

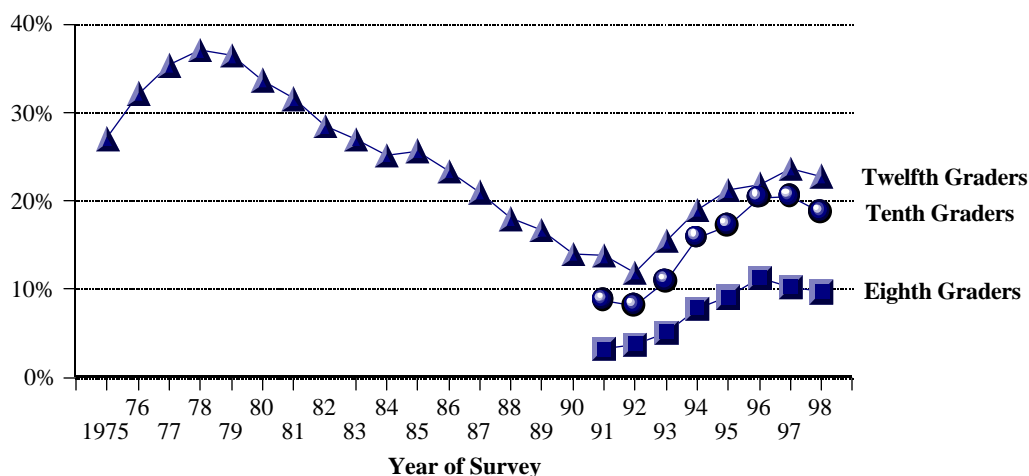
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Student Marijuana Use May Finally Be Declining

Marijuana use among U.S. students may now be on the decline, according to data from the 1998 national Monitoring the Future study. The percentage of 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students reporting that they used marijuana at least once in the past month decreased slightly from 1997 to 1998. This is the second year of decline for 8th graders and the first year for 10th and 12th graders. The use of other drugs, including alcohol, cigarettes, cocaine, and heroin either declined or remained stable over this period. According to Lloyd D. Johnston, the study's principal investigator, "we seem to be in the middle of a gradual turnaround in young people's use of most kinds of illicit drugs, as well as alcohol, following an earlier period of sustained increases" (p 4).

**Percentage of Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Grade U.S. Students
Reporting Current Use of Marijuana, 1975-1998**



NOTES: Current use is defined as use at least once during the 30 days prior to the survey.
Surveys of 8th and 10th grade students began in 1991.

SOURCE: University of Michigan, Monitoring the Future Study Press Release, "Drug Use by American Young People Begins to Turn Downward," December 18, 1998. For more information, contact Lloyd Johnston at 734-763-5043 or visit the Monitoring the Future website at www.isr.umich.edu/src/mtf/.

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