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Drop in US Underage Drinking

According to the 2005 Monitoring the Future survey alcohol consumption among secondary school students in the US continues to decline.

Figures show that the number of youths who reported drinking within the last 30 days has fallen, having peaked in the late 1970s at over 70%. It is down to 46% in 2005. Other encouraging trends include the number of youths who disapprove of drinking more than 5 drinks once or twice a weekend is rising slowly having dipped in all age groups around 2000. The availability of alcohol has decreased for all age groups. Eighth graders who reported having easy access to alcohol in 1992 stood at 76%. This fell to 65% in 2005. Past year use of alcohol was down 2.7 percent among 8th graders; down 1.5 percent among 10th graders; and down 2.1

percent among 12th graders. The Monitoring the Future survey collects data from nearly 50,000 US eighth, tenth and twelfth-graders. It is sponsored by the National Institute

on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the University of Michigan.

For more information visit www.monitoringthefuture.org.

