



The Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (HKCS) collects self-reported health information from Colorado middle and high school students. A unified version of the survey was launched in 2013 that consolidates multiple needs for youth health data and allows for both state and regional-level results. The unified HKCS was administered in Fall 2013 to over 40,000 middle and high school students.

This summary outlines findings from the marijuana-related items included in the 2013 HKCS high school survey. The survey was primarily administered before retail marijuana sales went into effect.

### Marijuana Behaviors & Perceptions, High School

- Overall, **36.9%** of Colorado high school students tried marijuana one or more times in their life (lifetime use).
- One-fifth (**19.7%**) of students reported using marijuana in the past 30 days (current use).
- Over half (**54.9%**) of students think that marijuana is easy/very easy to access.
- More than half (**54.0%**) of students think people risk harming themselves from using marijuana regularly.
- Overall, **86.4%** of students think parents feel it is wrong/very wrong for the student to use marijuana.
- One-third (**32.9%**) think police would catch kids who used marijuana in the student's neighborhood.



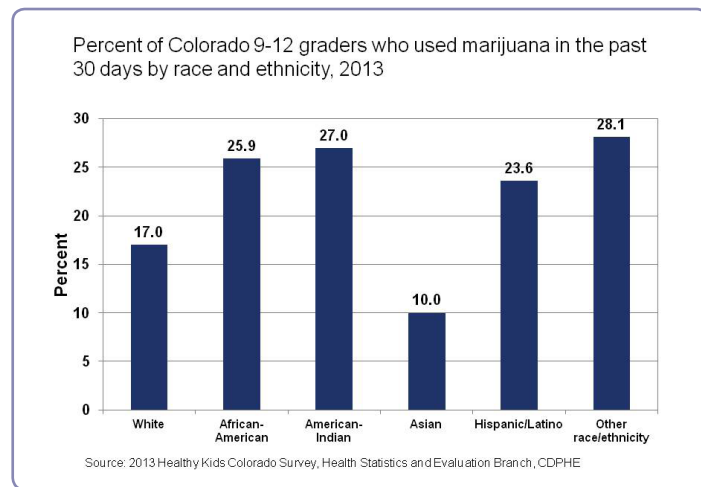
- A total of **8.1%** of Colorado high school students tried marijuana before age 13.
- Over one-tenth (**10.9%**) of students who drove during the past 30 days reported driving one or more times when they had been using marijuana.
- A total of **5.2%** of students used marijuana on school property in the past 30 days.
- Overall, **60.2%** of high school students think it is wrong/very wrong for kids the student's age to use marijuana.
- A total of **82.5%** think adults feel it is wrong/very wrong for kids the student's age to use marijuana.
- Overall, **36.0%** know someone with a Medical Marijuana License.

### Trends for Marijuana Use, High School

- The trend for current and lifetime marijuana use has **remained stable** since 2005.
- Data has been collected related to marijuana use in the past 30 days (current use) and for lifetime use (ever used) between 2005-2013.
- The sample sizes from 2005-2011 ranged from about 700 to 1,500 students and the sample size for 2013 for current and lifetime use was about 25,000 high school students.
- The survey methodology changed in 2013 to include charter schools and to expand the sample size.
- Although the estimates for marijuana use are lower in 2013 than previous years, these estimates are within the margin of error and do not represent a statistically significant decrease between 2005-2013.

### Marijuana Use by Race/Ethnicity, Sex and Sexual Orientation, High School

The following charts present data comparing current marijuana use by race/ethnicity, sex and sexual orientation (students reporting as gay, lesbian or bisexual, i.e., GLB). Data by race/ethnicity and by sexual orientation were not available in previous years.





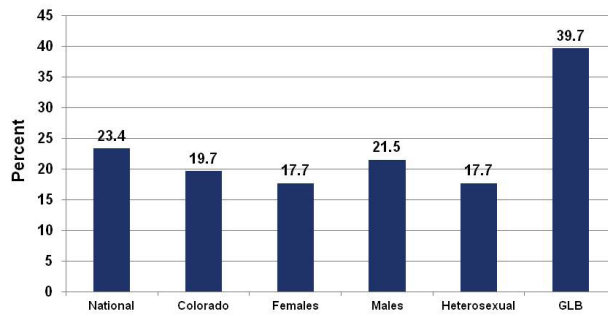
# APPLICATIONS OF HKCS DATA

These data are intended to create awareness about priority health behaviors of youth in Colorado, as well as to provide a tool to assess how behaviors change over time. Data can be used by key stakeholders, including legislators, educators, students, parents, community members and school staff to better understand behaviors, set program goals, develop programs, support health-related policies and seek funding.

In 2013, numerous schools and communities choose to participate in a local administration of the survey to be able to compare their results to state data and national data to better understand what priorities may exist in their community and to monitor health behavior trends. In 2013, over 200 schools participated in a state-administered HKCS, representing over 40,000 students.

*An executive summary is available.*

Percent of Colorado 9-12 graders who used marijuana in the past 30 days by sex and sexual orientation, 2013



Source: 2013 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey, Health Statistics and Evaluation Branch, CDPHE

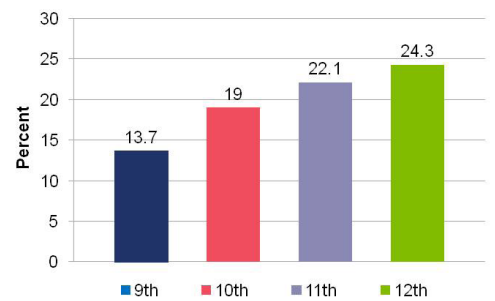
## Additional Data and Comparisons

The high school survey also found that most students who use marijuana reported that they accessed marijuana by someone giving it to them (42.6%) while a smaller number took it from a family member (2.5%) or got it at school (4.2%). Most high school students who used marijuana smoked it (85.0%) while a smaller number ate it (5.2%) or vaporized it (6.2%).

Based on additional analysis of the 2013 high school HKCS data, students who felt they have someone who they could go to for help with a serious problem had significantly lower rates of current marijuana use. Also, students are more likely to use marijuana as they

progress through high school, as shown in the chart below.

Percent of Colorado 9-12 graders who used marijuana in the past 30 days by grade level, 2013



Source: 2013 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey, Health Statistics and Evaluation Branch, CDPHE

# CONTACT



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