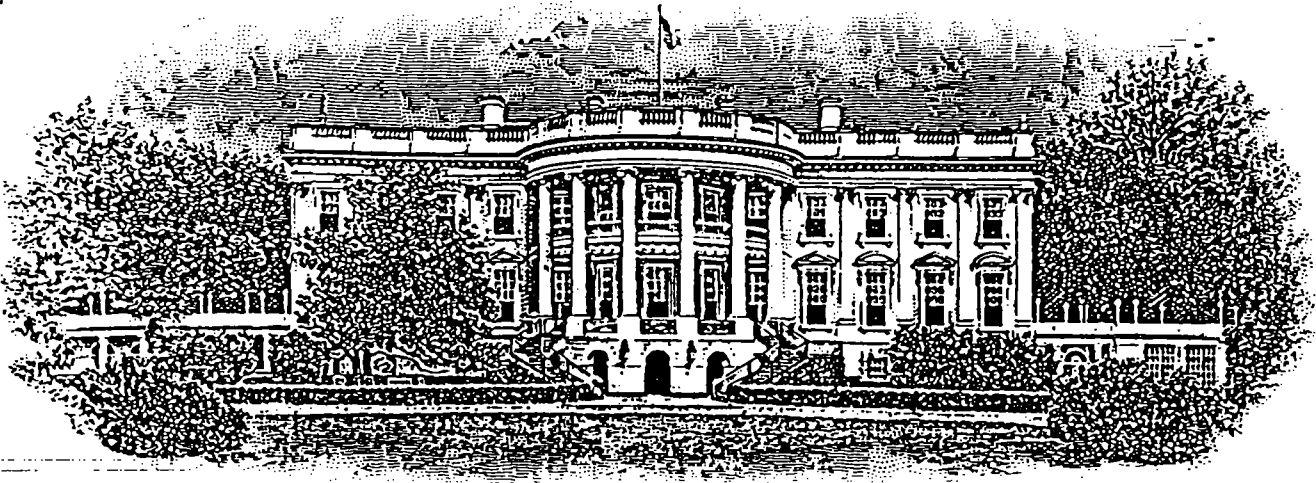


The White House



DOMESTIC POLICY

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

TO: Jerald Mande

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PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): 3

COMMENTS: Deaths Due to Illicit Drug Use

The numbers underscore the unacceptable costs of illegal drug use to our society:

America has suffered 100,000 drug-related deaths in the 1990s alone — over 20,000 of our citizens die every year because of illicit drugs.

- In 1993, the year from which the most recent data is available, Americans spent an estimated \$49 billion on illegal drugs: \$31 billion on cocaine, \$7 billion on heroin, \$9 billion on marijuana, and \$2 billion on other illegal drugs.
- Federal, State, and local governments collectively spend about \$30 billion a year to reduce illegal drug use and trafficking and deal with their consequences.
- The annual social cost of illicit drug use is \$67 billion, mostly from the consequences of drug-related crime.
- Drug-related hospital emergency department visits continue to be at record levels — over one half million annually — owing in large part to the consequences of drug addiction.
- Drug use contributes significantly to property and violent crimes. Of nearly 712,000 prison inmates interviewed in June 1991, 62 percent reported they had used drugs regularly at some time in their lives, 50 percent reported drug use in the month before committing the offense that had sent them to prison, 31 percent said they were under the influence of drugs when they committed their crime, and 17 percent said they were trying to get money for drugs when they committed the crime. Of more than 20,000 adult, male arrestees tested in 1994 under the Drug Use Forecasting program, 66 percent were positive for use of at least one drug at the time of arrest.
- Each year over one million persons are arrested on drug-related charges.

Other drugs are now beginning to emerge that further threaten all Americans. Heroin presents a particularly grave threat to the American people. The surveys that track heroin use patterns are

discouraging. In 1993, the rate of heroin-related emergency room episodes was 64 per 100,000 population among persons ages 35 to 44, almost double of what it was in 1988 for this age group. The users of heroin are also initiating use of the drug at a younger age (the Monitoring the Future (MTF) study reports increased heroin use by 10th and 12th graders) and they are beginning to rely on routes of administration such as smoking and snorting, rather than injecting. This may make heroin use more accessible to a wider range of users, particularly those users of other drugs that were unwilling to inject drugs.

The continued rise in popularity of methamphetamine (also known as speed, crystal, crank, and ice) is also of increasing concern. For many years, methamphetamine use has been confined to certain areas of the country (the West and Southwest) and to certain distinct groups of users (motorcycle gangs and older polydrug users). The drug is now becoming more attractive to young users, and its use is expanding into other areas of the country such as Denver, Des Moines, Dallas, Atlanta, Philadelphia, and Minneapolis/St. Paul. Methamphetamine, used for its stimulant effect, is often combined in use with alcohol, heroin, and cocaine. An estimated 4 million persons in the United States have used methamphetamine at least once in their lives.

A third emerging drug, Rohypnol, presents a new challenge. Rohypnol is manufactured in Colombia, Mexico, and Switzerland, but is not legally marketed or sold in the United States. It has a sedative effect and is reported to be 7 to 10 times more potent than Valium.TM Chronic use produces heavy sedation, psychomotor impairment, headaches, tremors, and amnesia. As with other sedatives and tranquilizers, long-term use can lead to physical dependence and the need for medically supervised withdrawal. Rohypnol, a drug legally available by prescription in Europe and many other parts of the world, is reported to be increasingly popular among some groups of young people in the United States. It is frequently used in conjunction with alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine and has achieved a dubious reputation as a "date rape" drug because of its effects on memory loss, especially when combined with alcohol. On

I. The Problem of Drug Use in America

Illicit drug use and trafficking fuel crime rates, destroy neighborhoods, drain the Nation's resources, and threaten national security. Here are the facts:

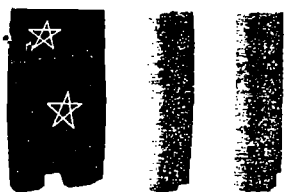
- In 1993, the year from which the most recent data is available, Americans spent an estimated \$49 billion on illegal drugs: \$31 billion on cocaine, \$7 billion on heroin, \$9 billion on marijuana, and \$2 billion on other illegal drugs.¹
- During 1994, an average of 12.6 million Americans used illicit drugs each month (10.1 million used marijuana; 1.4 million used cocaine).²
- Of nearly 712,000 prison inmates interviewed in June of 1991, 62 percent reported they had used drugs regularly at some time in their lives, 50 percent reported drug use in the month before committing the offense that had sent them to prison, 31 percent said they were under the influence of drugs when they committed their crime, and 17 percent said they were trying to get money for drugs when they committed the crime.
- Of more than 20,000 adult, male arrestees tested in 1994 under the Drug Use Forecasting program, 66 percent were positive for use of at least one drug at the time of arrest.
- Each year over one million persons are arrested on drug-related charges.
- Drug-related hospital emergency department visits continue to be at record levels — over one

half million annually — owing in large part to the consequences of drug addiction.

- Over 25,000 drug-related deaths occur annually. This includes deaths associated with drug use itself, AIDS, injury (whether accidentally or purposely inflicted), homicide, tuberculosis, and Hepatitis B and C.
- Foreign-based trafficking organizations are a direct and increasing threat to democracy and free-market economies abroad, undermining U.S. efforts to make America more secure and competitive. Traffickers continue to corrupt governments at the highest levels, further thwarting international counter narcotics efforts.

Despite these grim realities, the Nation's efforts to reduce illicit drug use and its associated problems have had a number of positive results. The chief result is that the overall number of drug users in the United States has decreased dramatically. In 1979 there were 24 million current users of illicit drugs, compared with 12 million in 1994 — a decrease of more than 50 percent.³ Progress has also been made in coordinating efforts to counter drug problems at the Federal, State, and local levels.

ONDCP's estimate of the number of hardcore users in 1993⁴ (see Figure 1-1) indicated that the number has remained fairly constant since 1988. The fact that the number of hardcore users has remained flat is due to the success of drug policies to stop many users from progressing into drug addiction. The expansion of this Nation's treatment capacity has enabled treatment providers to treat many more users. Without this expanded



MARIJUANA AND CIGARETTE SMOKING AMONG YOUTH

Chart #1: Analysis of SAMHSA Household Survey on Drug Abuse data shows youth (12-17) who are cigarette smokers are at significantly greater risk to smoke marijuana and/or use other illicit drugs.

Charts #2 and #3: Unreleased analyses of NIDA's Monitoring the Future Study shows similar correlations for 8th, 10th and 12th graders. The younger the users, the higher the correlation between marijuana and cigarette smoking. In fact, only about 25% of eighth graders who smoke cigarettes daily do not also smoke marijuana daily.

Chart #4: Not surprisingly, cigarette and marijuana smoking are both going up over the past 3 years, at similar rates of increase.

Chart #5 and #6: Cigarette smoking is now increasing among every age group over the past five years in the Monitoring the Future Study.

Chart #7 and #8: This recent increase is a reversal in a long term trend of decreased cigarette (and marijuana) smoking among youth.

Chart #9: Recent trends in adult cigarette smokers have flattened, after 25 years of progress, due in large part to the increasing numbers of youth smokers entering adulthood.

Chart #10: Statement by Dr. Lloyd Johnston regarding tobacco and marijuana use.

Drug use and smoking

(Ages 12-17)

<u>Drug use</u>	<u>Non-Smokers</u>	<u>Smokers</u>	<u>Relative Risk</u>
Any illicit drug	7.2	67.7	9
Marijuana	2.5	57.5	23
Cocaine	0.3	15.4	51

Source: SAMHSA Household Survey 1991

Daily Users of Marijuana

	<u>Non- Smokers</u>	<u>Daily Smokers</u>	<u>Relative Risk</u>
8th grade	.1	6.4	64
10th grade	.2	11.0	55
12th grade	.7	12.6	18

**Over two-thirds of daily marijuana users
at all three grade levels
are daily cigarette smokers!**

Source: Monitoring the Future Study 1994

Very high correlation of marijuana use and cigarette smoking among youth

**Daily marijuana
use by**

**Non-cigarette
smokers**

**Daily cigarette
smokers**

**8th Graders
(ages 13-14)**

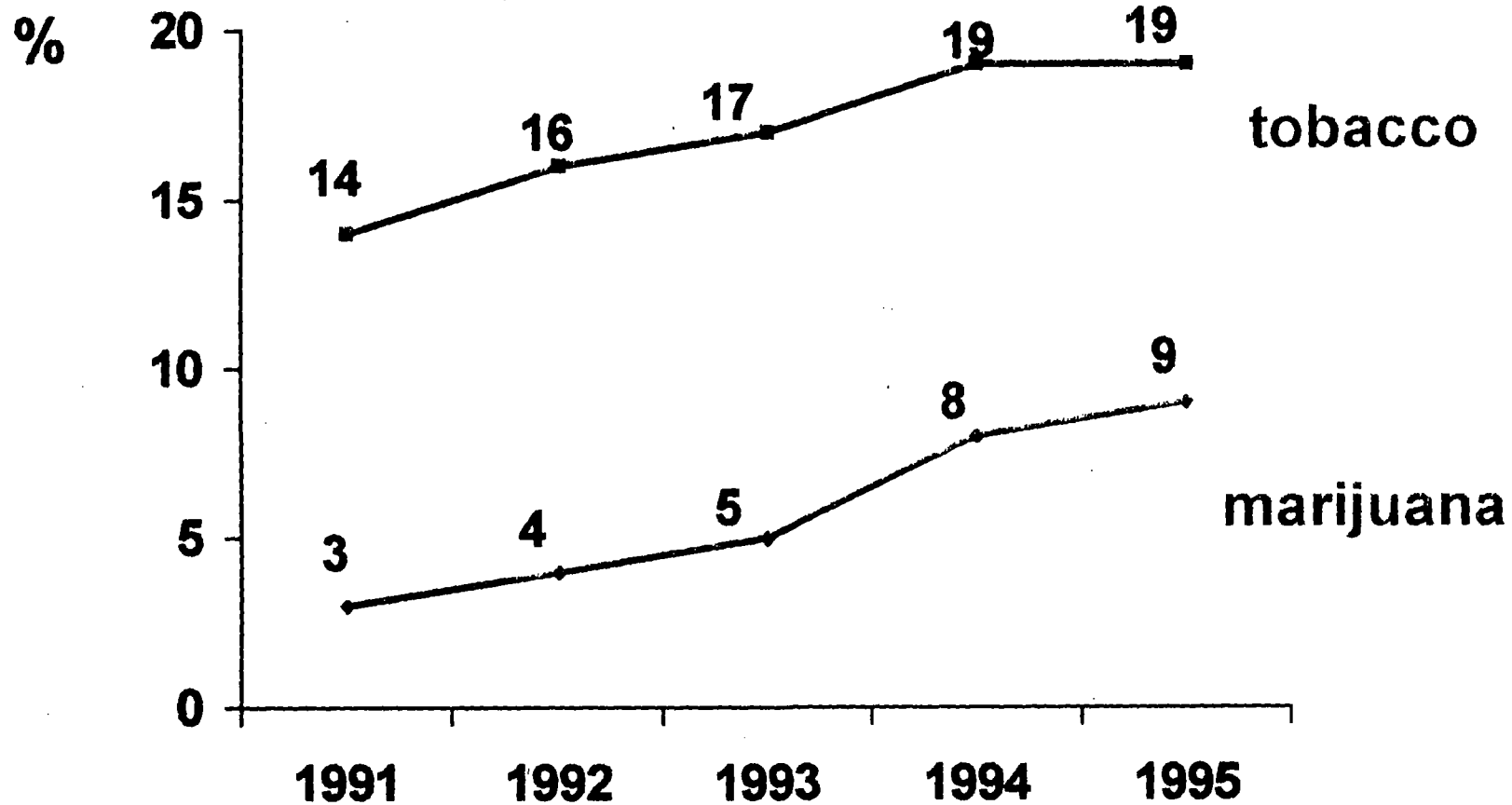
0.1%

6.4%

-
- **An eighth grader who smokes cigarettes daily is 64 times more likely to use marijuana**
 - **Nearly three-fourths of eighth graders who are daily marijuana users are also daily cigarette smokers**

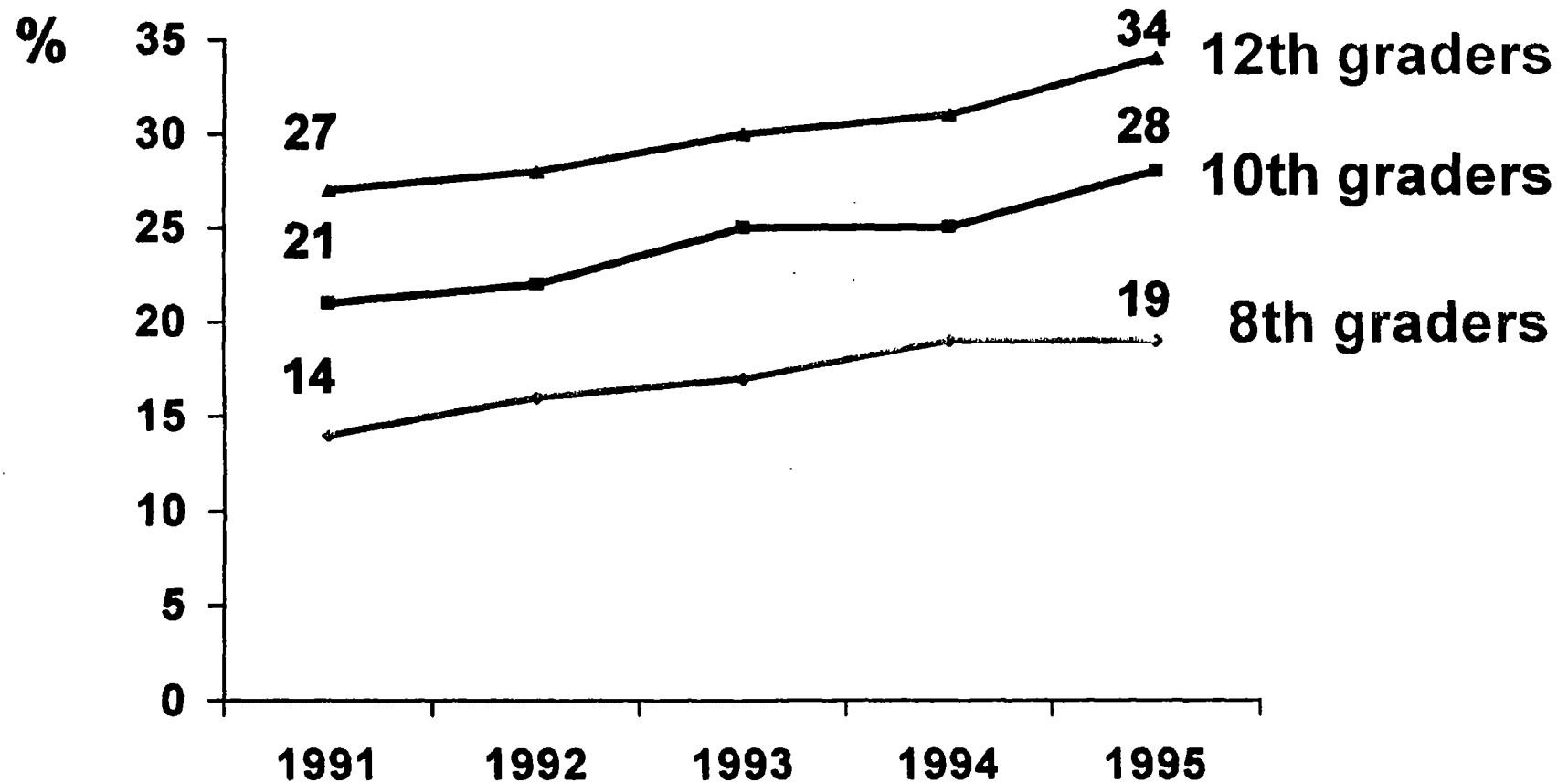
Source: 1994 Monitoring the Future Study

Trends in Monthly Use of Tobacco and Marijuana Among 8th Graders



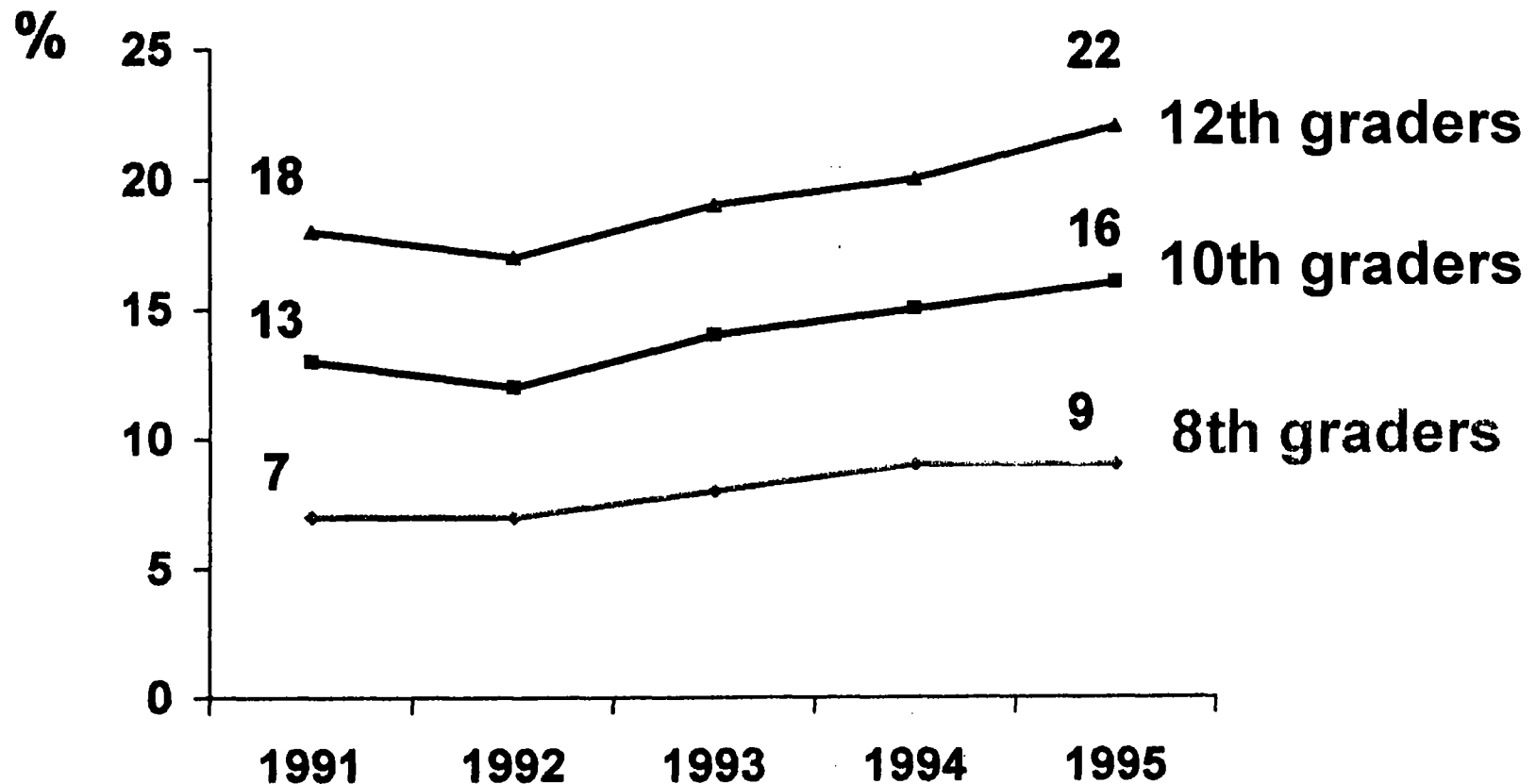
Source: Monitoring the Future Study

Recent Trends in Monthly Cigarette Smoking Among Youth



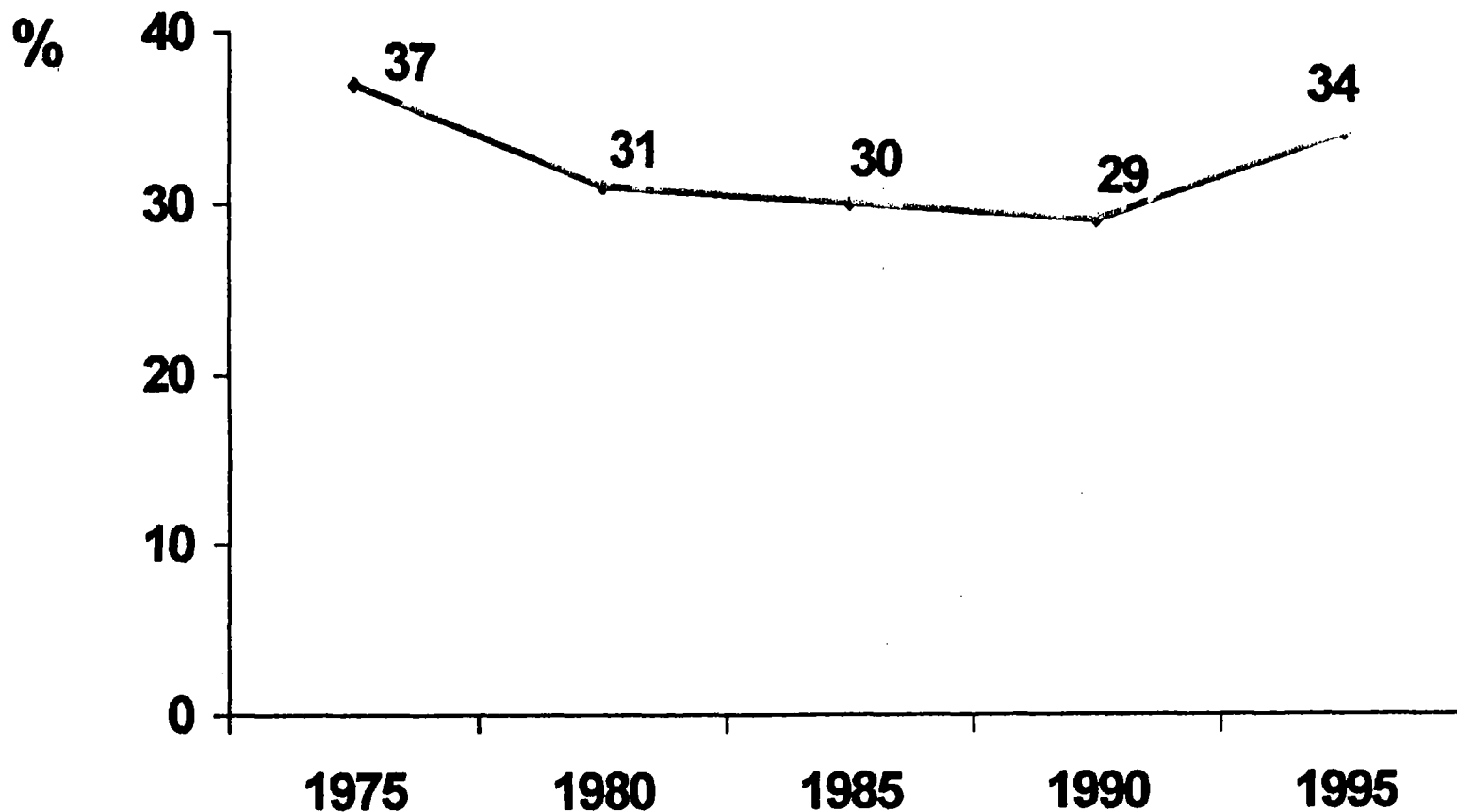
Source: Monitoring the Future Study

Recent Trends in Daily Cigarette Smoking Among Youth



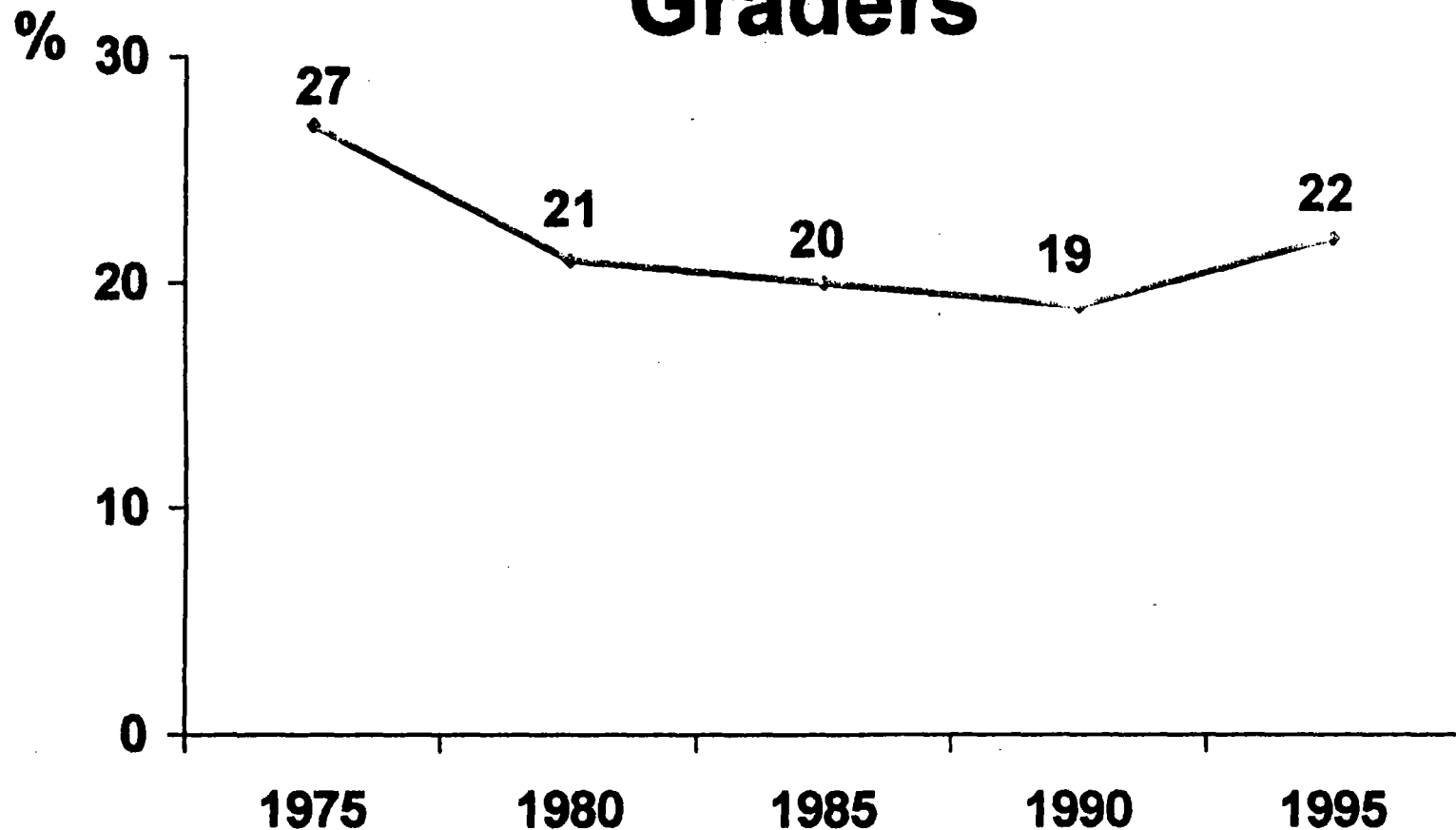
Source: Monitoring the Future Study

Long-Term Trends in Monthly Cigarette Smoking Among 12th Graders



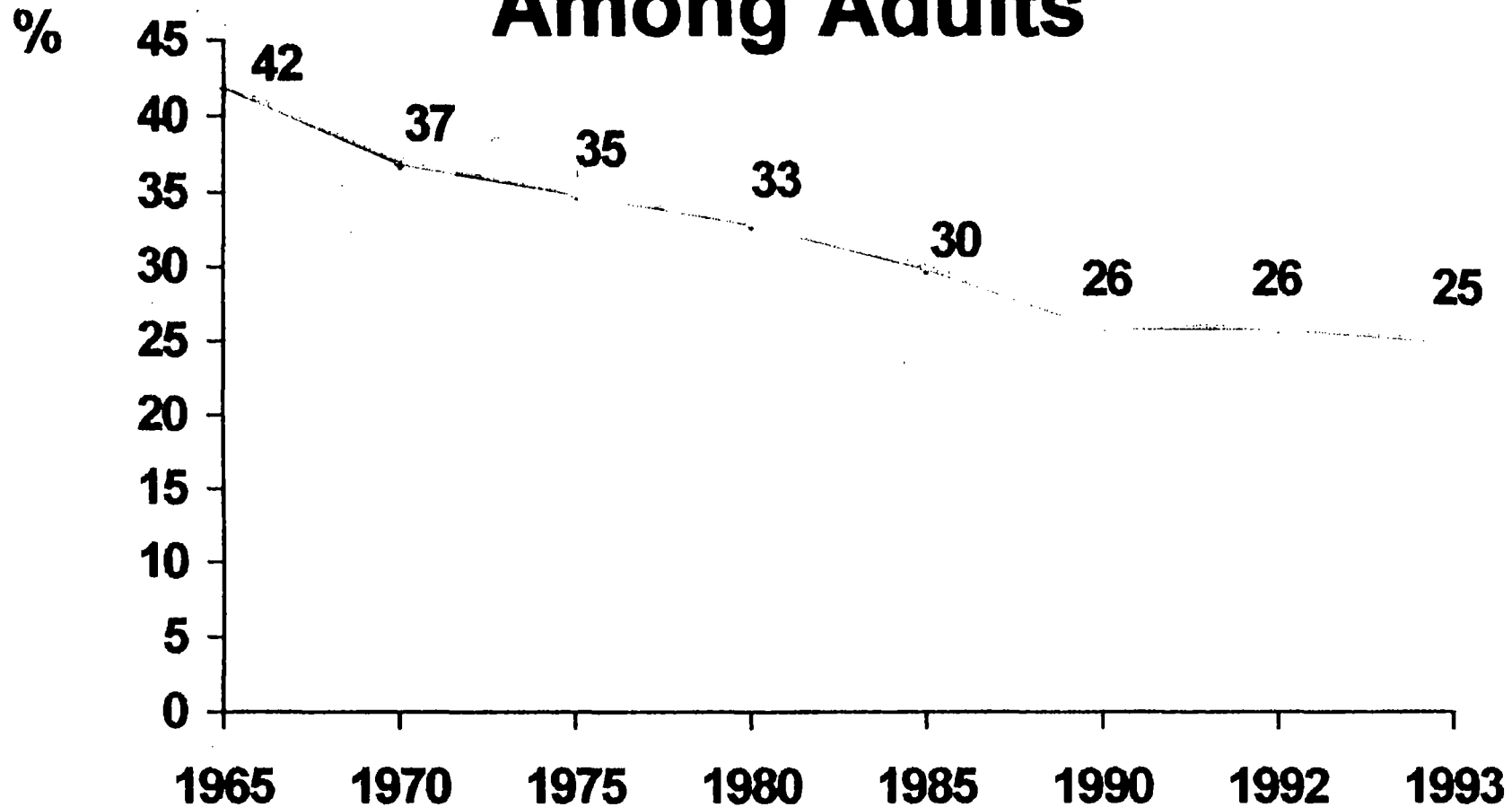
Source: Monitoring the Future Study

Long-Term Trends in Daily Cigarette Smoking Among 12th Graders



Source: Monitoring the Future Study

Trends in Cigarette Smoking Among Adults



Source: CDC-NHIS
Adults 18+, current smokers

“The investigators also point out that cigarette smoking is strongly correlated with the use of marijuana and suggest that the upturn in cigarette smoking during the past four to five years may well have contributed to the increase in marijuana use over the same period. Because cigarette smoking usually precedes marijuana use and teaches youngsters how to take smoke into their lungs to secure a drug-induced effect, it provides an excellent training ground for learning how to smoke marijuana.”

**Lloyd D. Johnston, Ph. D.
Principal Investigator,
Monitoring the Future Study
December 15, 1995**