

TEENAGE MARIJUANA USE in Fairfax County

Self-reported by 8th, 10th and 12th grade students on the Fairfax County Youth Survey. Data from the Sixth Grade Youth Survey is reported separately and not included in totals.

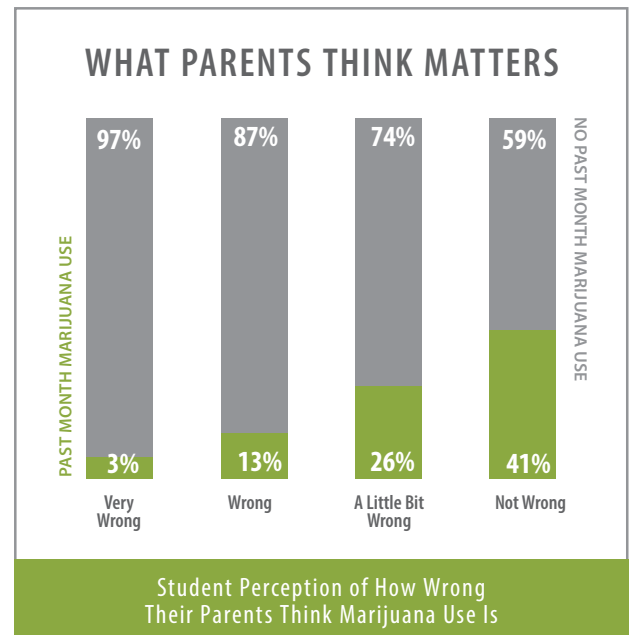
89% of students report never using marijuana in their lifetime.

95% of students report not using marijuana in the past month.

>99% Over 99% of 6th grade students report not using marijuana in the past month.

5 Things to Know

- Only three percent of students who report their parents think it would be “very wrong” for them to use marijuana used it in the past month.
- Past month marijuana use had been reported by about 9-10 percent of students each year since 2015, but prevalence declined to 5.3 percent in 2021. Eleven percent of 12th graders reported past month use in 2021.
- Less than one percent of students report using synthetic marijuana to get high in the past month, and less than five percent report vaping marijuana in the past month.
- Seventy-six percent of students agree that regular marijuana use is at least moderately risky, a number that’s remained relatively stable since 2015.
- Seventy-nine percent of students report that it’s “very hard” or “sort of hard” to get marijuana.



5 Things to Do

- Set clear expectations for young people’s behavior and apply appropriate and consistent consequences.
- Listen and try to understand the pressures of young people’s life. Avoid criticism and try your best to minimize lecturing.
- Encourage and support involvement in positive pro-social activities that provide a sense of belonging. Try to get to know their friends and their friends’ parents.
- Be prepared to talk with your children about marijuana and to answer their questions.
- Talk to your teen’s school counselor, psychologist or social worker. Stay involved with what’s happening in your child’s school, via involvement in the PTA, etc.

Who Can Help?

Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board
bit.ly/FairfaxCSB
 Entry & Referral 703-383-8500
24-Hr Emergency Services
 703-573-5679

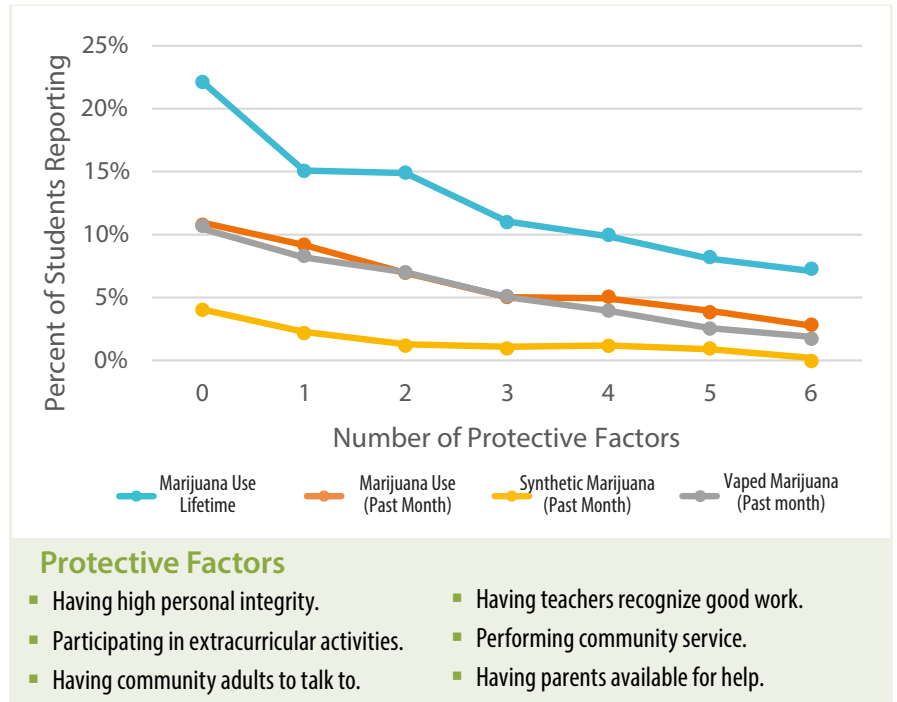
Fairfax County Public Schools Intervention and Prevention Services
bit.ly/FCPSspecialsvcs
 571-423-4020

Fairfax County Public Schools
 Student Safety and Wellness Office
bit.ly/FCPSspecialsvcs
 571-423-4270

Community Regional Crisis Response
www.cr2crisis.com
24-Hr Emergency Response
 844-N-Crisis or 571-364-7390

Data from the Youth Survey reinforces decades of research that shows that when youth have protective factors (also known as assets) in their lives, they do better in lots of different areas. Having just three protective factors dramatically reduces the likelihood that youth will engage in risky behaviors. The Youth Survey shows that every protective factor makes a difference.

Young people in Fairfax County report positive influences from the people and opportunities in their lives. Take action to be an asset in a young person's life and help to build a stronger, more positive community that benefits ALL children and youth.



Disparities in Past 30-Day Marijuana Use

The One Fairfax policy commits us to intentionally consider equity when making policies or delivering programs and services. LGBTQ and White students and students of other/multiple races use marijuana at higher rates than their peers, highlighting the need to understand root causes of use and to target prevention and intervention strategies.

30-Day Marijuana Use

5.3%



Overall

5.6%



Female

5.1%



Male

2.5%



Asian

5.0%



Black

5.3%



Hispanic

7.0%



White

6.7%



Other/
Multiple

7.1%



Trans

7.6%



Gay or
Lesbian

9.6%



Bisexual

For More Information

Fairfax County Youth Survey
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/youthsurvey

Fairfax County Prevention
bit.ly/FairfaxPrevention

The Partnership to End Addiction
www.drugfree.org

NIDA for Teens
www.teens.drugabuse.gov

SAMHSA Underage Drinking
www.samhsa.gov/talk-they-hear-you

Fairfax Prevention Coalition
www.fairfaxpreventioncoalition.com

The Fairfax County Youth Survey was administered in the fall of 2021. The survey was not administered in 2020.

