



YOUTH MARIJUANA USE

Snohomish County Facts

- While current and lifetime use of marijuana has remained steady or decreased in all grades since legalization, fewer teens believe it “very wrong” for someone their age to use marijuana. This perception may cause more teens to try marijuana
- Nearly half (45 %) of high school seniors first tried marijuana before the age of 15, 7% started at age 12 or younger

MARIJUANA	6 TH GRADERS	8 TH GRADERS	10 TH GRADERS	12 TH GRADERS
Ever tried marijuana	3.2	10.2	26.5	45.8
Current* use of marijuana	1.0	6.9	16.0	26.7
Recently* smoked marijuana	~	5.6	11.7	20.2
Recently* used edible forms of marijuana	~	1.3	2.8	3.8
Recently* vaporized marijuana	~	0.9	0.5	2.4
Current* use of marijuana on school property	~	3.1	5.2	8.4
PERCEPTION OF USE	6 TH GRADERS	8 TH GRADERS	10 TH GRADERS	12 TH GRADERS
Believe people can risk being harmed by using marijuana once or twice	53.1	52.1	39.1	26.9
Believe people can be moderately or severely harmed using marijuana 1-2 times a week	68.8	75.2	65.5	52.3
Think it's very wrong for someone their age to use marijuana	91.3	70.9	42.6	29.8
DRIVING	6 TH GRADERS	8 TH GRADERS	10 TH GRADERS	12 TH GRADERS
Recently* rode in a car with a driver who had been using marijuana*	~	10.0	18.3	28.1
Recently* drove within three hours of using marijuana*	~	4.5	8.0	17.5
ACCESS TO MARIJUANA	6 TH GRADERS	8 TH GRADERS	10 TH GRADERS	12 TH GRADERS
Thinks it would be easy to get marijuana	3.3	10.7	33.0	45.2
Got marijuana from a store (purchased or stolen)	~	1.7	2.8	4.5
Got marijuana from a parent with permission	~	0.3	1.3	2.2
Got marijuana from a friend or sibling	~	4.2	10.8	18.6
Got marijuana at a party	~	0.5	2.8	4.5
Gave someone money to buy marijuana for them	~	0.9	3.9	4.6
~ Not asked of students in this grade *Current or recently = any use in the past 30 days (also called recent use).				

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Healthy Communities & Assessment

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YOUTH MARIJUANA USE: WHAT WE CAN DO

Washington State Healthy Youth Survey Facts

- Students participate across the state representing all 39 counties
- All 14 school districts in Snohomish County take part in the survey
- 75% of students across the four grades took the survey—that's 11,852 students!
- Questions ask about risk for injury, health behaviors and outcomes, alcohol and drug use
- Results are used by communities to support youth and reduce risks

More info available at: www.askhys.net

PARENTS

- With sales of marijuana for recreational use now legal for those over 21, have an open conversation with your child on why people use it, and why the age limits are in place. Marijuana can harm a child's developing brain more than an adult's.
- If your family history includes addiction issues, your child may be predisposed to addictive behaviors. Warn them of the difference between "recreational use" and habitual or problem use.
- If you know your child is already using marijuana, have a calm conversation around *why*. Their use may involve underlying issues that will need further exploring.
- If you or someone in the household is legally using marijuana, ensure it is stored in a safe, secure location.

SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

- Teach students that driving while high can be as lethal and as harmful as driving while drunk.
- Provide education and discussions on the ways marijuana can be disguised as a seemingly-innocent product. Additionally, marijuana now contains a higher concentration of THC than marijuana did in the past, making it's effects stronger.

GOVERNMENT

- Government can continue to enforce bans on smoking in public, driving while under the influence, and sales to minors—particularly for edibles, which appear in seemingly harmless forms like gummy bears or sodas.
- Legal efforts can include developing a bill requiring edible forms of marijuana, which are far more potent than inhaled marijuana, to have clear labeling around recommended dosing; or limiting the potency edible products can contain. According to Dr. Garrard, Clinical Managing Director Washington Poison Control, most calls to Washington Poison Centers from Snohomish County for marijuana overexposure were for those ages 13-29.

Participation by all of the Snohomish County school districts in the Healthy Youth Survey is much appreciated. School participation allows us to report on the current health status of our youth and track trends over time.

For more information about the Healthy Youth Survey, check out <http://www.askhys.net/> or to see Snohomish County Healthy Youth Survey Fact Sheets go to www.snohd.org.

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