



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.





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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.**



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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...



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California Healthy Kids Survey Biennial State Results 2011–15

	Grade 7		Grade 9		Grade 11	
	2011–13 (%)	2013–15 (%)	2011–13 (%)	2013–15 (%)	2011–13 (%)	2013–15 (%)
Ever smoked whole cigarette	6	4	15	11	26	19
Current smoking ¹	5	3	7	5	12	9
Ever E-cigs ²	N/A	13	N/A	26	N/A	32
Current E-cigs ²	N/A	8	N/A	13	N/A	16
Current marijuana	7	5	15	13	25	20

Notes:

¹Past 30 days

²Electronic cigarettes or other vaping device



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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?**



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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.



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Resources

- California Healthy Kids Survey Web page at **chks.wested.org**
- Monitoring the Future Study: Trends in Prevalence of Marijuana Web site at **www.monitoringthefuture.org/**
- National Institute for Drug Abuse Web page at **Drugabuse.gov/marijuana**
- Tobacco Related Disease and Research Program Web site at **www.trdrp.org**
- The Triangulum: Tobacco, Marijuana, and E-Cigarettes Webcast at **<http://www.trdrp.org/highlights-news-events/triangulum-webcast-may-26-2016.html>**



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