

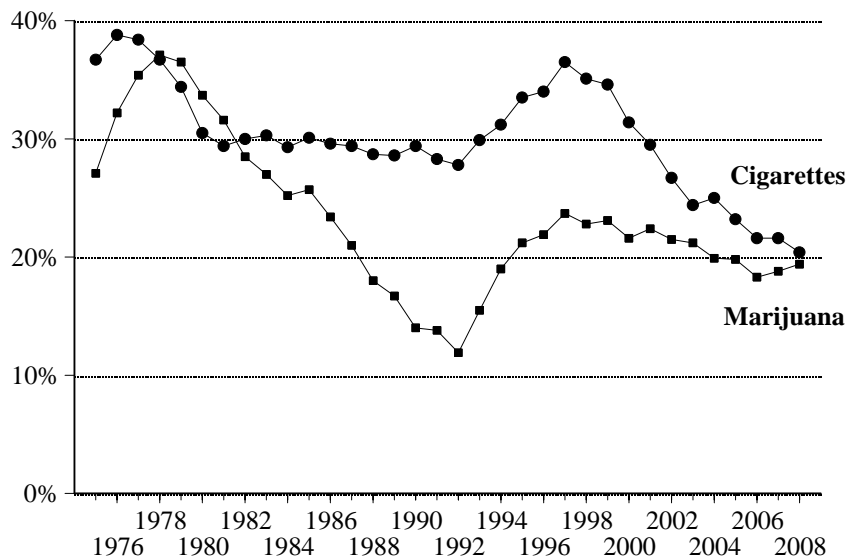
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

U.S. High School Seniors Now As Likely to Be Smoking Cigarettes As Marijuana

High school seniors are as likely to smoke cigarettes in the past month as they are to use marijuana, according to the most recent data from the national Monitoring the Future survey. In 2008, 20.4% of 12th graders reported smoking cigarettes in the past month, a substantial decline from the most recent high of 36.5% in 1997. Marijuana use also had its most recent peak in 1997 (23.7%), but has declined at a slower rate, reaching 19.4% in 2008. This is the first time since the late 70s and early 80s that marijuana use has rivaled cigarette use among this population. Similar trends in cigarette and marijuana use have occurred among 8th and 10th graders.*

Percentage of U.S. 12th Grade Students Reporting Past Month Use of Cigarettes and Marijuana, 1975 to 2008



*In 2008, 6.8% of 8th graders reported smoking cigarettes in the past month and 5.8% reported using marijuana. Among 10th graders, 12.3% reported smoking cigarettes, and 13.8% reported using marijuana.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from University of Michigan, "Trends in 30-Day Prevalence of Use of Various Drugs in Grades 8, 10, and 12," Monitoring the Future study, 2008. Available online at <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/data/08data/pr08t3.pdf>.