

FACT: MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION HAS NOT INCREASED THE YOUTH USAGE RATE



Data shows that legal, regulated adult-use marijuana has not increased – and in some cases has decreased – marijuana use among youth.

IN COLORADO

In Colorado, youth consumption of cannabis “is going down,” according to an official with the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy’s National Marijuana Initiative.

SOURCES...



CO High School Students

Since 2005, there has been a decline (42.4% to 35.9%) in the number of Colorado high school students* using marijuana at least one time in their life, according to surveys from the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE).



Since 2005, there has been a decline (22.7% to 20.6%) among Colorado high school students using marijuana at least once in the past 30 days, according to CDPHE surveys.

**<https://marijuanahealthinfo.colorado.gov/health-data/healthy-kids-colorado-survey-hkcs-data>*

CO Middle School Students

Since 2011**, there has been no significant changes among Colorado middle school students using marijuana at least one time in their life, according to CDPHE surveys.



Since 2011, there has been a decline (6.3% to 5.2%) among Colorado middle school students using marijuana at least once in the past 30 days, according to CDPHE surveys.

***2011 is the first year CDPHE started tracking middle school students.*

U.S. Sen. John Hickenlooper, who opposed legalization while he was Colorado’s governor, has changed his position. Hickenlooper said in March:

“I think we’ve proven and demonstrated that there is no increase in experimentation among teenagers. There is no change in frequency of use, no change in driving while high — all the things we most worried about didn’t come to pass.”





NATIONALLY

Even as more states continue to legalize marijuana, youth usage rates remain flat or have declined among U.S. students in the eighth, 10th and 12th grades.

SOURCES...

A study published in the journal of the American Medical Association found

"...no significant associations between enactment of (recreational marijuana laws) ... and marijuana use among high school students."



The percentage of adolescents reporting marijuana use dipped in 2020 and decreased significantly in 2021, according to the Monitoring the Future annual survey of substance use behaviors and related attitudes among eighth, 10th, and 12th graders in the United States. This survey is funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), part of the National Institutes of Health.



National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Director Nora Volkow said last year that legalization has not led to increased youth use despite her prior fears.



The U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics analyzed youth surveys of high school students from 2009 to 2019 and concluded there was "no measurable difference" in the percentage of those in grades 9-12 who reported consuming cannabis at least once in the past 30 days.



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that marijuana consumption among high school students declined during the peak years of states legalizing cannabis (2013-2019).



Provided by Colorado Leads, an alliance of cannabis business leaders created to educate the public and policymakers about the importance of a vibrant, safe, and sensibly regulated cannabis industry and its economic contributions. www.coleads.org

