

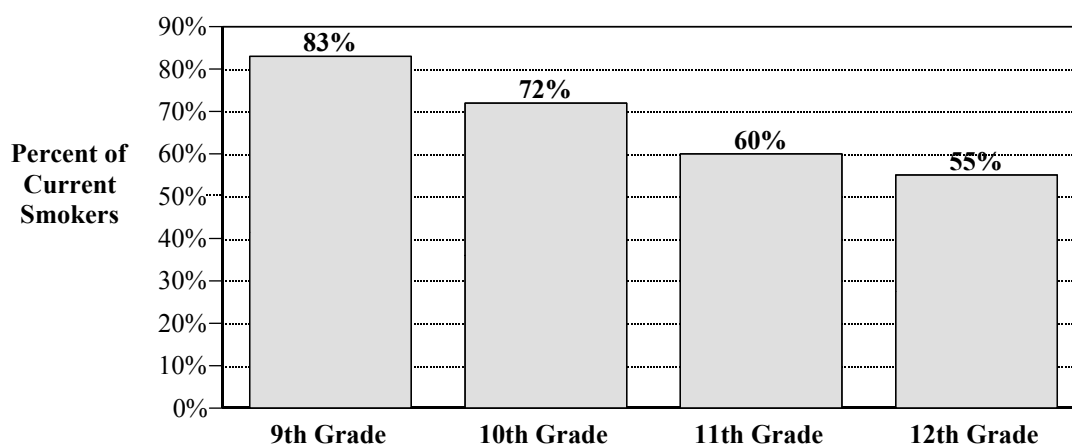
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

30% of Underage Smokers Can Buy Cigarettes; Younger Smokers More Likely Not to Be Asked to Show ID

Despite the fact that all U.S. states prohibit the sale of cigarettes to youth under the age of 18, 30% of high school students who currently smoke report that they have purchased cigarettes in a store or gas station in the past month. According to data from the 1997 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey (YRBSS), youth access to tobacco increased with grade level; 18% of 9th grade current smokers reported that they had purchased cigarettes in the past month, compared to 26% of 10th, 37% of 11th, and 44% of 12th graders. Of students who purchased cigarettes, 67% were not asked to show proof of age. Furthermore, younger students were more likely than older students not be asked to show identification (see figure below). Previous studies have shown that enforcing tobacco age-of-sale laws result in reductions in illegal tobacco sales to minors as well as reduced adolescent smoking rates.

Percentage of Current Smokers (Under Age 18) Who Reported Purchasing Cigarettes in the Past Month Without Being Asked to Show Proof of Age, by Grade, 1997*



*Current Smokers were defined as persons who smoked cigarettes on 1 or more of the 30 days preceding the survey.

NOTE: The YRBSS was of a nationally representative sample of 16,262 students in grades 9-12 in 151 schools. The school response rate was 79% and the student response rate was 87%.

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance--United States, 1997," Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), 47(SS-3), August 14, 1998. A copy of this report is available on-line at www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/yrbss/ov.htm.

CESAR Seeking Manager for Treatment Outcome Project

CESAR is currently seeking a project manager for a three year substance abuse treatment outcome assessment. Applicants must have a Ph.D. in a relevant discipline and experience in generating grant/contract income. Please contact CESAR at 301-403-8329 or cesar@cesar.umd.edu for a complete job description.

•• 301-403-8329 (voice) •• 301-403-8342 (fax) •• Cesar@cesar.umd.edu •• www.cesar.umd.edu ••

CESAR FAX is supported by a grant from the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention.

CESAR FAX may be copied without permission. Please cite CESAR as the source.