

CDC: teen smoking down, marijuana use up

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(HealthDay)—Although new statistics show that smoking among American teenagers has dropped 64 percent in recent years, the same report also shows that marijuana use has doubled. The report was published Oct. 16 in the CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*.

The researchers tracked teen smoking rates from 1997 to 2013. Overall, the number of teens who smoked cigarettes or cigars dropped from 20.5 percent to slightly more than 7 percent, while marijuana use went from 4 percent to 10 percent. Notably, marijuana use increased from 51 percent to 62 percent among those teens who smoked cigarettes or cigars.

In another [report](#) in the same issue of the *MMWR*, researchers led by S. Rene Lavinghouze found that, across the United States, more people are trying to break the [smoking habit](#). The number of smokers who tried to quit in the past year increased significantly in 29 states and the U.S.

Virgin Islands. From 2011 to 2013, the proportion of smokers who tried to quit increased in Hawaii and Puerto Rico but decreased in New Mexico. In 2013, the number of smokers who tried to stop ranged from 56 percent in Kentucky to 76 percent in Puerto Rico and Guam.

The researchers urge continued use of anti-smoking programs to reach the Healthy People 2020 target of 80 percent or more of [smokers](#) who made an attempt to quit in the past year. "These interventions include increasing the price of tobacco products, implementing comprehensive smoke-free laws, conducting educational mass media campaigns and providing insurance coverage for all effective cessation treatments, as well as access to quit-lines," Lavinghouze and colleagues wrote.

More information: [Full Text 1](#)
[Full Text 2](#)

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