



Marijuana: A Public Safety Issue

WHAT THE DATA SHOWS: MARIJUANA USE AMONG MISSOURI YOUTH

According to the 2024 Missouri Student Survey, 7.3% of students in grades 6–12 reported using marijuana in the past 30 days, a measure often used to indicate current substance use.

The survey also found that 30.5% of students perceived marijuana as “very” or “sort of easy” to obtain. Perceived ease of access increases the likelihood of use and raises risks for early initiation, negative effects on brain development, and academic challenges, making access and availability key targets for youth prevention efforts.



LEGALIZATION OF THE RECREATIONAL USE OF MARIJUANA WAS ASSOCIATED WITH A 6.5% INCREASE IN INJURY CRASH RATES AND A 2.3% INCREASE IN FATAL CRASH RATES

Source: *PubMed National Library of Medicine*



MARIJUANA USE CAN HAVE NEGATIVE AND LONG-TERM EFFECTS

Marijuana use can negatively impact brain health, mental health, driving, and more.

Marijuana use can also lead to addiction. Research shows that 1-in-6 people who start using before the age of 18 can become addicted. Data also shows that 1-in-10 adults who use the drug can become addicted.

Source: [samhsa.gov/marijuana](https://www.samhsa.gov/marijuana)



LACK OF AWARENESS WILL CONTINUE TO INCREASE SOCIAL NORMALCY.

As society continues to normalize the use of marijuana without knowing the harms, youth's risk of using the substance before legal age increases. The 2024 Missouri Student Survey shows that 32.1% of Missouri Youth feel that there is “no risk” or only a “slight risk” of harm if they smoke marijuana once or twice per week.

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