



2016 Washington State Healthy Youth Survey

Data Brief: Marijuana

In fall 2016, over 230,000 students participated in the Healthy Youth Survey. Over 1,000 schools administered the survey, representing all 39 Washington counties and 236 school districts.

Rates of teen marijuana use have remained steady, despite the changing landscape.

- In 2016, six percent of 8th graders, 17 percent of 10th graders, and 26 percent of 12th graders reported past 30-day marijuana use.
- About half of those who used marijuana in the past month indicated they used on six or more days: 41% of 8th graders, 45% of 10th graders, and 52% of 12th graders.

The majority of current marijuana users, about two-thirds of 8th and three-quarters of 10th and 12th graders, usually smoke marijuana.

- A much smaller percentage reported usually eating, drinking, or vaping marijuana.
- There was a decline from 2014 in 12th grade current users who usually vaporized it (7% to 5%).

Perceived ease of obtaining marijuana remained stable (8th & 12th grade) or declined (10th grade) between 2014 and 2016.

- Fewer 10th graders thought marijuana was “very easy” to obtain in 2016 (27%) than 2014 (32%).
- Among 8th and 12th graders, the percentage believing marijuana is very easy to obtain held steady, but about 40 percent of 12th graders think it’s very easy to get.

Where teens obtain marijuana may be changing.

- Of those who obtained marijuana in the past month, the percentage buying it at a store decreased from 2014 to 2016 among 8th graders (11% to 5%) and 10th graders (9% to 6%).
- Among 12th graders who obtained marijuana, the percentage getting it from friends decreased (63% to 57%) and giving money to someone else to purchase it increased (16% to 19%).

Declining perceived risk of regular marijuana use among 8th graders should be carefully monitored.

- The percentage of 8th graders perceiving great risk of regular marijuana use fell from 53% in 2014 to 48% in 2016. Decreases in perceived risk are often followed by increased use.
- Many teens perceive little risk of regular marijuana use. In 2016, about one in five 8th graders, one in three 10th graders, and almost half (45%) of 12th graders perceived no/slight risk to regular use.

Too many teens are driving after using marijuana.

- Half (51%) of the 12th graders who reported using marijuana in the past 30 days reported driving within 3 hours of using marijuana at least once in the past 30 days.

State, local, and community prevention efforts are crucial for addressing youth marijuana use.

- Prevention organizations have worked diligently to prevent the expected rise in teen marijuana use following legalization for adults. See TheAthenaForum.org/SPEplan to learn more.
- Find out more about what you can do at www.starttalkingnow.org and learnaboutmarijuanawa.org.

For more Healthy Youth Survey fact sheets and reports, visit www.AskHYS.net.

