Marijuana

The Impact of Use on Students and Schools

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Marijuana: Schools

- It is widely recognized that there is a critical link between students’ health and their academic performance.

- We know that schools have higher levels of academic achievement when students have safe environments and fewer health-risk factors (i.e., alcohol, tobacco, drug use—including marijuana).

- Fewer health-risk factors decrease chronic tardiness and absenteeism.
Marijuana: The problem

• Did you know that Cannabis has over 400 chemical entities, some of them with opposing effects?

• Negative outcomes are associated with marijuana use, including diminished cognitive function, which can lead to lower academic achievement.

• Students who use marijuana are at greater risk for problems with alcohol and other substance abuse, disciplinary and other problems in school.
Marijuana: What We Know

- Overall, there has been a declining trend in the use of marijuana.

- But in 2011–13, there was a rise in marijuana use indicators that appeared rooted in more positive attitudes and availability (California Healthy Kids Survey).

- The number of young people who believe marijuana use is risky is decreasing (Monitoring the Future Survey).

- Legalization of marijuana for medical use or adult recreational use in a growing number of states may affect these views.

- New technology giving youth with an array of new forms and devices for marijuana dependence.

- Recently and for the first time, marijuana use exceeded daily cigarette smoking.

- And let’s look at the data…
## California Healthy Kids Survey Biennial State Results 2011–15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Grade 7</th>
<th>Grade 9</th>
<th>Grade 11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ever smoked whole cigarette</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current smoking¹</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ever E-cigs²</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current E-cigs²</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current marijuana</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**

¹Past 30 days

²Electronic cigarettes or other vaping device
Emerging Trends?

- Startling increase of e-cigarettes! Per youth, e-cigarettes are considered safer than cigarettes.
- Conventional cigarette use is decreasing.
- Marijuana use exceeded conventional cigarette use.
- Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) responsible for marijuana’s mind altering effect is widely available in various forms.
- Perceived harm from marijuana is decreasing.
- These mixed results prompt us to ask:

Are we seeing an increase in marijuana use via e-cigarettes or other devices?
What the California Department of Education is Doing

• A recent California Department of Education (CDE) pilot project confirmed that substance use decreases when School Climate improves.

• Every Student Succeeds Act is a way to provide more funding opportunities to support schools in addressing school climate and substance use.

• The CDE is committed to continue funding to student surveys and evaluation.

• Protect the health and wellbeing of our students if marijuana is legalized for adults in CA through education, policy, and research.

• Support a school based education program to prevent youth from beginning to use marijuana and to improve school performance.
Resources

- California Healthy Kids Survey Web page at [chks.wested.org](chks.wested.org)
- National Institute for Drug Abuse Web page at [Drugabuse.gov/marijuana](Drugabuse.gov/marijuana)
- Tobacco Related Disease and Research Program Web site at [www.trdrp.org](www.trdrp.org)
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