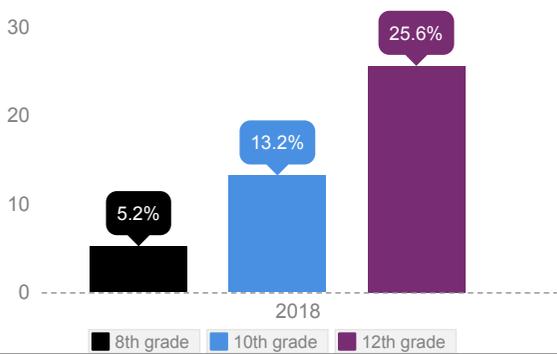


2018 Illinois Youth Survey

Youth and Marijuana Use in Illinois

Past 30 Day Use

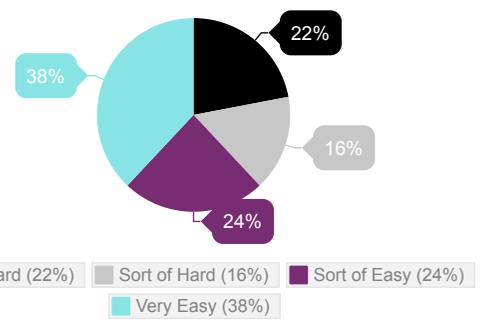
Youth marijuana use increases dramatically as a young person progresses through their high school years. While only 1 in 20 8th grade students reported use, 5 in 20 12th grade students reported using marijuana in the past 30 days.



Past 30 Day Use by Grade

Access

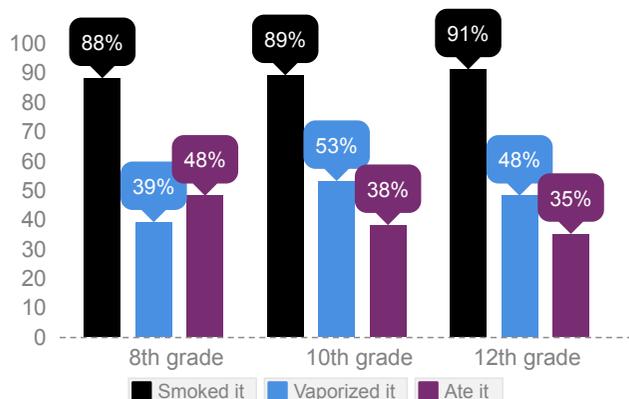
A key question in marijuana use involves understanding marijuana access by teens. 62% of Illinois high school seniors think it would be either "sort of easy" or "very easy" to get marijuana. How might legalization of marijuana affect this perception?



12th Grade Ease of Access

Method of Use Among Users

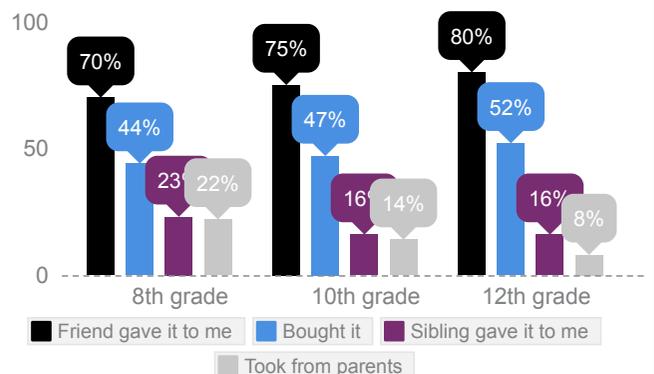
The most common means of marijuana use was by smoking it using a joint, bong, pipe or blunt. However, other means were also very common among users, including vaping and edible marijuana.



Method of Use Among Marijuana Users

Access Among Users

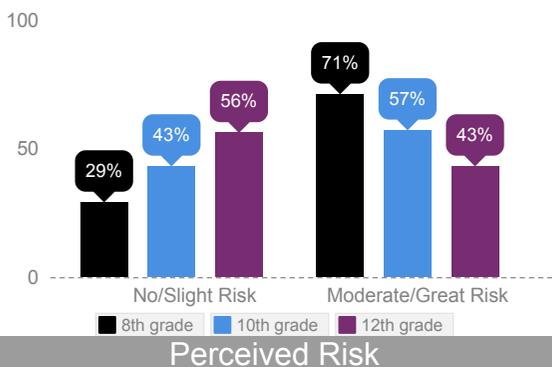
Friends are the most common source of marijuana. The second most frequently reported source is buying it from someone who sells drugs. Other sources include parents without their permission and siblings.



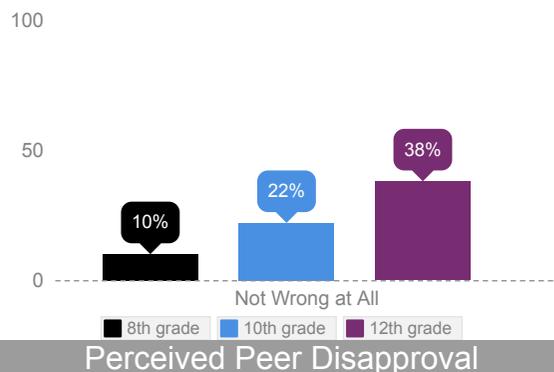
Supply Source Among Users

Youth Perceptions of Marijuana Use

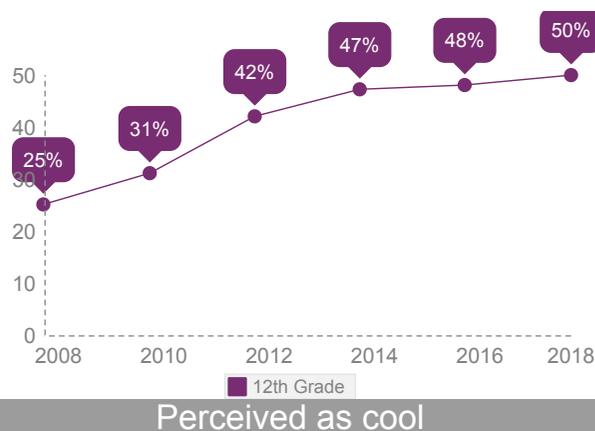
A contributing factor to youth substance use is their perception of harm associated with using the substance. Perceived risk of use falls substantially from 8th grade to 12th grade. More than half of seniors feel there would be no/slight risk from smoking marijuana once or twice weekly, while more than 4 in 5 8th graders feel there would be moderate/ great risk.



The attitudes of a person's friends can be a powerful predictor of marijuana use. Only 1 in 10 8th graders report that their friends feel it would be "not wrong at all" for them to smoke marijuana. This changes dramatically for older youth. 2 out of 5 seniors reported it would not be wrong at all for them to use marijuana.



Over a 10 year period, senior's perception of whether they would be seen as cool if they smoked marijuana increased from 25% to 50%. Among all youth, an interesting difference is emerging with young women more likely than young men to feel that they would be seen as cool if they smoked marijuana.



Summary

Studies show that marijuana interferes with attention, motivation, memory, and learning. Compared to those who don't use, students who use marijuana regularly may be functioning at a reduced intellectual level most or all of the time. Regular marijuana use can lower an adolescent's IQ by 8 points. As a result, users tend to get lower grades and are more likely to drop out of high school.

It's a great time to open a dialogue with your child regarding these issues. If you find it difficult to talk to your child about this topic (and others) or if you don't know where to start, you're not alone. Below you will find some additional resources with tool kits on how to navigate the discussion.

Partnership for Drug-Free Kids and the Center for Addiction
www.drugfree.org

Prevention First
www.prevention.org/Virtual-Clearinghouse/Marijuana

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