

# What Youth Are Saying About **MARIJUANA**

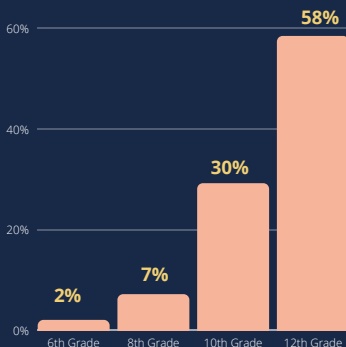
PAYS 2021 Data

## What is PAYS?

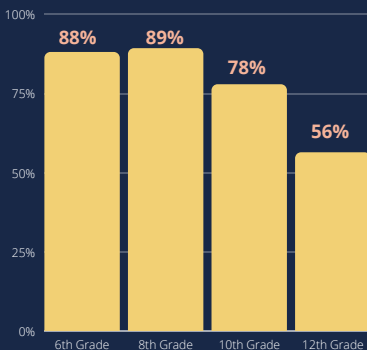
The Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) is a student survey administered in odd-numbered years (e.g. 2017, 2019, 2021) to youth in 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades in participating schools throughout the state. The questions asked in the survey cover many types of attitudes, knowledge, behaviors, and experiences.

## DASD Youth Reported They:

Thought that it is  
“not at all wrong/  
a little bit wrong”  
for someone their  
age to use  
marijuana.



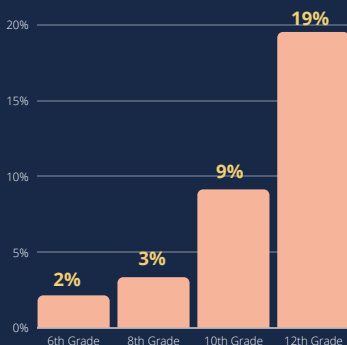
Thought that  
people are at  
moderate or great  
risk of harming  
themselves if they  
use marijuana  
regularly.



**The overall perception of risk and harm from marijuana use decreases as students get older. Students feel adults do not think it is wrong to use increasingly as they age, with about 1 in 5 students in grade 12 reporting this opinion.**

# DASD Youth Reported They:

Thought that most adults (over 21) in their neighborhood would think it was “not at all wrong/ a little bit wrong” for kids their age to use marijuana.



## Some Good News:

**Student use of marijuana in the past 30 days (District average) has decreased steadily since 2017.**

## The Link Between Mental Health and Marijuana Use



Of students that reported moderate depressive symptoms, 8.8% had used marijuana in last 30 days. Of students that reported high depressive symptoms, 25% had used marijuana at least once in their lifetime, and 15.3% had used marijuana in the last month.

We know youth may use substances to self-medicate, cope with stress, and that some drugs can exacerbate existing mental health diagnoses.

Learn more about marijuana and mental health on our website ([www.dtownnctc.org](http://www.dtownnctc.org) - scan QR below) & follow us on social media:



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