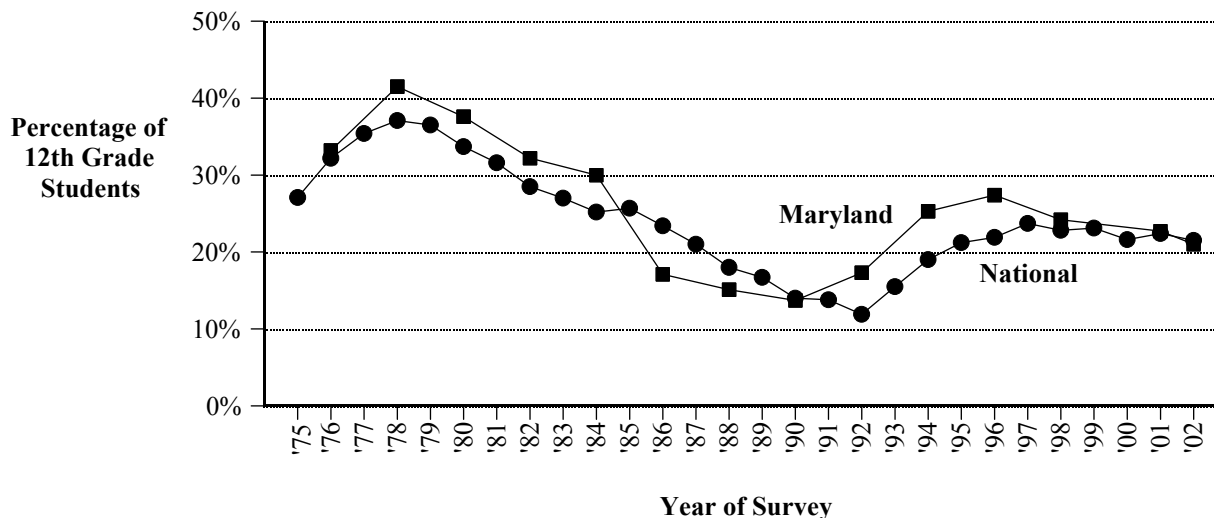


Marijuana Use Among Maryland High School Seniors Continues to Decline; Results Reflect National Trends

Marijuana use by Maryland high school seniors has been declining since 1996, according to data from the 2002 Maryland Adolescent Survey. Current use* of the drug among 12th graders peaked in 1978 at 42%, then declined over the following years, reaching a low of 14% in 1990. During the 90s, current use of marijuana among seniors once again increased, reaching a second peak in 1996 (27%). Since that time marijuana use has been gradually decreasing—21% of high school seniors reported current use of the drug in 2002. These trends have mirrored those found by the national Monitoring the Future high school survey.

**Percentage of 12th Grade Students Reporting Current* Use of Marijuana,
Maryland and National, 1975-2002**



*The 1976-1988 MAS surveys defined current use as use on a monthly or more frequent basis. The 1990-2002 MAS surveys and the 1975-2002 national Monitoring the Future surveys defined current use as any use within the past 30 days.

NOTE: The 12th grade sample size for the 2002 survey was N=7,997 for the MAS and N=12,900 for the national MTF survey.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from Maryland State Department of Education, 2002 Maryland Adolescent Survey, August 2003. For more information, contact Erin Artigiani of CESAR at 301-405-9794 or erin@cesar.umd.edu. The report is available online at www.msde.state.md.us under Reports & Data/Special Reports.

Compendium of Maryland Substance Abuse Indicators Now Available

CESAR's "Compendium of Maryland's Substance Abuse Indicators" presents and analyzes data from six state-wide substance abuse indicators: 1) student drug use, 2) drug-related student suspensions, 3) treatment admissions, 4) overdose deaths, 5) substance-related traffic crashes, and 6) drug-related arrests. The report is available online (www.dewsonline.org) or by contacting CESAR by phone (301-405-9770), fax (301-403-8342), or email (cesar@cesar.umd.edu).