



# UPDATE FROM EDUCATION AND PREVENTION SUBCOMMITTEE, MARIJUANA ADVISORY COMMISSION

# Current Alcohol, Tobacco, and Marijuana Use

- In 2017, the percent of students who currently smoke cigarettes dropped below the Healthy Vermonters 2020 Goal of 10%.
- Over the past decade, the percent of students who currently smoke cigarettes consistently and significantly decreased from 18% to 9%.
- Current alcohol use has decreased by 10% since 2007 but significantly increased between 2015 and 2017.
- Marijuana use has remained stable over the past 10 years but significantly increased between 2015 and 2017 from 30% to 33%. Current marijuana use among high school students remains above the HV2020 Goal of 20%.

# Current Marijuana Use

- Nearly a quarter of high school students used marijuana during the past 30 days. Current marijuana use remains above the HV2020 Goal of 20%.
- Marijuana use does not differ by sex or race.
- Current marijuana use significantly increases with each grade level.
- LGBT students are significantly likely to use marijuana during the past 30 days compared to heterosexual/cisgender students.

# Marijuana Use Among Current Users: Methods

- Nine out of ten current marijuana users (91%) primarily smoked marijuana in a joint, pipe, or blunt.
- Smoked (91%)
- Ate/drank (5%)
- Vaped (2%)
- Other (2%)

# Marijuana Use Among Current Users: Frequency of Use

- Among students who used marijuana in the past 30 days, a third used it one or two times; two in five used it ten or more times. One in five used marijuana 40 or more times (20%).
- Among Current Users using marijuana ten or more times in a month significantly decreased between 2015 and 2017.
- Among students who used marijuana in the past month:
  - Male students are significantly more likely than females to use marijuana ten or more times in the past month.
  - 12th grade students are significantly more likely than 9th grade students to use marijuana ten or more times in the past month.
  - Students of color are significantly more likely than white, non-Hispanic students to use marijuana.
  - LGBT students are significantly more likely than heterosexual/cisgender students to use marijuana ten or more times in the past month.

# Perceived Risk of Harm

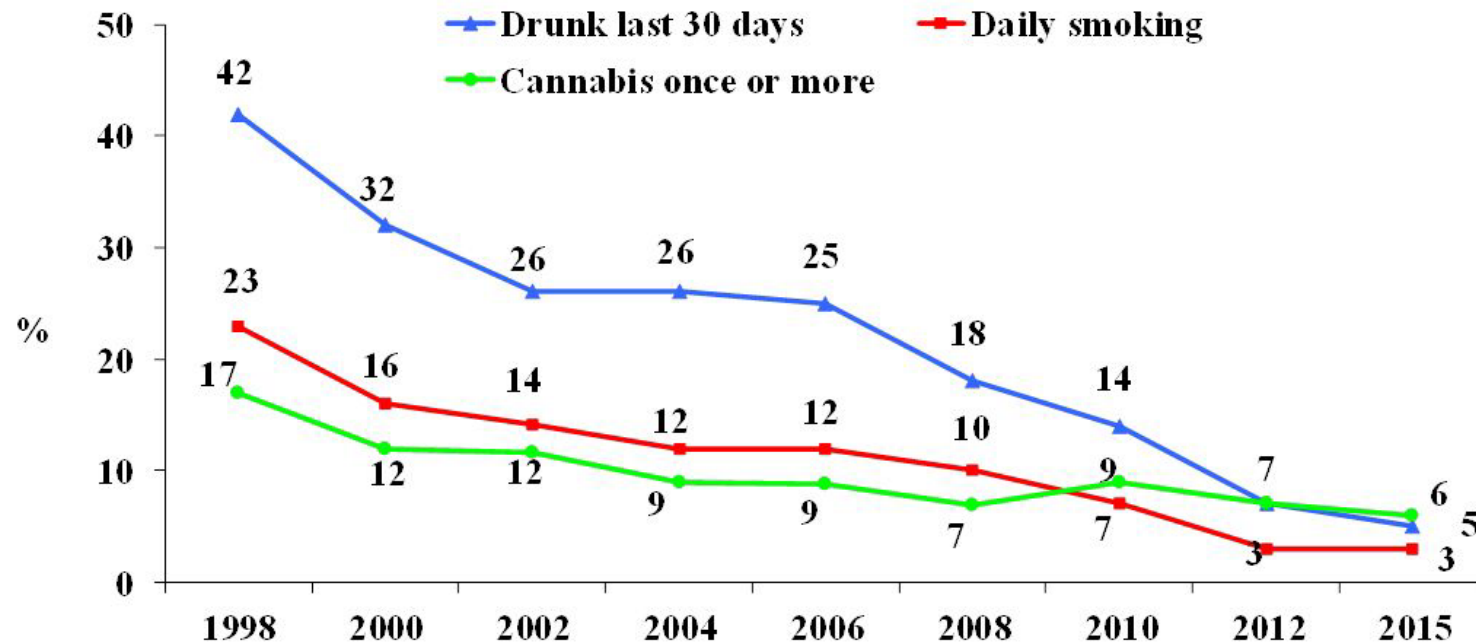
- In 2017 this question was modified to examine students beliefs about how much people, regardless of age, are at risk for harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they regularly smoke a pack or more of cigarettes every day, binge drink or consume five or more drinks in a row every weekend, or use marijuana regularly. Previously, questions about perceived risk of harm were about people their age.
- Overall, very few students believed binge drinking every weekend or smoking a pack of cigarettes every day would not cause great harm to a person.
- However, one in five students believed using marijuana regularly would not cause great harm. This is a slight improvement from 2015.

# Perceived Availability

- Overall, about seven out of ten (68%) believed it would be sort of easy or very easy to access alcohol
- Six out of ten (58%) students believed it would be sort of easy or very easy to access marijuana.
- Just over half (55%) believed it would be sort of easy or very easy to access cigarettes.
- Over the past decade and since 2015 the percent of students who believed it would be easy or very easy to access these substances has significantly decreased (alcohol (73%-2007; 69%-2015), marijuana (60%-2007; 62%-2015) and cigarettes (73%-2007; 61%-2015)).

# The Iceland Model

## Substance use decrease amongst 15-16 year old adolescents





# Subcommittee Work Groups

- School-based programs
- Community-based programs
- Potency and alternate delivery systems/edibles/infusibles
- Messaging
- Policy
- Research and surveillance