigarette Use Continues to Decline Among U.S. 8th Graders

Alcohol and cigarette use by U.S. 8th grade students continues to decline, according to recently released data from the 2007 Monitoring the Future survey. In 2007, 16% of 8th graders reported drinking alcohol in the past month, a 38% decrease from the peak prevalence of 26% in 1996. The percentage of 8th graders reporting smoking in the past month has decreased even more, from a peak of 21% in 1996 to 7% in 2007. Both decreases coincide with increases in perceived risk and decreases in perceived ability (see figure below). The authors note that the decreases in smoking are particularly encouraging because they “should eventually translate into many fewer illnesses and premature deaths for this generation of young people.”

Percentage of U.S. 8th Graders Reporting Alcohol and Cigarette Use in the Past Thirty Days, Perceived Availability, and Perceived Risk, 1992 to 2007



NOTES: Availability is defined as the percentage reporting that they could get alcohol or cigarettes “fairly easily” or “very easily.” Risk is defined as 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” or “if they try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage.”

SOURCES: Adapted by CESAR from University of Michigan, “Teen Smoking Resumes Decline,” Monitoring the Future press release, December 11, 2007; and University of Michigan, “Overall, Illicit Drug Use by American Teens Continues Gradual Decline in 2007,” Monitoring the Future press release, December 11, 2007. Available online at <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org>.

CESAR Wishes You a Very Happy Holiday Season!

This is the final issue of the *CESAR FAX* for 2007. The *CESAR FAX* will resume with Volume 17, Issue 1 on January 7th, 2008. Thank you for your support during the past year!

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