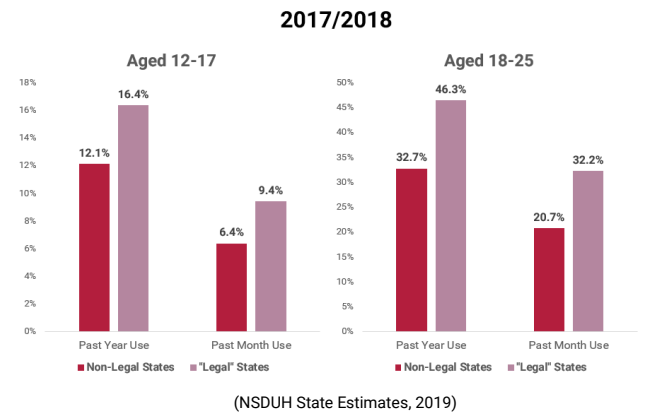


### Young people use more potent marijuana, more often.

- Near daily marijuana use among 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders increased 26.3% from 2018 to 2019 (Monitoring the Future, 2019).
- Studies show youth vaping of any kind increases the risk of future marijuana vaping, presenting another risk amid a youth vaping epidemic (Kowitz et al., 2019).
- Young people report vaping marijuana in increasingly large numbers since such data was first recorded in 2017 (Monitoring the Future, 2019).
- Marijuana vaping delivers more potent forms of marijuana through vaporized concentrates, which can contain as much as 99% THC.

### Marijuana use among young people in "legal" states is alarmingly high.

- Past year and past month marijuana use among 12 to 17 year-olds in "legal" states increased around 3.5%, each from 2016-2017 to 2017-2018 (NSDUH State Comparisons, 2019).
- Past year and past month marijuana use among 18 to 25 year-olds increased nearly 4.4% each from 2016-2017 to 2017-2018 (NSDUH State Comparisons, 2019).
- While 23.8% of 12 to 17 year-olds in non-legal states perceive a risk from smoking marijuana once a month, only 17.4% in "legal" states perceive such a risk (NSDUH State Comparisons, 2019).
- One study found cases of Cannabis Use Disorder (CUD) in young people in "legal" states grew 25% following legalization (Cerda et al., 2019).



Recent data show nearly **9.2 million** young people aged 12 to 25 used marijuana in the past month (2018). Past month marijuana use is indicative of frequent use.

(NSDUH, 2019)

### Marijuana use is harmful to developing brains and youth use increases the risk of negative outcomes.

- One study discovered changes in grey matter volume in young marijuana users, indicating marijuana use may impact the way the adolescent brain develops (Orr et al., 2019).
- Adolescent marijuana use is associated with an increased risk for depression and suicidality (Silins et al., 2014; Gobbi et al., 2019). Marijuana use is linked to the development of psychosis (DiForti et al., 2019).
- Chronic marijuana use is associated with cognitive impairment and worsened academic performance (Meier, et al., 2012; Silins et al., 2014; Finn, 2015; Meier et al., 2015; Arria et al., 2015; Schuster, et al., 2018).

### In "legal" states, marijuana companies target youth.

- Even though the sale of marijuana to people under the age of 21 is prohibited, marijuana companies still reach youth in "legal" states. 61% of high schoolers in Washington state believe that marijuana is easy to obtain (Washington state Healthy Youth Survey, 2018).
- Companies profit from products that resemble candy or cola, and come in flavors that appeal to young people.
- Marijuana social media marketing increased in "legal" states (Whitehill et al., 2019). One study found young people who are exposed to marijuana marketing on social media are five times more likely to use marijuana (Trangenstein et al., 2019).
- Offenses related to minors, such as sale to a minor, comprise more than one in six of all documented violations committed by "legal" marijuana companies in the state of Washington (Washington Liquor and Cannabis Board, 2019).

