

Current Marijuana Use and Other Risk Behaviors: Report for Bennington County 2015 Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Marijuana Use Among Vermont and Bennington County High School Students

Overall, 37% of Vermont high school students reported ever using marijuana in 2015. In the last 30 days, 22% of students reported marijuana use.

Students in Bennington County were significantly more likely than students across the state to have ever used. Overall, 41% of Bennington County high school students reported ever using marijuana in 2015. In the last 30 days, 24% of Bennington County students reported marijuana use.

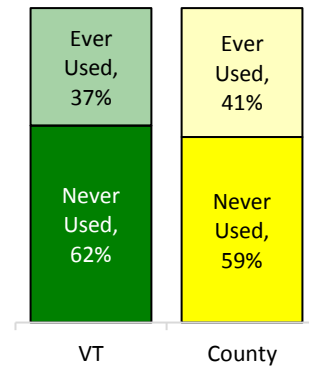
Among Bennington County students using marijuana in the past 30 days, 30% reported rarely using it (1-2 times), 31% used it occasionally (3-19 times), and 39% reported frequent use (20+ times). Among those who currently smoked, a higher percentage were frequent users in Bennington County compared to those in VT (33% v 29%).

Following are a series of tables looking at protective factors (e.g., believing they matter to people in their community) and risk behaviors (e.g., substance use) by frequency of marijuana use, among current users. Thus, among students who use marijuana X times per month, the percent who also experienced Y.

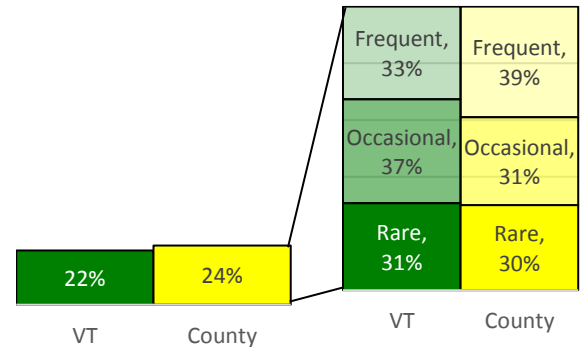
Family and Community Engagement

As marijuana use increases, perceptions about ones' school and community, after school involvement and average grades earned tend to decrease.

Marijuana Use Among High School Students



Frequency of Marijuana Use, Past 30 days



	Marijuana Use Frequency	Vermont	Bennington County	Comparison to VT
Believe they matter to people in their community	Rare Use	47%	42%	No difference
	Occasional Use	43%	43%	No difference
	Frequent Use	35%	40%	No difference
Believe teachers really care about them	Rare Use	54%	63%	No difference
	Occasional Use	51%	69%	Higher
	Frequent Use	44%	57%	Higher
Talked to their parents about school at least 1x / week	Rare Use	75%	77%	Same
	Occasional Use	69%	71%	Same
	Frequent Use	63%	61%	Same
Earned mostly A's and B's	Rare Use	76%	80%	Same
	Occasional Use	69%	68%	Same
	Frequent Use	55%	68%	Higher
Participated in extracurricular activities for 10 or more hours / week	Rare Use	25%	27%	Same
	Occasional Use	20%	13%	Same
	Frequent Use	16%	18%	Same

Perceptions of Marijuana Use and Associations with Other Substance Use

Overall, as marijuana use increases, student perceptions of marijuana use as wrong or risky decreases. Use of other substances also increases as marijuana use increases.

	Marijuana Use Frequency	Vermont	Bennington County	Comparison to VT
Believe it is wrong or very wrong for someone their age to use marijuana regularly	Rare Use	15%	20%	No difference
	Occasional Use	8%	N/A	N/A
	Frequent Use	5%	5%	No difference
Believe their parents would think it is wrong or very wrong to use marijuana regularly	Rare Use	66%	70%	No difference
	Occasional Use	53%	53%	No difference
	Frequent Use	30%	28%	No difference
Ever misused a prescription drug	Rare Use	17%	19%	No difference
	Occasional Use	29%	25%	No difference
	Frequent Use	54%	59%	No difference
Used marijuana before age 13	Rare Use	8%	N/A	N/A
	Occasional Use	18%	16%	Same
	Frequent Use	43%	42%	Same
Smoked cigarettes before age 13	Rare Use	8%	N/A	N/A
	Occasional Use	14%	17%	Same
	Frequent Use	32%	25%	same
Drank 5+ drinks in a row, past 30 days	Rare Use	36%	23%	Lower
	Occasional Use	50%	31%	Lower
	Frequent Use	62%	66%	No difference
Used any tobacco past 30 days	Rare Use	47%	44%	No difference
	Occasional Use	69%	64%	No difference
	Frequent Use	83%	80%	No difference

Associations with Mental Health and Other Risk Behaviors

As frequency of recent marijuana use increases, indicators of suicidality, feelings of hopelessness and other risk behaviors increase.

	Marijuana Use Frequency	Vermont	Bennington County	Comparison to VT
Felt sad or hopeless for 2+ weeks, past year	Rare Use	33%	43%	No difference
	Occasional Use	36%	39%	No difference
	Frequent Use	42%	37%	No difference
Attempted suicide, past year	Rare Use	9%	7%	No difference
	Occasional Use	12%	14%	No difference
	Frequent Use	20%	9%	No difference
Had sex with 4+ people, ever	Rare Use	16%	15%	No difference
	Occasional Use	24%	26%	No difference
	Frequent Use	47%	38%	Lower
Bullied someone, past 30 days	Rare Use	15%	20%	No difference
	Occasional Use	21%	21%	No difference
	Frequent Use	28%	20%	No difference

¹ For more information on marijuana and other substances, resources, and services available visit:

<http://healthvermont.gov/adap/drugs/marijuana.aspx>; <http://parentupvt.org/>; <https://teens.drugabuse.gov/drug-facts/marijuana>.

² **Interpreting the Data:** These tables demonstrate the association between marijuana use and other behaviors. It is important to remember that YRBS data does not indicate causality. Thus, we cannot say that marijuana use causes a student to use other substances or experience other risky behaviors, only that there is a correlation between frequency of marijuana use and these behaviors and perceptions.

NA Too few students

For questions, please contact: Kristen Murray, Ph D, Kristen.murray@vermont.gov.