## CONSUMPTION

Marijuana use among high school students remains stable with one in five using in the past month in 2017. Past month use among adults (18 and older) has increased from 2011-12 (8%) to 2015-16 (13%). One in three adults 18 to 25 and one in six adults 26 and older used in the past month.

In 2015–16, there was an annual average of 12,000 Mainers 12 and older who used marijuana for the first time in their life. <sup>2\*</sup> While most marijuana first time users are between the ages of 12 and 25, there has been an increase in the number of people who begin using later in life. <sup>2\*</sup>



In 2017, one in six high school students used a vapor product in the past month and about one in three reported ever using. 1\*

Among those who had ever vaped, 13% claimed that the last time they had vaped the liquid was marijuana hash oil and 8% were not sure what liquid they had been vaping. 1\*

## **CONSEQUENCES**

In 2016, there were 2,457 arrests for the possession of marijuana; this was a 13% decrease since 2014.<sup>3</sup> Over half of arrests for drug possession in Maine are related to marijuana.<sup>3</sup>



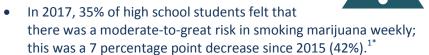
Marijuana related school suspensions increased from 468 in 2014 to 581 in 2016.<sup>4</sup> Three out of four marijuana related school suspensions involved male students.<sup>4</sup>



- <sup>1</sup> Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey\*
- <sup>2</sup> National Drug Use and Health Survey\*
- 3. Department of Public Safety
- <sup>4</sup> Maine Department of Education
- 5. Maine Parent Survey\*
- 6. Web Infrastructure Treatment System
- \*Self-reported data

## CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

Perceptions of harm of smoking marijuana by youth and adults have declined in recent years. 1\*



 High school students who did NOT believe there is moderate to great risk in smoking marijuana regularly were almost seven times as likely to smoke marijuana in the past month.<sup>1\*</sup>

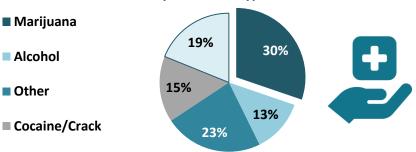
Parent disapproval of marijuana use by their child has decreased in recent years. <sup>5\*</sup> The percentage of parents who reported "it was never okay for their child to use marijuana" decreased from 67% in 2015 to 62% in 2017. <sup>5\*</sup>

Regardless of perceptions of harm, more than half of high school students believe that marijuana is easy to obtain in 2017. 1\*

There is a need for increased awareness and education around the risks of early initiation and regular use of marijuana.

Marijuana is rarely listed as a primary substance for treatment admissions, but of those that listed a secondary substance, nearly one-third were marijuana. <sup>6</sup>

## Secondary Treatment Admissions, by Substance Type: 2017



This fact sheet is a product of the Maine State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW)

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