

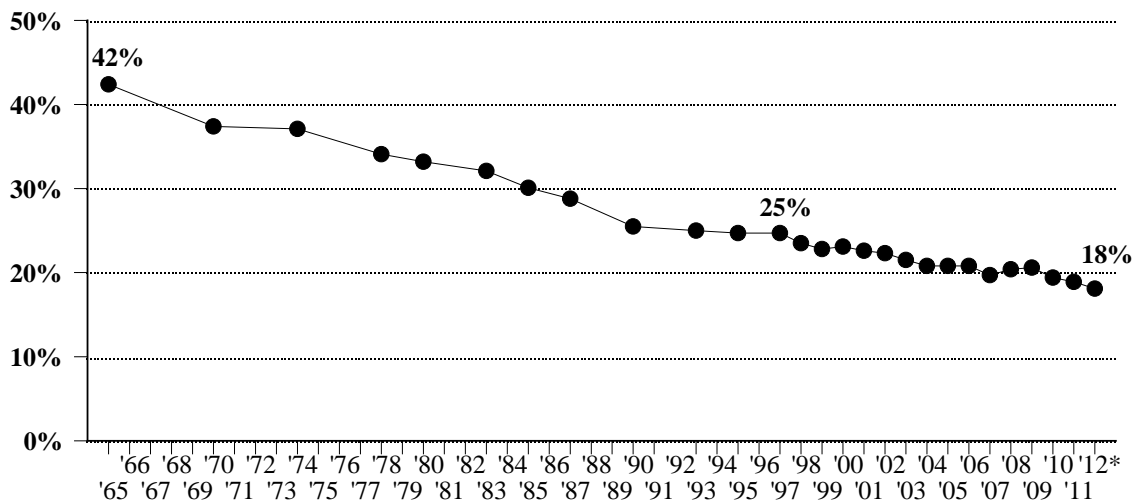
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Current Cigarette Smoking Among U.S. Adults Continues to Decline

The percentage of U.S. adults reporting that they are current cigarette smokers has declined dramatically since the 1960s, according to data from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). From 1965 to 1990, the percentage of adults who reported that they had smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and now smoke every or some days (current smokers) declined from 42% in 1965 to 26% in 1990. After remaining at around 25% for a few years, current smoking again began to decline, reaching 18% in the first nine months of 2012 (see figure below). Similar declines have been seen among high school students (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 22, Issue 3).

Percentage of U.S. Adults Reporting That They Are Current Cigarette Smokers, 1965-2012*



*Data from 2012 are for January-September.

NOTES: Data are from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), a household survey of the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population collected using computer-assisted personal interviews of adults aged 18 years and older. Data are collected each year from approximately 75,000-100,000 individuals in 35,000-40,000 households across the country. Current smokers were defined as those who had smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and now smoke every day or some days. The analyses excluded persons with unknown smoking status (about 2% of respondents each year).

SOURCES: Adapted by CESAR from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), *Trends in Current Cigarette Smoking Among High School Students and Adults, United States, 1965-2011*, updated 12/7/2012 (online at http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/tables/trends/cig_smoking/index.htm); and CDC, *Early Release of Selected Estimates Based on Data from the January-September 2012 National Health Interview Survey, 2013* (online at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/released201303.htm>).