

Marijuana use affects the actively developing teen brain. It can result in difficulty thinking, memory problems, and lead to impaired driving. One in six people who start using marijuana as a teen become addicted to it.¹

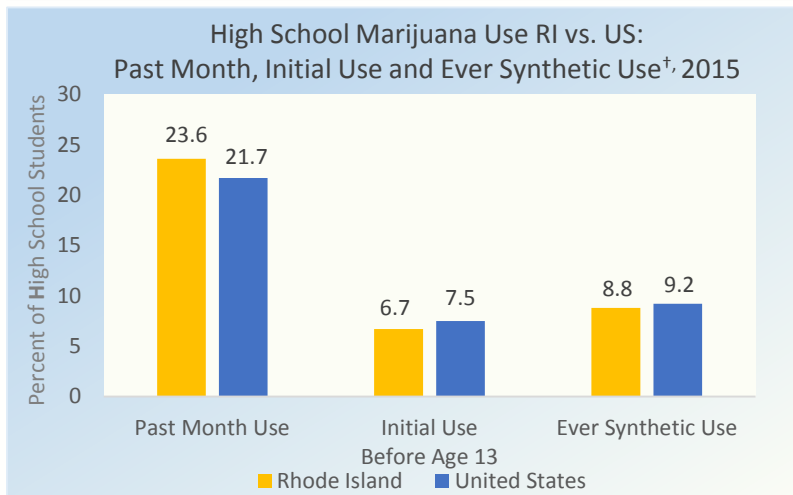


Figure 1. Source: Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)

Past month use of marijuana among Rhode Island high school students ranked 3rd among U.S. States.[‡]

Rhode Island high school students consistently report higher rates of marijuana use in the past month than the United States' average.

Year	USA	RI	CT	MA	ME	NH	VT
2009	20.8%	26.3%	21.8%	27.1%	20.5%	25.6%	24.6%
2011	23.1%	26.3%	24.1%	27.9%	21.2%	28.4%	24.4%
2013	23.4%	23.9%	26.0%	24.8%	21.3%	24.4%	25.7%
2015	21.7%	23.6%	20.4%	24.5%	19.9%	22.2%	22.4%

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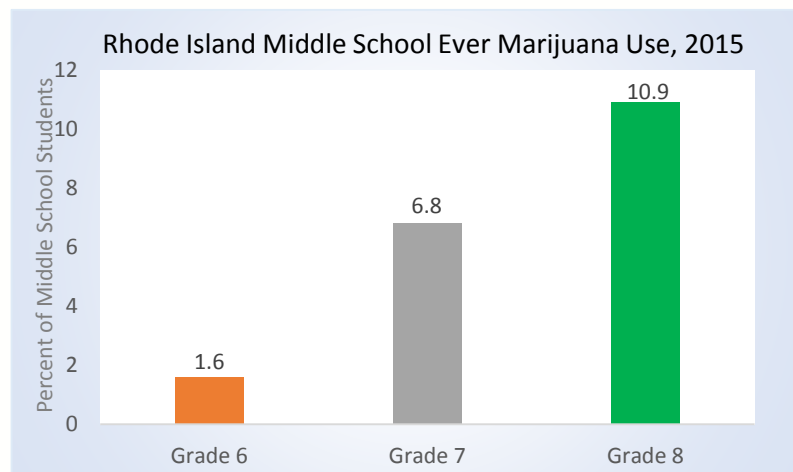
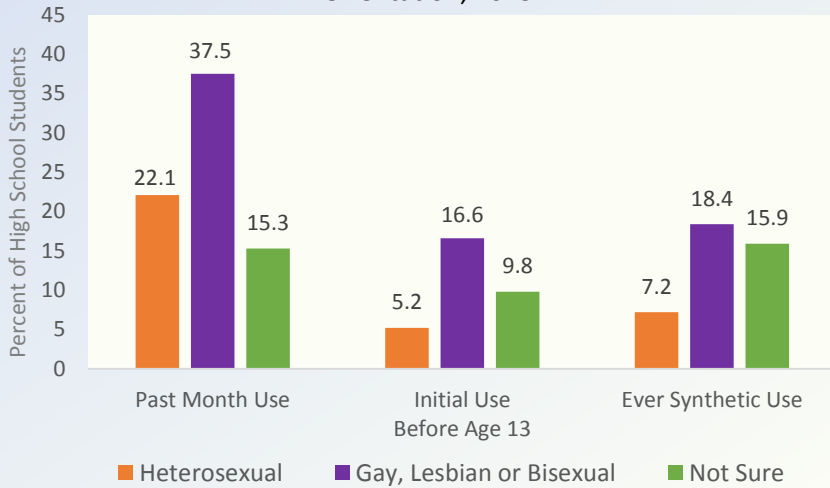


Figure 2. Source: Rhode Island Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)

More than 1 in 10 Rhode Island middle school students report having ever used marijuana by 8th grade. The likelihood of ever using marijuana increases almost 7 times between 6th and 8th grade. On average, 6.6% of middle school students in Rhode Island have ever used marijuana.

Youth who begin using marijuana before age 18 are 4 to 7 times more likely than adults to develop a marijuana use disorder.²

Rhode Island High School Marijuana Use by Sexual Orientation, 2015



Rhode Island high school students who identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual are more likely to use marijuana in the past month, more likely to initiate marijuana use before age 13, and more likely to ever have used synthetic marijuana than those who identify as heterosexual.*

Figure 3. Source: Rhode Island Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)

Certain youth are at increased risk for marijuana use and subsequent marijuana use disorder such as those suffering from anxiety,³ those with limited parental monitoring,⁴ and those with drug-using peers.⁵

Rhode Island high school students who identify as black or Hispanic are significantly more likely to initiate marijuana use before age 13 than those who identify as white.*

Rhode Island Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Initial Marijuana Use Before Age 13, 2015

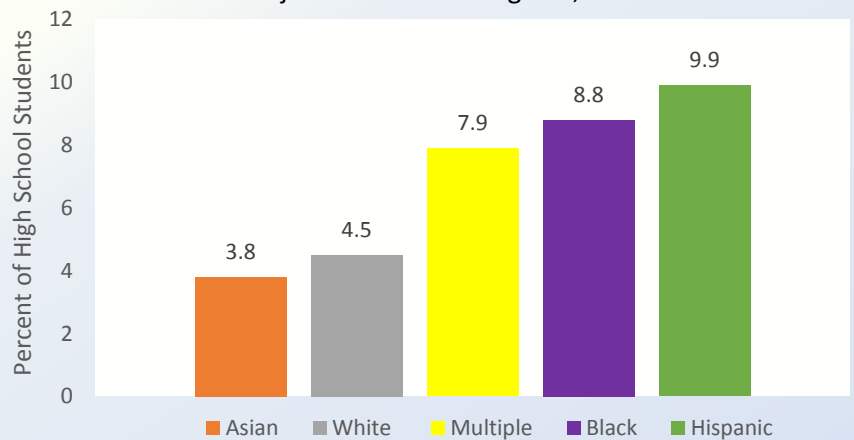


Figure 4. Source: Rhode Island Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)

* In the YRBSS, synthetic marijuana is "also called K2, Spice, fake weed, King Kong, Yucatan Fire, Skunk, or Moon Rocks."

† Data unavailable for Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin.

* All differences between subgroups referenced in this text are statistically significant at the 0.05 level.

¹ Fergusson, D.M. and J.M. Boden. (2008). Cannabis use and later life outcomes. *Addiction*, 103(6): p. 969-76; discussion 977-8.

² Winters KC, Lee C-YS. (2008). Likelihood of developing an alcohol and cannabis use disorder during youth: Association with recent use and age. *Drug & Alcohol Dependence*, 92(1-3):239-247.

³ Marmorstein, N. R., White, H. R., Loeber, R., & Stouthamer-Loeber, M. (2011). Anxiety as a predictor of age at first use of substances and progression to substance use problems among boys. *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*, 38(2), 211-224

⁴ Tobler, A. L., & Komro, K. A. (2010). Trajectories of parental monitoring and communication and effects on drug use among urban young adolescents. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 46(6), 560-568.

⁵ Perkonig, A., Goodwin, R. D., Fiedler, A., Behrendt, S., Beesdo, K., Lieb, R. & Wittchen, H.U. (2008). The natural course of cannabis use, abuse and dependence during the first decades of life. *Addiction*, 103(3), 439-49.