

Perceptions of Risk and Approval



Perceptions of Substance Risk

- 68.6% of 12th graders reported moderate or great risk to **binge drink**.
- 53.5% of high school seniors reported that there was a moderate or great risk from **regular marijuana use**.
- The perceived risk of **trying marijuana once or twice** drops dramatically from 6th grade, 60.0% (down from 62.1% in 2017) to 8th grade, 52.5% (down from 53.1% in 2017) to 10th grade, 34.2%, to 12th grade 24.6% (down from 25.1%).
- A lower percentage of 6th graders reported risk from **prescription drugs** (76.7%) than 12th graders (84.7%).

Perceptions of Parent Disapproval

- 91.2% of 12th graders reported their parents would feel it was wrong or very wrong to **smoke cigarettes**, up from 86.2% in 2015.
- 89.1% of students reported that their parents would think it was wrong or very wrong for them to **smoke marijuana**. This is lower than the rates for tobacco (94.5%), alcohol (89.0%), and prescription drugs (94.0%).

Perceptions of Friend Disapproval of Marijuana Use

- 91.0% of 6th graders and 81.4% of 8th graders reported that their friends would disapprove of smoking marijuana.
- 59.3% of 10th graders and 44.3% of 12th graders reported that their friends would think it was wrong or very wrong to use marijuana. This compares to alcohol at 67.8% and 61.6% respectively.

Perceptions of Peers

- 61.6% of seniors said that it would be wrong for someone their age to **drink nearly every day**. This is up from 57.9% and 60.1% in 2017.
- Overall, 88.9% of students reported it would be wrong for someone their age to **smoke one or more packs of cigarettes a day**. This figure continues to climb in all grades.
- In 2019, only 42.5% of seniors and 56.5% of 10th graders reported that it would be wrong or very wrong for someone their age to **use marijuana**. For 6th graders this figure was 90.2% and for 8th graders it was 80.4%.