



CANNABIS

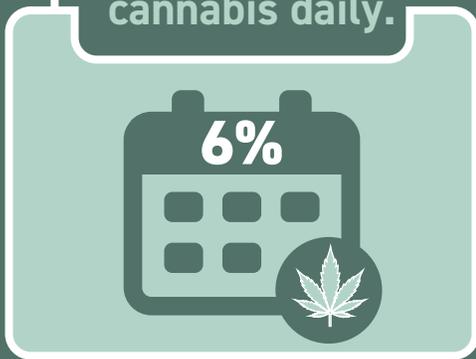
1 in 3 teens have tried cannabis by 12th grade.



Young people who use e-cigarettes are over 3X more likely to use cannabis than those who do not.



More than 6% of high school seniors use cannabis daily.



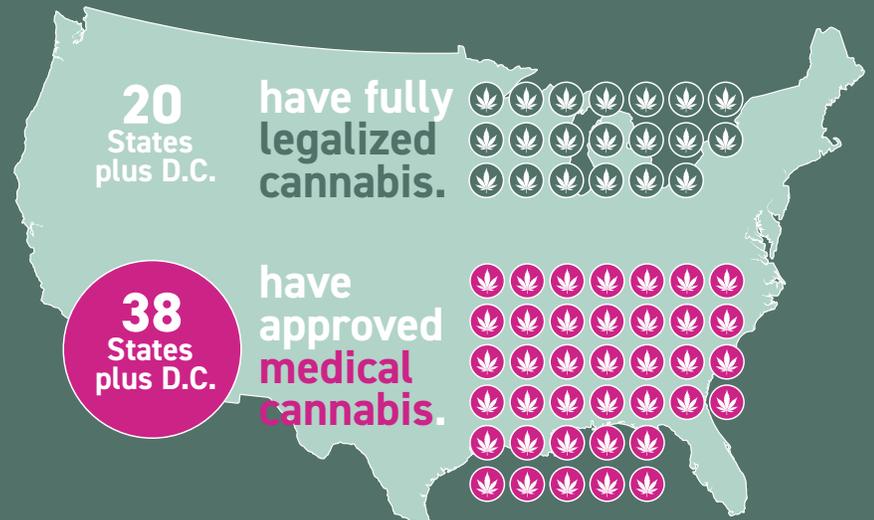
Research has consistently found that cannabis can have lasting impacts on the adolescent brain, which is still developing until around age 25.



Vaping cannabis has been linked with lung illnesses.



(as of February 18, 2020)



KNOW THE FACTS

YOUTH CANNABIS USE REMAINS STEADY

Nationwide, youth cannabis use has remained steady over the past decade, despite significant drops in smoking prevalence and alcohol use.

As alcohol and nicotine use declines among youth, cannabis is increasingly the first substance young people use. Research also shows that cannabis-naïve adolescents who have used e-cigarettes are significantly more likely to report cannabis use one year later compared with those who have not used e-cigarettes. Other recent surveys have found that:

- › **More than 1 in 3 (38%) teens** have tried cannabis by the 12th grade.
- › **Nearly 18% of teens used cannabis in the past year** and 11% used it in the past 30 days.
- › **Teens who use cannabis are 2 to 4x more likely to develop a mental health disorder than those who don't.** With regular cannabis use increasing the risk for developing behavioral health disorders like a social anxiety disorder.
- › **Individuals who use cannabis heavily are more likely to report thoughts or suicide than non-cannabis users are.**
- › **Almost 1/3 of 12th graders used cannabis in the past year.** In 2022, 8% of 8th graders, 19.5% of 10th graders and 31% of 12th graders used cannabis in the past year.
- › **More than 20% of high school seniors and 12% of 10th graders used cannabis in the past month.**
- › **More than 6% of high school seniors used cannabis daily.** Almost 1 in 16 12th graders (6.3%) reported smoking cannabis daily in 2022.
- › **Cannabis is “fairly easy to obtain.”** 70% of 12th graders who have used cannabis reported cannabis being fairly easy or very easy for them to obtain, including in states where it remained illegal, in 2021.
- › **Youth use may be affected by medical legalization.** A 2022 study found that assuming states attain the median medical cannabis market size of around 1% of adults, the prevalence of cannabis use in the last month will rise from 7.6% to 8.2% for 12-17 year olds.

Racial/ethnic inequities regarding cannabis

- › Historically, Black and Latino individuals in the U.S. have been disproportionately targeted when it comes to cannabis enforcement.
 - Black people are 3x more likely to be arrested for cannabis possession compared to white people, despite similar prevalence of cannabis use.
 - More than three quarters (77%) of federal cannabis sentences were for Latino people, even though they only comprised 20% of the U.S. population in 2015 and only 10.5% aged 12 or older used cannabis in the past month.
- › Recently, there have been efforts to attenuate racial/ ethnic inequities surrounding cannabis enforcement.
 - As of 2020, at least 23 states and the District of Columbia have implemented cannabis conviction expungement and other ways to relieve past cannabis records.
 - Social equity programs have been implemented in some states. Six states and some localities have taken initiative to ensure that communities dis-proportionally affected by previous cannabis laws can participate in the legal cannabis industry.
 - On October 6, 2022, President Biden announced reforms on federal cannabis policy to pardon those that were convicted of simple cannabis convictions at the federal level and urged state governors to follow suit.



Staten Island Partnership
for Community Wellness