Marijuana Use Among Youth in Colorado

The Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (HKCS) is a tool we use to better understand the health of Colorado’s middle and high school students so we can support them in making healthy choices. The following images represent Colorado high school student data from 2015. For more information and complete survey data, visit healthykidscolo.org.

**MARIJUANA USE**

4 out of 5 (78%) Colorado high schoolers, have NOT used marijuana in the last 30 days.

**HOW YOUTH GET MARIJUANA**

More students say they got marijuana from someone with a MMJ card, someone gave it to me, or they found it at school.

**IS MARIJUANA USE RISKY?**

Fewer students see regular marijuana use as risky behavior.

**REGIONAL BREAKDOWN**

Of youth who currently use marijuana

**CO YOUTH CURRENT MARIJUANA USE COMPARED TO THE NATIONAL AVERAGE**

- **21.2%** Colorado Average
- **21.7%** National Average

**HEALTH INEQUITIES**

Demographic breakdown of marijuana users among a specific identity

**RACE/ETHNICITY**

- 10% of Asians
- 20% of Whites
- 20% of American Indians
- 23% of Blacks
- 24% of Hispanics
- 22% of Pacific Islanders
- 28% of Multiracial Youth

**SEXUAL ORIENTATION**

- 19% of Heterosexual Youth
- 28% of Youth who are not sure
- 29% of Gay or Lesbian Youth
- 37% of Bisexual Youth

**SEX**

- 21% of Females
- 21% of Males

**GENDER IDENTITY**

- 20% of Questioning Youth
- 21% of Cisgender (non-transgender) Youth
- 37% of Transgender Youth

Health equity is when all people, regardless of who they are or what they believe, have the opportunity to attain their full health potential. Achieving health equity requires valuing all people equally with focused and ongoing efforts to address inequalities.

**AGE OF FIRST USE**

- 62% Have never tried marijuana.
- Of those who said they have tried marijuana
  - 91% First tried marijuana after age 13.

**MARIJUANA IS THE SECOND MOST USED SUBSTANCE**

Percent of high school students who have used substances at least once in their lifetime

- 2% - Heroin
- 2% - Methamphetamines
- 6% - Ecstasy
- 6% - Cocaine
- 6% - Inhalants
- 14% - Prescription Drugs
- 20% - Cigarette
- 38% - Marijuana
- 59% - Alcohol

**ADULTS CAN HELP REDUCE YOUTH MARIJUANA USE**

- Supportive Teachers: Youth who agree that teachers care and encourage them are 1.7x LESS likely to use.
- Talking with Parents: Youth who can ask a parent/guardian for help are 1.6x LESS likely to use.
- Family Rules: Youth who have clear family rules are 1.7x LESS likely to use.
- Parents’ Opinion: If a parent feels like it’s wrong, their children are 4x LESS likely to use.