

## Medical Marijuana Legalization in Missouri



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There are only 8 states\* in the US that consider marijuana *fully illegal*.<sup>1</sup> In November 2018, voters in Missouri approved Amendment 2. This allows medical marijuana use in the state. Missouri launched the sale of marijuana to its patients in October 2020.

### Possible negative effects of Marijuana Use



Impaired driving under the influence



Increased school dropout and low education achievement



Harmful to lungs and cardiovascular system



Increased accidents and injuries at workplace

Impaired teen brain development. Difficulty thinking, learning, problem solving, and maintaining attention.



Anxiety, fear, distrust, and panic.

Irrespective of age, gender, and socioeconomic status, a person can get addicted to marijuana



The past thirty-day marijuana use in Missouri has decreased among youth aged 12-17 years. But it has been increasing among adults older than 18 years (Figure 1).<sup>5</sup>

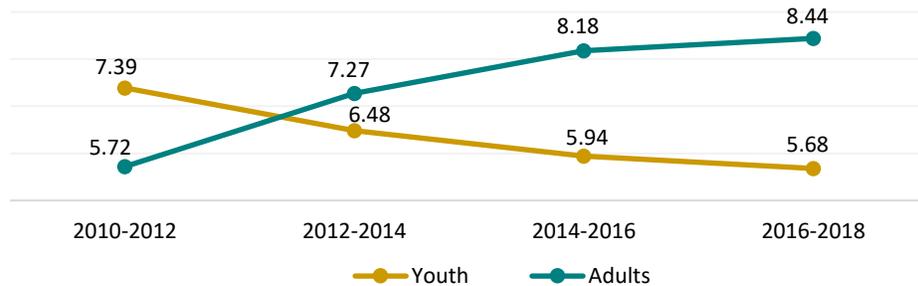


Figure 1: Past month marijuana use in Missouri

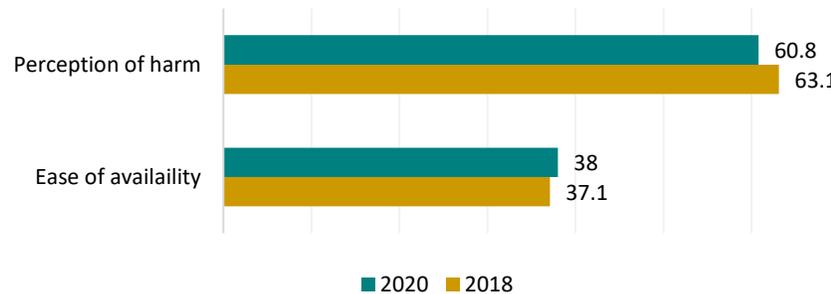
Behavioral Health



Epidemiology Workgroup

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Compared to 2018, a greater percentage of youth in 2020 believed that marijuana was easily available. Further, a lesser percentage of youth in 2020 thought that it was risky to use marijuana when compared to 2018 (Figure 2).<sup>6</sup>



**Figure 2: Perception of harm and ease of availability of marijuana among youth of Missouri**

Marijuana is a commonly used illicit drug among adults and youth. It has adverse consequences on health and social life. States with medical marijuana laws have seen unlawful activities around the dispensaries and increased driving under influence offenses, etc.<sup>4</sup> Marijuana distributors have been found operating in school zones and increased sales to minors is observed.<sup>4</sup> Therefore, it is important to spread awareness about the health impacts of the drug use and misuse. It is also important to closely monitor lawful access of the drug to youth.

1. DISA Global Solutions: <https://disa.com/map-of-marijuana-legality-by-state>
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/marijuana/factsheets/teens.htm>, <https://www.cdc.gov/marijuana/health-effects.html>
3. National Institute on Drug Abuse: What are marijuana's effects? <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/marijuana/what-are-marijuana-effects>
4. Evans, D. G. (2019). Marijuana Legalization Will Cause Many Problems for Missouri Law Enforcement and Schools. *Missouri medicine*, 116(3), 164.
5. National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2010-18
6. Missouri Student Survey 2018, 2020