

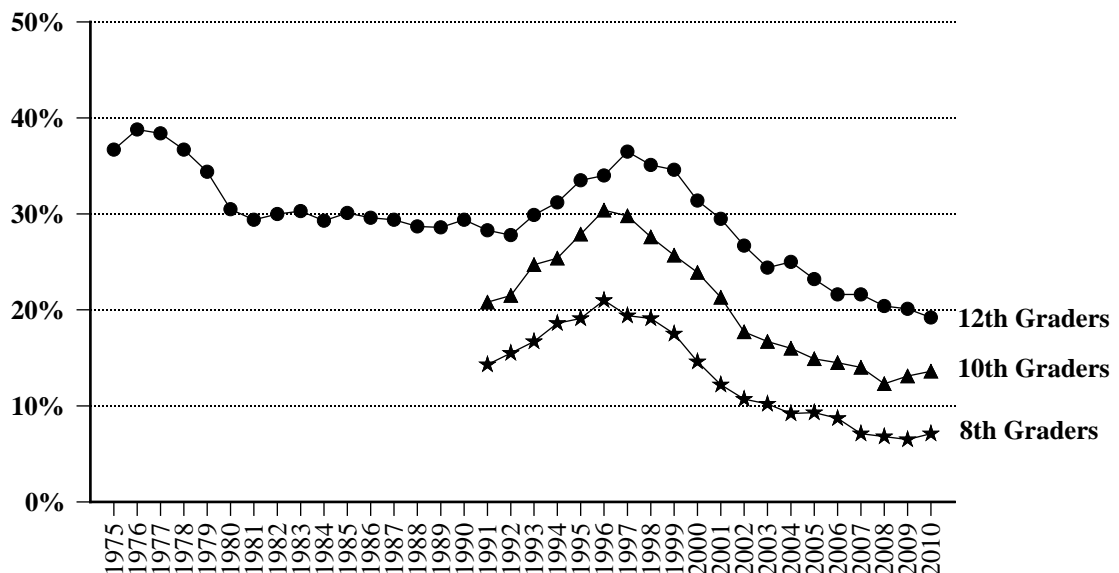
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Current Cigarette Use Continues to Decrease Among U.S. 12th Graders; Decrease in Use Among 8th and 10th Grade Students May Have Stalled

Current cigarette use among high school seniors continues to decrease, according to data from the 2010 *Monitoring the Future* study. In 2010, 19% of 12th grade students reported smoking cigarettes in the past 30 days, down from the most recent peak of 37% in 1997. Current prevalence rates of cigarette use among 8th (7%) and 10th (14%) graders are also far below their peak rates. However, smoking rates among these younger students appear to have leveled off in recent years, suggesting that the decrease that began in 1997 may have stalled (see figure below). The authors note that while these long-term decreases in smoking are encouraging, “there are still significant proportions of teens putting themselves at risk for a host of serious diseases and premature death because they are taking up cigarette smoking” (p. 2).

**Percentage of U.S. 8th, 10th, and 12th Grade Students
Reporting Cigarette Use in the Past 30 Days, 1975 to 2010**



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from University of Michigan, “Smoking Stops Declining and Shows Signs of Increasing Among Younger Teens,” *Press Release*, 12/14/2010. Available online at <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/data/10data.html#2010data-cigs>.