

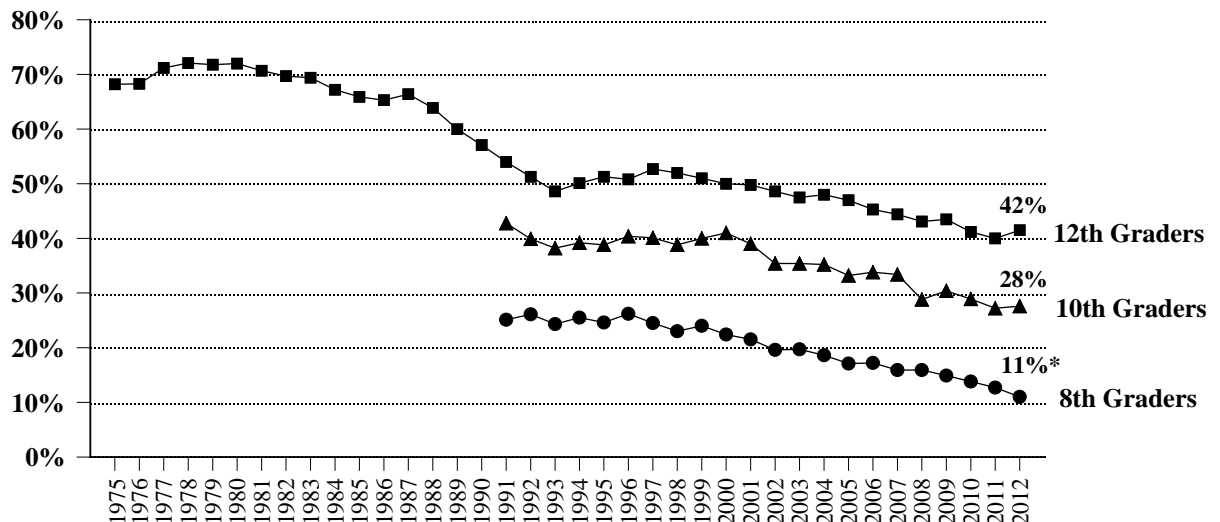
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Decline in Past Month Alcohol Use Among U.S. 8th Graders Reaches Record Low; Decline Among 10th and 12th Graders May Have Stalled

The percentage of 8th graders reporting past month use of alcohol reached a record low[†] in 2012, according to data from the national Monitoring the Future study. Approximately one-tenth (11%) of 8th graders reported drinking at least one sip of alcohol in the past month in 2012, compared to the peak prevalence of 26% in 1996. Past month prevalence rates among 10th and 12th graders reached record low levels in 2011, at 27% and 40%, respectively, but did not change significantly from 2011 to 2012 (see figure below). The decline in use among 12th graders in this survey is similar to the decline in past year use reported by college freshmen (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 22, Issue 9).

Percentage of U.S. 8th, 10th, and 12th Grade Students Reporting Past Month Alcohol Use, 1975-2012



[†]Refers to record lows during the life of the survey. The Monitoring the Future survey began surveying 12th graders in 1975. Surveys of 8th and 10th graders were added in 1991.

*Difference between 2011 and 2012 is statistically significant at the .05 level.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from University of Michigan, "The Rise in Teen Marijuana Use Stalls, Synthetic Marijuana Use Levels, and Use of 'Bath Salts' Is Very Low," Monitoring the Future press release, December 19, 2012. Available online at <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org>.