

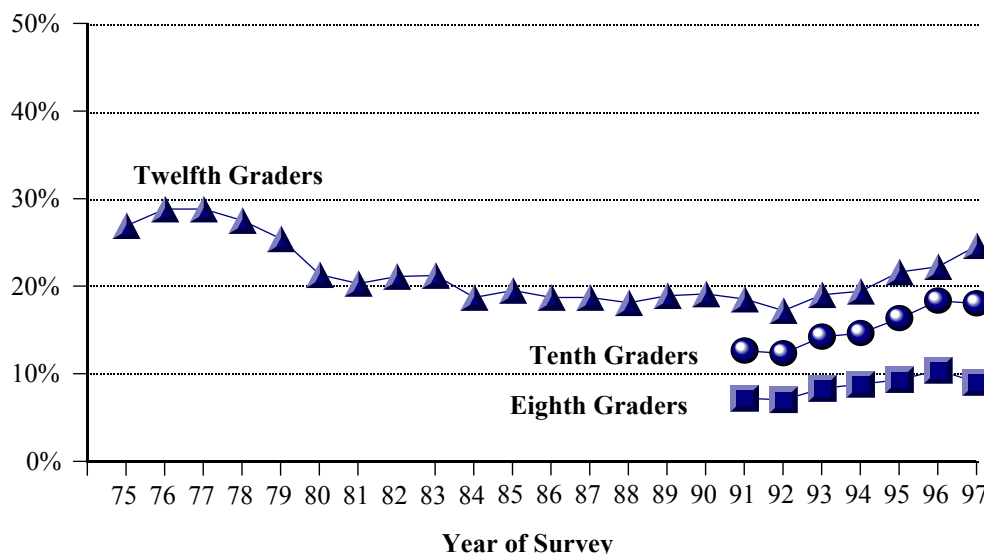
## A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

### *Rise in Cigarette Smoking Continues Among High School Seniors; Possible Decline Emerging Among Younger Students*

Cigarette smoking continues to increase among high school seniors, according to recent data from the national Monitoring the Future Survey. In 1997, 25% of 12th graders reported daily cigarette smoking, the highest rate since 1979. The most recent data for younger students, however, are more promising. For the first time since data collection began in 1991, smoking rates among both 8th and 10th grade students declined slightly. While it is too early to be certain, these decreases may be the beginning of a “possible turnaround in smoking” that “likely will result in lower smoking rates for that class cohort for the rest of their lives” (p. 3).

**Percentage of Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Grade U.S. Students  
Reporting Daily Cigarette Smoking, 1975-1997**



SOURCE: University of Michigan, Monitoring the Future Study Press Release, “Cigarette smoking rates may have peaked among younger teens,” December 18, 1997. For more information, contact Lloyd Johnston at 313-763-5043.

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