

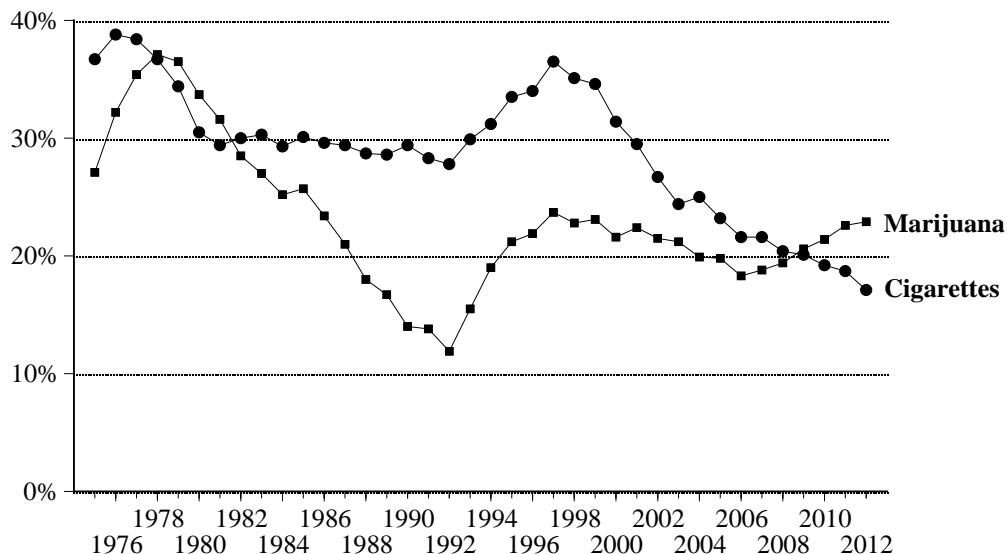
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

U.S. High School Seniors More Likely to Smoke Marijuana Than Cigarettes

High school seniors are more likely to smoke marijuana in the past month than they are to smoke cigarettes, according to the most recent data from the national Monitoring the Future survey. In 2012, 17.1% of 12th graders reported that they were current cigarette smokers (i.e., they had smoked cigarettes in the past month), a substantial decline from the most recent high of 36.5% in 1997 and the lowest rate since the survey began collecting data in 1975. In contrast, current marijuana use has been increasing gradually since 2006, reaching 22.9% in 2012—the highest rate since the late 1990s. Marijuana use has surpassed cigarette use in this population since 2009—a pattern not seen since the late 70s and early 80s. 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 2012



*In 2012, 4.9% of 8th graders reported smoking cigarettes in the past month and 6.5% reported using marijuana. Among 10th graders, 10.8% reported smoking cigarettes, and 17.0% reported using marijuana.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from University of Michigan, "The Rise in Teen Marijuana Use Stalls, Synthetic Marijuana Use Levels, and Use of 'Bath Salts' Is Very Low," *Monitoring the Future Drug and Alcohol Press Release: Text, Figures, & Tables*, December 19, 2012. Available online at <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/data/12data.html#2012data-drugs>