

HEALTHY CHOICES HEALTHY STUDENTS



Drug-Related Behaviors Among NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH IN NEW MEXICO 2009 Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey

Overview

Grades 6th -12th

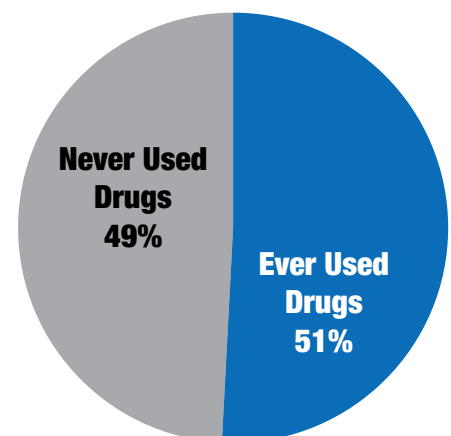
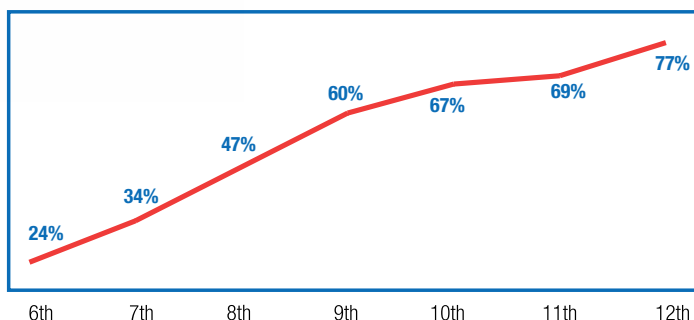
Studies show that few youth use more illicit drugs without first trying marijuana. Using marijuana also puts children and teens in contact with people who use and/or sell other drugs. Marijuana is the most commonly used drug among youth in New Mexico (grades 6-12), including Native American youth. Results from the 2009 NM Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS) indicate the following for Native Americans:

Students who currently use marijuana were more likely to start at a young age, drink alcohol, smoke cigars, have had sex and been in a physical fight.

Students who do NOT currently use marijuana were more likely to receive A's & B's and have parents who know where they are and with whom.

Fortunately, drug related behaviors, including marijuana use, are preventable and there are protective factors that may discourage Native American youth in New Mexico from using drugs.

**Percentage of Students Who Have Tried Drugs¹,
by Grade**



**Almost half of all students have
NEVER tried drugs¹**

HIGH SCHOOL

Warning Factors of Marijuana Use*

- Tried marijuana before age 13
- Currently drinks alcohol
- Currently uses methamphetamines
- Currently uses cocaine
- Closest friends use drugs
- Smokes cigarettes at school
- Currently smokes cigars
- Recently skipped or ditched school
- Has had sex
- Has been in a physical fight at school

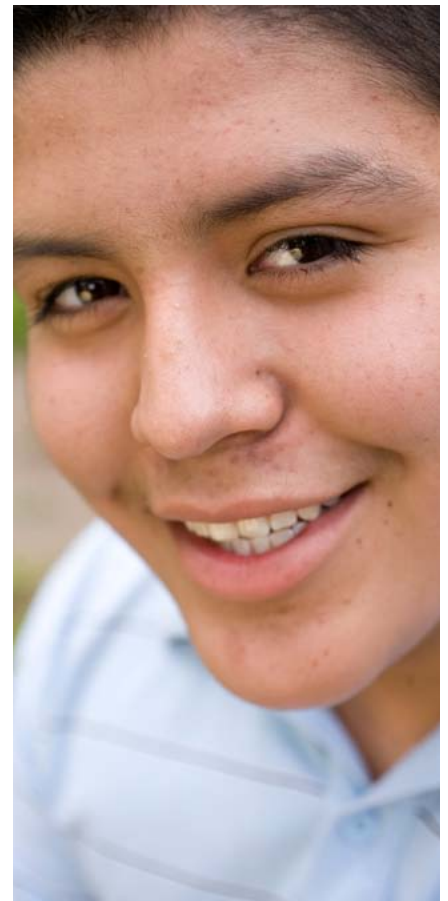
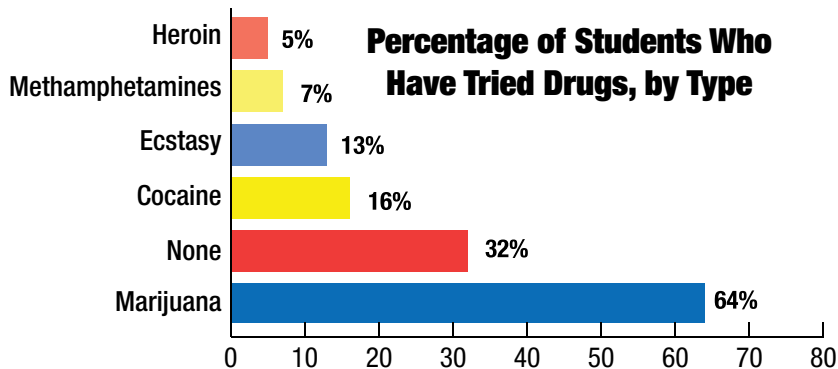
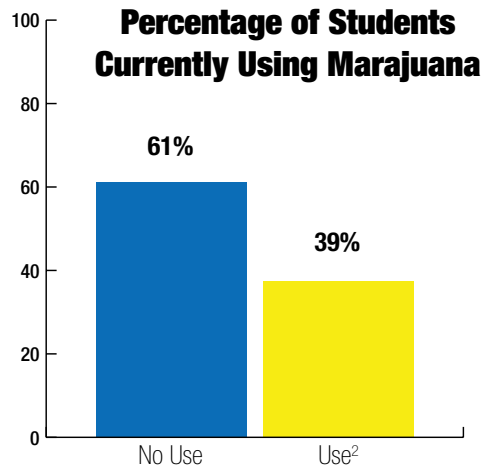
1 in 3 high school students have been offered or sold drugs at school

62% of current marijuana users tried it before age 13

Protective Factors Against Marijuana Use*

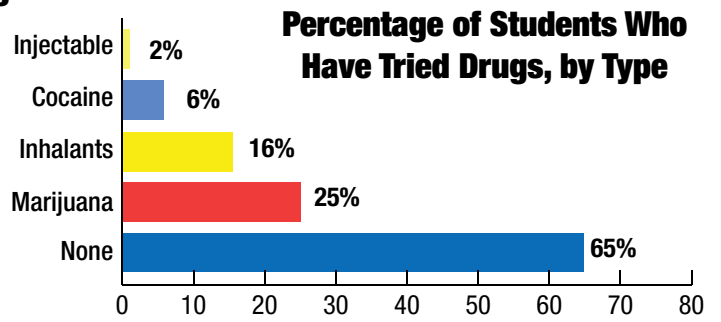
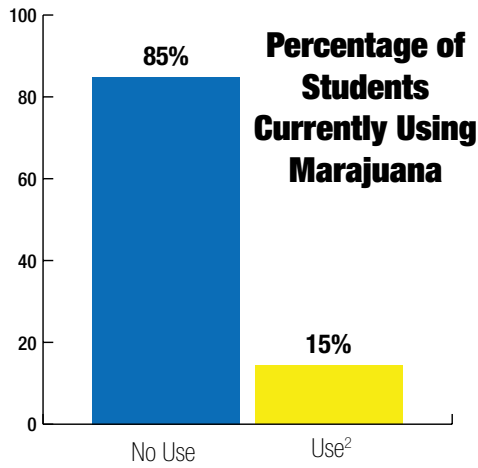
- Student thinks it is harmful to smoke marijuana
- Parents think it is wrong for student to smoke marijuana
- Receives mostly A's & B's
- Parents know where their student is and with whom
- Student is involved in school sports or clubs
- Family has clear rules about drug and alcohol use

1 in 7 high school students recently used pain killers to get high



*All warning or protective factors were statistically significant and are listed in order from strongest to weakest influence on marijuana use.

MID SCHOOL



10% of middle school students tried marijuana before age 11

Warning Factors of Marijuana Use*

- Tried marijuana before age 11
- Currently drinks alcohol
- Currently smokes cigars
- Has had sex
- Receives mostly D's & F's
- On school days spends 3 or more hours playing computer or video games
- Has been in a physical fight

Protective Factors Against Marijuana Use*

- Student thinks it is wrong for students their age to drink
- Parents know where their student is and with whom
- Receives mostly A's & B's
- Parents think it is wrong for students to drink
- Student is involved in the community

DEMOGRAPHICS

In the New Mexico 2009 Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey, 7,822 Native American students in grades 6-12 answered the questions about drug use.

High School Students

Female = 1,907
Male = 1,962
Gender not reported = 10
Total 3,879

Middle School Students

Female = 1,952
Male = 1,982
Gender not reported = 9
Total 3,943

DEFINITIONS

¹Grades 9-12 drug use includes: marijuana, cocaine, inhalants, heroin, methamphetamines, ecstasy, pain killers and illegal injectable drugs. Grades 6-8 drug use includes: marijuana, cocaine, inhalants, and illegal injectable drugs.

²“Current Marijuana use” is marijuana use at least once in the past 30 days.



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