

Marijuana Use: Trends and Attitudes



In 2018, Missouri voters approved Amendment 2, which will allow medical marijuana use. According to a 2018 survey of Missouri adults, majority support some form of marijuana use. Approximately 47% support medical use only and 38% support medical and recreational use, while 15% do not support any form of marijuana use. Of those adults who support recreational use, over half supported it only for adults age 21 or older.¹

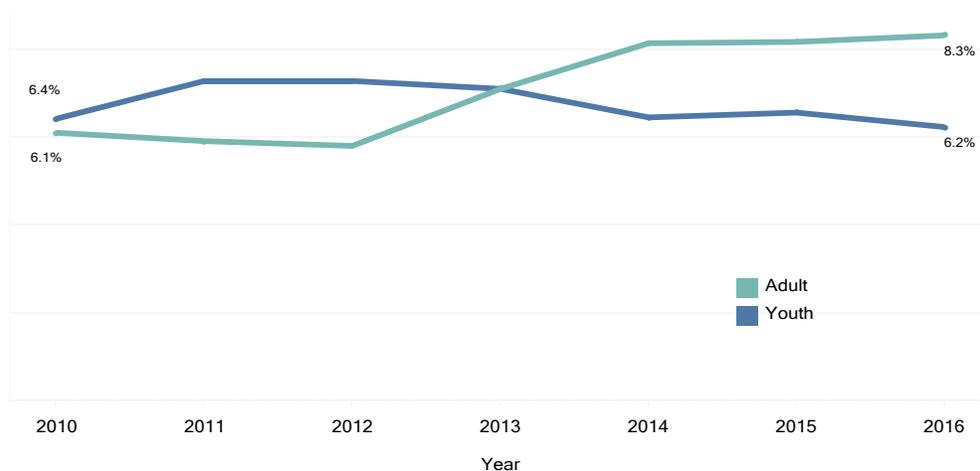
Adult attitudes toward medical marijuana use, 2018

	% of Adults
<i>Using marijuana for medical purposes is OK but those under 21 should be required to have parental permission</i>	55.3%
<i>Using marijuana for medical purposes is OK, regardless of age</i>	24.6%
<i>Using marijuana for medical purposes is OK, for those who are at least age 21</i>	13.2%
<i>Other</i>	6.9%

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In Missouri, youth marijuana use has been gradually decreasing; in contrast, marijuana use in adults has been on the rise.²

Past 30 day marijuana use, 2010-2016



¹ Missouri Department of Mental Health, Adult Survey 2018, Special Run.

² National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2010-2016

³ Missouri Student Survey, 2016-2018

When asked how wrong it is to use marijuana, youth responded that their parents thought it was most wrong, while their friends thought it was the least wrong.³

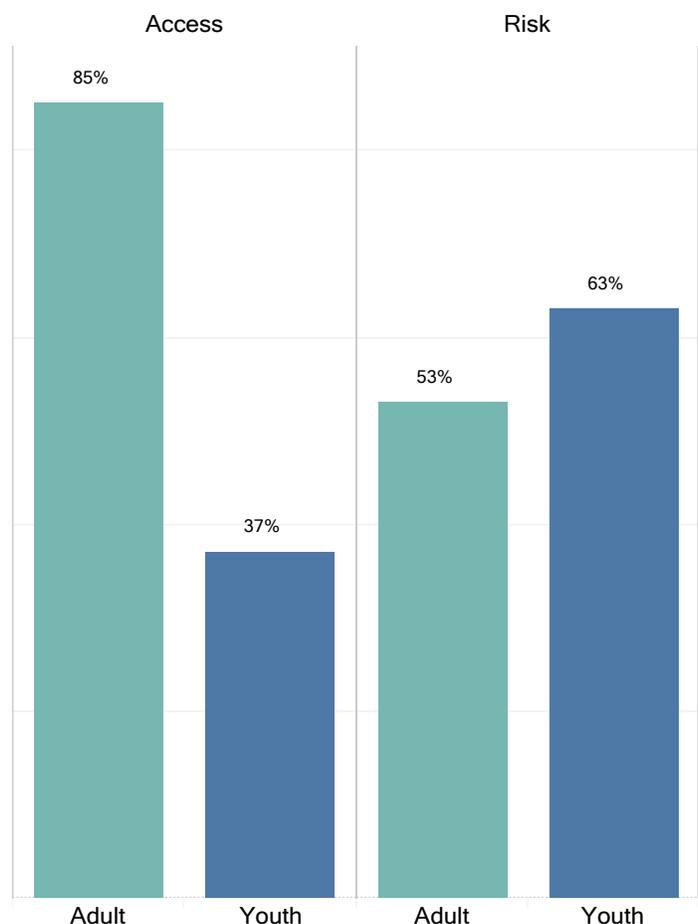
Perceptions of harm of marijuana, 2016-2018



According to the Missouri Student Survey, 35% of Missouri youth have at least one friend who uses marijuana. Compared to 2016, a significantly lower percentage of students said that it is “not cool at all” to smoke marijuana. However, about 26% of youth said their peers would see them as cool if they used marijuana. In addition, in 2018 significantly more students indicated that the police would not catch a young person in their neighborhood if they were smoking marijuana.¹

Youth and adults in Missouri have different perceptions of marijuana risk and ease of access. According to a recent statewide survey, a majority of Missouri adults (85%) thought marijuana was easy to access. About half thought that there is moderate to great risk in smoking marijuana once or twice a week. In comparison, over 60% of youth thought that marijuana use was risky, while 37% thought that marijuana was easy to access.^{1,3}

Perceptions of marijuana risk and access, 2018



¹ Missouri Department of Mental Health, Adult Survey 2018, Special Run.

² National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2010-2016

³ Missouri Student Survey, 2016-2018