

MARIJUANA: DRUG ABUSE AMONG YOUTH

ISSUE

The effects of marijuana use include: ⁽¹⁻²⁾

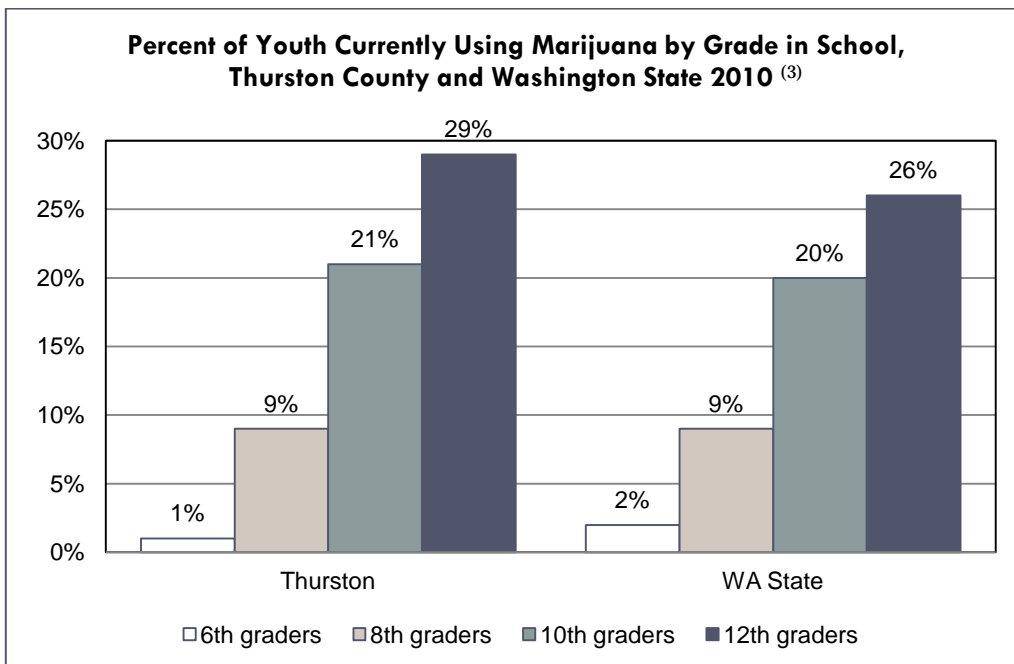
- Becoming addicted to the drug which seriously interferes with everyday living (chemically dependent).
- Impaired motor coordination and slowed reaction time, which negatively impacts driving.
- Impaired short-term memory, which makes it hard to learn.
- Lower levels of educational attainment.

The most commonly abused illegal drug by adolescents is marijuana. ⁽²⁻³⁾

FINDINGS

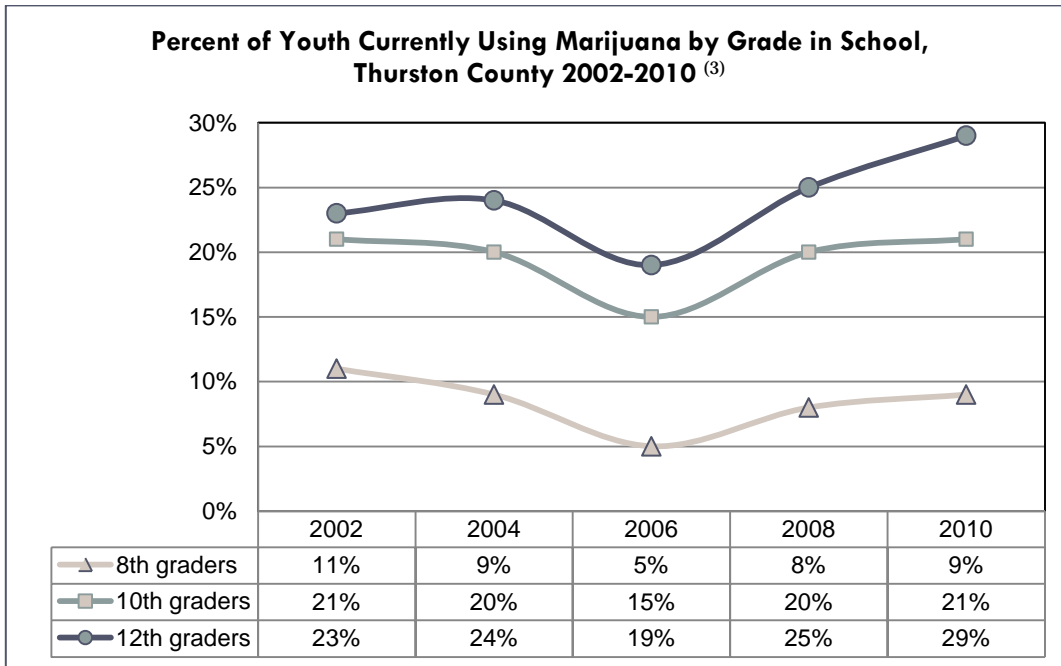
Marijuana use increases substantially between middle school and the end of high school. Thurston County youth have similar rates of marijuana use when compared to Washington State youth.

- In 2010 an estimated: ⁽³⁾
 - 1 in 10 (9%) of Thurston County 8th graders currently use marijuana.
 - 2 in 10 (21%) of Thurston County 10th graders currently use marijuana.
 - 3 in 10 (29%) of Thurston County 12th graders currently use marijuana.

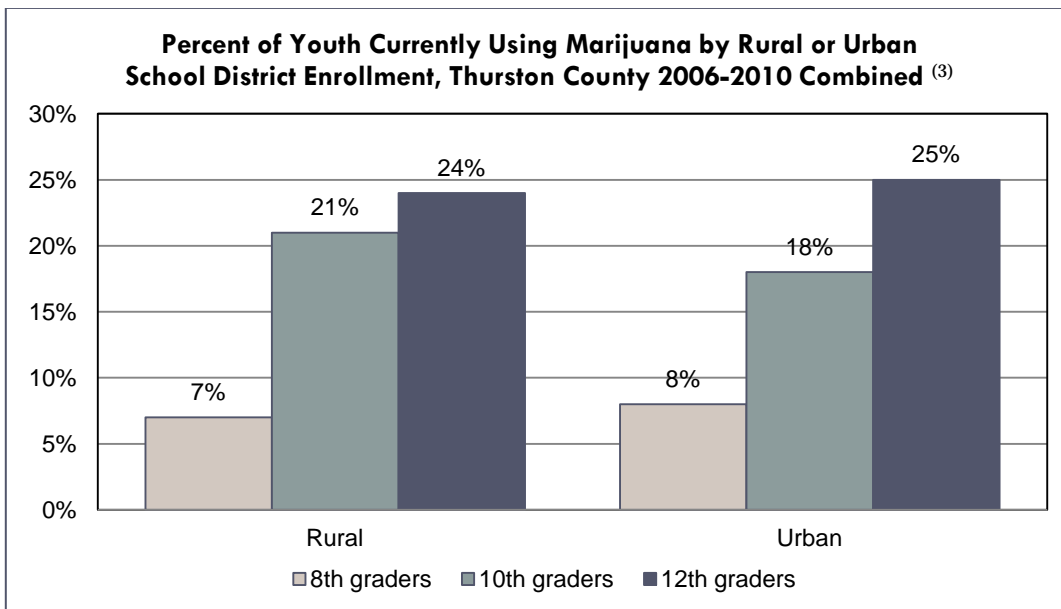


DETAILED DATA

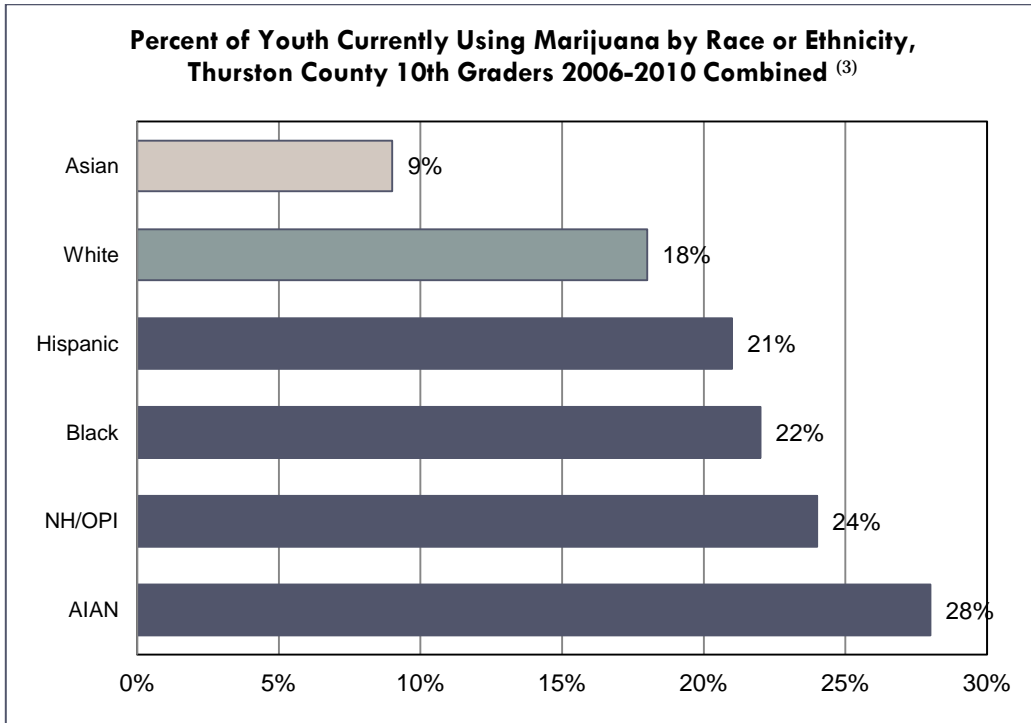
- During the past decade marijuana use among Thurston County youth declined, but began to increase in recent years.



- Marijuana use is similar in rural and urban Thurston County school districts.

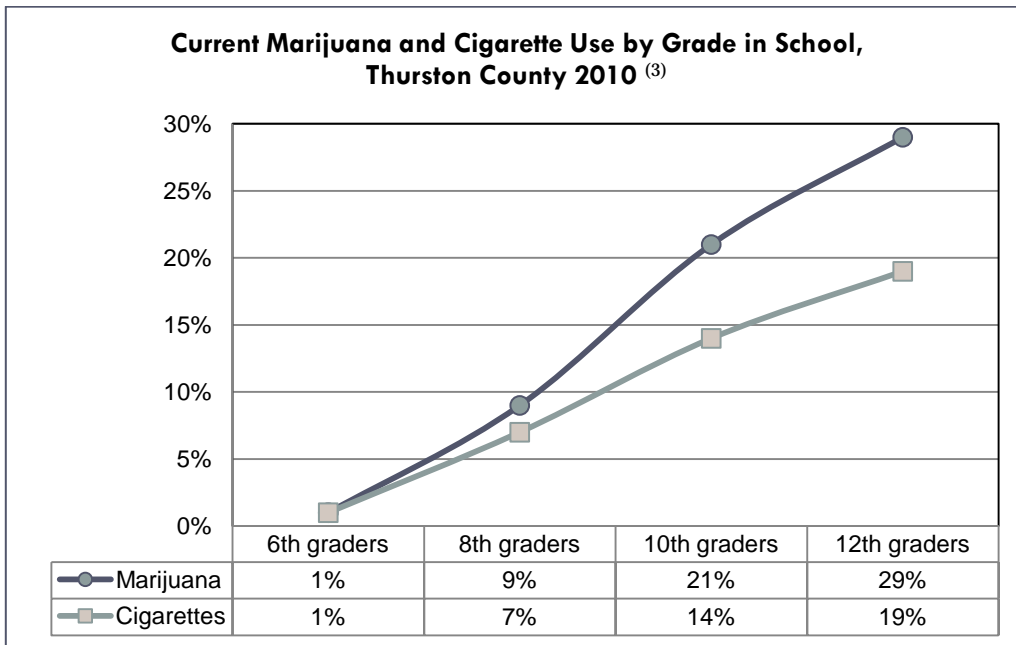


- Marijuana use among Thurston County 10th graders varies by race and ethnicity.



NH/OPI = Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
AIAN = American Indian and Alaska Native

- Thurston County middle and high school youth use marijuana at higher rates than cigarettes.



CITATIONS

- (1) **Drugs, Brains, and Behaviors: The Science of Addiction.** 2010. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse. www.drugabuse.gov/publications/science-addiction
- (2) **Topics in Brief: Marijuana.** 2011. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse. www.drugabuse.gov/publications/topics-in-brief/marijuana
- (3) **Healthy Youth Survey (HYS) Data.** 2002-2010. Washington State Department of Health. Prepared by Thurston County Public Health & Social Services Department.

NOTES

- Current marijuana use = any use in the past 30 days. Healthy Youth Survey question “During the past 30 days, on how many days did you: Use marijuana or hashish (grass, hash, pot)?”
- Current cigarette use = any use in the past 30 days. Health Youth Survey question “During the past 30 days, on how many days did you: Smoke cigarettes?”
- 6th graders are usually age 11-12, 8th graders age 13-14, 10th graders age 15-16 and 12th graders age 17-18.
- Rural school district = Griffin, Rainier, Rochester, Tenino and Yelm. Urban school district = North Thurston, Olympia and Tumwater.

MORE INFORMATION

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