



2018 Washington State Healthy Youth Survey Data Brief: Marijuana

In fall 2018, over 230,000 students participated in the Healthy Youth Survey. Over 900 schools administered the survey, representing all 39 Washington counties and 228 school districts.

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

- In 2018, seven percent of 8th graders, 18 percent of 10th graders, and 26 percent of 12th graders reported past 30-day marijuana use.
- Over a third of those who used marijuana in the past month indicated they used on six or more days: 36% of 8th graders, 40% of 10th graders, and 47% of 12th graders.

Smoking marijuana is the most common way youth are using marijuana, over half reported usually smoking it. Tenth graders reported using marijuana in a variety of ways:

- About one in eight usually using dabs.
- About one in nine usually consuming marijuana edibles.
- About one in 15 usually vaping marijuana.
- About one in 30 usually drinking marijuana beverages.

Perceived ease of obtaining marijuana remained stable 2016 and 2018.

- Believing marijuana is very easy to obtain held steady, but about 38 percent of 12th graders think it's very easy to get.
- Few teens reported buying marijuana from a store (about 6% - 9%). Over half reported getting it from friends, about one in six reported giving money to someone to buy it for them (about 15% - 18%), followed by getting it at a party (about 13%).

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

- The percentage of 8th and 10th graders perceiving great risk of regular marijuana use fell from 48% to 43% and 35% to 31% respectively. Decreases in perceived risk are often followed by increased use.
- Many teens perceive little risk of regular marijuana use. In 2018, about one in five 8th graders, one in three 10th graders, and almost half of 12th graders perceived little risk to regular use.

Too many teens are driving after using marijuana.

- Over half (53%) 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.