

Marijuana Use

Nationwide, marijuana remains the most widely used federally illegal drug.⁽¹⁾ The percentage of high school students who view marijuana use as risky is decreasing.⁽²⁾ Among high school students nationwide in 2021, 27.8% had ever used marijuana, 15.8% currently used marijuana (one or more times in the 30 days before the survey), and 4.9% tried marijuana for the first time before age 13.⁽³⁾





2023 Results

The following are findings related to marijuana use among NJ students for 2023:

- About a quarter of New Jersey students (25%) reported ever using marijuana in their life.
- About one-in-seven students (14%) currently have used marijuana in the past 30 days.
- 2% of students began using marijuana before the age of 13.
- About one-in-ten students (9%) have used of synthetic marijuana in their life.
- Current use of e-vapor products with marijuana in the past 30 days was at 9%.

Trend Summary

The general 10-year trend for marijuana use among New Jersey youth is positive, as lifetime rates fell from 39% to 25% from 2019 to 2023 and current use rates declined from 21% to 14%. Early use of marijuana, before the age of 13, also decreased from 5% to 2%. Use of e-vapor products with marijuana has also declined from 13% to 9% from 2019 to 2023; however, students reporting lifetime use of synthetic marijuana remained at 9% in 2019 and 2023.

Percentage of New Jersey Youth Who	2013	2019	2021	2023	Trend
Ever used Marijuana <i>have ever used marijuana in their lifetime</i>	39%	33%	30%	25%	Decrease in negative behavior 
Current Marijuana Use <i>have used marijuana on 1+ days in the past 30 days</i>	21%	20%	17%	14%	Decrease in negative behavior 
Marijuana Use Before Age 13 <i>used marijuana before the age of 13</i>	5%	3%	3%	2%	Decrease in negative behavior 
Current E-Vapor Product Use with Marijuana <i>used marijuana only, or tobacco and marijuana, or flavoring and marijuana in an electronic vapor product they used in the past 30 days</i>	—	13%	10%	9%	Trend not reported by CDC —
Ever Used Synthetic Marijuana <i>percentage of students who used synthetic</i>	—	9%	7%	9%	No change in behavior 

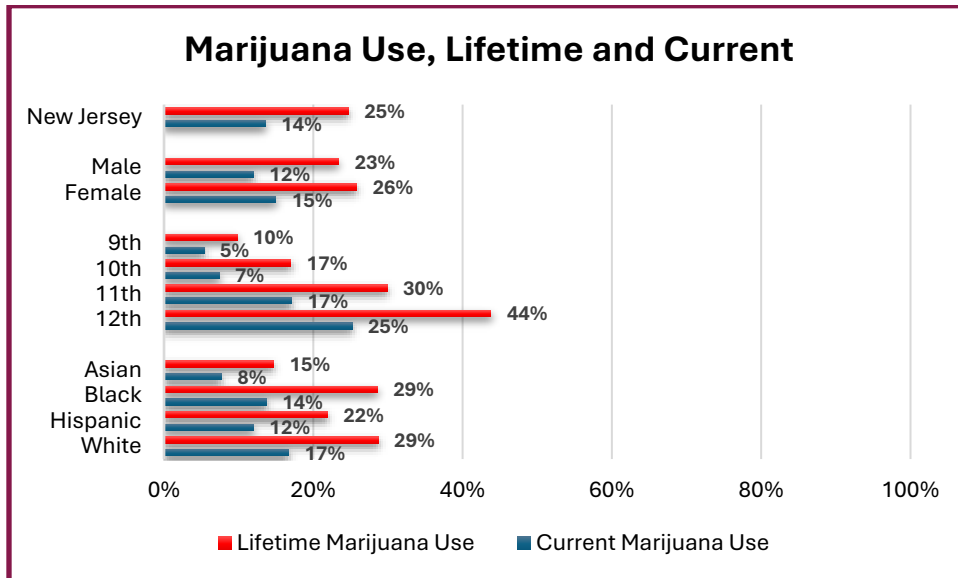
Percentage of New Jersey Youth Who	2013	2019	2021	2023	Trend
<i>marijuana (also called Spice, fake weed, K2, or Black Mamba) one or more times during their life</i>					

Note: Trend analysis was performed by the CDC on data from 2013 to 2023 to determine which differences across years were statistically significant. For questions not asked in all survey years, the trend analysis was performed from 2021 back to the last consecutive year in which the question was asked.

Demographic Breakdown

Lifetime and current use of marijuana was reported by 25% and 14% of NJ high school students respectively.

- **Gender** – There were few differences between gender regarding marijuana use with females slightly more likely than males to have reported marijuana use in their lifetime (26% vs 23%, respectively) or current use of marijuana (15% vs 12%).
- **Grade** – Lifetime and current use of marijuana was most likely among 12th graders (44% and 25%, respectively) and 11th graders (30% and 17%, respectively) than 9th (10% and 5%, respectively) or 10th graders (17% and 7%, respectively).
- **Race/Ethnicity** – Black (29%) and White (29%) students were more likely than Hispanics (22%) or Asian (15%) students to have used marijuana in their lifetime. Current use of marijuana was more prevalent amongst White students (17%) than Black (14%), Hispanic (11%) or Asian (8%) students.



Resources

- ReachNJ -- Facing Addiction Taskforce: 1-844-ReachNJ (New Jersey's 24/7 Addiction Helpline), <https://nj.gov/humanservices/reachnj/>
- New Jersey Prevention Network: <https://www.njpn.org>
- Parent-To-Parent: <http://www.parent2parentnj.org/index.php>
- Partnership for Drug-Free Kids: <https://drugfree.org/>
- Resource Manual For Intervention And Referral Services (I&RS): <https://www.nj.gov/education/students/irs/>
- Substance Abuse Prevention Parent Education Program: <http://drugfreenj.org/child-break/15-minute-child-break/>