

CONSUMPTION

Marijuana use among high school students remains stable with one in five using in the past month in 2017.^{1*} Past month use among adults (18 and older) has increased from 2011-12 (8%) to 2015-16 (13%).^{2*} One in three adults 18 to 25 and one in six adults 26 and older used in the past month.^{2*}



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.^{2*} 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.^{2*}



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 2014.³ Over half of arrests for drug possession in Maine are related to marijuana.³



Marijuana related school suspensions increased from 468 in 2014 to 581 in 2016.⁴ Three out of four marijuana related school suspensions involved male students.⁴



¹ Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey*
² National Drug Use and Health Survey*
³ Department of Public Safety
⁴ 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*}



- In 2017, 35% of high school students felt that there was a moderate-to-great risk in smoking marijuana weekly; this was a 7 percentage point decrease since 2015 (42%).^{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.^{1*}

Parent disapproval of marijuana use by their child has decreased in recent years.^{5*} 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.^{5*}



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.⁶

Secondary Treatment Admissions, by Substance Type: 2017

- Marijuana
- Alcohol
- Other
- Cocaine/Crack

