



Youth Marijuana Use, Violence and Other Trends

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Arizona Threat

85% Top Five Drug Threat

- 50% 3rd or 4th Greatest Drug Threat

THC infused vape cartridges are highly available throughout the state, as reported by 59%

of HIDTA Initiatives, up from 38% last year.

Violence

Violent Crime

20% of Survey respondents reported illicit marijuana as one of the top violent crime threats

87% listed vape cartridges and illicit marijuana as the most common drug for underage users.



PCSO: San Tan Valley teen boy killed over alleged marijuana vape sale gone bad



Accused teen gunman turns himself in to Pinal County Sheriff's Office.



By: abc15.com staff

Posted at 1:38 PM, Oct 25, 2021 and last updated 9:07 AM, Oct 26, 2021

SAN TAN VALLEY, AZ — Officials say the 15-year-old boy who was found dead at a San Tan Valley home in September was killed over an alleged marijuana vape sale gone bad.

The Pinal County Sheriff's Office said on September 26, deputies responded to a home near Hunt Highway and Bella Vista Road for reports of a fatal shooting.

Joshua McCoy, 15, was found dead at the front door of a home in the area.

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THIS WEEK'S CIRCULAR

Life In Prison

CLOSE

Drugs, possible retaliation motive of deadly shooting at Tempe IKEA parking lot



Williams and Woods allegedly told officers that they were meeting McCrimmon to buy marijuana from him.

By Jessica Good...

Published: Mar. 22, 2022 at 11:00 AM MST | Updated: Mar. 22, 2022 at 12:38 PM MST



TEMPE, AZ (3TV/CBS 5) - Two men are in jail after police say they shot and killed a man during a drug sale in the [Tempe Ikea parking lot on Monday](#).

"I grew up here in Tempe; I had several family members and friends sending text messages and calling about this incident. It affects a lot of people in our community," Detective Natalie Barela with the Tempe Police Department said. "This was an isolated, targeted incident with these individuals," she continued.

Witnesses report seeing two men fighting with 21-year-old Chris McCrimmon before the shooting, detectives say in court records. After hearing gunshots, witnesses saw the two men get into a Ford Expedition and leave the area. Officers from various other police departments found the SUV 30 miles to the south of Tempe in the City of Maricopa. Police were able to stop the SUV and took the passenger, later identified as 18-year-old Isaiah Williams, and the driver, Saif Woods, into custody.

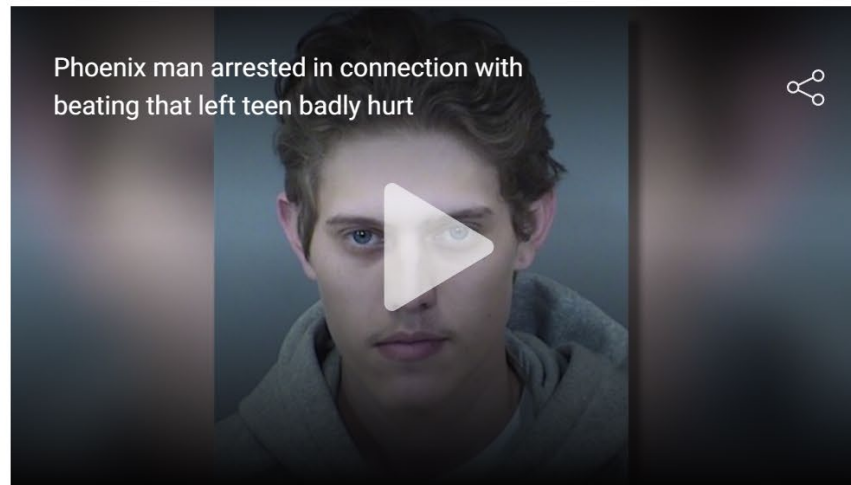
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Arizona man arrested after teen was beaten and left badly wounded during marijuana deal, police say

By Kenneth Wong | Published January 30, 2023 | Updated 9:15PM | Crime and Public Safety | FOX 10 Phoenix | [➔](#)



Phoenix man arrested in connection with beating that left teen badly hurt

The suspect, identified as 19-year-old Hudson Calixto, is accused of beating a 16-year-old boy during a marijuana deal in the West Valley.

PEORIA, Ariz. - A Phoenix man is arrested in connection with a beating in Peoria that left a teenager badly injured, according to officials with the Peoria Police Department.

Other Youth Investigations

Teens as young as 15 involved in violence

Shootings happening during sales/transactions

Shootings occur in parks at homes and in residential areas

Social media used in cases to set up sales



Early Onset of Cannabis Use and Violent Behavior in Psychosis

Moulin V et al. . European Psychiatry. 2020; 63(1): e78, 1–8



- Data were collected prospectively over a 36-month period in the context of an early psychosis cohort study. A total of 265 patients, aged 18–35 years, were included in the study. Logistic regression was performed to assess the link between age of onset of substance use and VB. Results: Among the 265 patients, 72 had displayed VB and 193 had not. While violent patients began using cannabis on average at age 15.29 (0.45), nonviolent patients had started on average at age 16.97 (0.35) ($p = 0.004$). Early-onset CU (up to age 15) was a risk factor for VB (odds ratio = 4.47, confidence interval [CI]: 1.13–20.06) when the model was adjusted for age group, other types of substance use, being a user or a nonuser and various violence risk factors and covariates. History of violence and early CU (until 15) were the two main risk factors for VB. Conclusions: Our results suggest that early-onset CU may play a role in the emergence of VB in early psychosis.



Early Onset of Cannabis Use and Violent Behavior in Psychosis

- Data collected prospectively over 36-month period
 - Context of early psychosis cohort study
 - 265 patients: 18–35 years old
- Logistic regression performed to assess link between age of onset of substance use & VB
- Results of 265 patients: 72 displayed VB/193 had not
- Violent patients began using cannabis average age: 15.29 years (0.45)
- Nonviolent patients started on avg age 16.97 years (0.35) ($p = 0.004$)
- Early-onset CU (up to age 15) was risk factor for VB: Odds Ratio = 4.47 CI: 1.13–20.06
 - adjusted for age group, other types of substance use, being user or nonuser & various violence risk factors & covariates
- **History of violence & early CU (until 15) were the two main risk factors for VB**
- **Conclusions: Results suggest early-onset CU may play a role in emergence of VB in early psychosis**

CU: Cannabis Use VB: Violent Behavior

Moulin V et al. . European Psychiatry. 2020; 63(1): e78, 1–8

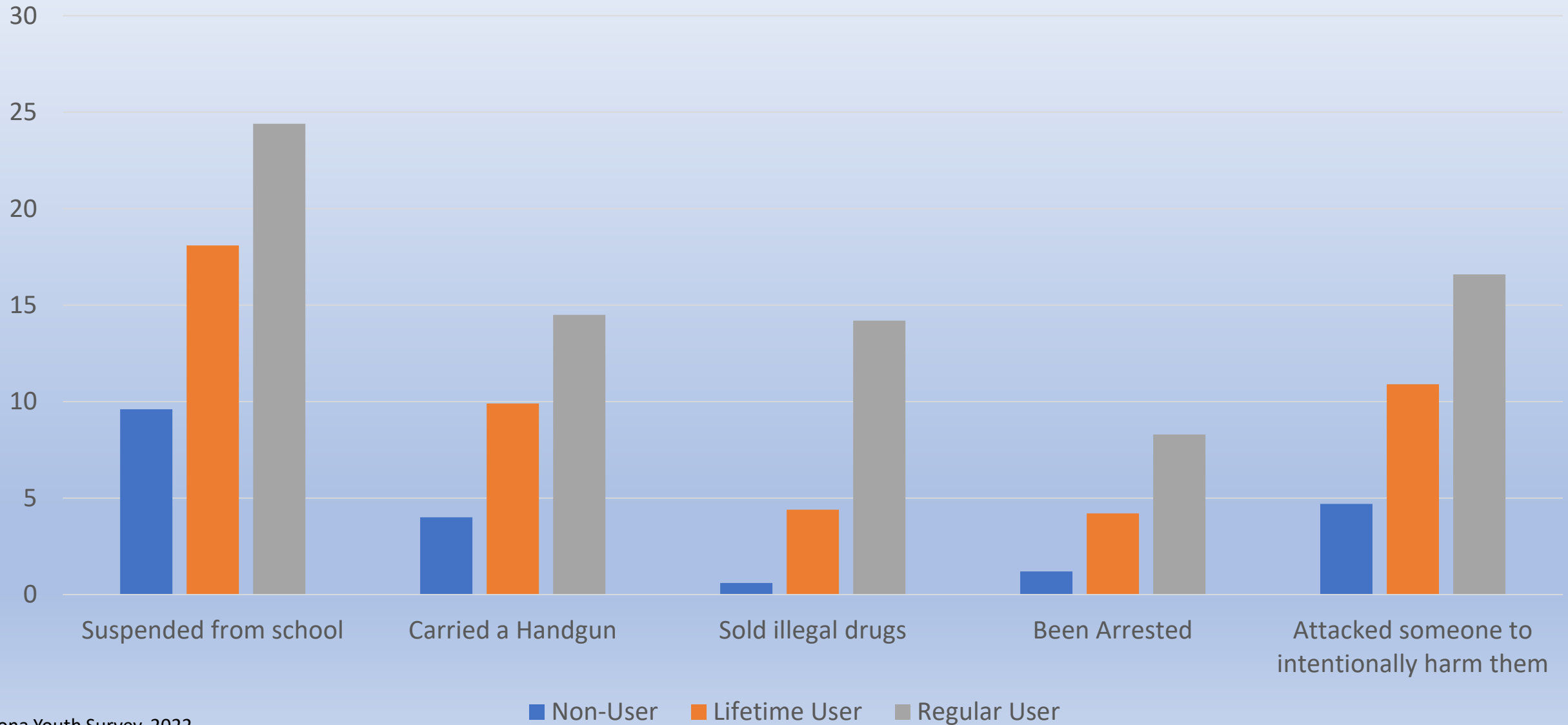
THC Product Potency

Table 2 - Adult Use THC Product Potency: Marijuana Dispensaries			
Product	THC POTENCY*		
	Sativa Strain	Indica Strain	Hybrid Strain
Marijuana Flower	11%-27%	10%-30%	7%-28%
Pre-Rolled Marijuana Joints	11%-45%	11%-46%	9%-47%
Concentrates	48%-92%	34%-94%	7%-95%
Edibles	9mg-500mg	5mg-335mg	0.45mg-1,000mg
Vaporizers	2%-99%	3%-99%	3%-99%

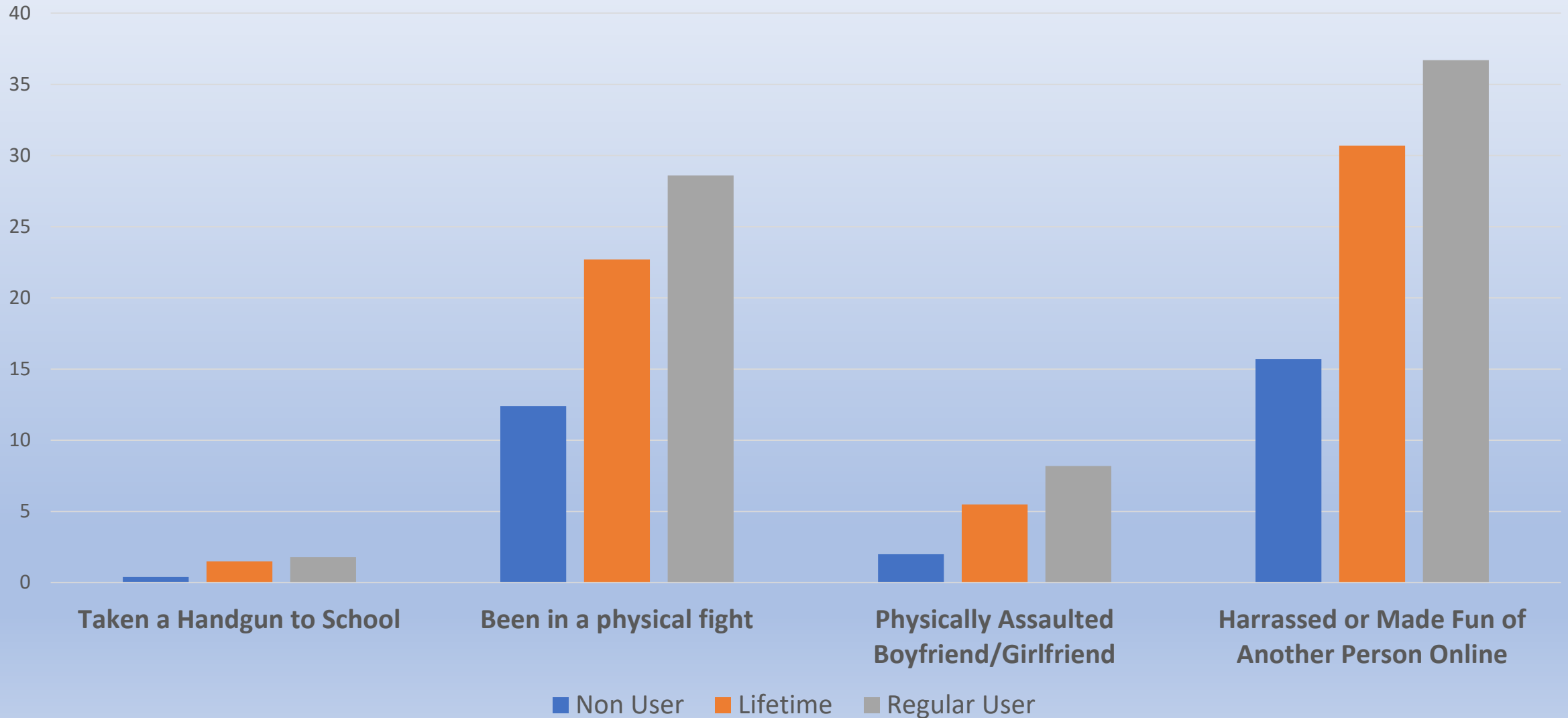
**THC percentages were rounded to the nearest whole number.*

Source: Ten Dispensaries in Phoenix and Tucson, as of April 25-26, 2022

Arizona Youth and Risky Behavior



Arizona Youth and Risky Behavior



Other findings

- 1 out of 5 8th grade regular marijuana users were picked on or bullied 4+ in the past year vs. 1 out of 10 for non-users
- Regular Marijuana users in 8th grade more likely to pick on or bully someone else 4+ times a year than non-users (12.7% vs. 2.9%)
- 18% of non-users said their brothers or sisters ever smoked marijuana compared with 68.8% of regular users
- 40% of non-users said they would be arrested if caught smoking marijuana vs. 15% of regular users
- 22.8% of regular users received mostly D's and F's versus 14.5% of non-users

Other findings

	B	C	D	E	F	G
2022 Arizona Youth Survey Results						
<i>Note: If a student did not report a zip code, the most common zip code at their school was used</i>						
Grade	8th	10th	12th	Total		
Sample Size	1,155	1,766	1,872	4,793		
Percentage of Students Who Reported Behavior During the Past 30 Days						
<i>Marijuana</i>	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%		
<i>Marijuana Concentrates</i>	67.2%	69.7%	70.8%	69.5%		
<i>Marijuana Buds/Flowers</i>	52.5%	56.7%	63.6%	58.3%		
<i>Marijuana-Infused Foods or Drinks</i>	48.0%	37.8%	38.6%	40.7%		
<i>Are you currently in a gang</i>	5.5%	2.0%	2.2%	2.9%		
Percentage of Students Who Reported Behavior in Lifetime						
<i>Marijuana</i>	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%		
<i>Marijuana Concentrates</i>	84.7%	87.4%	88.7%	87.3%		
<i>Marijuana Buds/Flowers</i>	73.8%	79.3%	85.3%	80.2%		
<i>Marijuana-Infused Foods or Drinks</i>	76.2%	77.7%	82.9%	79.3%		
<i>Have you ever used marijuana flowers on school grounds</i>	21.6%	17.6%	16.8%	18.3%		
<i>Have you ever used marijuana concentrates on school grounds</i>	52.7%	54.1%	47.8%	51.3%		
<i>Have you ever belonged to a gang</i>	11.8%	5.6%	4.4%	6.7%		
Notes:						
1) The variable "All Prescription Drugs" refers to prescription pain relievers, prescription sedatives, and prescription stimulants.						
2) Data are not mutually exclusive; students were able to indicate use of multiple drugs.						
3) Data excludes participants who chose the fake drug "Phenoxydine."						
** Data unavailable due to small sample size (n<25).						



Health Consequences

Table 17. Leading Risk Factors of Child Abuse/Neglect Deaths, Ages 0-17 Years, Arizona, 2021

Risk Factors*	Number	Percent
Substance Use	76	59%
Poverty	69	54%
CPS History with Family	59	46%
Lack of Supervision	38	30%
Child's History of Trauma	29	23%
Parental History of Intimate Partner Violence	25	20%
Housing Insecurity	18	14%
Family Dysfunction/Recent Divorce	13	10%
Open CPS Case at the Time of Death	13	10%
Child's Chronic Disability/Illness	10	8%
Access to Firearm	9	7%

*More than one risk factor may have been identified in each death.

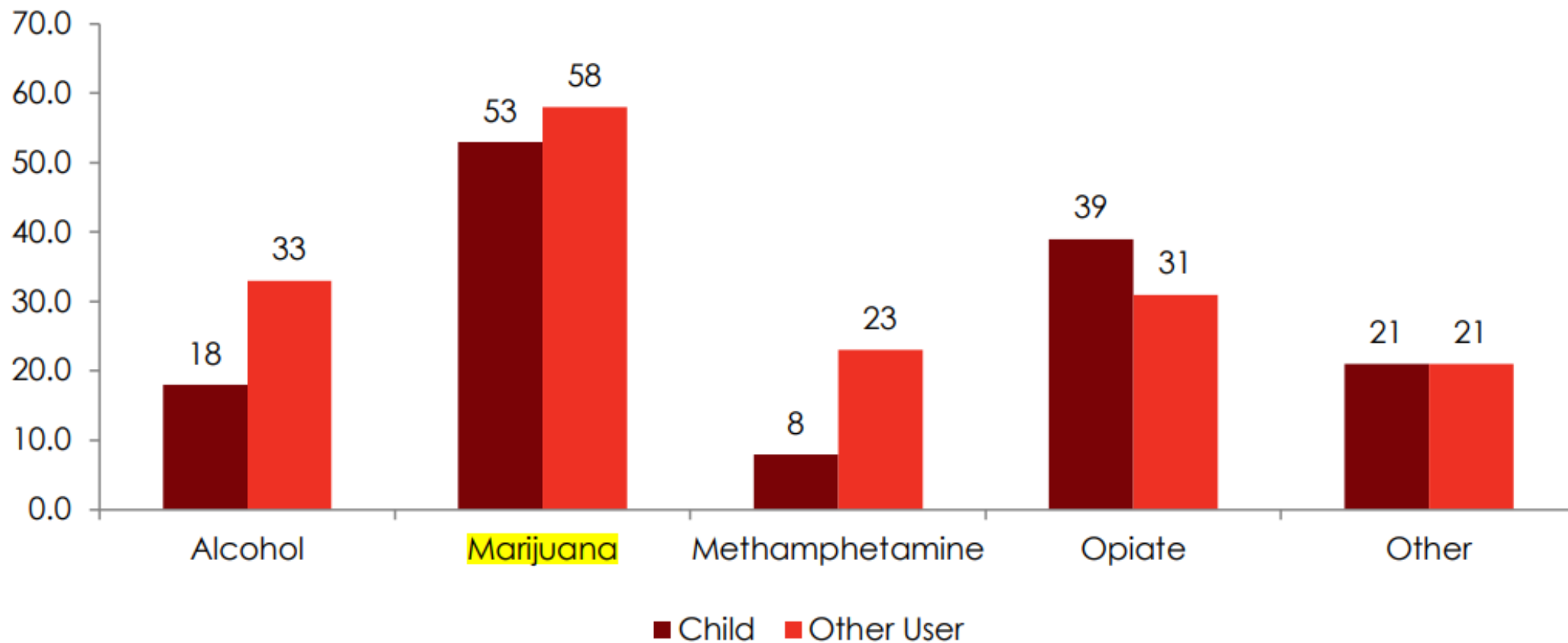
Of the 59% of abuse/neglect deaths that involved substance use, **marijuana** was the most identified substance contributing to 31% of child abuse/neglect deaths followed by opiates in 23% of child abuse/neglect deaths (Table 18).

Table 18. Substance Type Identified in Child Abuse/Neglect Deaths, Ages 0-17 Years, Arizona, 2021

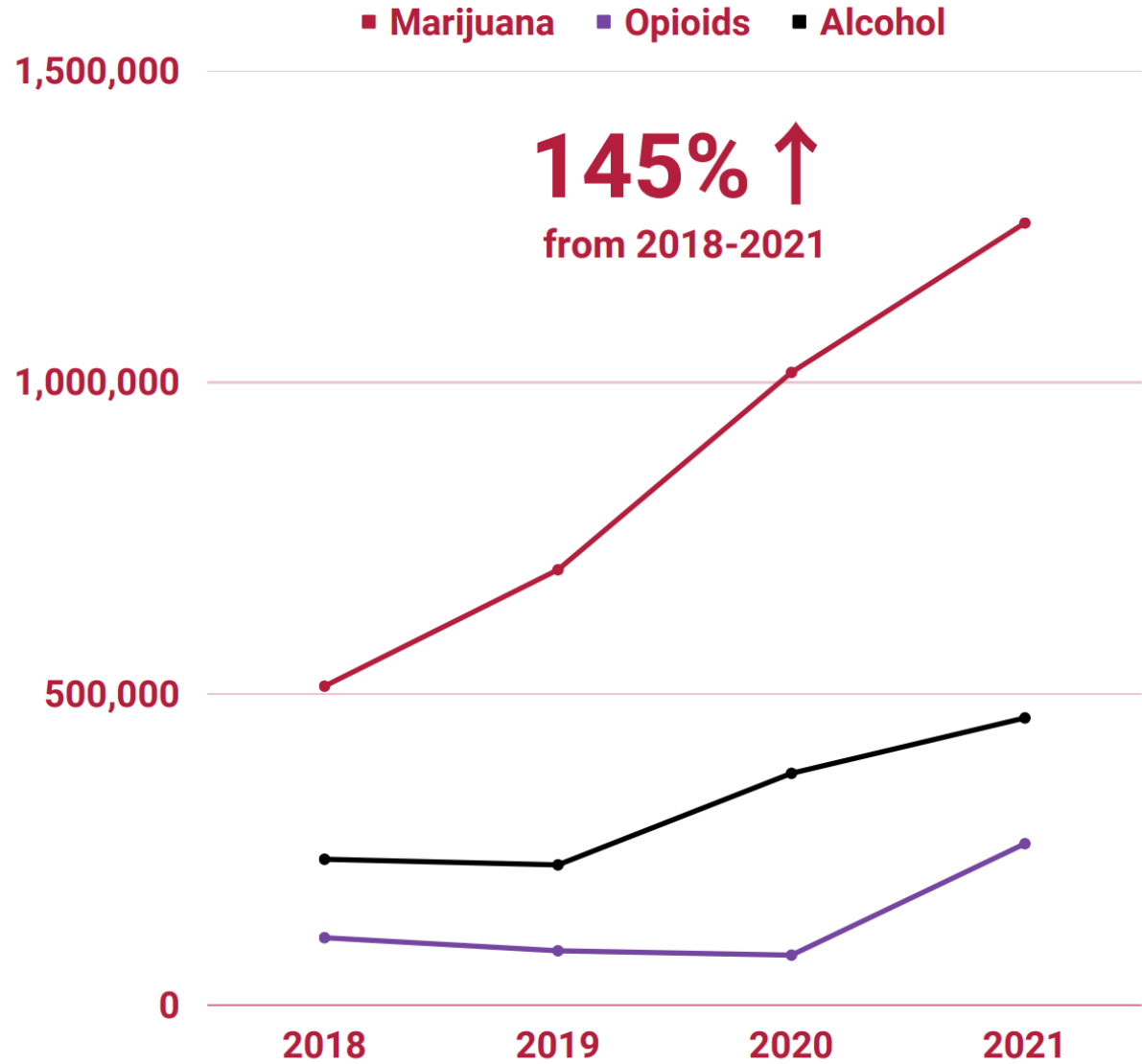
Substance Type*	Number	Percent
Marijuana	40	31%
Opiates	29	23%
Alcohol	20	16%
Methamphetamine	19	15%
Other	13	10%

*More than one substance may have contributed to the death.

Figure 74. Number of Substances Identified as Causing or Contributing to Child Deaths, by the Child or Other User, Ages 0-17 Years, Arizona, 2021 (n=176)



Exponential rise in Cannabis Use Disorder among 12-17 year olds



NSDUH 2021 table 5.1A; 2020 table 5.1A; 2019 table 5.1A

Compared with non-users, adolescents (12-17) who used marijuana but did not meet the criteria for Cannabis Use Disorder had:

2-4X

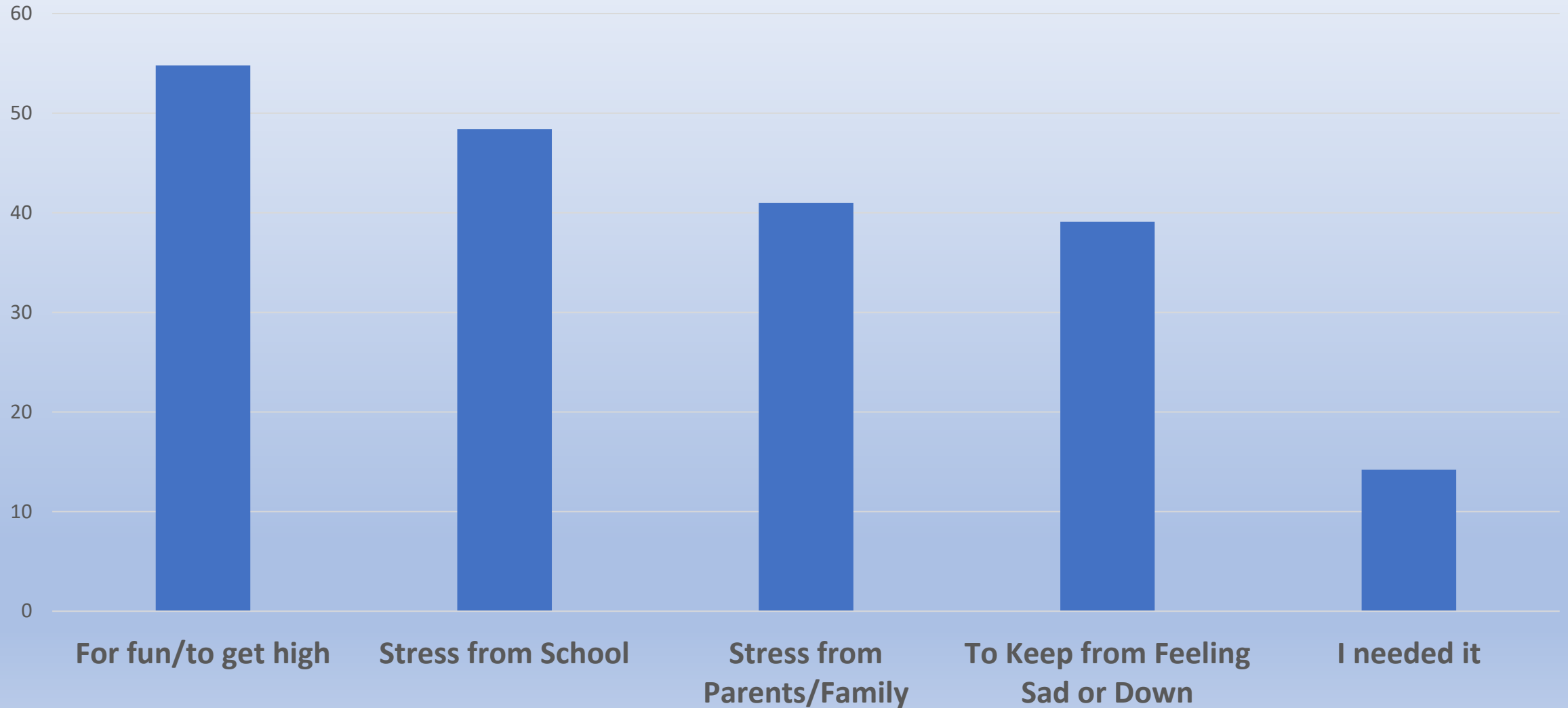
greater odds of adverse psychosocial events, including major depression, suicidal ideation, slower thoughts, difficulty concentrating, truancy, low grade point average, arrest, fighting, and aggression.

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2804450?>



SAM Smart Approaches to Marijuana
preventing another big tobacco

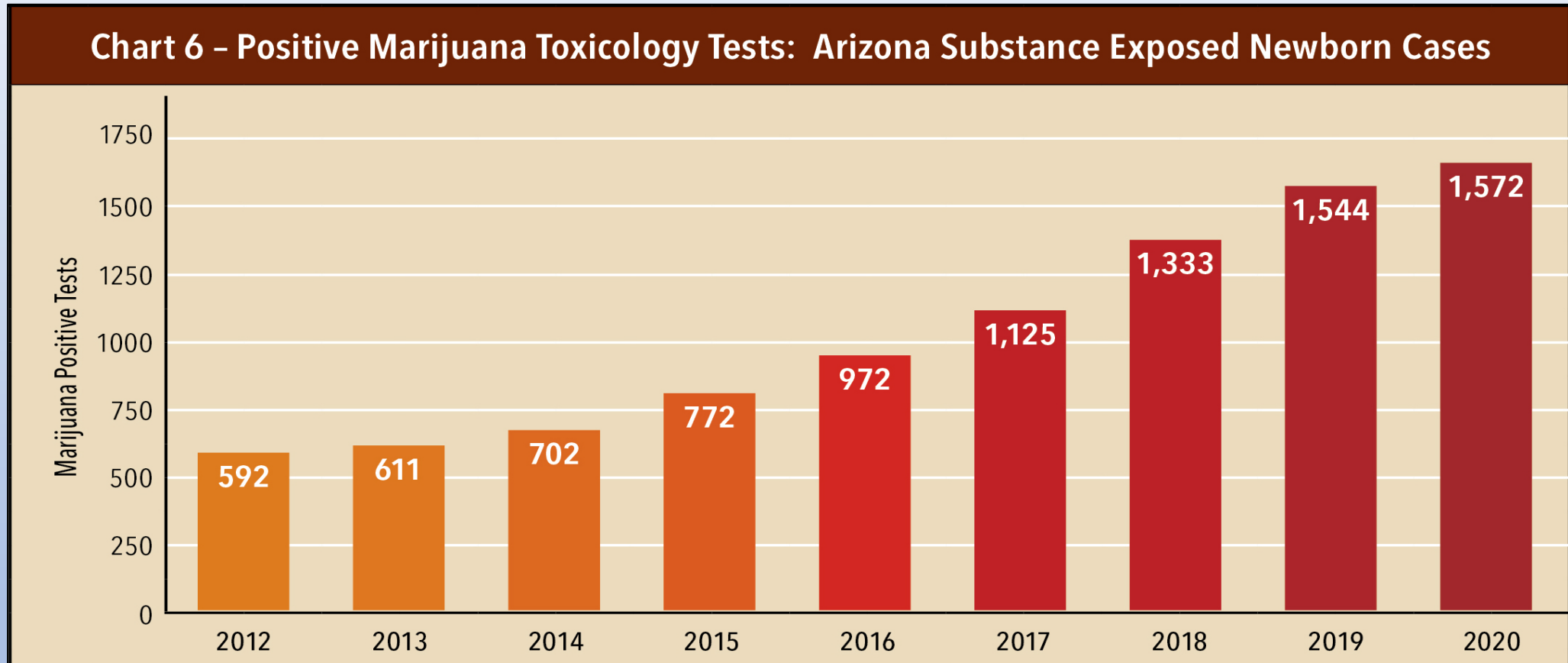
Why Using?



Percentage of Sources for Marijuana: Recent User 30-Day

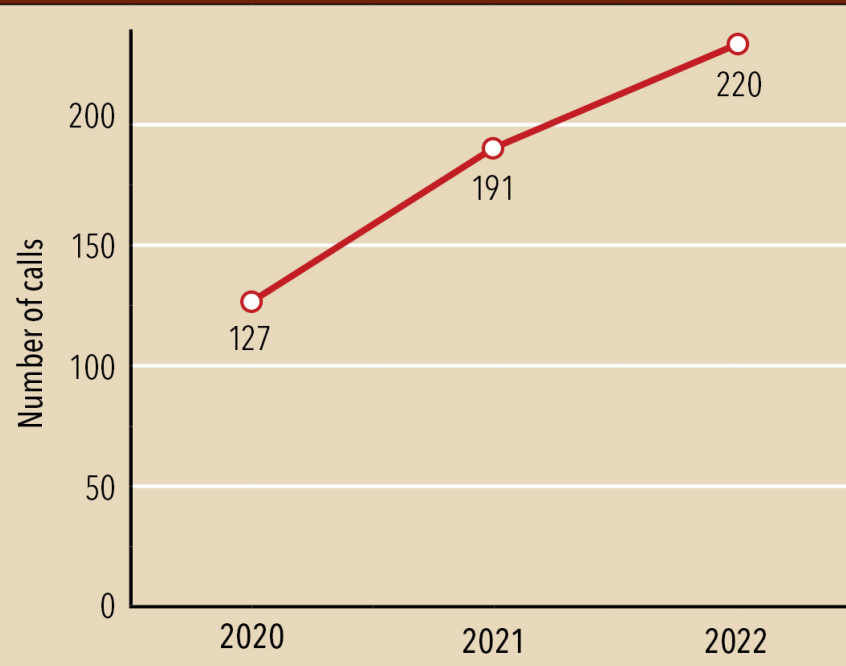
- Friends 57.5%
- Drug Dealer 25.7%
- Family/Relatives 21.9%
- Other 24%
- Parties 20.5%
- School 19.8%
- Dispensary AZ 16.8%
- Someone with a Medical Marijuana Card 15.4%
- Home 12.5%
- Over the Internet 7.7%
- Dispensary Outside AZ 4.6%

Public Health: Substance Exposed Newborns Program



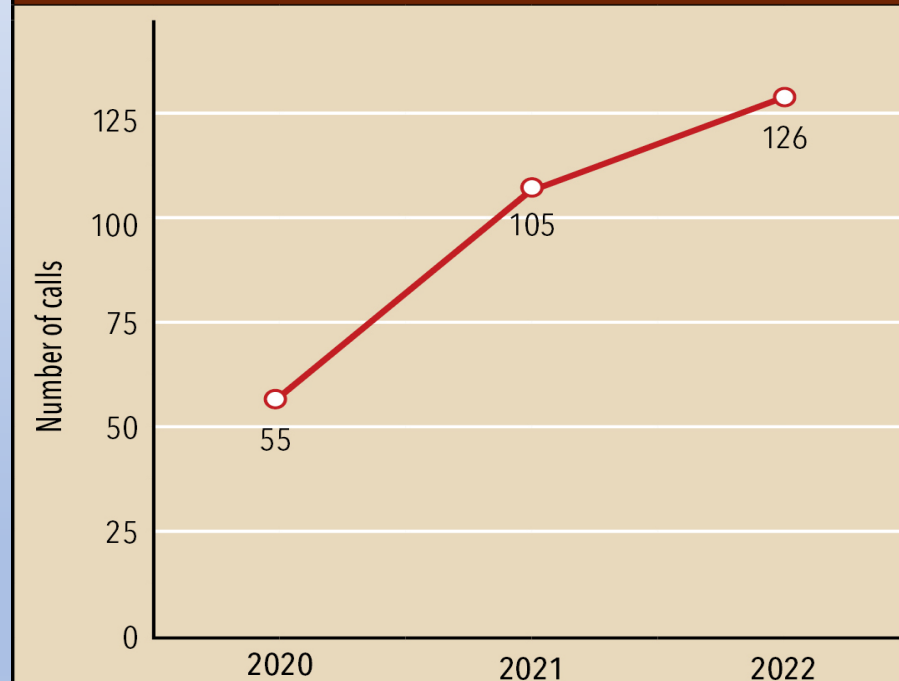
Marijuana Poison Exposure Calls

**Marijuana Poison Exposure Calls for Children
0 to 5 Years of Age: 2020-2022**



Source: Banner Poison and Drug Information Center/Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center, as of March/April 2023

**Marijuana Edible Exposure Calls for Children
0 to 5 Years of Age: 2020-2022**



Source: Banner Poison and Drug Information Center/Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center, as of March/April 2023

Considerations for the Group

Study the possible link between Arizona youth marijuana use, violence and health outcomes. If possible, detail concentrate use vs. flower vs. edibles.

Discuss if there should be limits on THC in marijuana products

Enforce ID policies and strictly enforce 21+ only on sales of marijuana

Educate parents and youth on marijuana risks and harms as well as properly storing marijuana and not supplying/providing marijuana to those under 21.

Ban advertising on marijuana related products



Thank you

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