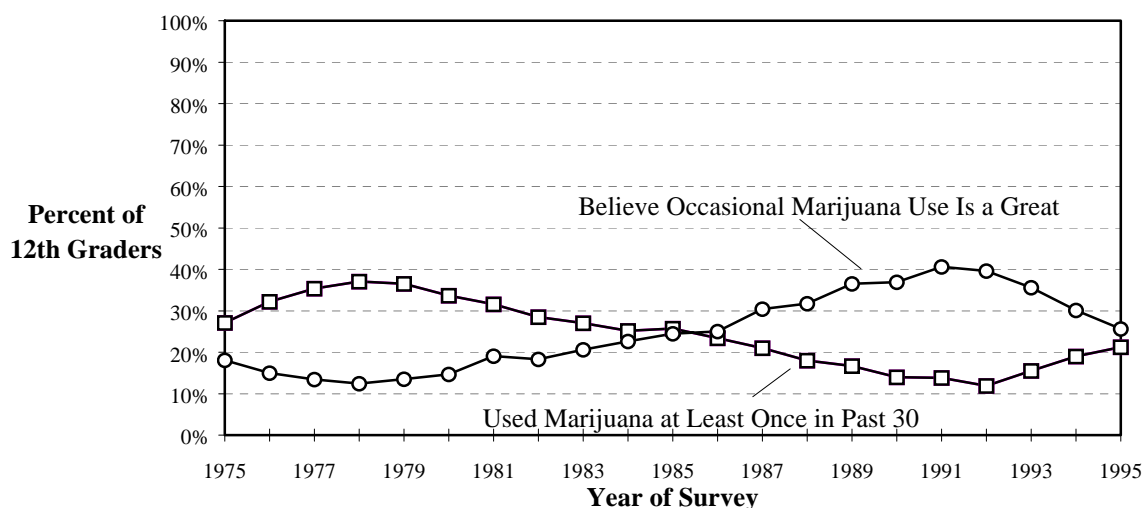


## *Student Marijuana Use Increases as Perceived Risk Decreases: Implications of a Possible 20-Year Cycle*

Data from the national Monitoring the Future survey show that past-month use of marijuana among 12th graders has been rising since 1992 (see figure). At the same time, the percentage of seniors who believe that occasional marijuana use is a great risk to the user has been declining. Similar results were found among 8th and 10th grade students.

In addition, the figure below suggests that marijuana use may run in 20-year cycles. Drug historian Dr. David Musto has noted that when drug use trends turn down, anti-drug education efforts decline. Thus, society fails to educate its youngest members about lessons learned from prior drug epidemics. The kindergartners of 1996, the next generation of potential teen users, should continue to be exposed to prevention programs, even if the current rise in marijuana use starts to wane.

**Percentage of U.S. 12th Graders Reporting Past-Month Use of Marijuana Versus  
Percentage Who Believe Occasional Marijuana Use Is a Great Risk, 1975-1995**



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from December 11, 1995, press release on the 1995 Monitoring the Future Study, National Institute on Drug Abuse.

### **WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT AMERICA'S RESPONSE TO DRUG USE?**

For more information about the history of America's response to drug use, order the CESAR Speaker Series videotape, "America's Response to Drug Use: Lessons From the Past" by Dr. David Musto. Each videotape is approximately 1 1/2 hours long and is available for \$22 plus \$5 postage and handling. Orders can be placed through the Flagship Channel Program Coordinator at 301-405-3610.

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