**U.S. High School Seniors More Likely to Use Marijuana Than to Smoke Cigarettes**

High school seniors are more likely to use marijuana than to smoke cigarettes in the past month, according to the most recent data from the national Monitoring the Future survey. In 2011, 18.7% of 12th graders reported smoking cigarettes in the past month, continuing a substantial decline from the most recent high of 36.5% in 1997. In contrast, marijuana use has been increasing since 2006, reaching 22.6% in 2011—a level not seen since the mid-1980s. Similar trends in cigarette and marijuana use have occurred among 8th and 10th graders.* One possible explanation for these findings is a change in the perception of risk for these substances. The percentage of 12th grades who perceive a great risk of harm in smoking one or more packs of cigarettes per day has increased over the last two decades, reaching 77.7% in 2011. At the same time, the percentage who perceive a great risk of harm from smoking marijuana regularly has decreased to 45.7% in 2011 (data not shown).

*In 2011, 6.1% of 8th graders reported smoking cigarettes in the past month and 7.2% reported using marijuana. Among 10th graders, 11.8% reported smoking cigarettes, and 17.6% reported using marijuana.

**Percentage of U.S. 12th Grade Students Reporting Past Month Use of Cigarettes or Marijuana, 1975 to 2011**