

# Marijuana at a Glance, South Carolina

This fact sheet provides a snapshot of **marijuana use**. This information can help local public health and community workers identify gaps and implement relevant strategies to address problems related to marijuana use.

## How Does Marijuana Work?

- When marijuana is smoked, the mind-altering chemical tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) passes from the lungs to the bloodstream.
- Blood then carries the chemical to the brain and other organs throughout the body.

Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

## How Is Marijuana Used?

- Marijuana is often smoked in hand-rolled cigarettes (joints), pipes, or water pipes (bongs). People also smoke it in blunts, which are partly or completely emptied cigars filled with marijuana.
- Users can also mix marijuana in food or brew it as a tea. Foods take longer to digest, so people may consume more to feel the effects faster leading to dangerous results.

Source: NIDA

## Marijuana Use Among Youth

- In 2017, **18.6%** of youth used marijuana one or more times in the **past 30 days** compared to 19.8% nationally.
- In 2017, **35.5%** of youth used marijuana **at least once in their lifetime** compared to 35.6% nationally.
- Roughly **7 in 10 (72.4%)** of youth age 12 - 17 in 2016 - 2017 **perceived no great risk** from smoking marijuana once a month.

Source: 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)  
National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)

## Know the Facts

- Research suggests that **30% of users** might develop some form of problem use which can lead to dependence and use disorder.
- People who begin using marijuana **before age 18 are 4 to 7 times more** likely than adults to develop problem use.

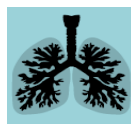
Source: NIDA

## Marijuana is unsafe if you are behind the wheel



- Marijuana is the most common illegal drug involved in auto fatalities.
- Marijuana is found in the blood of approximately 14% of drivers who die in car crashes, often in combination with alcohol or other drugs.

Source: NIDA



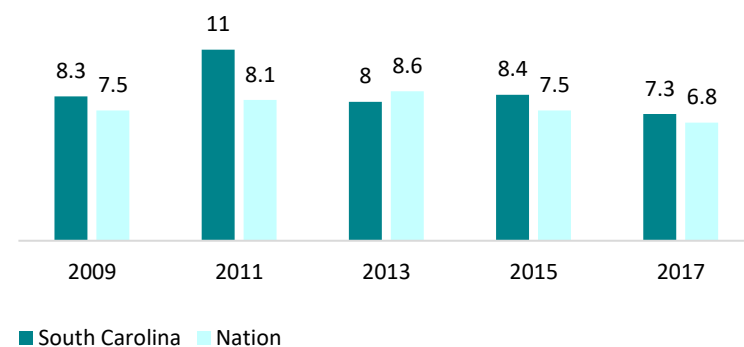
## Physical and Mental Effects



- Physical effects include breathing problems, increased heart rate, and problems with child development during and after pregnancy.
- Long-term effects have been linked to mental illness such as temporary hallucinations and paranoia.

Source: NIDA

Tried Marijuana First Time Before Age 13 (%)



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)