

**WHAT CAN WE DO?** We can make a difference in helping youth say no to marijuana!

- **Get involved!** The Eaton County Substance Abuse Advisory Group (ECSAAG) meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month from 9:30-11:30am at Eaton RESA in Charlotte, MI.
- **Learn the facts.** Check out the research articles in the bibliography below.
- **Use education resources.** Parents and adults who work with kids can use these online resources to learn more about marijuana, how to discuss it with youth, and how to address usage issues: <http://www.preventteendruguse.org/resources.html>.

**REFERENCES**

Unless stated otherwise, all data is from the Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth (MiPHY) survey. If a date is not specified, data is from the 2015-2016 survey cycle. Visit <http://bit.ly/2cAvgUq> for more information.

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2. Filbey, F. M., McQueeney T., DeWitt S. J., Mishra V. (2015) Preliminary Findings Demonstrating Latent Effects of Early Adolescent Marijuana Use Onset on Cortical Architecture. *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience*, 16(December), 16–22. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.dcn.2015.10.001>
3. Lopez-Larson, M. P., Bogorodzki, P., Rogowska, J., McGlade, E., King, J. B., Terry, J., & Yurgelun-Todd, D. (2011). Altered Prefrontal and Insular Cortical Thickness in Adolescent Marijuana Users. *Behavioural Brain Research*, 220(1), 164–172. <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbr.2011.02.001>
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5. Schweinsburg, A. D., Nagel, B. J., Schweinsburg, B. C., Park, A., Theilmann, R. J., Tapert, S. F. (2008). Abstinent Adolescent Marijuana Users Show Altered fMRI Response during Spatial Working. *Psychiatry Research*, 163(1), 40–51. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2007.04.018>
6. Makimaa, H. (2016). CADCA Mid-Year Conference: Lessons on Marijuana. *ECSAAG Summer Coordinator's Report*. <https://www.smore.com/0e37h>
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**DATA IN ACTION REPORT 2016**

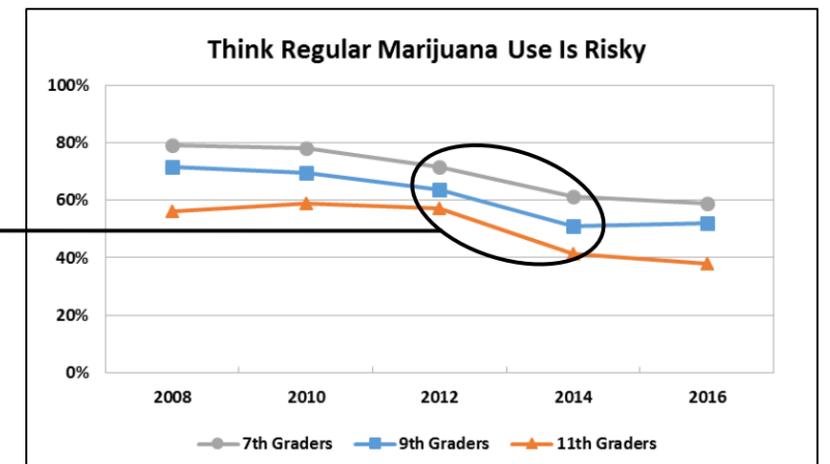
# Marijuana and Eaton County Youth

**WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?** Adolescent marijuana use is associated with **poorer decision making, memory, and attention** and **increased impulsivity**.<sup>1</sup> Youth who use marijuana also show **abnormal brain form<sup>2,3</sup> and function<sup>4</sup>** when compared to youth who do not use marijuana. Regular youth users of marijuana continue to have different brain responses **even after 28 days of abstinence<sup>5</sup>** from marijuana.

**HERE'S OUR PROBLEM:** Despite an abundance of research on the negative effects of adolescent marijuana use, **more Eaton County youth have begun to think that marijuana use is less risky**. The biggest change in attitude came between 2012 and 2014.

Youth in all grades experienced a great decrease in their attitude toward risk and marijuana between 2012 and 2014.

This decrease correlates with the [2012 passing of laws that legalized recreational marijuana in Washington and Colorado](#).



**CAUTION:** Five more states are voting on the legalization of recreational marijuana this November.

While legalization might seem to teens to be a sign that marijuana isn't as bad as they thought, there is evidence to the contrary. Since legalization in Colorado:<sup>6</sup>

- **Marijuana-related emergency room visits** have increased
- In **20% of traffic fatalities**, marijuana has been reported in the system of one of the drivers
- **Youth use has risen 3 to 5% per year**

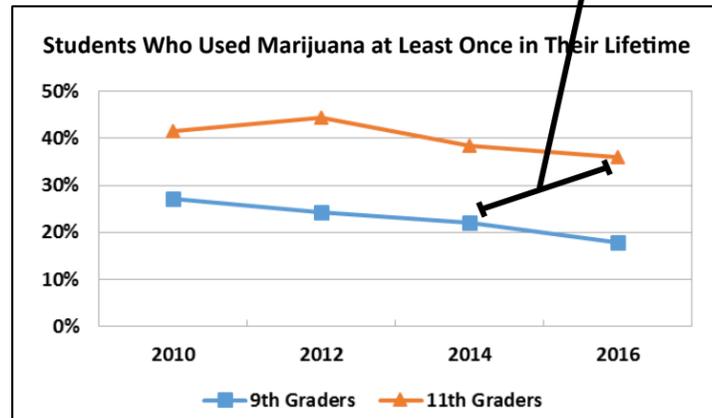
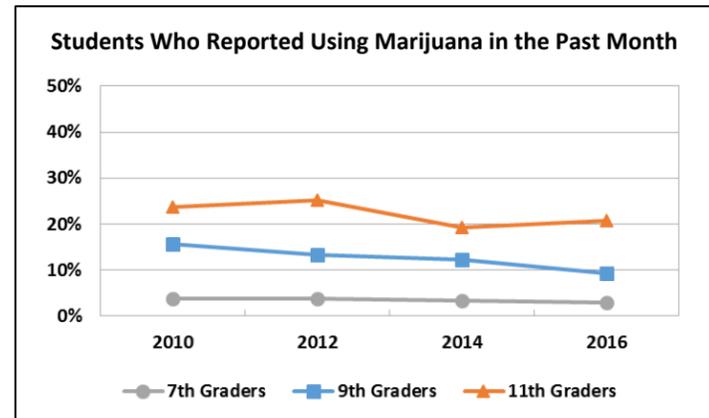


**LOCAL USE AND ACCESS:** With fewer youth believing that marijuana use is risky, it's important to see how that affects their actual use. Another factor that can affect use is the ease with which youth can obtain marijuana.

**THE GOOD NEWS:** Even with the change in perceived riskiness, actual youth marijuana use in Eaton County is on a slight downward trend.

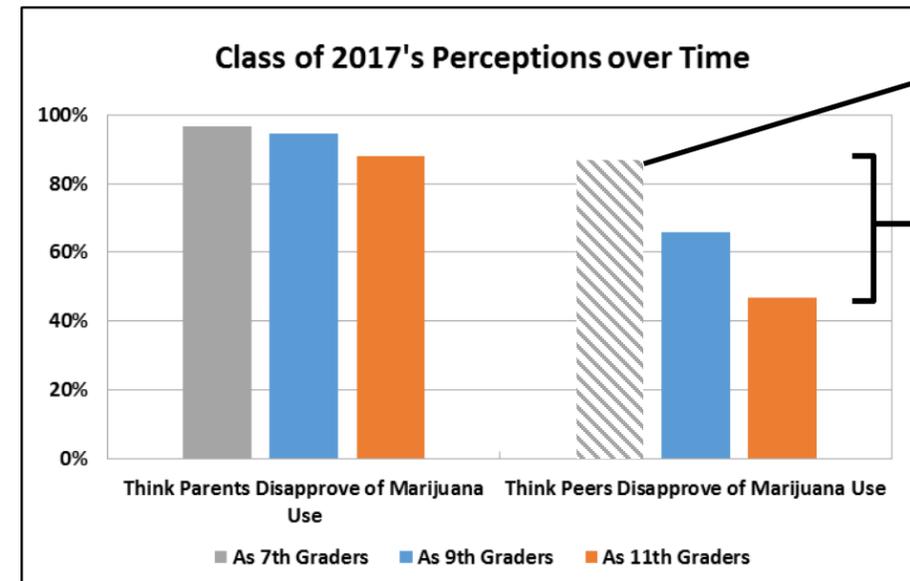
**THE BAD NEWS:** As youth proceed through middle and high school, they become more likely to use marijuana. In 2016, three times more 9th graders than 7th graders had used marijuana recently, and twice as many 11th graders had used compared to 9th graders!

Between 2014 and 2016, 99 students in the Class of 2017 tried marijuana for the first time.



**PERCEPTION PROBLEM:** Social norms are important to youth. What they think their peers are doing helps influence what they choose to do or what they think is okay to do. In the case of marijuana, local youth have many misperceptions.

**DISAPPROVAL:** As youth grow older, their perceptions change. They start to believe that their parents and peers are less disapproving of marijuana use. By the time they reach 11th grade, they believe that less than half of their peers disapprove of marijuana use.



Peer disapproval wasn't measured in 2012; this value is the average of the 2014 and 2016 values.

Youth think that about 40% of their peers stop disapproving of marijuana use between 7th and 11th grades!



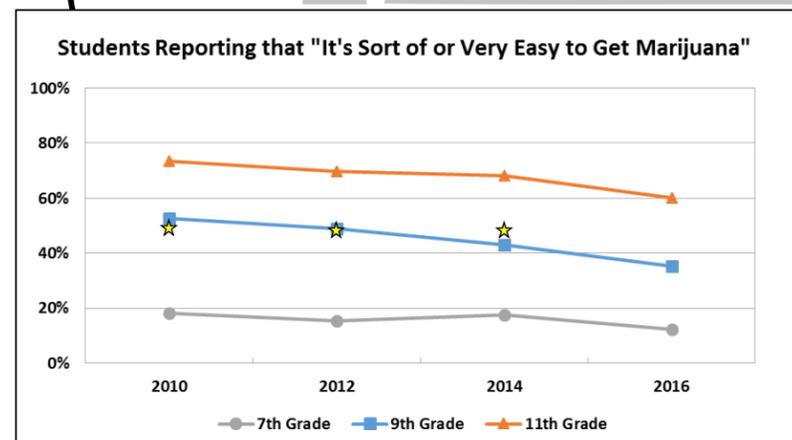
**WHERE DO THEY GET IT?**

According to 2014 CDC data, of national youth aged 12–17 who used marijuana:

- 57.3% got it for free or shared it with someone
- 40.5% bought it
- 1.2% traded for it
- 1% grew it themselves

In Eaton County over the last six years, marijuana has been perceived as less easy for students to get.

The yellow stars represent the responses of national youth ages 12–17



**PEER USE:** Although more students now than in the past six years do not think any or most of their friends have used marijuana recently, youth still have a skewed perspective...they overestimate peers' marijuana use by more than 100%!

