

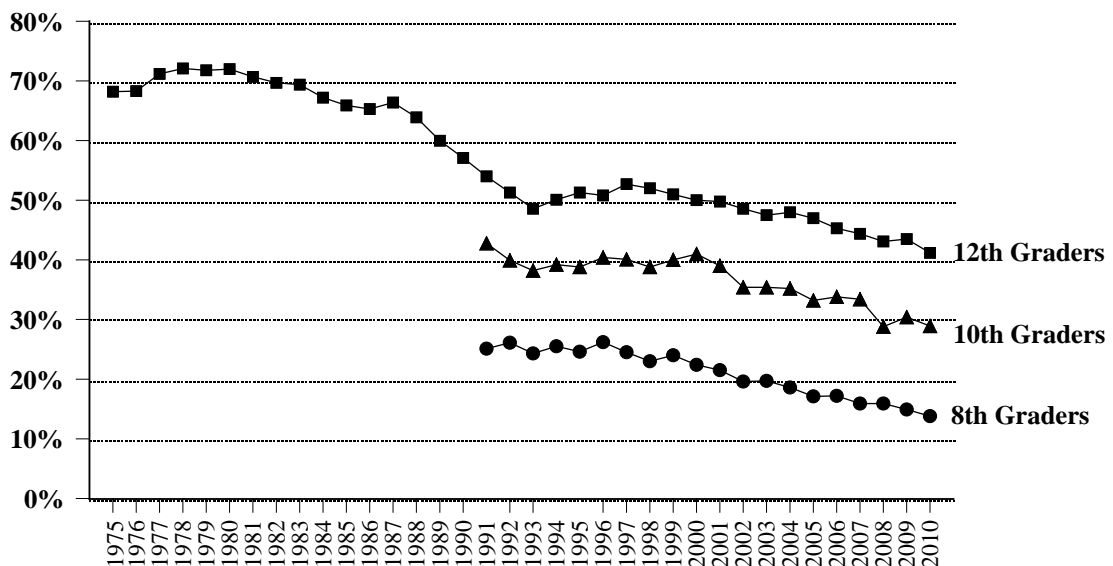
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Past Month Alcohol Use Among U.S. 8th, 10th, and 12th Graders Reaches Record Low

The percentage of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders reporting past month use of alcohol reached record lows* in 2010, according to data from the national Monitoring the Future study. Less than one-half (41.2%) of 12th graders reported drinking at least one sip of alcohol in the past month in 2010, compared to the peak prevalence of 72.1% in 1978. Past month prevalence rates among 8th (13.8%) and 10th (28.9%) graders are also at the lowest levels since these grades were first included in the study in 1991 (see figure below). In addition, binge drinking—drinking five or more drinks in a row at least once in the two weeks prior to the survey—also continues to decrease in all three grades (data not shown). For example, 23.2% of 12th graders reported binge drinking in 2010, compared to the peak of 41.4% in 1981.

Percentage of U.S. 8th, 10th, and 12th Grade Students Reporting Past Month Alcohol Use, 1975-2010



*The Monitoring the Future survey began surveying 12th graders in 1975. Surveys of 8th and 10th graders were added in 1991.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from University of Michigan, "Marijuana Use Is Rising; Ecstasy Use Is Beginning to Rise; and Alcohol Use is Declining Among U.S. Teens," Monitoring the Future press release, December 14, 2010. Available online at <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/data/10data.html#2010data-drugs>.