

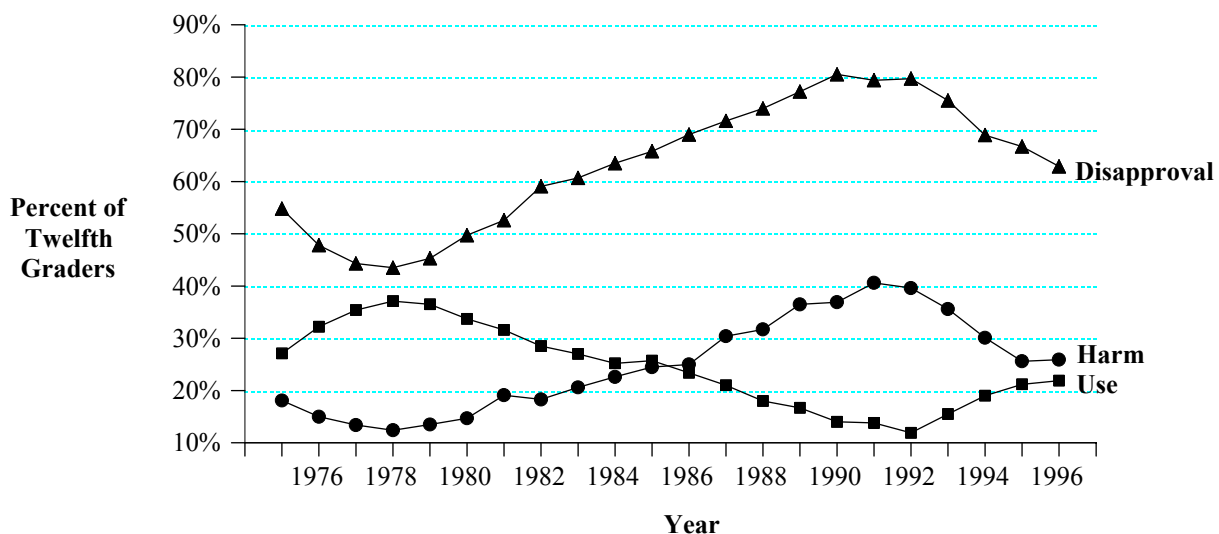
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland at College Park

1996 Student Survey Shows That Marijuana Use is Related to Perceptions of Harm and Disapproval

Data from the national Monitoring the Future student survey show that as disapproval and perceptions of harm of marijuana use have decreased since the early 90s, use of marijuana among twelfth graders has increased. According to the researchers, a likely cause of these trends “is the fact that this most recent crop of youngsters grew up in a period in which drug use rates were down substantially from what they had been 10 to 15 years earlier. This gave youngsters less opportunity to learn from others’ mistakes and resulted in . . . ‘generational forgetting’ of the hazards of drugs.” The researchers also note that “in recent years youngsters have heard less about the dangers of drugs from a number of sectors that have paid less attention to the issue, including parents, schools, and the media” (p. 3).

Percentage of U.S. Twelfth Grade Students Reporting Marijuana Use, Disapproval, and Harm, 1975 - 1996



NOTE: Disapproval: Percentage of twelfth graders disapproving of people who are 18 or older smoking marijuana occasionally.
Harm: Percentage of twelfth graders reporting that people are at “great risk” of harming themselves if they smoke marijuana occasionally.
Use: Percentage of twelfth graders reporting marijuana/hashish use within the past 30 days.

SOURCE: University of Michigan, Monitoring the Future Study Press Release, *The Rise in Drug Use Among American Teens Continues in 1996*, December 19, 1996, WWW document; URL <http://www.isr.umich.edu/src/mtf/mtfnar96.html> (accessed 4/4/97); and *Monitoring the Future-High School Drug Stats Tables*, WWW documents; URL <http://www.isr.umich.edu/src/mtf/mtf96t04.html>, and [/mtf96t07.html](http://www.isr.umich.edu/src/mtf/mtf96t07.html), and [/mtf96t09.html](http://www.isr.umich.edu/src/mtf/mtf96t09.html) (accessed 4/3/97).

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