

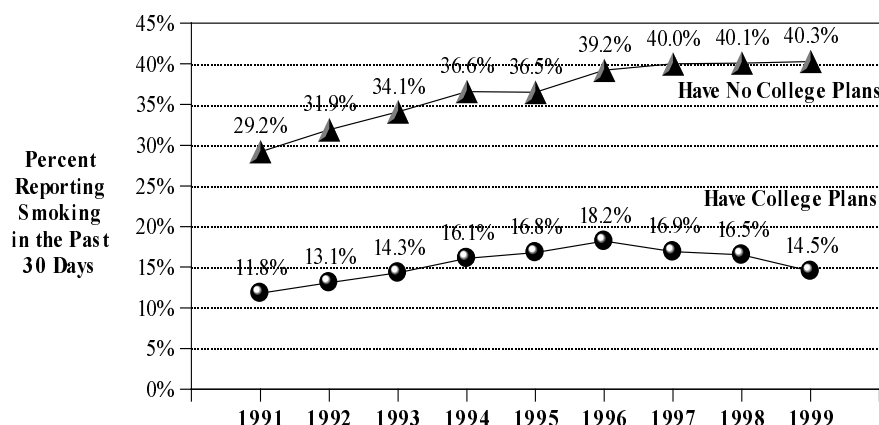
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

College-Bound 8th Graders Less Likely to Smoke--Use Declining

American teenagers with college plans report lower rates of cigarette smoking than their peers who have no plans to attend college. According to national data from the 1999 Monitoring the Future (MTF) study, 14.5% of 8th grade students with college plans report smoking in the past 30 days, compared to 40.3% of students without college plans. In addition, 8th grade students who plan to attend college have also experienced recent decreases in their smoking rates (see figure below). "It is in [the] college-bound sector that we see most of the decline in smoking so far," reports MTF principal investigator Lloyd Johnston. "There has been rather little improvement in the lower grades among the non-college bound, who traditionally have far higher smoking rates" (p. 2). Similar (though not as significant) differences were found for 10th and 12th grade students.

**Percentage of Eighth Grade U.S. Students Who Smoked Cigarettes
in the Past 30 Days, by Plans to Complete Four Years of College, 1991-1999**



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from University of Michigan, "Drug Trends in 1999 Among American Teens Are Mixed," Monitoring the Future Study Press Release, December 17, 1999. For more information, visit the Monitoring the Future website at www.monitoringthefuture.org.

Full/Part Time Research Associate Position Available

CESAR is seeking a Research Associate to conduct comprehensive literature searches on various substance abuse treatment topics and integrate findings into concise reports. Applicants must have a social science background, be experienced with computers, proficient in internet based research, and possess excellent writing skills. Please send resumes to cesar@cesar.umd.edu.

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