

MARIJUANA USE

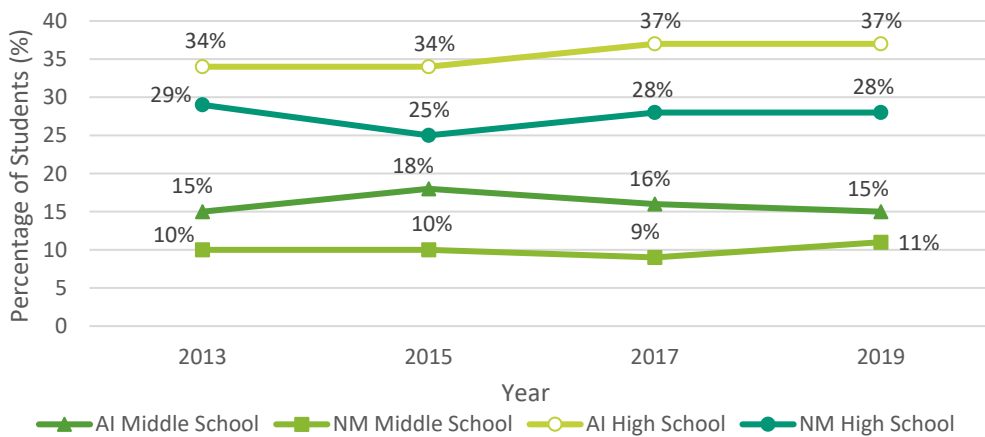
Among American Indian Youth in New Mexico 2019

2019 Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey



This fact sheet presents data from the 2019 New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (NM YRRS) on marijuana use among American Indian (AI) students in grades 6 - 12. The overarching aim of the NM YRRS is to better characterize risk behaviors and resiliency, or protective factors among youth in New Mexico.

Trends in Marijuana Use*



*Use during the past 30 days

Marijuana
(also known as weed, pot, or cannabis)

is a drug that contains the chemical **tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)**, which contributes to a mind-altering sensation¹. Youth marijuana use may negatively impact developing brains. Marijuana use can lead to **impaired thinking, memory, attention, focus, and coordination**².

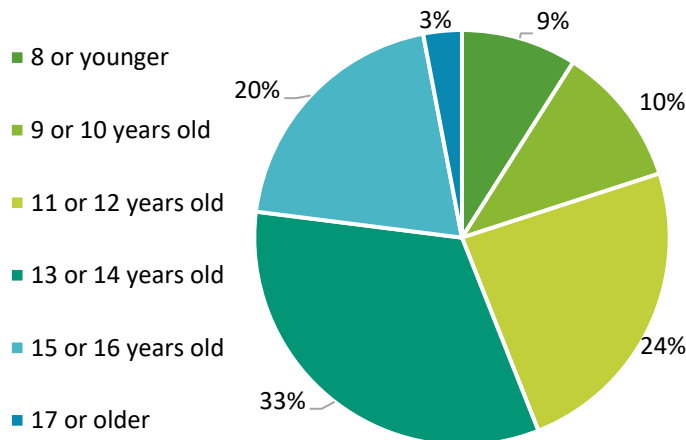


In 2019, **37%** of **AI high school students** reported current marijuana use. This rate has **remained steady and higher than the statewide rate since 2013**.

In 2019, **15%** of **AI middle school students** reported current marijuana use. This is a **6% decrease from the rate reported by AI middle school students in 2017**.

AMONG AMERICAN INDIAN HS STUDENTS WHO HAVE USED MARIJUANA, AGE WHEN THEY FIRST TRIED IT

Among AI High School students who have used marijuana, **the largest percentage of students (33%)** tried it for the first time when they were **13 or 14 years old**.



However...

Among AI High School students who have used marijuana, **43% had already tried it by the age of 13**.

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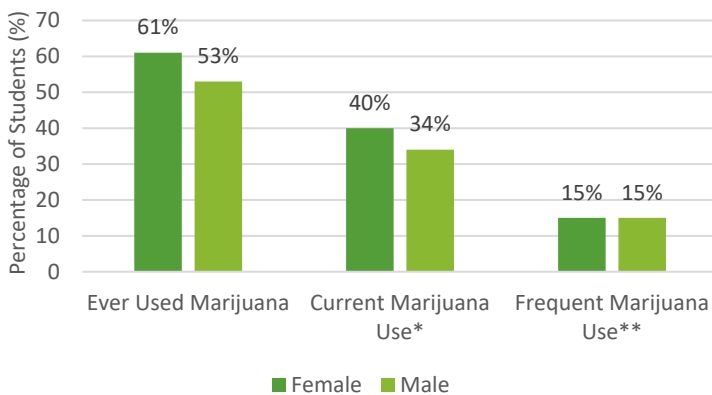


2019 Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey

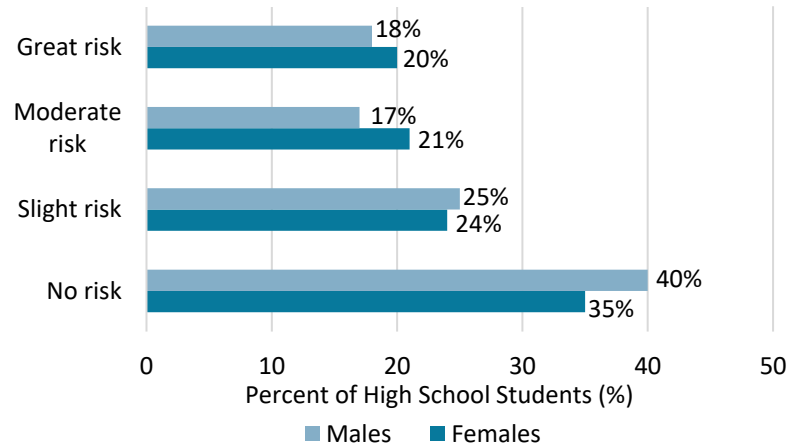


HIGH SCHOOL

Marijuana Use Among AI HS Students, By Sex



Perception of Risk Associated with Marijuana Use Among AI HS Students



Females reported higher rates of having ever used marijuana and current marijuana use.

Females were also more likely to report that marijuana use is risky, but overall, the majority of students feel there are no or only slight risks associated with marijuana use.

Marijuana and Driving

1 in 4

AI HS students have driven after using marijuana at least once in the past 30 days*



Marijuana reduces reaction time, coordination, and concentration which impairs the ability to drive safely³.

84% of AI HS students who have driven after using marijuana* have also driven under the influence of alcohol at least once*

Factors associated with HIGHER odds of current marijuana use*:

Factors associated with LOWER odds of current marijuana use*:

- Has been in a physical fight
- Has attempted suicide
- Skipping school without permission
- Early initiation of sexual behavior

- Participation in community groups or activities
- Clear rules at school
- Supportive parents, teachers, and/or community adults
- Plans for further education

*Use during the past 30 days

**Use over lifetime

MARIJUANA USE

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MIDDLE SCHOOL

SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA

(also called Spice, fake weed, K2, or Skunk)

is a form of marijuana that is artificially produced. Its effects on the brain are similar to marijuana, and due to the manmade nature, synthetic marijuana products are sometimes contaminated with other toxins⁴.

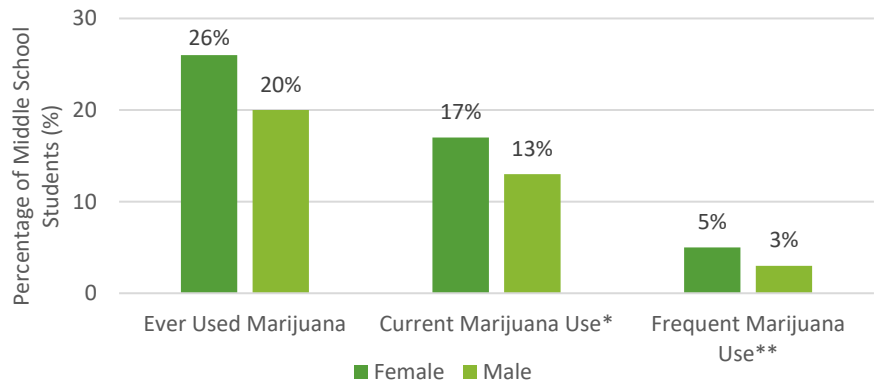
Side Effects of Synthetic Marijuana include⁵:



Confusion
Hallucinations and psychosis
Fast heart rate

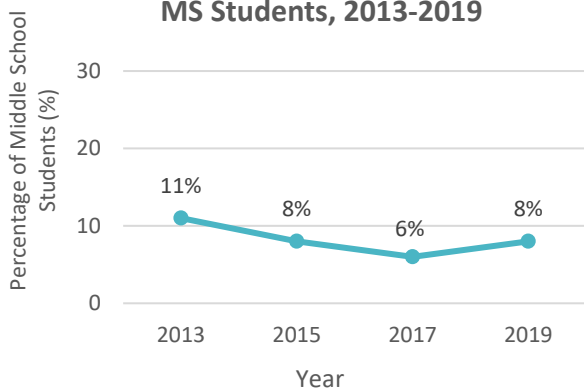


Marijuana Use Among AI MS Students, By Sex



Females report higher rates of having ever used marijuana, higher rates of current marijuana use, and higher rates of frequent marijuana use.

Synthetic Marijuana Use* Among AI MS Students, 2013-2019



1 in 12 AI MS students currently use synthetic marijuana*

*use in the past 30 days

Factors associated with HIGHER odds of current marijuana use*:



Has been in a physical fight



Unstable housing



Early initiation of sexual behavior

Factors associated with LOWER odds of current marijuana use*:



Gets mostly A's or B's in school



Supportive parents, teachers, and/or community adults



Clear rules at school

*Use during the past 30 days

**Used marijuana more than 20 times in the past 30 days

References:

¹CDC. (2018). What is Marijuana? <https://www.cdc.gov/marijuan/faqs/what-is-marijuana.html>

²CDC. (2017). What You Need to Know About Marijuana Use in Teens. <https://www.cdc.gov/marijuan/factsheets/teens.html>

³Alvarez et al.(2021) Young and under the influence: A systematic literature review of the impact of cannabis on the driving performance of youth. Accident Analysis & Prevention. (151)

⁴CDC. (2018). Synthetic Cannabinoids (Spice): An Overview for Healthcare Providers. <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hsb/chemicals/sc/healthcare.html>

⁵Tai et al.. (2021). The Future of Substance Abuse Now: Relationships among Adolescent Use of Vaping Devices, Marijuana, and Synthetic Cannabinoids. Substance Use & Misuse. (56) (2)