



REGULATING CANNABIS AND PROTECTING YOUTH

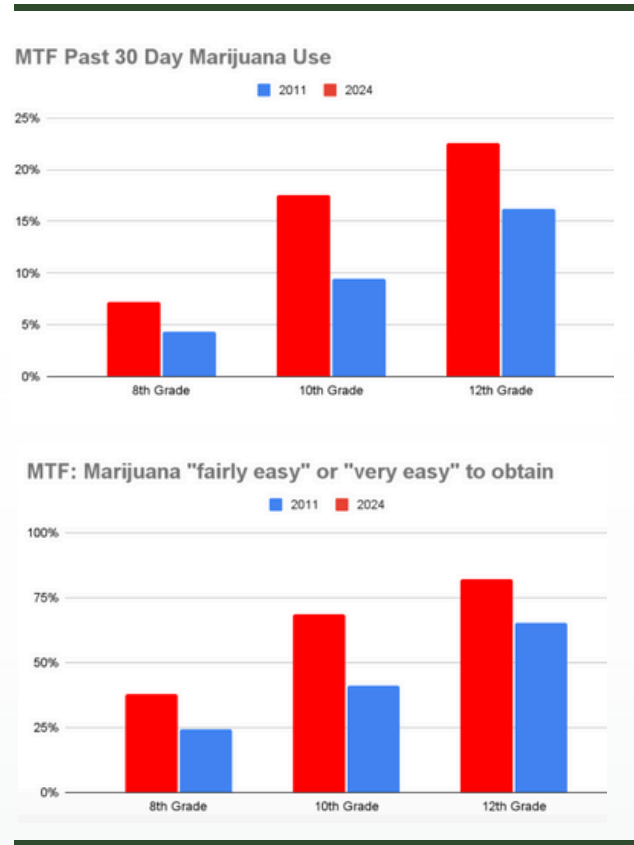


“[L]egalization by some states of marijuana has not been associated with an increase in adolescents' marijuana use.”

—National Institute on Drug Abuse Director Nora Volkow, at a 2022 U.S. Senate committee hearing

Teen marijuana use has decreased as states legalized and regulated cannabis for adults.

In 19 of the 21 states with before-and-after data, government surveys reported a decrease in high schoolers' marijuana use rates post-legalization.¹ Nationwide, CDC surveys show significant drops in high schoolers' marijuana use between 2011 and 2023, while half of the country regulated cannabis for adults 21 and older.² The University of Michigan's Monitoring the Future (MTF) survey shows significant drops in youths' current marijuana use and their access to it since legalization began.³



Regulated retailers check IDs, dealers don't.

On the illegal market, no one is checking IDs before selling marijuana. Post-legalization government stings have shown overwhelming compliance with age-gating.⁴

Legalization allows regulation and control.

Illicit cannabis can be contaminated with dangerous pesticides, heavy metals, and molds. Sometimes it is laced with more dangerous drugs. Regulated cannabis products are tested, labeled — including with warnings — and subject to child-proof packaging rules.

New revenue from cannabis taxes can improve young people's wellbeing.

HB 1246 will use cannabis tax revenue to fund a new Social Equity Grant Program and a Public Health and Education Grant Program. Community organizations will access these grants to institute child care programs, after-school and summer programs, and programs that build youth resiliency, youth recreational centers, services for housing, counseling, and preventing or treating youth substance abuse.

Cannabis prohibition derails lives and makes regulatory control impossible.

Sensible regulations and investing in youth development is the better approach.

1. Data and cites at: MPP, [“Adult-Use Cannabis Legalization Corresponds with Drops in Teen Use,”](#) 2025

2. [“High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data,”](#) CDC, 1991-2023

3 [National Survey Results on Drug Use](#), 1975–2024, Monitoring the Future.

4. Berg, et al, [“Cannabis retailer marketing strategies and regulatory compliance,”](#) Addictive Behaviors, 2023