

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

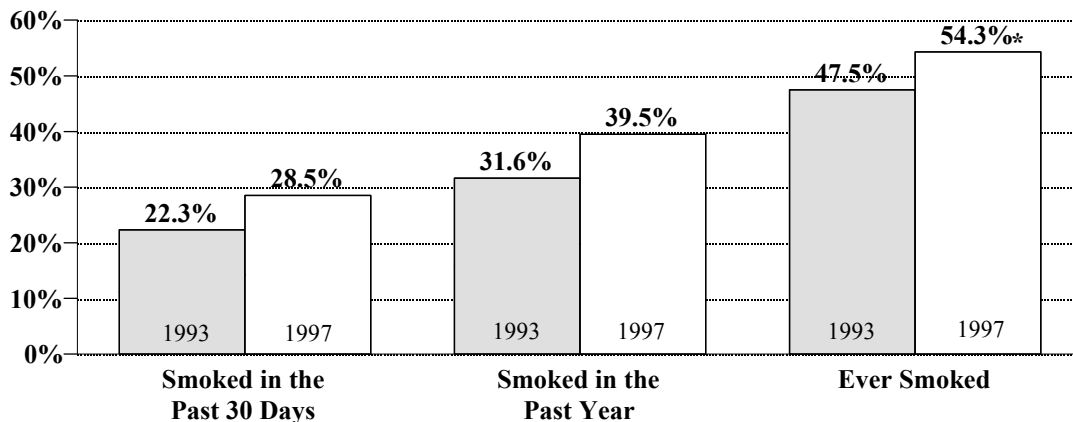
University of Maryland, College Park

### *Smoking Increasing Among College Students Nationwide*

"Cigarette use is increasing on campuses nationwide in all subgroups and types of colleges," according to a survey conducted by the Harvard School of Public Health. The percentage of college students reporting that they had smoked in the past 30 days increased from 22.3% in 1993 to 28.5% in 1997. The increase occurred equally among students of all sex, race/ethnicity, and age groups. The majority of this rise resulted from an increase in the percentage of regular light smokers (those who smoke 1-9 cigarettes per day). The increase in smoking among college students is likely a continuation of the rise in adolescent smoking that began in the early 1990s (see CESAR FAX, Volume 7, Issue 3).

#### **Percentage of U.S. College Students Who Reported Smoking Cigarettes, by Frequency of Use, 1993 and 1997**

(n=15,032 in 1993; 14,434 in 1997)



NOTE: The surveys were self-administered to a random sample of 15,103 (1993) and 14,521 (1997) students at 116 nationally representative 4-year colleges. Due to missing responses there were 71 and 87 students excluded from the smoking analysis in 1993 and 1997, respectively.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Henry Wechsler et al., "Increased Levels of Cigarette Use Among College Students: A Cause for National Concern," *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 280(19):1673-1678, November 18, 1998. For more information, contact Dr. Wechsler at 617-432-1137 or [hwechsle@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:hwechsle@hsph.harvard.edu).