

## **NIH School Survey: More students in medical marijuana states have used edible marijuana versus non-medical marijuana states; Marijuana use still significantly higher than in 2008 & 2012**

*The top four teen drugs show year-to-year reductions in use - except marijuana*

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[WASHINGTON, DC] - The nation's annual school survey of drug use, *Monitoring the Future* (MTF), shows marijuana use stubbornly high and significantly higher than in 2008 and 2012. It also shows, for the first time, that significantly more youth living in a medical marijuana state versus a non-medical marijuana state had used a marijuana edible in the last year (40% versus 26%). While yearly reductions were found for prescription drug abuse, alcohol, and tobacco versus 2013, marijuana use was stable versus 2013. It also found that in 2014 fewer high school seniors think occasional marijuana use is risky versus 2013 (16.4% versus 19.5%). Forty years of research has found that lower risk perception often predicts increases in use.

"We're seeing reductions across the board among the four substances youth use most - except for marijuana," remarked Kevin A. Sabet, a former White House drug policy advisor who serves now as President of Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM). "Marijuana use among high school students is significantly higher this year than in 2008 and 2012, when two states legalized marijuana. Not surprisingly, almost twice as many students in medical marijuana states said they used a marijuana edible last year versus students in non-medical marijuana states."

According to statements from the [American Medical Association, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, American Society of Addiction Medicine, and the American Psychiatric Association](#), marijuana use, especially among youth, should be avoided, and legalization efforts opposed.

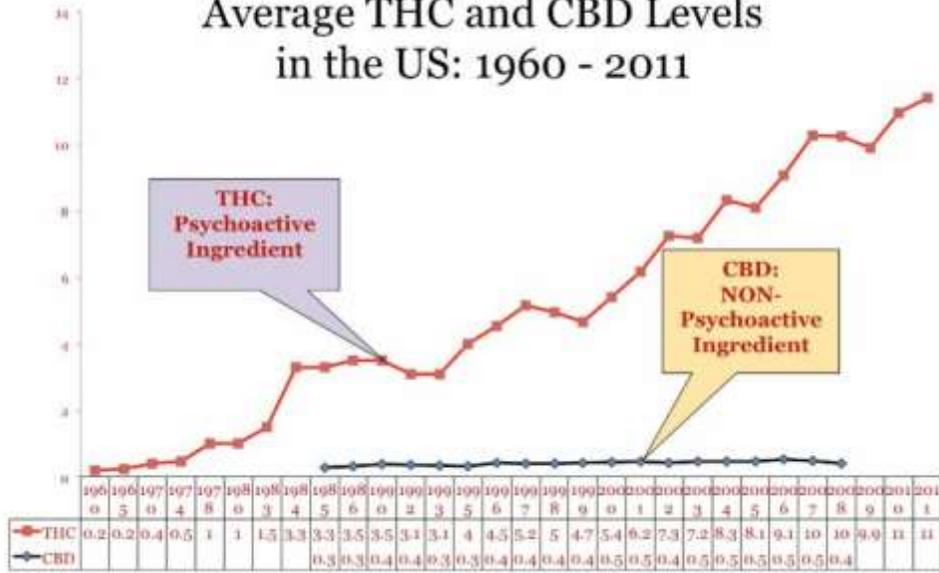
Colorado public radio reported yesterday that arrests for pot-related incidents spiked nearly 40 percent at Denver Public Schools following the opening of recreational marijuana stores in January.

It is also important to remember what this year's National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) showed. That survey is a representative sample of all Americans living in households. It found that among 16 to 25 year olds marijuana use is going up. NSDUH also found that daily marijuana use is going up among both kids and adults. And it found that among all people in the US, people who started using marijuana for the first time went up. Finally, NSDUH found that heavy marijuana use among all Americans continued to be on the rise (see below).

All of this is worrying, especially, because of the rise of THC content in marijuana (see below).

For more information about marijuana use and its effects, see [learnaboutsam.org](http://learnaboutsam.org).

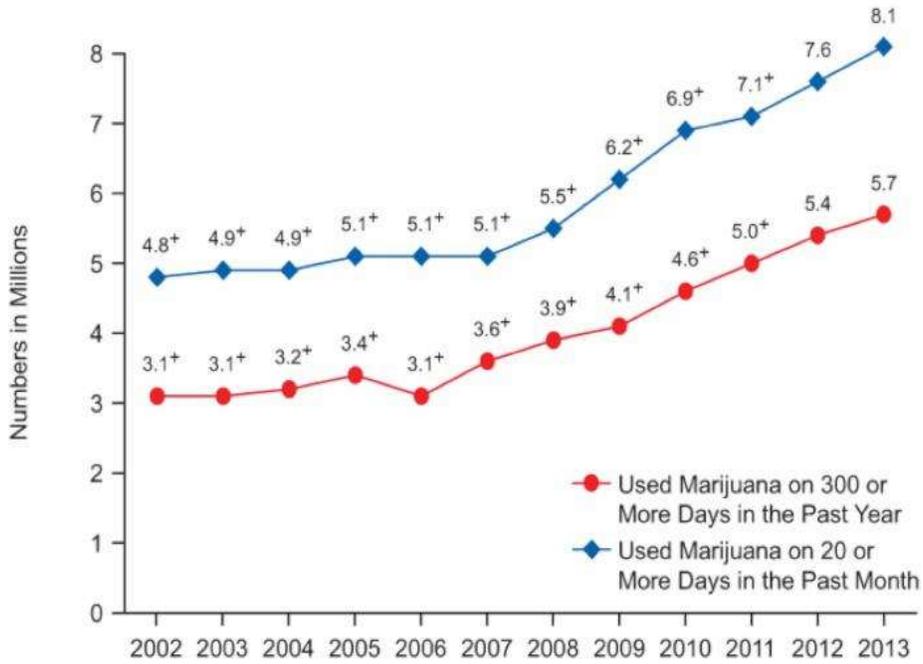
## Average THC and CBD Levels in the US: 1960 - 2011



Mehmedic et al., 2010

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1



Source: NSDUH, 2013