

It PAYS to ASK...
It PAYS to KNOW



LOWER DAUPHIN
Communities That Care

Marijuana Use in Adolescents Has Adverse Effects on Mental Health¹

Marijuana Use
Especially Frequent Use and in High Doses

Thoughts of **Anxiety**
and **Paranoia**²

Feelings of **Depression**
and **Social Anxiety**²

37%
of LD students
reported feeling sad or
depressed most days
in the past year.³



Depressive symptoms are a risk factor that put young people at a risk to later become involved in drug use.³



Marijuana Use & Depression

Only 2.5% of LD students surveyed who indicated **NO** depressive symptoms reported marijuana use in the past 30 days vs. 18% of LD students who indicated **HIGH** depressive symptoms.³

2.5%
No

18%
High

Youth Marijuana Use

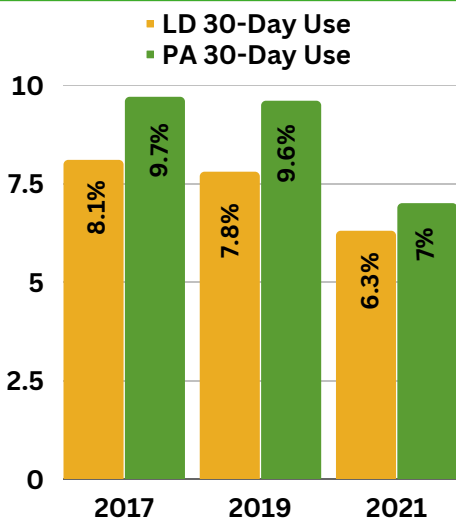
A common misperception among teens is that marijuana is safer than alcohol and other drugs.¹

- This leads to a masking of the negative health effects specifically associated with adolescent use including memory loss, increased aggression, and increased use of other substances, etc. A recent study found that marijuana use has a more negative impact on a teenager's cognitive development than alcohol.¹
- The most common ways teens use marijuana are:
 - Smoking liquid or wax marijuana in an electronic cigarette or vape
 - Edibles, which are candies, baked goods, chocolates, beverages, etc. that are infused with marijuana.²

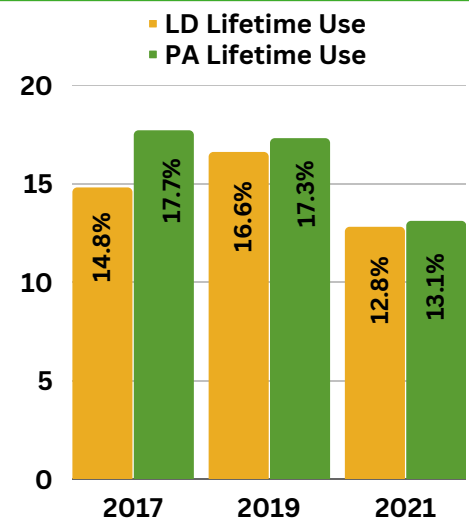


1: drugfree.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Marijuana_Talk_Kit.pdf

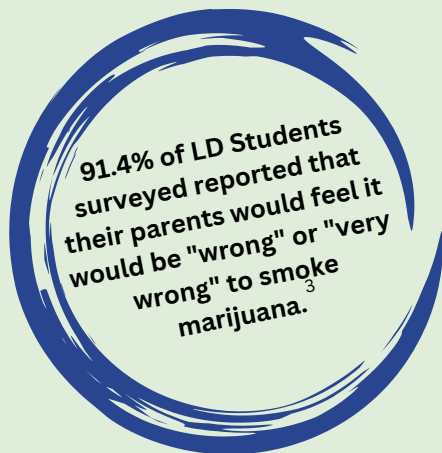
2: www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Facts_for_Families/FFF-Guide/Marijuana-and-Teens-106.aspx



Students who used marijuana in a 30-day period dropped from 8.1% in 2017 to 6.3% in 2021 and continue to be below state average.³



Students who have ever tried or used marijuana dropped from 14.8% in 2017 to 12.8% in 2021 and continue to be below state average.³



The **PA Youth Survey (PAYS)** is an anonymous student survey administered biannually to youth in grades 6, 8, 10 & 12 to learn about their behavior, attitudes, and knowledge concerning alcohol; tobacco and other drugs; school climate and safety; depression; and violence. The last survey was administered in October 2021. For more info, visit www.ldctc.org.

3: 2021 LD PAYS

Start Taking Action.
Start a conversation with your child.

Scan this code to access our marijuana information toolkit.

Learn More.
PAStart.org

 Commonwealth Prevention Alliance

