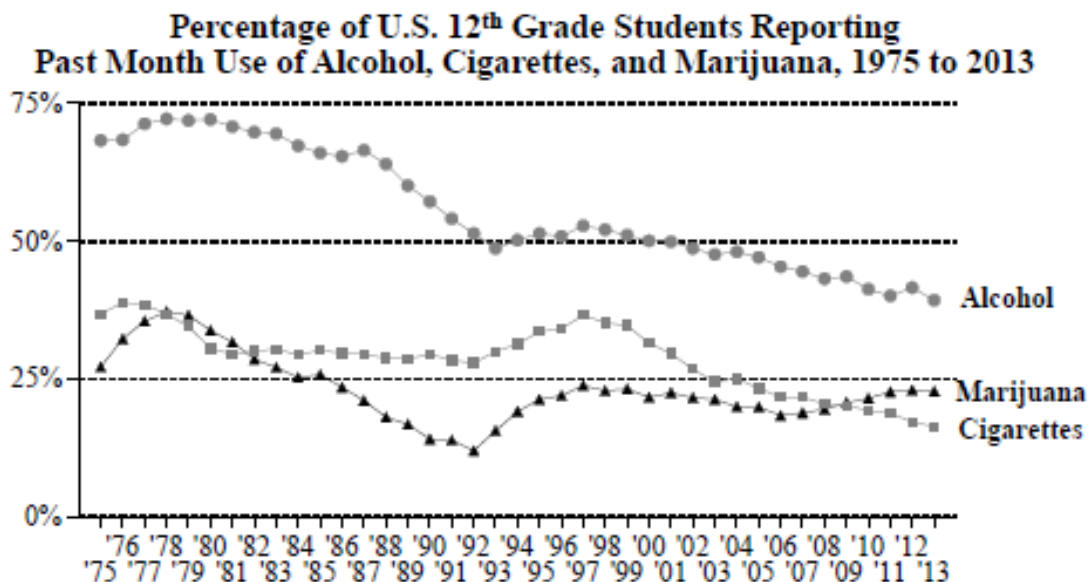


## Marijuana Use by U.S. 12th Graders Increases Even as Alcohol and Cigarette Use Continue to Decline

The percentage of U.S. high school seniors reporting the use of alcohol or cigarettes in the past month has decreased significantly since the 1970s, according to data from the national Monitoring the Future survey. Alcohol use decreased from a high of 72.1% in 1978 to a low of 39.2% in 2013, while cigarette use decreased from a high of 38.8% in 1976 to a low of 16.3% in 2013. In contrast, self-reported past month marijuana use has increased from the most recent low of 18.3% in 2006 to 22.7% in 2013. While marijuana use by 12th graders has remained relatively unchanged since 2011, it is currently at the highest rate since 1999.

*Editor's Note: While these findings may reflect actual increases in marijuana use, social stigmatization may also influence self-reported use. Thus, as marijuana use has become less stigmatized in the last decade, users may now be more willing to report use. While an analysis conducted by MTF staff concludes that "the changing social acceptability of drug use has not affected the truthfulness of self-reports of use," urinalysis results from juvenile arrestees in the District of Columbia have actually shown a decrease in marijuana positives since 2010 and the percentage of the U.S. general workforce testing positive from marijuana decreased from 2000 to 2009 and has remained stable since then.*



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from University of Michigan, "American Teens More Cautious About Using Synthetic Drugs," Monitoring the Future National Press Release, December 18, 2013. Available online at <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/data/13data.html#2013data-drugs>.