

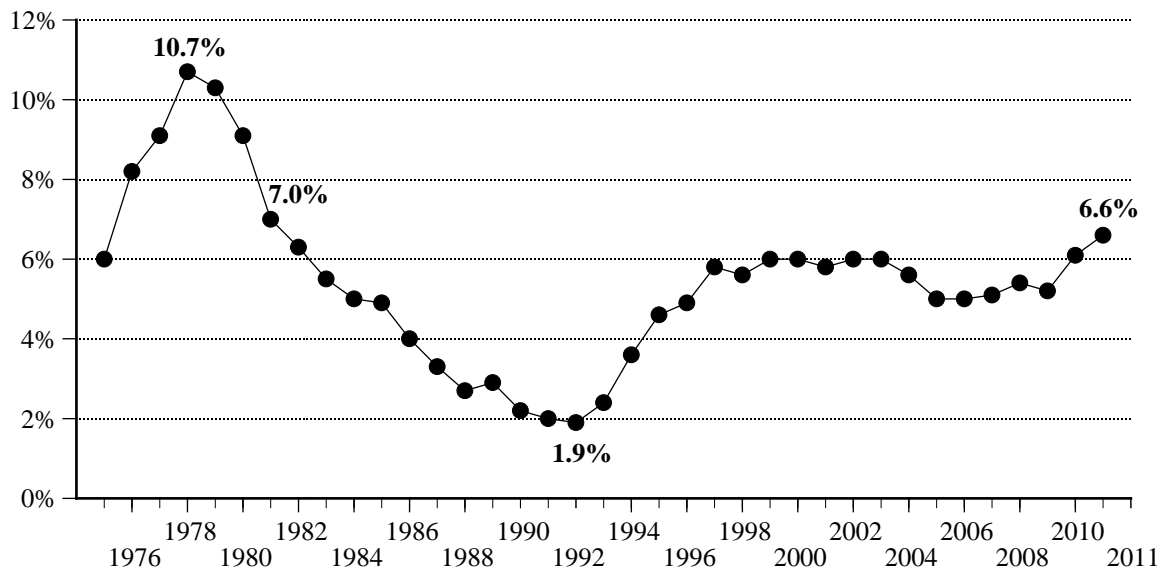
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Daily Marijuana Use by High School Seniors Highest in 30 Years

Daily use of marijuana by high school seniors is now at the highest level since 1981, according to data from the national Monitoring the Future survey. In 2011, 6.6% of 12th grade students reported smoking marijuana on 20 or more occasions in the last month, compared to 7% in 1981 and the record high of 10.7% in 1978 (see figure below). “Put another way, one in every fifteen high school seniors today is smoking pot on a daily or near daily basis,” according to Lloyd Johnston, the principal investigator of the study. Rates of daily marijuana use have also increased for 10th and 8th graders, reaching 3.6% and 1.6% respectively in 2011 (data not shown). Frequent marijuana use has been associated with increased use of other licit and illicit drugs, including cocaine, ecstasy, and prescription pain relievers used nonmedically (see *CESAR FAX* Volume 21, Issue 21).

**Percentage of U.S. 12th Grade Students Reporting
Daily Marijuana Use in the Past Month, 1975 to 2011**



NOTE: A nationally representative sample of 47,000 8th-, 10th-, and 12th-grade students, attending 400 public and private secondary schools, participated in the Monitoring the Future 2011 survey.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from University of Michigan, “Long-Term Trends in 30-Day Prevalence of Daily Use of Various Drugs in Grade 12,” *Monitoring the Future Study*, 2011. Available online at <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/data/11data/pr11t18.pdf>.