DATA BRIEF | BOULDER COUNTY
YOUTH MARIJUANA USE 2019

The Healthy Kids Colorado Survey is the state’s only comprehensive survey on the health and well-being of young people. In 2019, the survey sampled approximately 53,500 youth from 195 randomly selected middle and high schools statewide. The voluntary, biennial survey collects a wide range of health and behavioral information that helps public, private, and community organizations better understand the youth they serve and support them in making healthy choices. The data included are from a sample of approximately 2,200 local high school youth in Boulder County.

CURRENT USE
Local youth report marijuana use at similar rates to the state and nation

BOULDER COUNTU | COLORADO
24% | 21%
20%
3 OF 4 local youth do NOT use marijuana.

PERCEPTION OF RISK REMAINS CONSISTENT
Youth who thought regular marijuana use was harmful were 27% LESS LIKELY to use marijuana than those who did not.

MARIJUANA USE AMONG LOCAL YOUTH REMAINS RELATIVELY STEADY SINCE LEGALIZATION

How youth use marijuana

Among current marijuana users, smoking and dabbing are the most common methods of use. Dabbing has increased significantly since 2015.

USUAL METHOD OF USE

Among current marijuana users, smoking and dabbing are the most common methods of use. Dabbing has increased significantly since 2015.

PROTECTIVE FACTORS
All data on behaviors or health outcomes should be considered alongside the upstream factors that influence them, such as feeling safe at school. Social, economic and environmental inequities result in adverse health outcomes and have a greater impact than individual choices. Reducing health disparities through systems change can help improve opportunities for all Coloradans.

PROSOCIAL ACTIVITIES
Students who participate in extracurricular activities are 7% LESS LIKELY to use marijuana than those who do not.

PARENTS CAN HELP PREVENT YOUTH MARIJUANA USE
Youth who report their parents think it’s wrong for them to use marijuana are 37% LESS LIKELY to use.

YOUTH PERCEPTIONS
56% of youth think marijuana is easy to get.

YOUTH ARE TRYING ALCOHOL & E-CIGARETTES MORE OFTEN THAN MARIJUANA

Percent of local youth who have tried the substance

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