

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

Marijuana Use Among Vermont and Chittenden 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 Chittenden County were as likely as students across the state to have ever used marijuana. Overall, 34% of Chittenden County high school students reported ever using marijuana in 2015. In the last 30 days, 21% of Chittenden County students reported marijuana use.

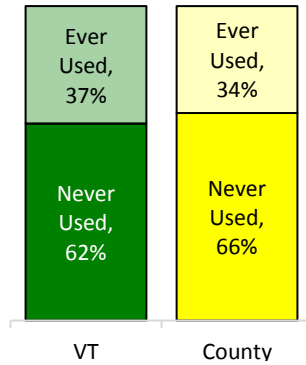
Among Chittenden County students using marijuana in the past 30 days, 33% reported rarely using it (1-2 times), 38% used it occasionally (3-19 times), and 29% reported frequent use (20+ times). There were no differences in frequency of use compared to the state average.

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.

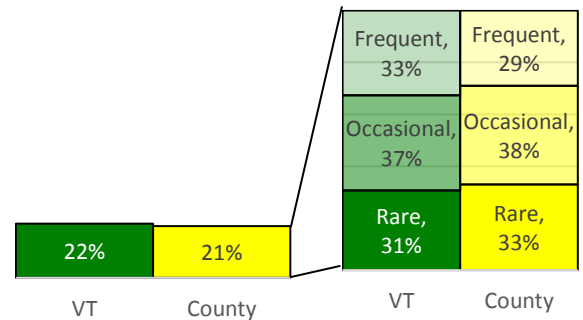
Family and Community Engagement

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 | Chittenden County | Comparison to VT |
|--|-------------------------|---------|-------------------|------------------|
| Believe they matter to people in their community | Rare Use | 47% | 44% | No difference |
| | Occasional Use | 43% | 41% | No difference |
| | Frequent Use | 35% | 47% | Higher |
| Believe teachers really care about them | Rare Use | 54% | 58% | No difference |
| | Occasional Use | 51% | 48% | No difference |
| | Frequent Use | 44% | 53% | No difference |
| Talked to their parents about school at least 1x / week | Rare Use | 75% | 84% | No difference |
| | Occasional Use | 69% | 78% | No difference |
| | Frequent Use | 63% | 66% | No difference |
| Earned mostly A's and B's | Rare Use | 76% | 86% | Higher |
| | Occasional Use | 69% | 77% | No difference |
| | Frequent Use | 55% | 63% | No difference |
| Participated in extracurricular activities for 10 or more hours / week | Rare Use | 25% | 33% | No difference |
| | Occasional Use | 20% | 21% | No difference |
| | Frequent Use | 16% | 15% | No difference |

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 | Chittenden County | Comparison to VT |
|--|-------------------------|---------|-------------------|------------------|
| Believe it is wrong or very wrong for someone their age to use marijuana regularly | Rare Use | 15% | 14% | No difference |
| | Occasional Use | 8% | 6% | No difference |
| | Frequent Use | 5% | 3% | No difference |
| Believe their parents would think it is wrong or very wrong to use marijuana regularly | Rare Use | 66% | 67% | No difference |
| | Occasional Use | 53% | 57% | No difference |
| | Frequent Use | 30% | 31% | No difference |
| Ever misused a prescription drug | Rare Use | 17% | 21% | No difference |
| | Occasional Use | 29% | 34% | No difference |
| | Frequent Use | 54% | 56% | No difference |
| Used marijuana before age 13 | Rare Use | 8% | 6% | No difference |
| | Occasional Use | 18% | 14% | No difference |
| | Frequent Use | 43% | 37% | No difference |
| Smoked cigarettes before age 13 | Rare Use | 8% | 4% | No difference |
| | Occasional Use | 14% | 12% | No difference |
| | Frequent Use | 32% | 24% | No difference |
| Drank 5+ drinks in a row, past 30 days | Rare Use | 36% | 38% | No difference |
| | Occasional Use | 50% | 55% | No difference |
| | Frequent Use | 62% | 60% | No difference |
| Used any tobacco past 30 days | Rare Use | 47% | 42% | No difference |
| | Occasional Use | 69% | 69% | No difference |
| | Frequent Use | 83% | 81% | No difference |

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 | Chittenden County | Comparison to VT |
|--|-------------------------|---------|-------------------|------------------|
| Felt sad or hopeless for 2+ weeks, past year | Rare Use | 33% | 30% | No difference |
| | Occasional Use | 36% | 39% | No difference |
| | Frequent Use | 42% | 39% | No difference |
| Attempted suicide, past year | Rare Use | 9% | 7% | No difference |
| | Occasional Use | 12% | 6% | No difference |
| | Frequent Use | 20% | 22% | No difference |
| Had sex with 4+ people, ever | Rare Use | 16% | 12% | No difference |
| | Occasional Use | 24% | 22% | No difference |
| | Frequent Use | 47% | 44% | No difference |
| Bullied someone, past 30 days | Rare Use | 15% | 8% | No difference |
| | Occasional Use | 21% | 17% | No difference |
| | Frequent Use | 28% | 31% | No difference |

¹ 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>.

² **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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