



Underage Marijuana Use

Background Information:

Teen marijuana use can cause negative side effects in a young person's developing brain.

Problems around youth that use marijuana include higher school drop out rates, difficulty with memory and concentration, risky sexual behavior, increased risk of car accidents, and suicide.

Growing societal acceptance and peer use of marijuana increases the likelihood of teen use. With the legalization of marijuana, the perception of harm in youth has decreased, making them more likely to use it.

Who is at risk, what to look for:

Any teen can be at risk for using marijuana. There are a few things that may increase the likelihood of drug use, which include family history of drug use, mental health issues such as ADHD or depression, or trauma in a teen's life.

Signs of possible marijuana use:

- Red blood shot eyes
- Having a hard time remembering things that just happened
- Acting lethargic or unusually talkative
- Usage of incense or deodorizers in their living space to mask the smell
- Having items used with marijuana such as bong, vape pens, or rolling paper

Recommendations:

What can parents do?

Research shows the main reason kids don't use drugs is because of their parents. Start early and often when talking with your teen about substance use. Have open communication with your teen and be involved in their lives. Make clear rules and enforce them consistently so teens know what to expect.

What can schools do?

Provide evidence-based curriculum around marijuana use. Help provide information and opportunities to practice refusal skills. Support youth leadership and self-esteem programs. Facilitate programs that involve parents in many aspects of students' lives. Connect families to resources for early identification and referral to substance abuse programs.

Definitions:

THC

The main ingredient in marijuana that creates the effect or "high".

Edibles

Food items such as candy or baked goods that are infused with THC. Can be stronger than marijuana that is smoked and effects might take hours to show up.

Medical Marijuana

Marijuana used for treatment of certain medical conditions.

Recreational Marijuana

In Oregon, marijuana use for adults age 21 or older in private spaces.





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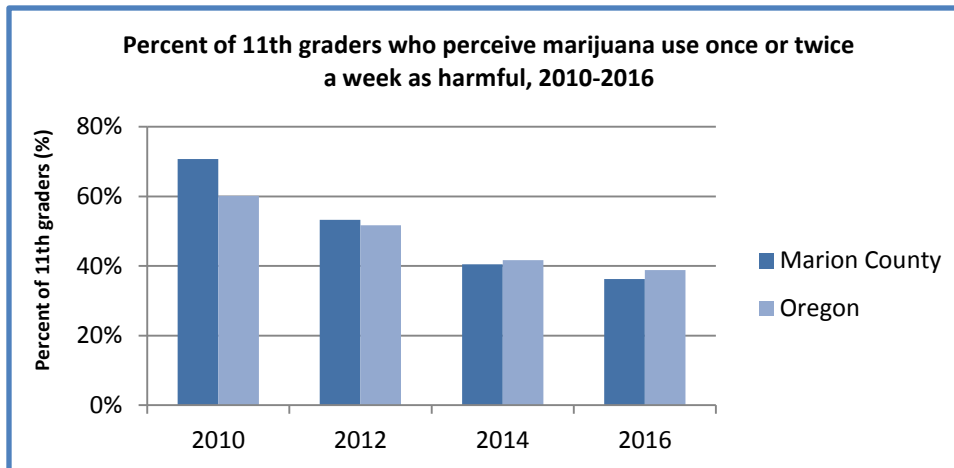
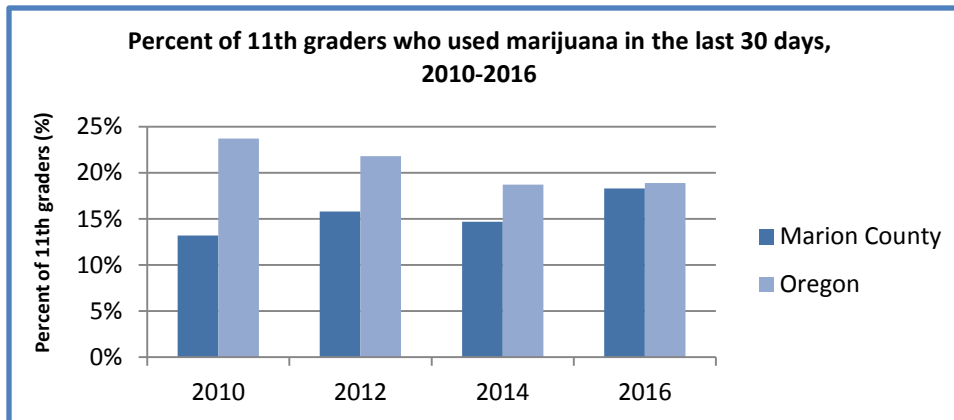


Underage marijuana use in Marion County:

The percent of 11th graders in Marion County who used marijuana in the past 30 days has been increasing since 2010, reaching a high of 18% in 2016. Additionally, the percent of 11th graders who perceive marijuana use once or twice a week as harmful has been decreasing, hitting an all time low of 36% in 2016. As the perception of harm decreases, the percent of students who use marijuana increases. Ease of access also plays a role, as 67% of 11th grade students in Marion County felt that it would be easy to get marijuana in 2016.



Underage Marijuana Use – Past 30 days, perception of harm



Resources/ Contact Info:

The National Institute on Drug Abuse
www.drugabuse.gov

National Institutes of Health
www.nih.gov

Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Admin.
www.samhsa.gov

Marijuana Anonymous
www.marijuana-anonymous.org

Partnership for Drug-Free Kids
www.drugfree.org

What is Marion County Public Health doing?:

The Marion County Prevention Program utilizes the Strategic Prevention Framework and a Public Health Approach to make data driven decisions for planning, implementation, and evaluation. They assess and analyze data to make recommendations for local programming that link effective prevention practices and programs to clear and measurable outcomes.

The Prevention Program provides resources and fact based educational presentations in the community. In addition, they support the creation and enforcement of marijuana use policies in community settings, schools, and workplaces. The program also offers suggestions to help parents keep all medications, including marijuana, away from youth.

