

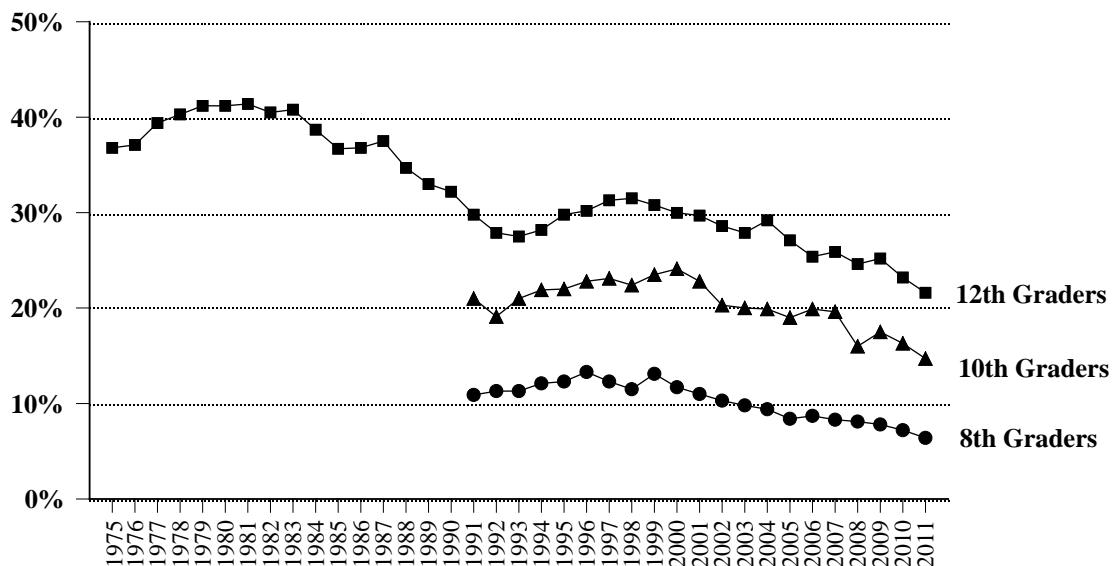
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Binge Drinking Among 8th, 10th, and 12th Grade Students Continues to Decline; Reaches Record Low

The percentage of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders reporting binge drinking reached record lows* in 2011, according to data from the national Monitoring the Future study. Slightly more than 20% of 12th grades reported binge drinking—drinking five or more drinks in a row at least once in the two weeks prior to the survey, compared to the peak prevalence of 41.4% reached in 1981. Binge drinking prevalence rates among 8th and 10th graders (6.4% and 14.7%, respectively) are also at the lowest levels since these grades were first included in the study in 1991 (see figure below). Similar decreases and record lows have occurred for all measures of alcohol use—lifetime, annual, 30-day, and daily.

Percentage of U.S. 8th, 10th, and 12th Grade Students Reporting Binge Drinking, 1975-2011



*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, *Monitoring the Future: National Results on Adolescent Drug Use, Overview of Key Findings* 2011, 2012. Available online at <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/pubs/monographs/mtf-overview2011.pdf>.