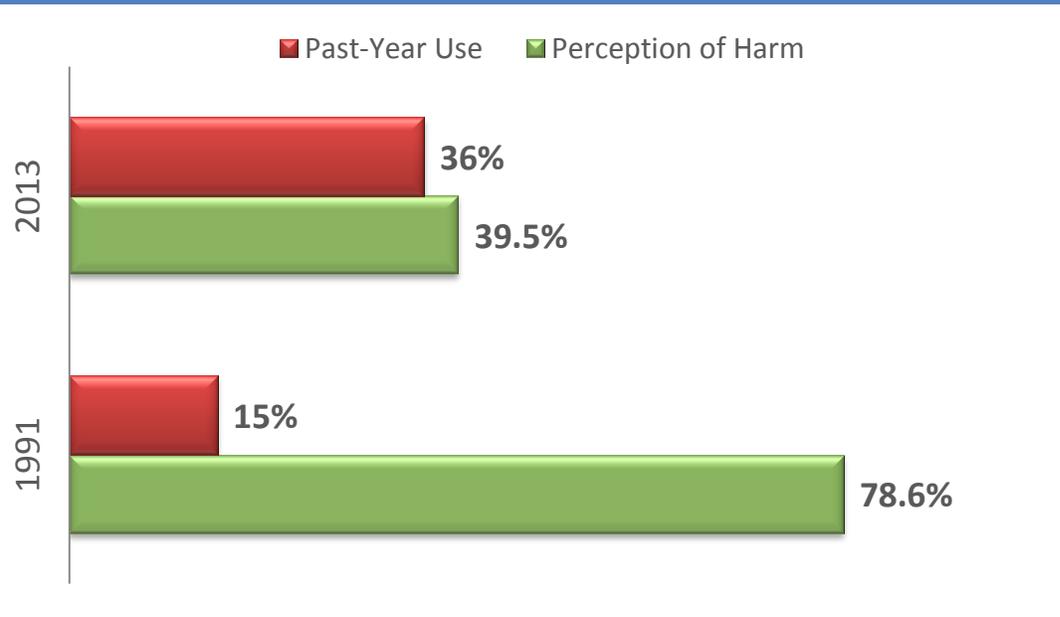
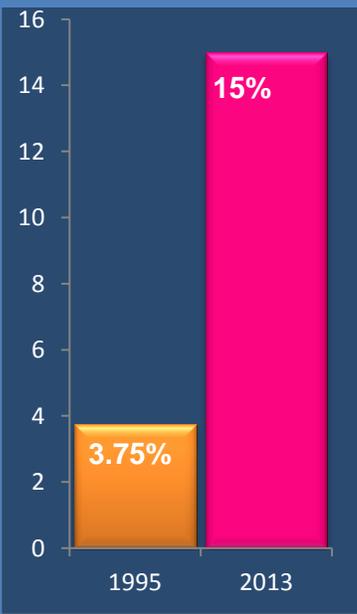


Marijuana Use Doubles , Perception of Harm Halves Since Drive to Legalize Medical Marijuana Began



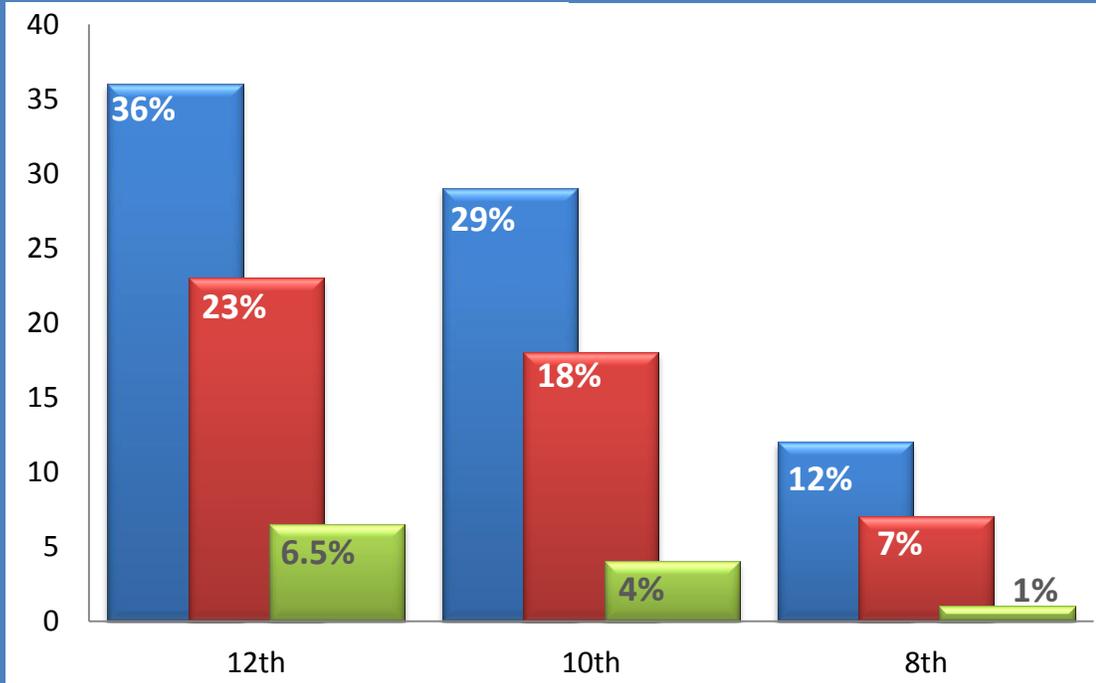
The 2013 Monitoring the Future Survey shows high school seniors' past-year marijuana use has more than doubled, while their perception that regular use is harmful has been cut in half since political campaigns to legalize the drug as medicine began in the early 1990s. Some 21 states and the District of Columbia have actually legalized medical pot since 1996.

More than one-third of 12th graders in medical marijuana states got their pot from someone else's medical marijuana recommendation.



The five-fold increase in marijuana THC levels means, "daily use today can have stronger effects on a developing teen brain than it did 10 or 20 years ago," says NIDA director Dr. Nora Volkow.

The chart to the right shows the percent of 12th, 10th, and 8th graders in 2013 who used marijuana in the past year (blue), the past month (red), and daily (green).



"Children whose experimentation leads to regular use are setting themselves up for declines in IQ and diminished ability for success in life," concludes Dr. Volkow.