

MARIJUANA TRENDS REPORT September 2020

This trends report seeks to identify opportunities to engage the community in youth marijuana prevention.

The human brain is not fully developed until the mid-20's. Studies have shown that if an adolescent uses marijuana, also referred to as cannabis, before the age of 16 and for a prolonged period of time, it can lead to a number of significant health problems. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), long-term cannabis use can have permanent effects on the developing brains of adolescents and young adults. Teen marijuana users are more likely to become addicted to marijuana than people who start using the drug when they are older. Cannabis use can negatively affect adolescents' and young adults' health and well-being at a critical point in their lives, including their school performance, education level, social lives, and future employment and income. <https://www.cdc.gov/marijuana/nas/adolescents.html>

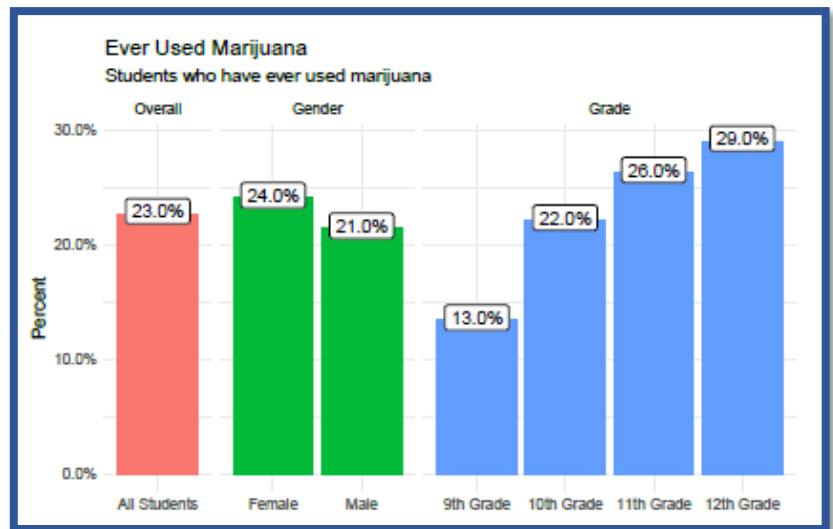
Prevalence

2019 WI Youth Risk Behavior Survey, La Crosse County Youth Risk Behavior Survey High School Results, pages 34,36, 41 – 42, 116,

23%

- 23% of La Crosse County high school students reported ever using marijuana.
- Youth are using marijuana (13%) at almost the same rate they are vaping (14%).
- Among students who used marijuana, 15% started using before age 13.
- Such students are also more likely to report indicators of trauma, violence, or abuse.

- Between entry into high school and graduation marijuana use more than doubles. By the time students graduate high school, 1 in 3 La Crosse County teens have tried marijuana at least once in their lifetime, a rate that has remained steady for the past two years.
- 4 times the number of students have used marijuana in the past 30 days than those who have smoked traditional cigarettes in the past 30 days.



Of increasing concern is the use of vaping products amongst high school students. E-cigarettes can be used to deliver marijuana, tobacco and other drugs. 1 in 7 La Crosse high school students report using a vaping product in the past 30 days. According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, youth who vape are 3.5 times more likely to use marijuana. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/article-abstract/2748383>

Health Equity Prevalence

2019 WI Youth Risk Behavior Survey, La Crosse County Youth Risk Behavior Survey High School Results, pages 100, 111, 116, 131

Some students tend to be at higher risk than their peers:

- More LGBT youth begin using marijuana prior to age 13 and report using marijuana in the past 30 days at double the rate of straight/Cisgender.
- Students who have experienced hunger due to lack of food at home begin using marijuana before age 13 at twice the rate of students who have not experienced food insecurity at home.
- Black/African American and Hispanic students begin using marijuana prior to age 13 more than double the rate of white students. In the past 30 days, 1 in 4 Black/African American students used marijuana, 1 in 5 Hispanic students used marijuana and 1 in 8 white students used marijuana.
- Male students tended to use marijuana before the age of 13 at almost double the rate of females.

Perception of Harm = Susceptibility

La Crosse County Youth Risk Behavior survey, High School Results Summary, 2010 – 2017

59%

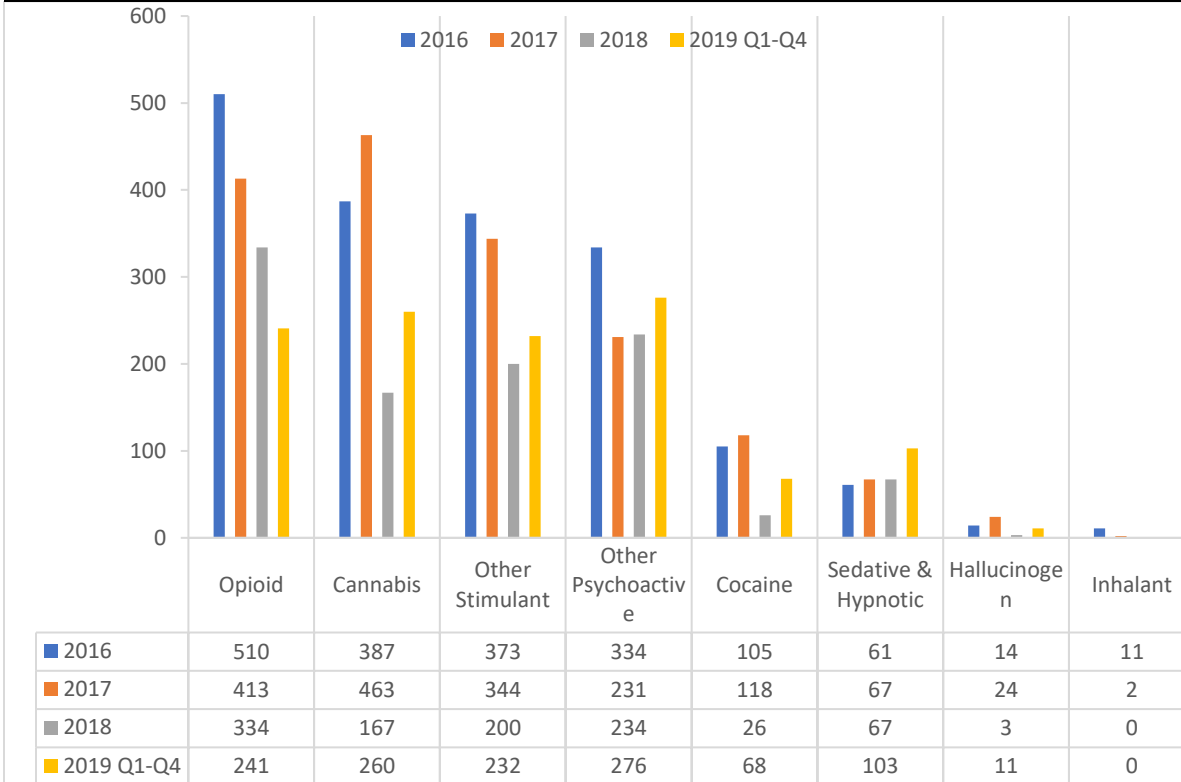
59% of high school students in 2017 reported believing there to be little to no risk when smoking marijuana, up from 38% in 2010.

83%

83% of high school students in 2017 reported that their parents would feel it was wrong or very wrong for them to smoke marijuana, down from 89% in 2013.

Hospitalizations & ER Visits MCHS and GHS combined, La Crosse County Residents

MCHS (Mayo Clinic Health System) GHS (Gundersen Health System)

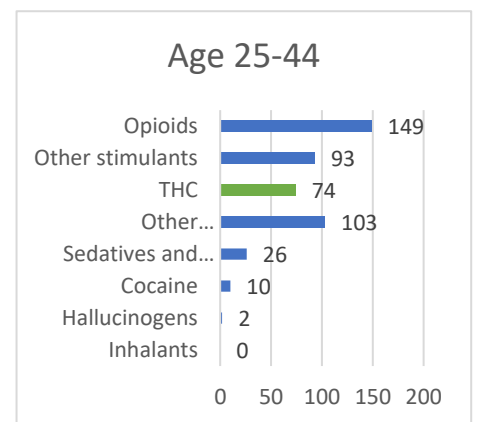
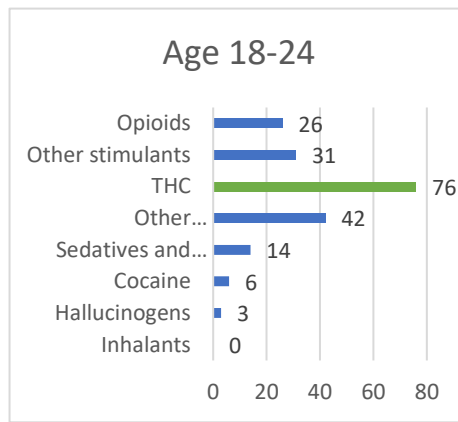
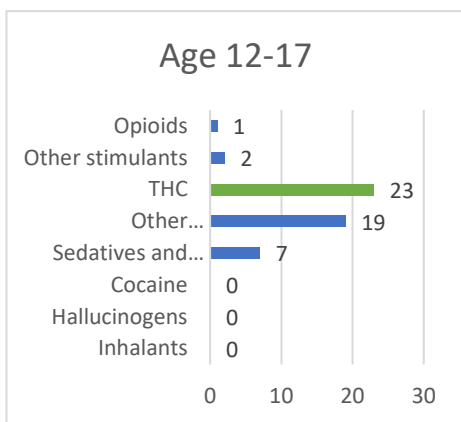


In 2019 Hospitalizations & ER visits due to marijuana use increased.

The most common reasons for hospitalizations are: cannabis hyperemesis syndrome, Butane hash oil burns, toxicity, and intoxication.

Hospitalizations & ER Visit Frequency for Drug Use/Abuse in 2019 by Patient Age and Drug Type MCHS and GHS combined, La Crosse County Residents

MCHS (Mayo Clinic Health System) GHS (Gundersen Health System)



Hospitalizations for marijuana (THC) were greater than all other drugs amongst ages 12 – 17 and 18 – 24.



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