

# Current Marijuana Use and Other Risk Behaviors: Report for Essex County 2015 Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey

## Marijuana Use Among Vermont and Essex County High School Students

Overall, 37% of Vermont high school students reported ever using marijuana in 2015. In the last 30 days, 22% of students reported marijuana use.

Students in Essex County were as likely as students across the state to have ever used marijuana. Overall, 35% of Essex County high school students reported ever using marijuana in 2015. In the last 30 days, 21% of Essex County students reported marijuana use.

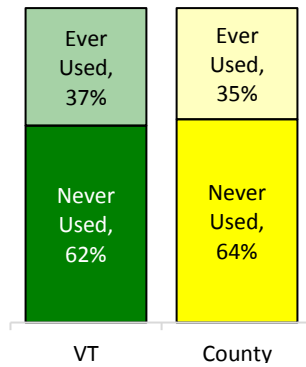
Among Essex County students using marijuana in the past 30 days, 36% reported rarely using it (1-2 times), 43% used it occasionally (3-19 times), and 21% reported frequent use (20+ times). There were no differences in frequency of use compared to the state average.

Following are a series of tables looking at protective factors (e.g., believing they matter to people in their community) and risk behaviors (e.g., substance use) by frequency of marijuana use, among current users. Thus, among students who use marijuana X times per month, the percent who also experienced Y.

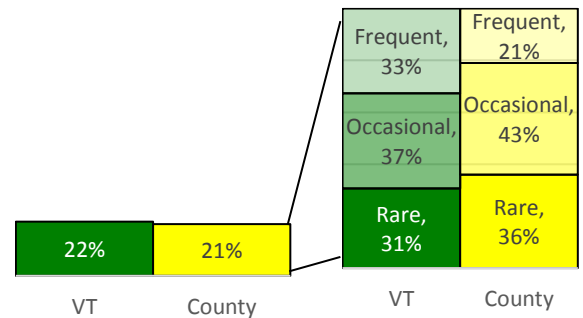
## Family and Community Engagement

As marijuana use increases, perceptions about ones' school and community, after school involvement and average grades earned tend to decrease.

## Marijuana Use Among High School Students



Frequency of Marijuana Use, Past 30 days



	Marijuana Use Frequency	Vermont	Essex County	Comparison to VT
Believe they matter to people in their community	Rare Use	47%	30%	No difference
	Occasional Use	43%	44%	No difference
	Frequent Use	35%	30%	No difference
Believe teachers really care about them	Rare Use	54%	64%	No difference
	Occasional Use	51%	36%	No difference
	Frequent Use	44%	48%	No difference
Talked to their parents about school at least 1x / week	Rare Use	75%	88%	No difference
	Occasional Use	69%	77%	No difference
	Frequent Use	63%	80%	No difference
Earned mostly A's and B's	Rare Use	76%	79%	No difference
	Occasional Use	69%	55%	No difference
	Frequent Use	55%	N/A	N/A
Participated in extracurricular activities for 10 or more hours / week	Rare Use	25%	7%	No difference
	Occasional Use	20%	NA	NA
	Frequent Use	16%	NA	NA

## Perceptions of Marijuana Use and Associations with Other Substance Use

Overall, as marijuana use increases, student perceptions of marijuana use as wrong or risky decreases. Use of other substances also increases as marijuana use increases.

	Marijuana Use Frequency	Vermont	Essex County	Comparison to VT
Believe it is wrong or very wrong for someone their age to use marijuana regularly	Rare Use	15%	32%	No difference
	Occasional Use	8%	29%	Higher
	Frequent Use	5%	N/A	N/A
Believe their parents would think it is wrong or very wrong to use marijuana regularly	Rare Use	66%	81%	No difference
	Occasional Use	53%	53%	No difference
	Frequent Use	30%	74%	Higher
Ever misused a prescription drug	Rare Use	17%	N/A	N/A
	Occasional Use	29%	N/A	N/A
	Frequent Use	54%	60%	No difference
Used marijuana before age 13	Rare Use	8%	N/A	N/A
	Occasional Use	18%	N/A	N/A
	Frequent Use	43%	77%	No difference
Smoked cigarettes before age 13	Rare Use	8%	N/A	N/A
	Occasional Use	14%	N/A	N/A
	Frequent Use	32%	72%	No difference
Drank 5+ drinks in a row, past 30 days	Rare Use	36%	52%	No difference
	Occasional Use	50%	77%	Higher
	Frequent Use	62%	84%	No difference
Used any tobacco past 30 days	Rare Use	47%	NA	NA
	Occasional Use	69%	NA	NA
	Frequent Use	83%	NA	NA

## Associations with Mental Health and Other Risk Behaviors

As frequency of recent marijuana use increases, indicators of suicidality, feelings of hopelessness and other risk behaviors increase.

	Marijuana Use Frequency	Vermont	Essex County	Comparison to VT
Felt sad or hopeless for 2+ weeks, past year	Rare Use	33%	26%	No difference
	Occasional Use	36%	22%	No difference
	Frequent Use	42%	29%	No difference
Attempted suicide, past year	Rare Use	9%	NA	NA
	Occasional Use	12%	NA	NA
	Frequent Use	20%	NA	NA
Had sex with 4+ people, ever	Rare Use	16%	41%	Higher
	Occasional Use	24%	NA	NA
	Frequent Use	47%	68%	No difference
Bullied someone, past 30 days	Rare Use	15%	27%	No difference
	Occasional Use	21%	23%	No difference
	Frequent Use	28%	36%	No difference

<sup>1</sup> For more information on marijuana and other substances, resources, and services available visit:

<http://healthvermont.gov/adap/drugs/marijuana.aspx>; <http://parentupvt.org/>; <https://teens.drugabuse.gov/drug-facts/marijuana>.

<sup>2</sup> **Interpreting the Data:** These tables demonstrate the association between marijuana use and other behaviors. It is important to remember that YRBS data does not indicate causality. Thus, we cannot say that marijuana use causes a student to use other substances or experience other risky behaviors, only that there is a correlation between frequency of marijuana use and these behaviors and perceptions. **NA** Too few students

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