

# Concurrent Use of Tobacco and Marijuana

## High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2013

### Background

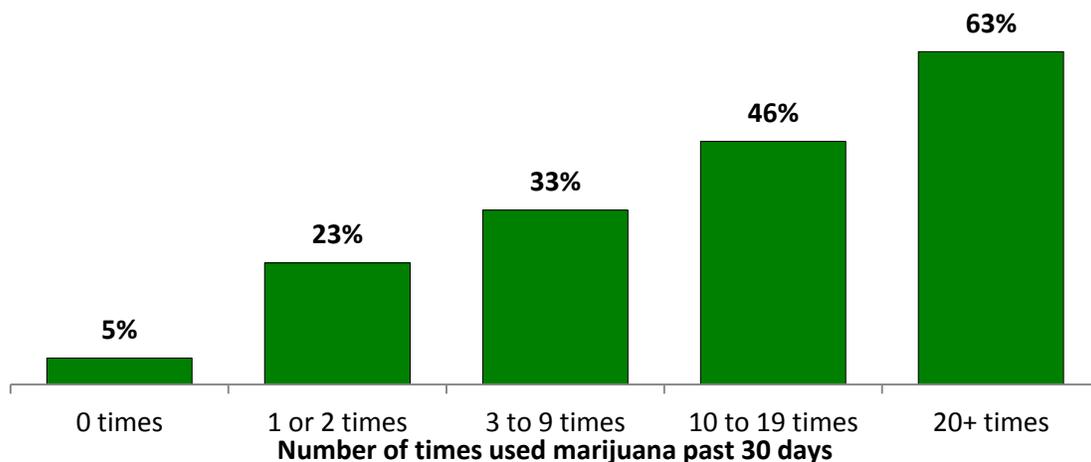
Tobacco remains the leading preventable cause of death in Vermont and nationwide, despite important advances in tobacco control and prevention.<sup>1</sup> Addressing youth tobacco use and factors that contribute to youth initiation are critical to reducing tobacco's impact on society.<sup>1</sup> The Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) asks students in high school and middle school about risk behaviors. In 2013, **13 percent** of high school students reported past 30 day cigarette use, and **24 percent** of high school students reported past 30 day marijuana use. Marijuana use and tobacco use are highly associated, and making marijuana more socially acceptable through legalization could erode the gains made in reducing tobacco use among youth. It is important to note that one substance does not cause the use of another substance – the YRBS can only show association, not causation.

Of those students who reported using marijuana in the past 30 days, **41%** also reported cigarette use. Of those students who reported smoking cigarettes in the past 30 days, **72%** also reported using marijuana.

### Concurrent Current Use

**The more frequently students report using marijuana, the more likely they are to report smoking cigarettes.** Among 9-12 grade students who used marijuana on 1 to 2 of the past 30 days, 23% reported smoking cigarettes. Among 9-12 grade students who used marijuana on 20 or more of the past 30 days, 63% reported smoking cigarettes at least once in the past 30 days.

**Percent of high school students who smoked 1+ cigarette in the past 30 days by reported intensity of marijuana use in the past 30 days**



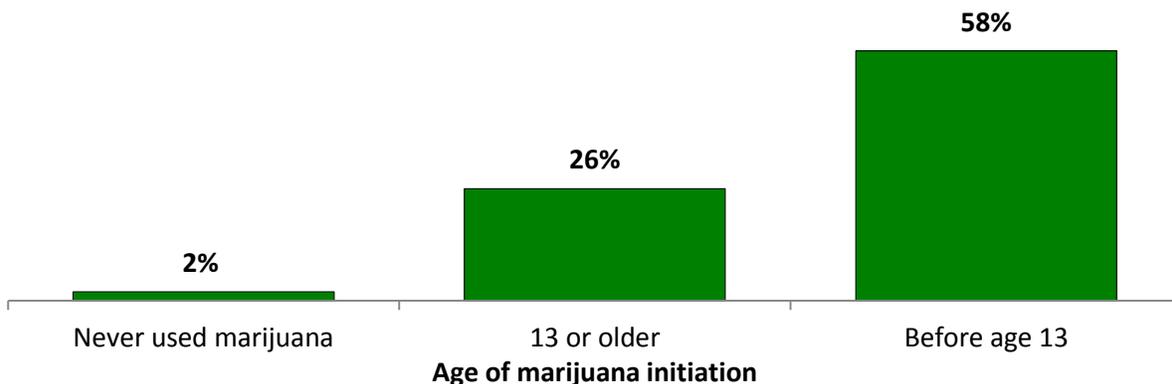
### Initiation of Use

**Students who started using marijuana before they were 13 years old are more likely to smoke cigarettes regularly in high school.** Among students in grades 9-12 who reported using marijuana before age 13, 58% reported smoking cigarettes in the past 30 days.

**Contact:** With questions please contact Shayla Livingston at 802-863-6337 or [Shayla.Livingston@state.vt.us](mailto:Shayla.Livingston@state.vt.us)

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/preventing-youth-tobacco-use/full-report.pdf>

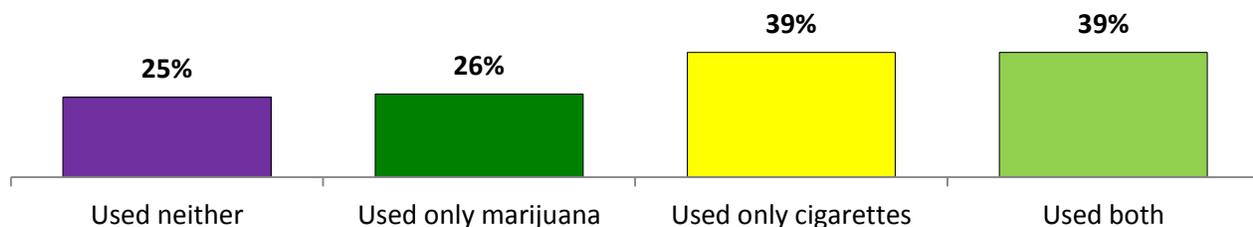
**Percent of high school students who reported smoking 1+ cigarettes in the past 30 days by the age at which they reported using marijuana for the first time**



**Marijuana and Cigarette Use and Maternal Education**

Overall, 27% of students report that their mothers' highest level of education was high school or less. Students who only smoked cigarettes were more likely to report that their mother had graduated from high school compared to the Vermont average. Students who reported only using marijuana were not more likely to report their mother graduated from high school or less.

**Percent of high school students whose mother's level of education was high school or less by past 30 day cigarette or marijuana use**



**Marijuana and Cigarette Use and Suicide**

Overall, 5% of students reported attempting suicide in the past year. Students who only smoke cigarettes or only use marijuana, and students who use both marijuana and cigarettes, are more likely to report attempting suicide in the past year compared to the Vermont average. Those who reported using neither marijuana or cigarettes in the past 30 days were significantly less likely to report attempting suicide in the past year compared to the Vermont average.

**Percent of high school students who reported attempting suicide in the past year by past 30 day cigarette or marijuana use**

