

# Marijuana Use in High School

## Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2013

### Background

In 2013, the Vermont High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) asked students, in grades 9-12, about the age they first used marijuana, the frequency of their past 30 days marijuana use, driving while using marijuana, and perceptions around the risks of marijuana use. Adolescent marijuana use (before age 21) has been recently linked to several adverse adult outcomes such as failure to complete high school, failure to attain a college degree, increased risk of addiction to marijuana, and increased use of other illicit substances.<sup>1</sup> For more information on the health effects of marijuana, visit <http://healthvermont.gov/adap/drugs/marijuana.aspx>

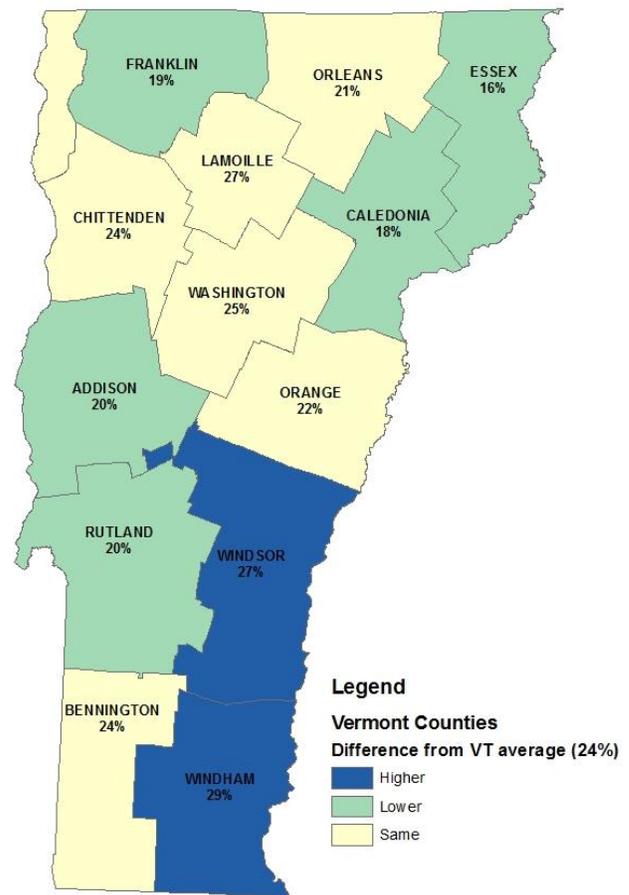
### Marijuana Use and Demographics

Overall, **39%** of students reported ever using marijuana, and over half of all seniors reported ever using marijuana. Overall, 24% of students reported using marijuana in the past 30 days, and one third of all seniors reported using marijuana in the past 30 days. Males were more likely to report any use compared to females for both ever and past 30 day marijuana use. Marijuana use increased significantly with each increasing grade. Students whose mothers had a high school degree or less were more likely to have used marijuana in the past 30 days, and were more likely to have used it 10 or more times.

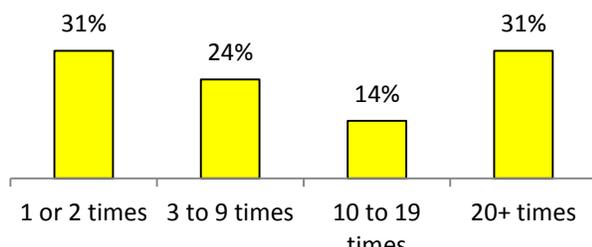
Past 30 day marijuana use varies by county. For more information on regional variation of marijuana use, please see the maps and trends section of the YRBS website: <http://healthvermont.gov/hv2020/index.aspx>

Of those students who reported using marijuana in the past 30 days, almost one third reported using it 20 or more times, and almost one third reported using it 1 or 2 times.

### Past 30 Day Marijuana Use by County

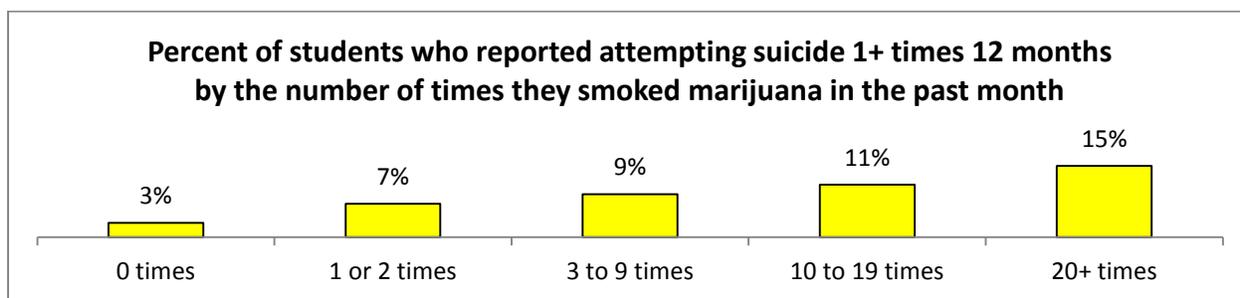


### Of those students who report past 30 day marijuana use, the frequency with which they reported using marijuana



### Marijuana Use and Risk Behaviors

Students who used marijuana in the past 30 days were more likely to also report other risky behaviors. This was increasingly true the more frequent the reported marijuana use. For example, among students who reported using marijuana 0 times in the past month, 3% reported attempting suicide in the past year, while among students who reported using marijuana 20+ times in the past month, 15% reported attempting suicide in the past year.



This pattern is true for other indicators as well, as demonstrated in the below table. Note that student assets (those behaviors that are seen as positive) decrease with increased marijuana use, as opposed to student risk behaviors which increase with increased marijuana use.

<b>Percent of high school students reporting certain risk behaviors or student asset by marijuana use frequency Vermont 2013</b>					
	<b>Marijuana use frequency, past 30 days</b>				
	<b>0 times</b>	<b>1 or 2 times</b>	<b>3 to 9 times</b>	<b>10 to 19 times</b>	<b>20+ times</b>
<b>Violence</b>					
Attempted suicide 1+ times 12 months	3%	7%	9%	11%	15%
Bullied someone else 1+ times past 30 days	10%	20%	22%	22%	30%
Fought 1+ times 12 months	15%	26%	30%	37%	48%
Hurt self 1+ times past year	13%	22%	27%	32%	30%
<b>Mental Health Indicators</b>					
Made suicide plan 12 months	9%	14%	17%	19%	21%
Sad 2 weeks past 12 months	18%	28%	32%	35%	35%
<b>Substance Use</b>					
Of those who had sex in the past 3 months, used drugs or alcohol last time	8%	21%	28%	37%	57%
Misused a prescription drug, ever	6%	19%	29%	40%	59%
Five+ drinks 1+ past 30 days	8%	42%	57%	60%	69%
<b>Student Assets</b>					
Agree teachers really care	63%	51%	47%	46%	43%
Agree you matter to community	52%	50%	45%	40%	35%
Got mostly As and Bs	83%	76%	75%	65%	57%

### Contact Information

With questions or comments please contact Shayla Livingston at [Shayla.Livingston@state.vt.us](mailto:Shayla.Livingston@state.vt.us) or 802-863-6337. For past data briefs please see the YRBS website at:

<http://healthvermont.gov/research/yrbs.aspx>

### References

<sup>1</sup>Silins et al. (2014). Young Adult Sequelae of Adolescent Cannabis Use: An Integrative Analysis. *The Lancet Psychiatry*, 1, 286-293.