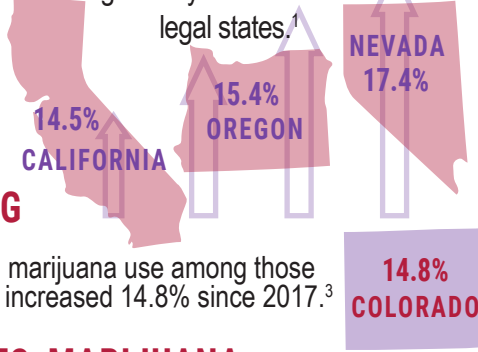


YOUTH MARIJUANA USE

MARIJUANA USE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE IN "LEGAL" STATES IS ALARMINGLY HIGH, AND RISING

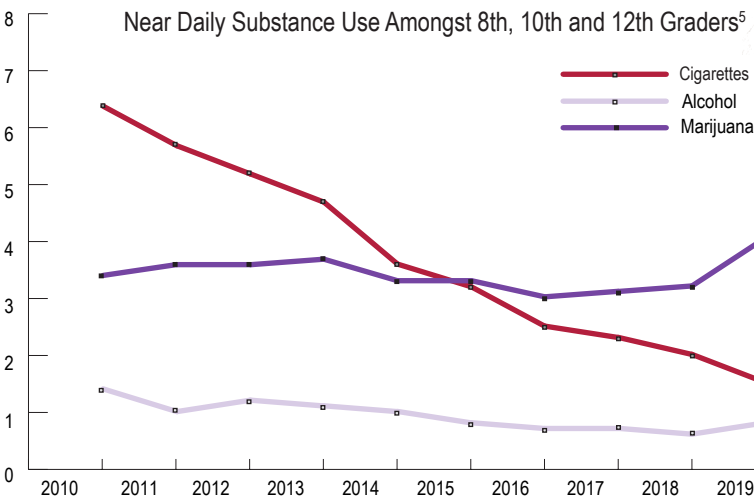
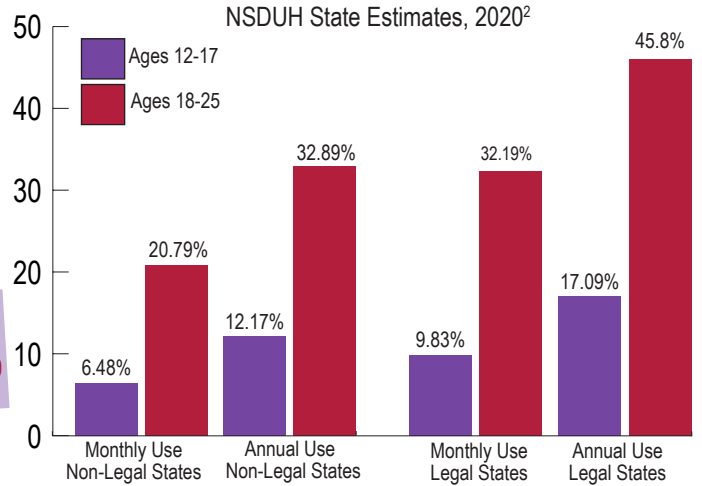
Since 2017, past year youth use among 12-17 year olds has risen in legal states.¹



In Colorado, past month marijuana use among those aged 15 or younger has increased 14.8% since 2017.³

IN "LEGAL" STATES, MARIJUANA COMPANIES TARGET YOUTH

Marijuana companies specifically target young people through many means including via advertisements on social media. Youth who are exposed to marijuana marketing on social media are five times more likely to use marijuana.⁴



Companies market and profit from products that resemble candy cola and come in packaging and flavors that appeal to youth.

YOUNG PEOPLE USE MORE POTENT MARIJUANA, MORE OFTEN

THC potency is rapidly increasing and high potency THC is associated with "significant increases" in addiction and mental health disorders.⁶

Nearly 9.6 million young people aged 12-25 used marijuana in the past month (2019). Past month use is indicative of frequent use.⁷

IN USERS AGED 12-17, SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS ARE **TWICE AS PREVALENT** IN MARIJUANA USERS THAN USERS OF NICOTINE, ALCOHOL, AND, EVEN PRESCRIPTION DRUG MISUSERS.⁹



One study found cases of Cannabis Use Disorder in young people in "legal" states grew 25% following legalization.⁸

MARIJUANA USE IS HARMFUL TO DEVELOPING BRAINS AND YOUTH USE INCREASES THE RISK OF NEGATIVE OUTCOMES

One study discovered changes in gray matter volume in young marijuana users, indicating marijuana use may impact the way the adolescent brain develops.¹⁰

Adolescent marijuana use is associated with an increased risk for depression, suicide, and psychosis. Risk increases as use increases.¹¹



A 2021 longitudinal study found that youth who initiated marijuana use before age 15 were at a greater risk of short and long-term memory deficits.¹²

Chronic marijuana use is associated with cognitive impairment, worsened academic performance, and reduced educational attainment.¹³

ENDNOTES

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