



CHRONIC DISEASE BURDEN UPDATE

■ This update focuses on marijuana use among Illinois youth.

Marijuana is a dry, shredded green and brown mix of leaves, flowers, stems and seeds from the hemp plant *Cannabis sativa*. In a more concentrated, resinous form, it is called hashish, and as a sticky black liquid, hash oil. The main psychoactive (mind-altering) chemical in marijuana is delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

Marijuana is usually smoked in hand-rolled cigarettes (joints) or in pipes or water pipes (bongs). It is also smoked in blunts—cigars that have been emptied of tobacco and refilled with a mixture of marijuana and tobacco. Marijuana smoke has a pungent and distinctive, usually sweet-and-sour, odor. Marijuana can also be mixed in food, prepared as part of a salve or tincture or brewed as a tea.

The University of Illinois conducts the Illinois Youth Survey, a self-report survey of students in sixth, eighth, 10th, and 12th grades regarding health-related and social behaviors, including drug and alcohol use. According to the 2012 Illinois Youth Survey, more teenagers are now current (past-month) smokers of marijuana than of cigarettes (see table 1).

Table 1 Use of alcohol, marijuana, cigarettes and inhalants in the past year, by grade, Illinois, 2012

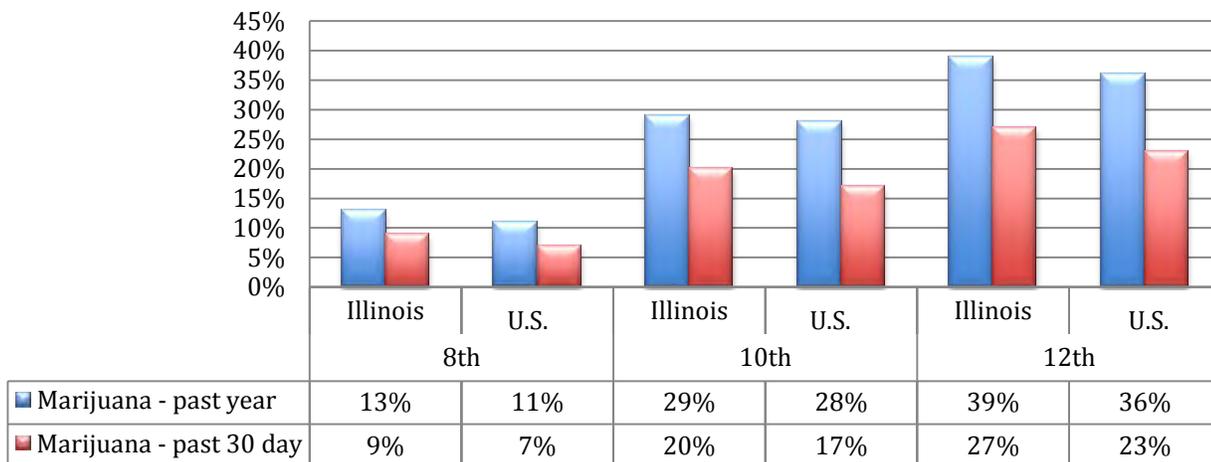
	8 th	10 th	12 th
Alcohol	34.5%	51.9%	64.8%
Marijuana	13.4%	28.8%	38.5%
Cigarettes	8.2%	14.3%	22.7%
Inhalants	4.8%	2.7%	3.2%

Source: Illinois Youth Survey, 2012

MARIJUANA USE ILLINOIS VS. UNITED STATES

Marijuana use within the past year and past month increases as age increases. Three times as many high school seniors have smoked marijuana than eighth graders. This trend also is true at the national level. Marijuana use in the past year was reported by 13 percent of eighth grade, 29 percent of 10th grade and 39 percent of 12th grade students. The past 30-day prevalence of marijuana use was 9 percent, 20 percent and 27 percent for eighth, 10th, and 12th grade, respectively.

Marijuana use in Illinois vs. United States, 2012

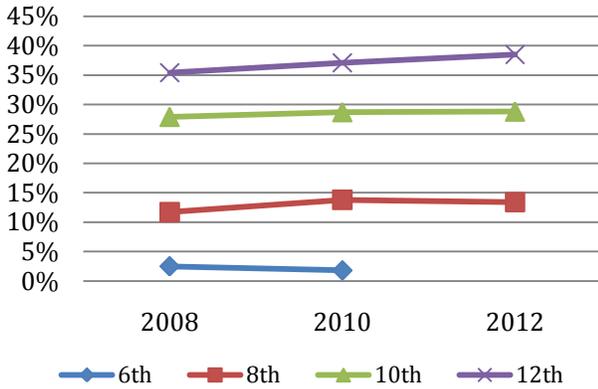


Source: Illinois Youth Survey, 2012; Monitoring the Future, 2012 (U.S. data)

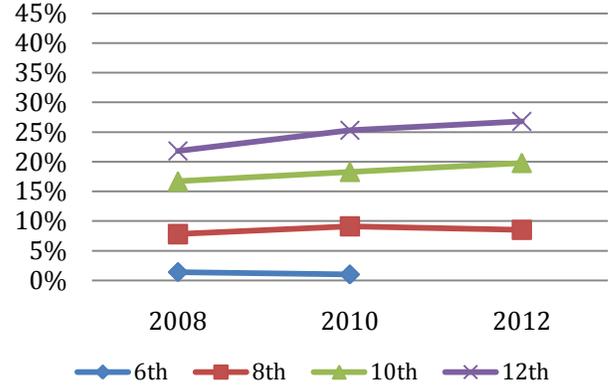
MARIJUANA USE BY GRADE LEVEL

While marijuana use remained steady among the eighth grade students over the past three years, the number of 10th and 12th grade students who used marijuana at least once in the past 30 days has increased.

Marijuana - Used at least once in the past year, Illinois, 2012



Marijuana - Used at least once in the past 30 days, Illinois, 2012

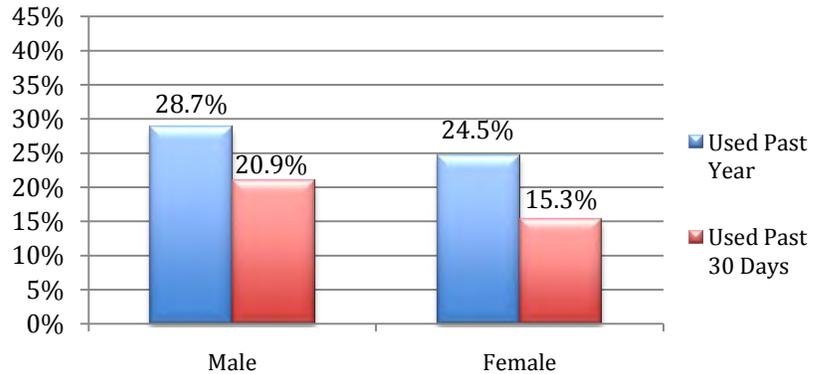


Source: Illinois Youth Survey, 2012

MARIJUANA USE BY GENDER AND RACE

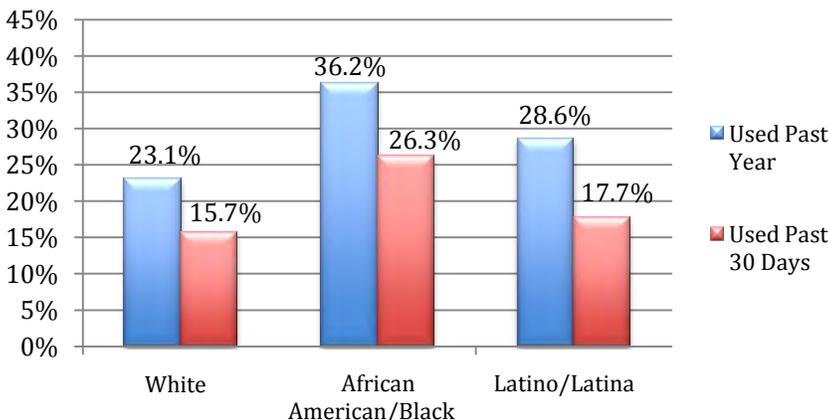
The level of marijuana use differs between genders. According to the 2012 Illinois Youth Survey, 29 percent of males used marijuana within the past year and 25 percent within the past 30 days, while 21 percent of females used marijuana within the past year and 15 percent within the past 30 days.

Marijuana use by gender, Illinois, 2012



Source: Illinois Youth Survey, 2012

Marijuana use by race, Illinois, 2012



The level of marijuana use within the past year and 30 days differs between races as well. According to the 2012 Illinois Youth Survey, a higher percentage of African Americans/blacks (36.2%) and Latino/Latina students (28.6%) have used marijuana within the past year than white students (23.1%).

Source: Illinois Youth Survey, 2012