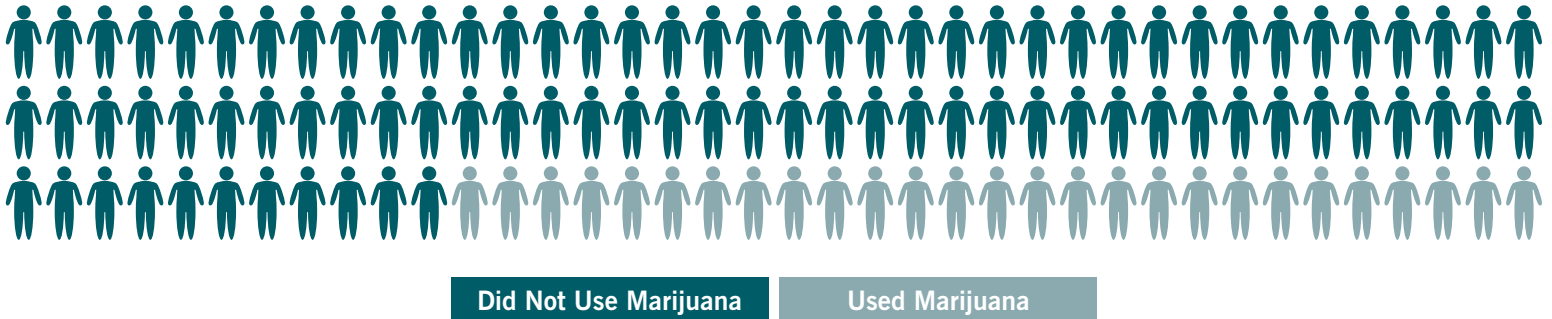


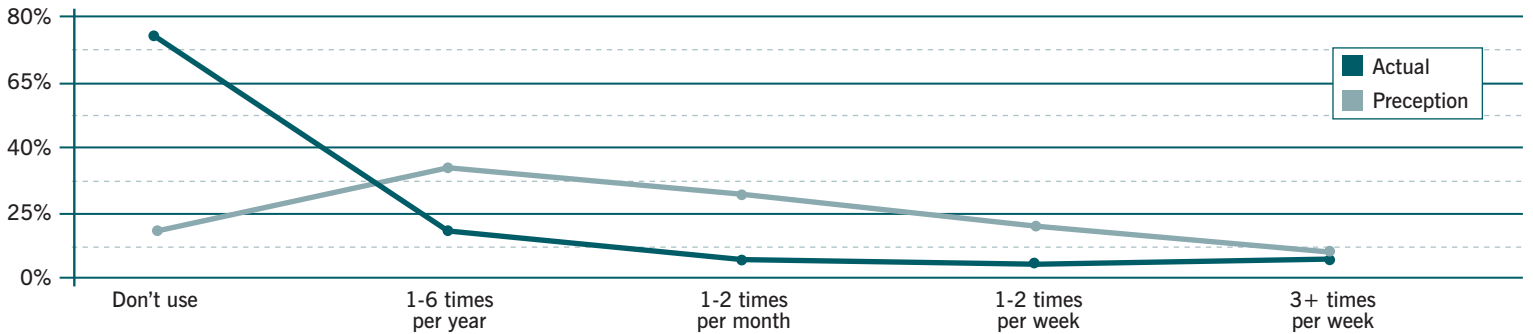
MARIJUANA USE AMONG MISSOURI COLLEGE STUDENTS

Marijuana, with the exception of alcohol, remains the most commonly abused substance on Missouri college campuses. While many colleges and universities have been successful in their efforts to combat high risk drinking and seen the positive effects of alcohol related programming on their campuses, marijuana use rates have remained consistent for the past several years. Unfortunately there remains a large gap between the perceptions of marijuana use and the reality among college students that underscores the need for more marijuana specific prevention efforts.



Roughly 3 in 4 Missouri college students reported not using marijuana at all in the past year. Most marijuana users reported infrequent or occasional use (1-6 times a year) while less than 10% of students reported using more frequently than on a monthly basis. For the past 5 years (2007-2013) Missouri students self-reported marijuana use rates have not fluctuated more than 3% in either direction.

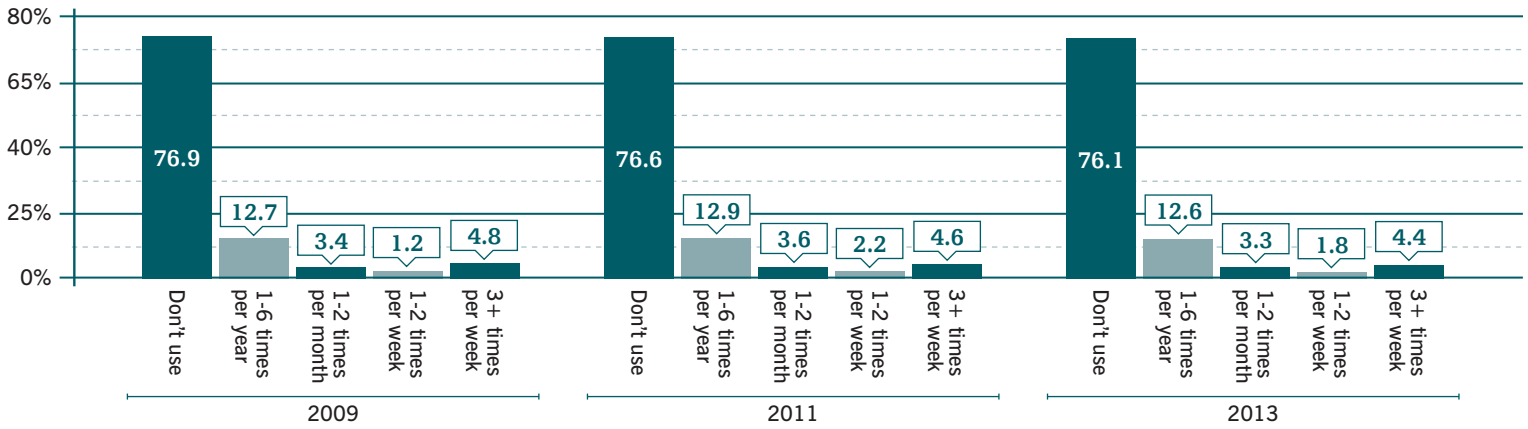
Frequency of Marijuana Use



One problem that persists is the misconception of how commonly marijuana use among college students occurs. While more than 3 in 4 college students do not use marijuana the vast majority of students (88%) believe the typical student uses marijuana. Almost half of these students (48%) thought the typical student uses marijuana at least every month, if not more frequently. In actuality the number of students using marijuana at that frequency is less than 10%.

CONTINUED ➡

Frequency of Marijuana Use



When compared to other rates of drug use among college students and taken into consideration with the trends of usage, marijuana use has remained consistent among Missouri students. Over the past 5 years the greatest increases in substance abuse was for methamphetamine, inhalants, and prescription drugs. Marijuana use has increased by less than 1% since 2009.

While the concern on campuses surrounding marijuana use has grown considerably, marijuana use prevention efforts by colleges and universities have been scarce compared to alcohol prevention efforts. Marijuana

use has remained consistent and when compared with other substances. The most alarming concern is that marijuana has not been addressed in a serious or large manner. Given the success of alcohol related programming in lowering high risk drinking on Missouri campuses, marijuana rates can likely be reduced were they to be addressed in the same manner.

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