

# Marijuana and Other Illicit Drug Use

Partners in Prevention (PIP) is Missouri's higher education substance abuse consortium dedicated to creating healthy and safe college campuses. The coalition is comprised of 21 public and private colleges and universities in Missouri. Each year, PIP implements the MACHB (Missouri Assessment of College Health Behaviors), a statewide survey of college students designed to understand the role of alcohol, drugs (illegal and prescription), mental health issues, and power-based personal violence on student health and wellness. Students are asked to self-report how often they have used marijuana and other illicit drugs in the past year.

## Prevalence

According to the 2017 MACHB, 70% of Missouri college students have not used marijuana in the past year. Of the students who have used marijuana at least once in the past year, over half (53%) report using 6 times or less per year. Additionally, 87% of students have not used marijuana derivatives such as wax/dabs/oil, which have more highly concentrated levels of THC.

Our data also indicates that the number of students who are using marijuana is increasing. As the national culture around marijuana has shifted and more states have legalized marijuana for medical or recreational use, our data reflects a change in students' behavior as well.

Used marijuana at least once in the past year				
2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
24%	24%	24%	26%	30%

Interestingly, students perceive that their peers use marijuana at much higher rates than the percentage of students who report using. Misperceptions of use are common among college students, showing that students overestimate high risk behaviors and underestimate non-use or less frequent use.

Students who have used marijuana at least once in the past year report using most frequently at social gatherings or a friend's house (70%), in an apartment/house (49%), in a car (43%), and outdoors (42%).\*

Marijuana usage rates  
Reality vs. Perception



Students also report using at on campus locations such as in a residence hall (6.9%). For students who report using marijuana in a car, only 5% report that the car was being driven, though our data does not reflect if the driver of the vehicle was using marijuana at the time. Forty-four percent (44%) of students who have used marijuana in the past year report driving after use at least once. Additionally, 21% of marijuana users are currently trying to use less or quit altogether.

## Picture of Frequent Marijuana Users

For students who indicate using marijuana 3 or more times per week, 43% are female, 56% are male and approximately 2% are transgender or another gender. Seventy-five percent (75%) of frequent users self-report a GPA higher than 3.0, compared to 85% of non-users who report a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Around 19% are freshman, 25% are sophomores, 27% are juniors, 20% are seniors, and 9.1% have 5+ years

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in school. Most feel that they are a member of their campus community (62% versus 69% of non-users), though they did have higher rates of thoughts of leaving school in the past year (28% versus 22% of non-users) and thoughts of discontinuing education (26% versus 14% for non-users.)

## Marijuana and Other Drug Use

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For students who report using marijuana at least once in the past year, 49% report binge drinking at least once in the past two weeks, compared to 15% of non-users. If students had used marijuana at least once in the past year they were also more likely to have used other drugs than their peers who did not use marijuana. Thirteen percent (13%) of students who had used marijuana at least once in the past year had also used cocaine, 15% used amphetamines, and 9.4% used hallucinogens.

## Illicit Drug Use

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Approximately 12% of Missouri college students report using at least one illegal drug (not including marijuana) in the past year. Usage rates of illegal drugs at least once in the past year are as follows: hallucinogens (4.4%), cocaine (3.9%), synthetic marijuana (3.3%), amphetamines (3.1%), club drugs (2.2%), inhalants (0.9%), methamphetamines (0.8%), and heroin (0.4%).

\*Question is select all that apply\*

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