Marijuana Use Declines Among 8th Graders for the First Time in 6 Years

According to data from the 1997 national Monitoring the Future Survey, current* marijuana use among 8th graders declined for the first time since 1991. Current use among 8th graders decreased from 11.3% in 1996 to 10.2% in 1997. At the same time, the percentage of 8th graders who disapprove of people who smoke marijuana occasionally or regularly increased for the first time since 1991. Previous findings have shown that as disapproval of marijuana use increases, use of the drug decreases (see CESAR FAX Volume 6, Issue 14). Marijuana use among older students remains at or above previous levels, illustrating the need for continued prevention efforts.

Percentage of Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Grade U.S. Students Reporting Current Use of Marijuana, 1991-1997

*Current use is defined as use at least once during the 30 days prior to the survey.