

# Youth Marijuana Use

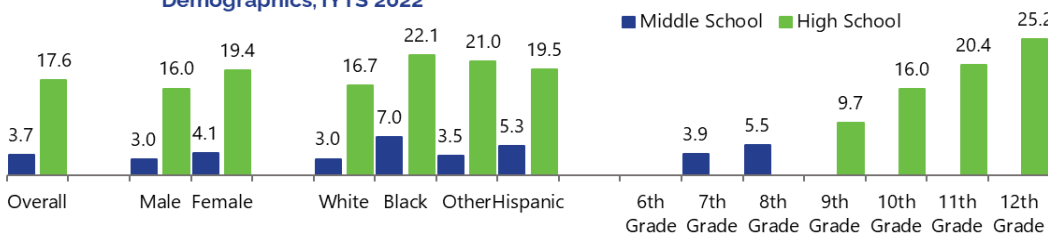


Tobacco Prevention and Cessation

August 2023

The 2022 Indiana Youth Tobacco Survey (IYTS) captured marijuana use among middle and high school youth. While marijuana use is illegal in Indiana, neighboring states have legalized the use of marijuana for medicinal or non-medicinal purposes. The 2022 IYTS found that nearly 4% of middle school students and over 17% of high school students reported ever trying or ever using marijuana. More female students reported trying marijuana, and the proportion of youth who tried marijuana increased with grade level. There were not any significant differences in rates of use by race.

Ever Use of Marijuana Among Indiana Middle and High School Youth, By Demographics, IYTS 2022



## Current Use of Marijuana

Current use of marijuana (past 30 days) was also assessed, with nearly 2% of middle school students and 10% of high school students reporting current use. Current use of marijuana was similar across middle and high school students regardless of race. Similar to the trends found among Indiana youth reporting ever trying marijuana, current use of marijuana increased with grade level with students in 12th grade reporting marijuana use at a rate of nearly three times that of those in 9th grade (14% versus 5%). Students also answered questions on how often they used marijuana. Among high school students who reported current marijuana use, nearly half (49%) of them reported frequent use (on 20 of the past 30 days).

**1.6%** of Middle School Students Reported Current Use of Marijuana

**10.1%** of High School Students Reported Current Use of Marijuana

## Delta THC Product Use

While marijuana use is not legal in Indiana, other THC products known as Delta-8, -9 and -10 are legal and readily available at vape shops and other retailers. These products, like tobacco products, are only available for legal purchase to those age 21 and older. The 2022 IYTS found that nearly 2% of middle school students and more than 10% of high school students reported having tried Delta THC products, similar to the rates reported for trying marijuana. Additionally, more female students reported trying Delta THC products, and use increased with grade level. Students in 12th grade were significantly more likely to report trying Delta THC products compared to those in 9th grade (14.7% versus 5.2%).

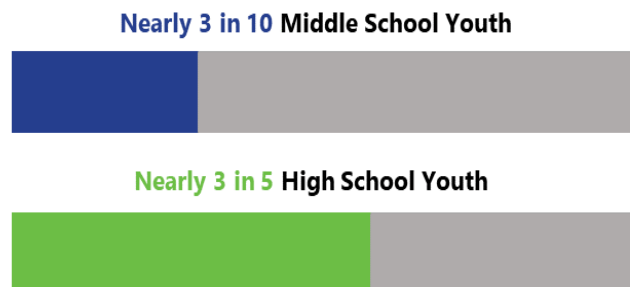
## Fast Facts

- Nearly **4%** of middle school youth have tried marijuana.
- More than **17%** of high school youth have tried marijuana
- More than **10%** of high school youth reported current use of delta THC products
- Nearly **5%** of middle school and **17%** of high school youth reported ever vaping substances other than nicotine including:
  - Marijuana
  - Delta products
  - CBD or CBD Oil
  - Synthetic Marijuana
  - Another substance

## Dual Use of Marijuana and Tobacco

The 2022 IYTS found that dual use of tobacco and marijuana (any method of use) was common. Nearly 30% of middle school students and nearly 60% of high school students who use e-cigarettes also reported current marijuana use. Not only was marijuana (any method of use) common among those using tobacco products, but those using marijuana were more likely to report using multiple tobacco products. Nearly 1 in 4 (24.7%) high school students and 3 in 10 (30.2%) middle school students who currently used marijuana, reported using two or more tobacco products (poly-tobacco use).

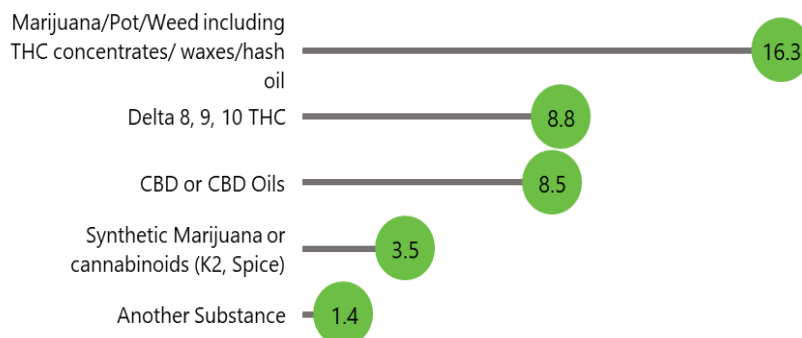
Marijuana Use Among High School and Middle School Youth Who Use E-cigarettes, IYTS 2022



## Vaping Other Substances

In 2022, questions were added to assess what substances youth have tried vaping substances other than nicotine. Students were asked whether they vaped marijuana, CBD products, synthetic marijuana, Delta -8, -9, -10 products or another substance not listed. Overall, nearly 1 in 5 high school students and 1 in 20 middle school students reported having ever vaped at least one of these substances. Among high school students, most reported ever vaping marijuana including THC, hash oil or waxes. Delta THC products and CBD or CBD oils were less common but still more than 8% of high school students reported having ever vaped these products. About 3.5% of high school students reported ever vaping synthetic marijuana or K2/Spice. About 1% of high school students indicated having tried vaping another substance not listed.

Proportion of High School Students Who Have Ever Vaped Marijuana, Other THC Products, or Another Substance, IYTS 2022



## Trying Marijuana Soon

While not all youth have tried vaping marijuana or other substances, there are some youth that may try marijuana in the future. Students who have never tried marijuana were asked whether they will try marijuana soon. Approximately 1 in 20 high school youth and 1 in 50 middle school youth indicated they will definitely or probably try marijuana soon.

**Note about 2022 Data:** The IYTS survey shifted from a paper and pencil format to an online survey (REDCAP) in 2020. However, even with an electronic survey, the COVID-19 pandemic still created unfavorable circumstances for data collection and representative data were not collected. In 2022, the electronic format was used again. Because of this change in survey format, the ability to compare data from 2022 to previous years (2018 and prior) is limited; differences between estimates might result from changes in methodology (data collection), actual behavior, or both.

For additional information on the Indiana Youth Tobacco Survey or commercial tobacco control in Indiana:  
[in.gov/health/tpc](http://in.gov/health/tpc).



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