

MARIJUANA PREVENTION STRATEGIES FOR A CHANGING POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

Substance Use Disorders Conference

August 23, 2016

Funded by the County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral
Health Services

MPI

Marijuana
Prevention
Initiative

San Diego County

WELCOME!

Erica Pachmann – Research Associate, Center for Community Research, Evaluation Services

Joe Eberstein – Program Manager, Center for Community Research, Marijuana Prevention Initiative

AGENDA

- **County of San Diego AOD Prevention System**
- **Marijuana Prevention Initiative Overview**
- **Data-Driven Approach to Prevention**
- **Changing Landscape of Marijuana**
- **Prevention Strategies**
- **Key Takeaways and Discussion**

MPI

Marijuana
Prevention
Initiative

San Diego County

County of San Diego Prevention System

SAN DIEGO COUNTY PREVENTION SYSTEM

- Adopted in 1997 to reduce the impacts of AOD abuse on youth
- Aligns with SAMHSA's five-step **Strategic Prevention Framework**:
 - (1) assessment
 - (2) capacity
 - (3) planning
 - (4) implementation
 - (5) evaluation
- Emphasizes evidence-based practices, community engagement, and system integration

SAN DIEGO COUNTY PREVENTION SYSTEM

Health and Human Services, Behavioral Health Services

4 AOD Initiatives

**Binge and
Underage Drinking
Initiative (BUDI)**

**Marijuana
Prevention Initiative
(MPI)**

**Methamphetamine
Strike Force (MSF)**

**Prescription Drug
Abuse Task Force
(PDATF)**

3 Countywide Programs

**Countywide
Media**

**Friday Night
Live/Club Live**

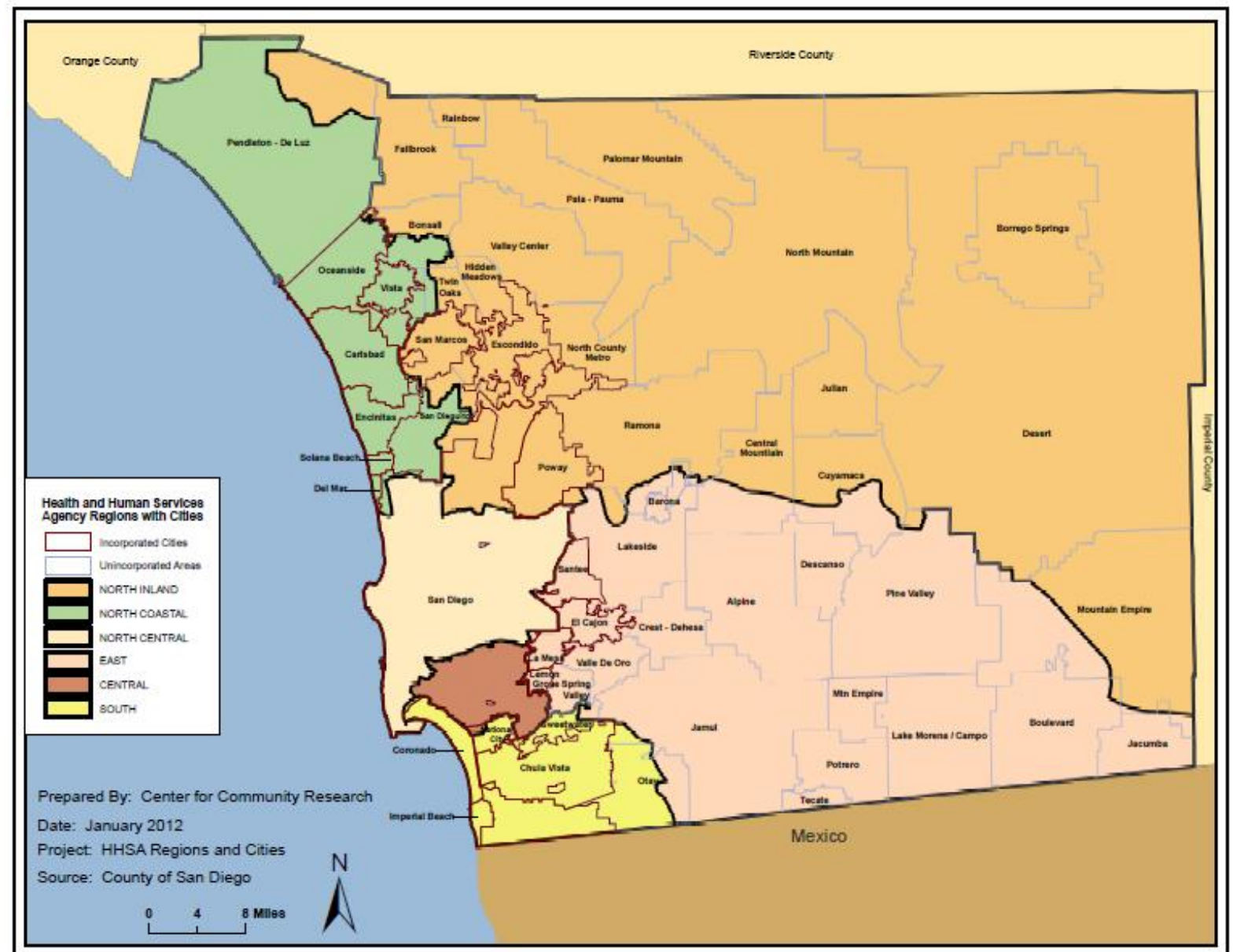
**Evaluation
Services**

Six Regional Prevention Providers

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

HHSA DESIGNATED REGIONS

- Six HHSA designated regions
 - North Inland
 - North Coastal
 - North Central
 - East
 - Central
 - South



LIVE WELL SAN DIEGO

- **County's Prevention System/Activities aligned with and support the county's health initiative, *Live Well San Diego***



Goal: County that is building better health, living safely, and thriving

Four Key Approaches to the Initiative:

- 1. Building a Better Service Delivery System.**
- 2. Supporting Positive Choices**
- 3. Pursuing Policy and Environmental changes**
- 4. Improving the culture from within**

Marijuana Prevention Initiative (MPI) Overview

MPI

Marijuana
Prevention
Initiative

San Diego County

MARIJUANA PREVENTION INITIATIVE (MPI)

Problem Statement: High levels of marijuana use by youth (12-25) in the county negatively affect overall health and contributes to family and community problems.

Goals:

Reduce youth access to marijuana by increasing public awareness of the adverse effects resulting from youth marijuana use.

Decrease community acceptance and tolerance of youth marijuana use.

MPI STRATEGIES FOR ADDRESSING CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

- **Data-driven approach to prevention → Use data to inform prevention strategies and where to target efforts**
 - Use local data sources
 - Multiple sources of data
 - Enhance existing tools to the extent possible, to capture the emergent trend information
- **Engage in education, outreach, and media efforts**
 - Dissemination of educational materials/flyers
 - Most information is available in English and Spanish
- **Collaboration with key stakeholders throughout the county**

MPI COLLABORATIONS

Coordinated & Structured Collaborative Infrastructure

Key Leadership Team (KLT)

- Comprised of diverse group of representatives that advise/guide the initiative
- Meet 4 times per year
- Health sector, law enforcement, education, research, treatment

Youth Access Workgroup (YAW)

- Collaborate with the six regional prevention provider youth groups as well as Friday Night Live to develop prevention strategies
- Meet 6 times per year
- Set up trainings, forums, media events

KEY LEADERSHIP TEAM (KLT)

Building strong relationships is central to prevention efforts → engaging key stakeholders throughout the year

- San Diego County Sheriff's Department
- San Diego County Office of Education
- San Diego County Probation
- University of California San Diego – Addiction Research - CMCR
- Friday Night Live
- Californians for Drug-Free Youth (CADFY)
- San Diego Unified School District
- Behavioral Health Advisory Board
- McAlister Institute - Treatment
- Scripps Mercy Hospital

Data Driven Approach to Prevention

MPI

Marijuana
Prevention
Initiative

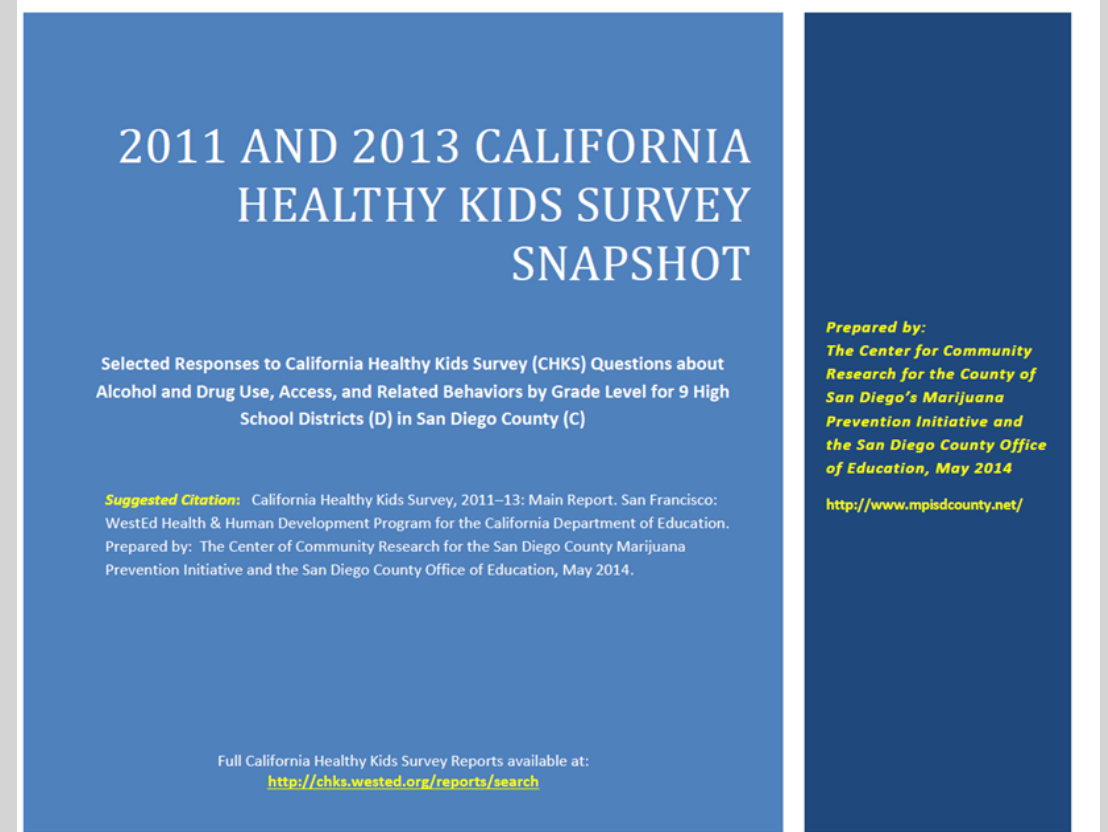
San Diego County

CALIFORNIA HEALTHY KIDS SURVEY (CHKS)

- Assess trends over time
- Used to focus prevention efforts
 - Focus on Non-Traditional School students with higher use rates
- Collaborate with WestED to develop custom module inclusive of marijuana specific items
- Support from San Diego County for continued funding of CHKS
- “Package” information and make it available for the regional prevention system

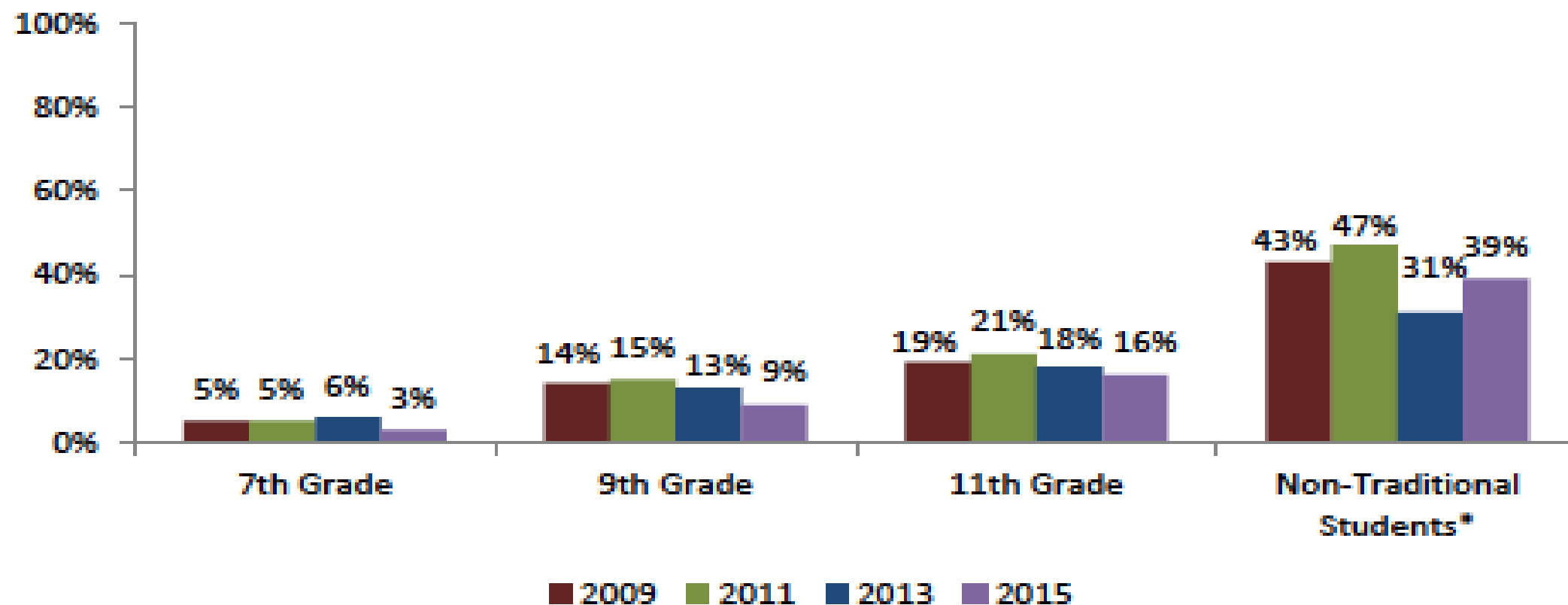
CHKS SCHOOL DISTRICT SNAPSHOT

- “Develop” countywide and region-specific data summaries to inform areas of most “need” for prevention.
- Disseminate findings to regional prevention providers
- Target efforts based on data
 - E.g., non-traditional school students



PAST 30-DAY MARIJUANA USE AMONG SAN DIEGO COUNTY YOUTH

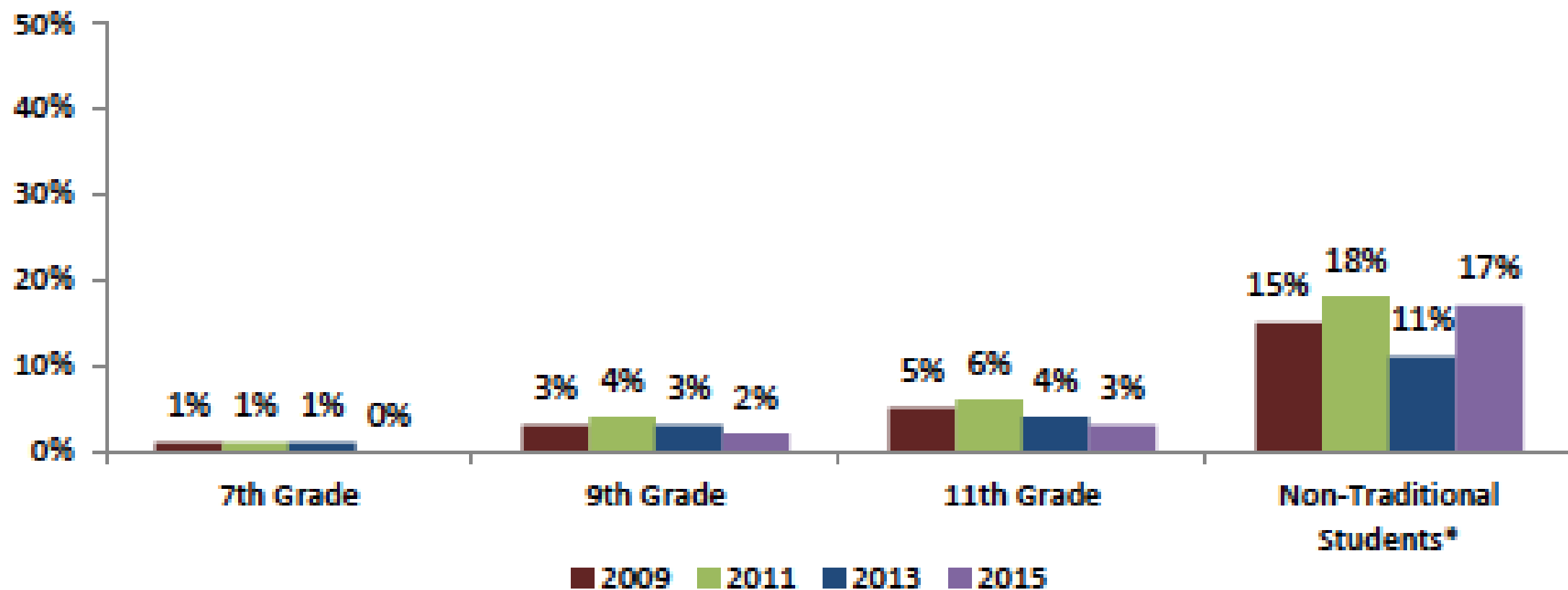
Percentage of students reporting past 30-day use of marijuana by grade level



*The response rate for non-traditional students participating in the 2013 Survey was lower than in 2009, 2011, and 2015, which may in part account for the decrease in reported past 30-day use rates among this population in 2013.

DAILY MARIJUANA USE AMONG SAN DIEGO COUNTY YOUTH

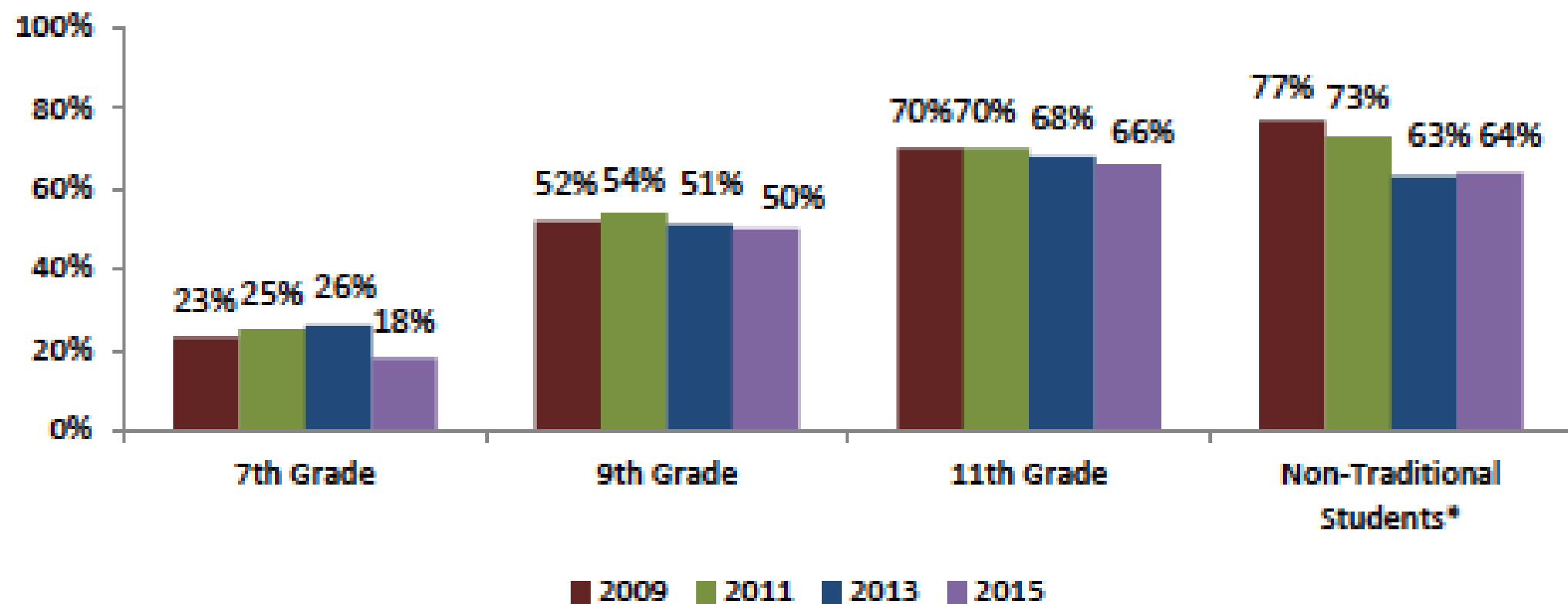
- Daily marijuana use is defined as smoking pot 20 or more times in the past 30 days.



*The response rate for non-traditional students participating in the 2013 Survey was lower than in 2009, 2011, and 2015, which may in part account for the decrease in reported daily use rates among this population in 2013.

ACCESS TO MARIJUANA AMONG SAN DIEGO COUNTY YOUTH

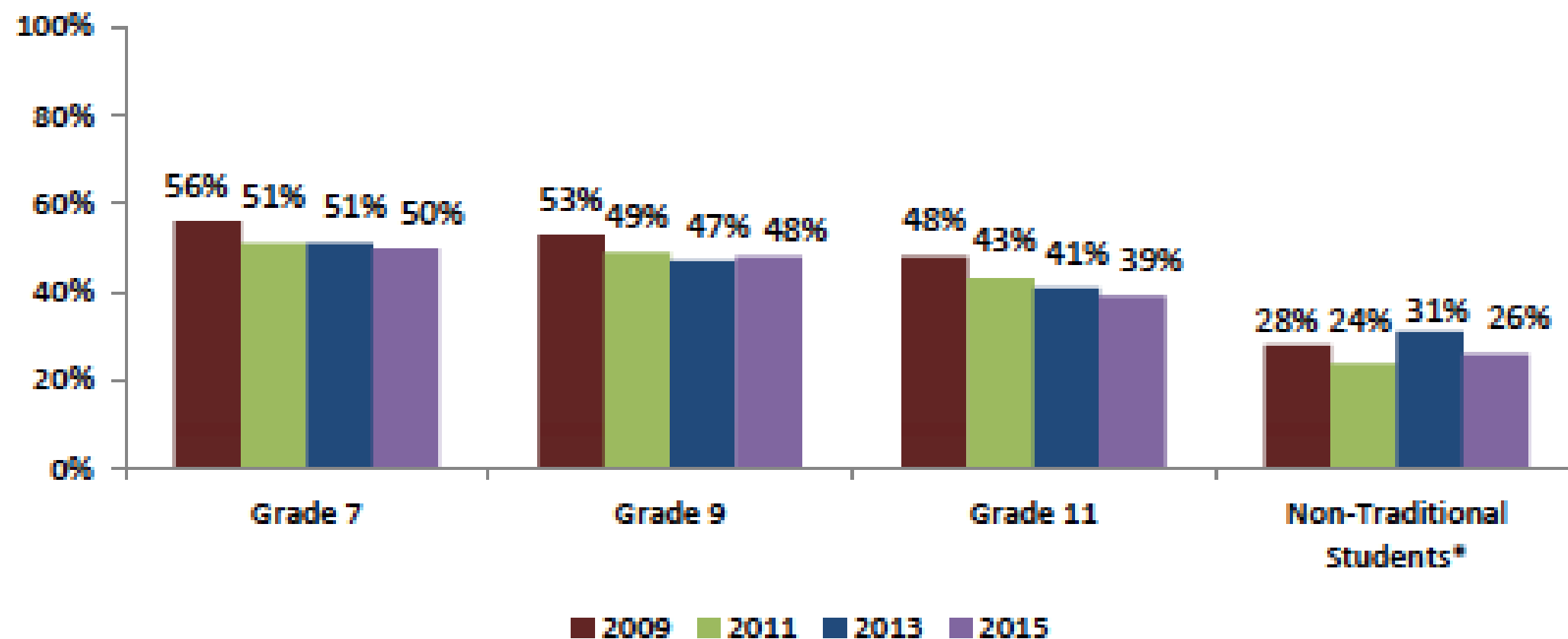
Percentage of students who reported that it is “*fairly easy*” or “*very easy*” to get marijuana.



*The response rate for non-traditional students participating in the 2013 Survey was lower than in 2009, 2011, and 2015, which may in part account for the decrease in ease of access rates among this population in 2013.

PERCEPTION OF HARM

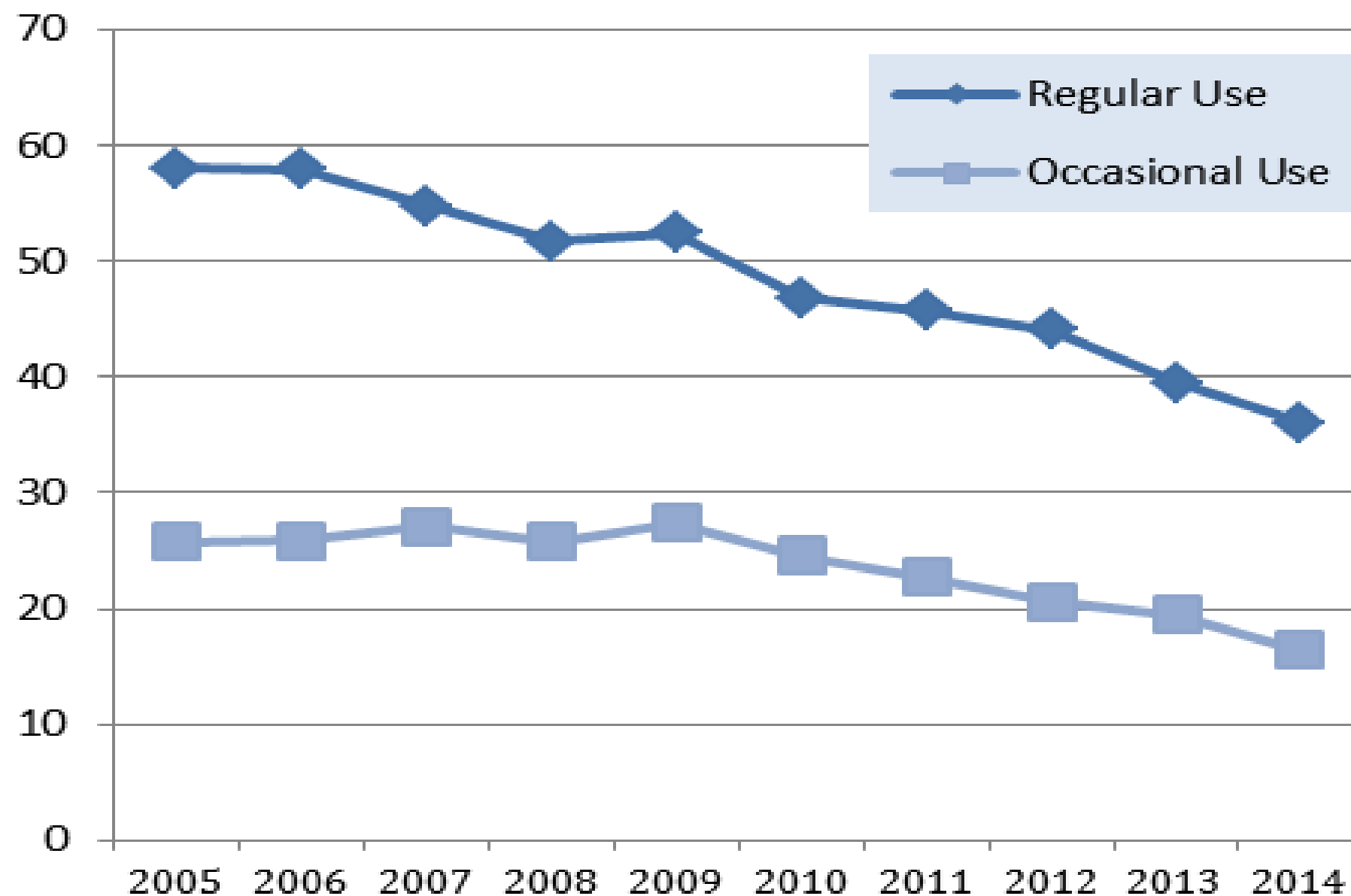
Percentage of students who reported that people greatly risk harming themselves physically or in other ways by smoking marijuana “once or twice a week”



*The response rate for non-traditional students participating in the 2013 Survey was lower than in 2009, 2011, and 2015, which may in part account for the increase in perception of harm rates among this population in 2013.

NATIONAL DATA: PERCEPTION OF HARM

**Percentage of 12th Graders
Perceiving Marijuana as "Great Risk"**



HARM PERCEPTION

Steady decreases in the perception of harm for marijuana, prescription drug use and synthetic drug use



ADDED QUESTIONS TO COUNTY CUSTOM MODULE

- Included items specific to marijuana to obtain more detailed information about use trends current with the evolving climate:
 - How/where marijuana was accessed
 - Modes of consumption
 - Driving while under the influence of marijuana
 - Synthetic drugs
 - Prescription medications

2. Custom Questions

Table Z.2.1

If you have ever used marijuana, where did you get it from?

	Grade 7 %	Grade 9 %	Grade 11 %	NT %
Friend, relative or family member	4	15	27	48
Someone you just met or didn't know well	1	4	7	19
Drug dealer	1	6	11	32
Medical marijuana dispensary/Pot Shop	1	3	6	20
Internet	1	1	1	5
Mexico	1	2	3	8
Home delivery	0	1	3	11
I grew it or I got it from someone who grew it	1	3	4	15
I have never used marijuana	94	81	67	34

Question HS/MS Z1.

Note: Cells are empty if there are less than 25 respondents. Total percentages may exceed 100% for "mark all that apply" items.

Table Z.2.2

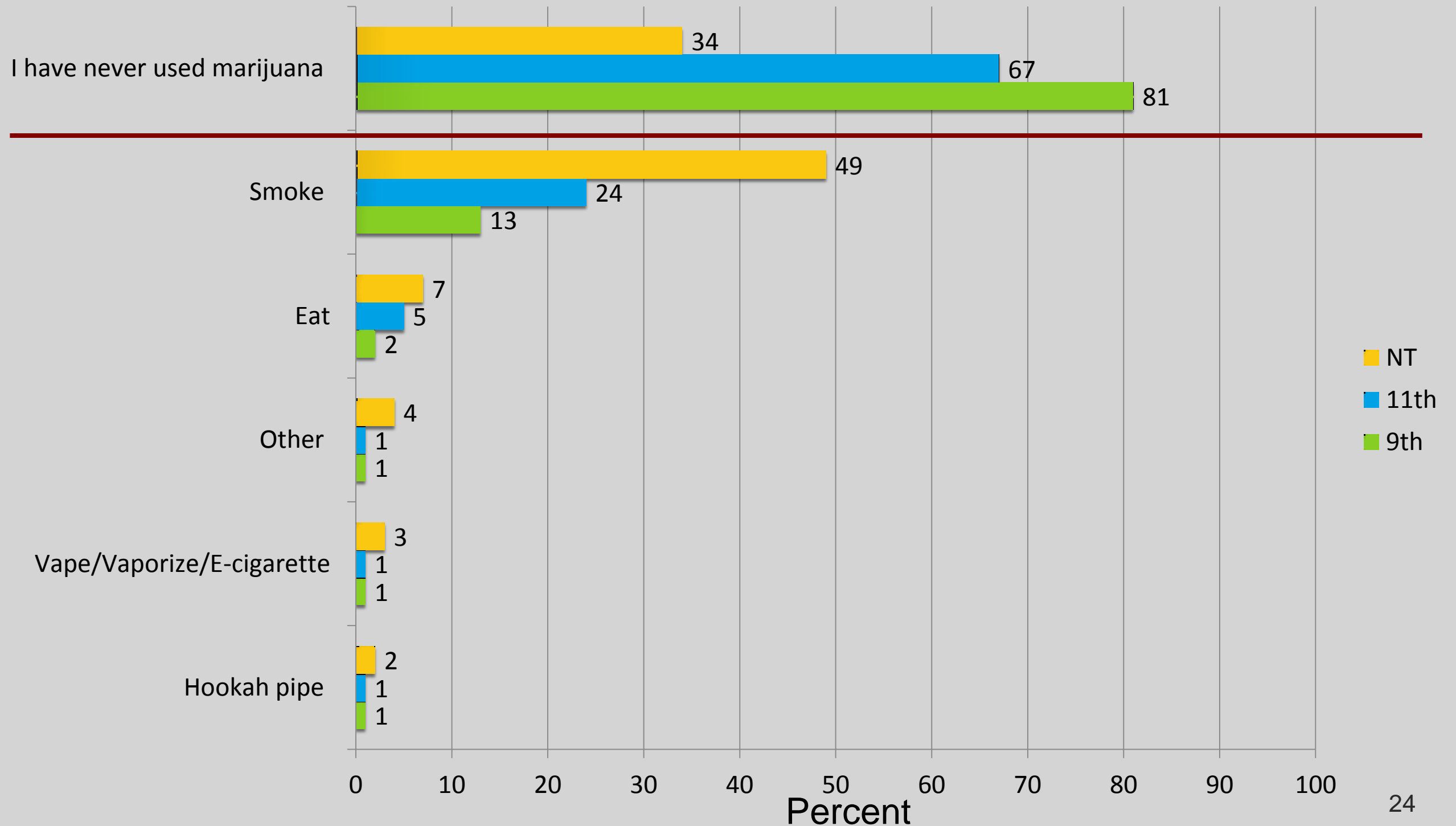
If you have ever used marijuana or concentrated marijuana how did you consume it?

	Grade 7 %	Grade 9 %	Grade 11 %	NT %
Smoke	3	13	24	49
Eat	1	2	5	7
Vape / Vaporize / E-cigarette	1	1	1	3
Hookah Pipe	1	1	1	2
Other	1	1	1	4
I have never used marijuana	93	81	67	34

Question HS/MS Z2.

Note: Cells are empty if there are less than 25 respondents.

IF YOU EVER USED MARIJUANA OR CONCENTRATED MARIJUANA, HOW DID YOU CONSUME IT?



IF YOU EVER USED MARIJUANA, WHERE DID YOU GET IT FROM?

Top 3 mentions, by grade:

9th

15% - Friend, relative or family member

6% - Drug dealer

4% Someone you just met or didn't know

11th

27% - Friend, relative or family member

11% - Drug dealer

7% - Someone you just met or didn't know

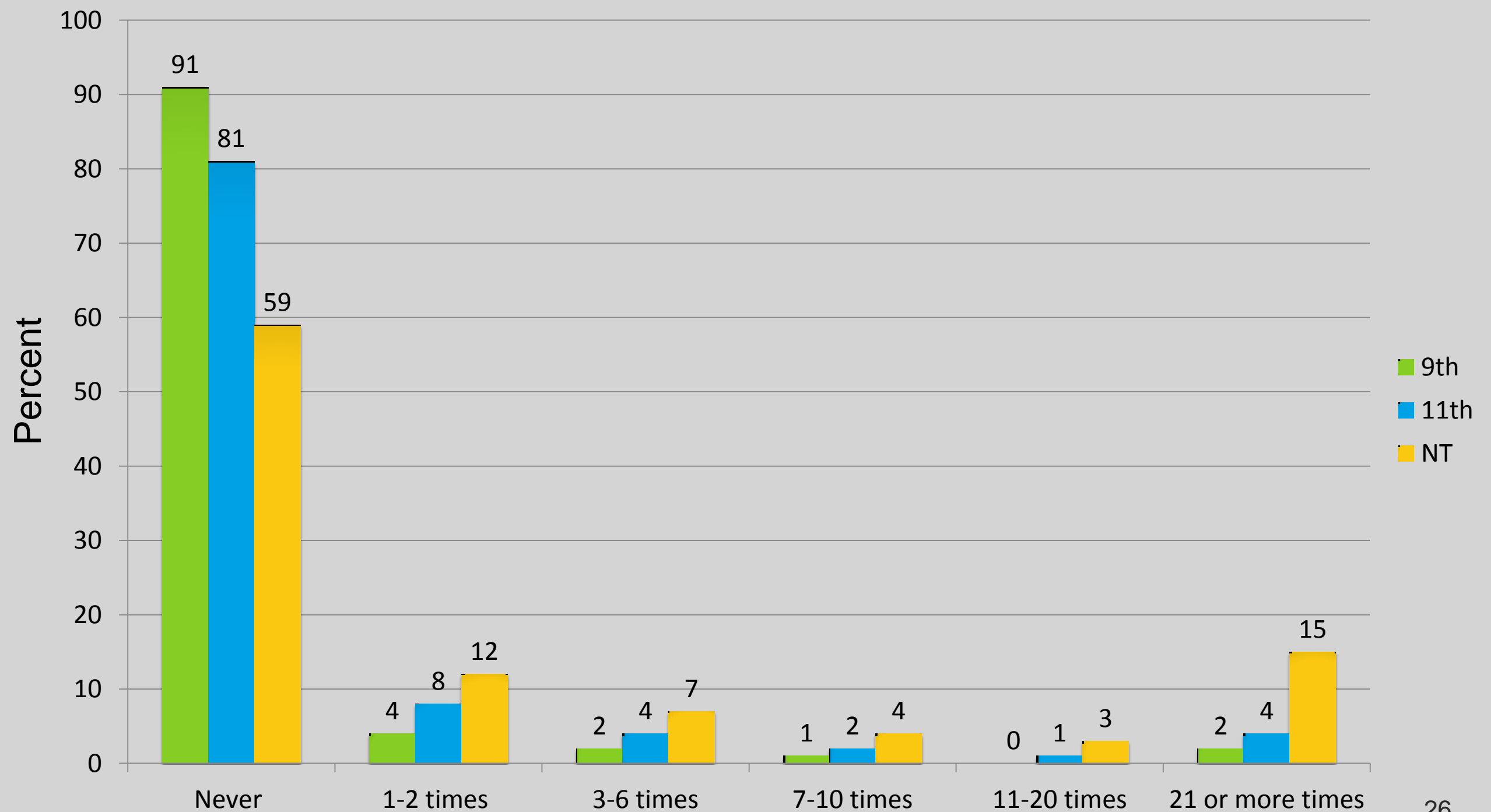
NT

48% - friend, relative or family member

32% - Drug dealer

20% - Medical marijuana dispensary/Pot Shop

NUMBER OF TIMES DRIVEN A CAR WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF MARIJUANA, OR BEEN IN A CAR WHERE THE DRIVER HAD BEEN USING MARIJUANA



SAN DIEGO COUNTY COMMUNITY SURVEY

- To systematically collect AOD-related perception and opinion data across San Diego County
- To identify AOD-related trends and track changes in perceptions and opinions over time
- To identify new or emerging issues/concerns
- To inform prevention strategies and media, policy, and community advocacy efforts
- To inform the Countywide evaluation

SAN DIEGO COUNTY COMMUNITY SURVEY

San Diego County's Prevention System has administered the Community Survey at three points in time: 2011, 2014, and 2016

- Most 2016 Community Survey items are consistent with 2011 and 2014 survey items to maximize comparability
- In 2016, some items were added, deleted, or slightly revised based on:
 - Review of 2011 and 2014 Community Survey findings; and
 - Feedback/input from Initiatives, Prevention Providers, and Behavioral Health Services

SAN DIEGO COUNTY COMMUNITY SURVEY

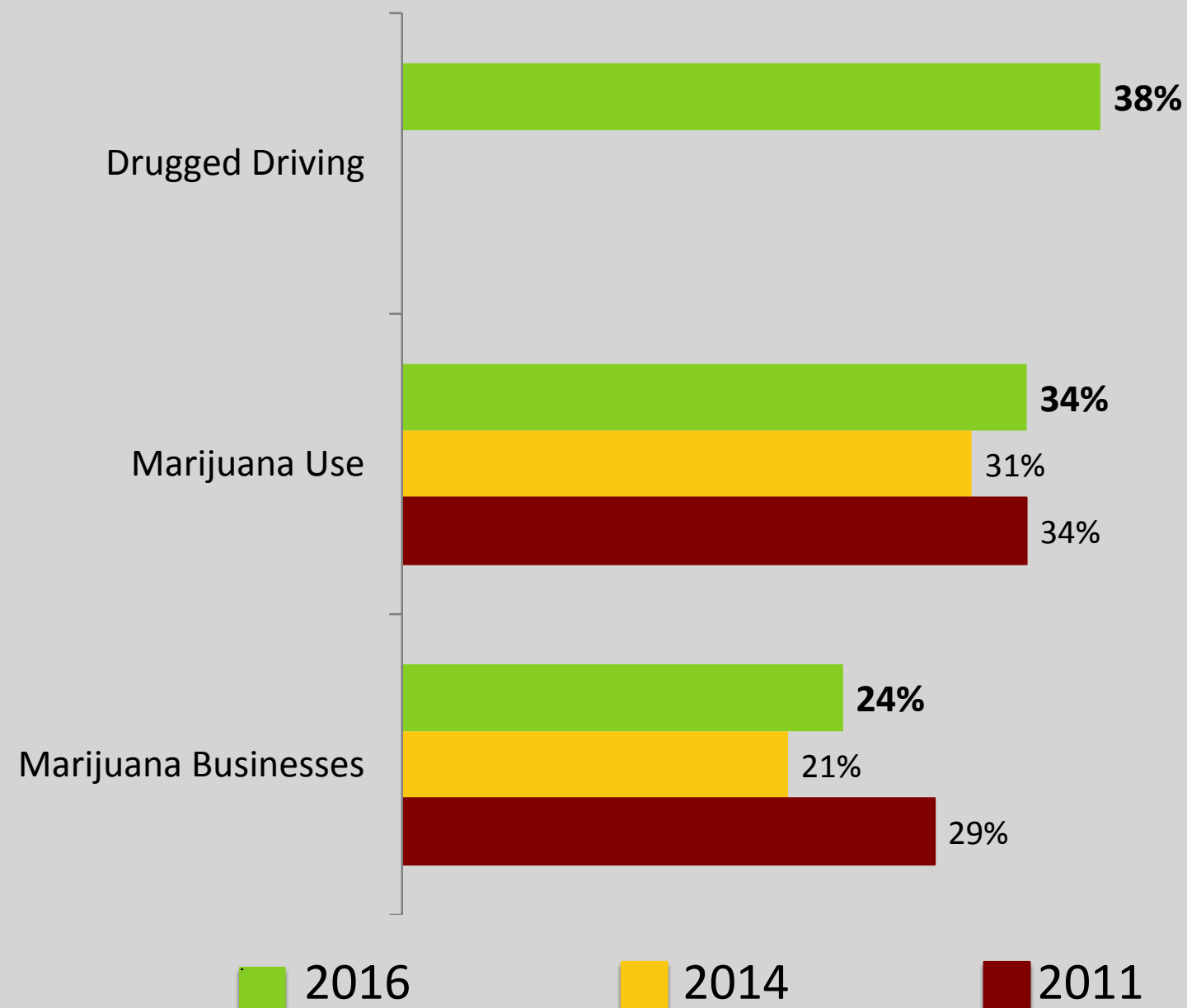
- All Community Survey respondents were *at least* 18 years old and indicated that they live in San Diego County
 - 1,829 respondents were surveyed in 2011
 - 1,871 respondents were surveyed in 2014
 - 2,023 respondents were surveyed in 2016
- Survey data are analyzed in aggregate across all regions resulting in the development of a countywide and six regional summary reports that are shared with the Prevention System
- Findings pertinent to each Initiative are additionally developed upon request

MARIJUANA-SPECIFIC ITEMS

- Perceptions of harm
 - Smoking marijuana if the person is under 21 years old
 - Occasional marijuana use
 - Frequent marijuana use
- Support for policies
- Issues in the community stemming from marijuana use
 - Drugged Driving
 - Marijuana use

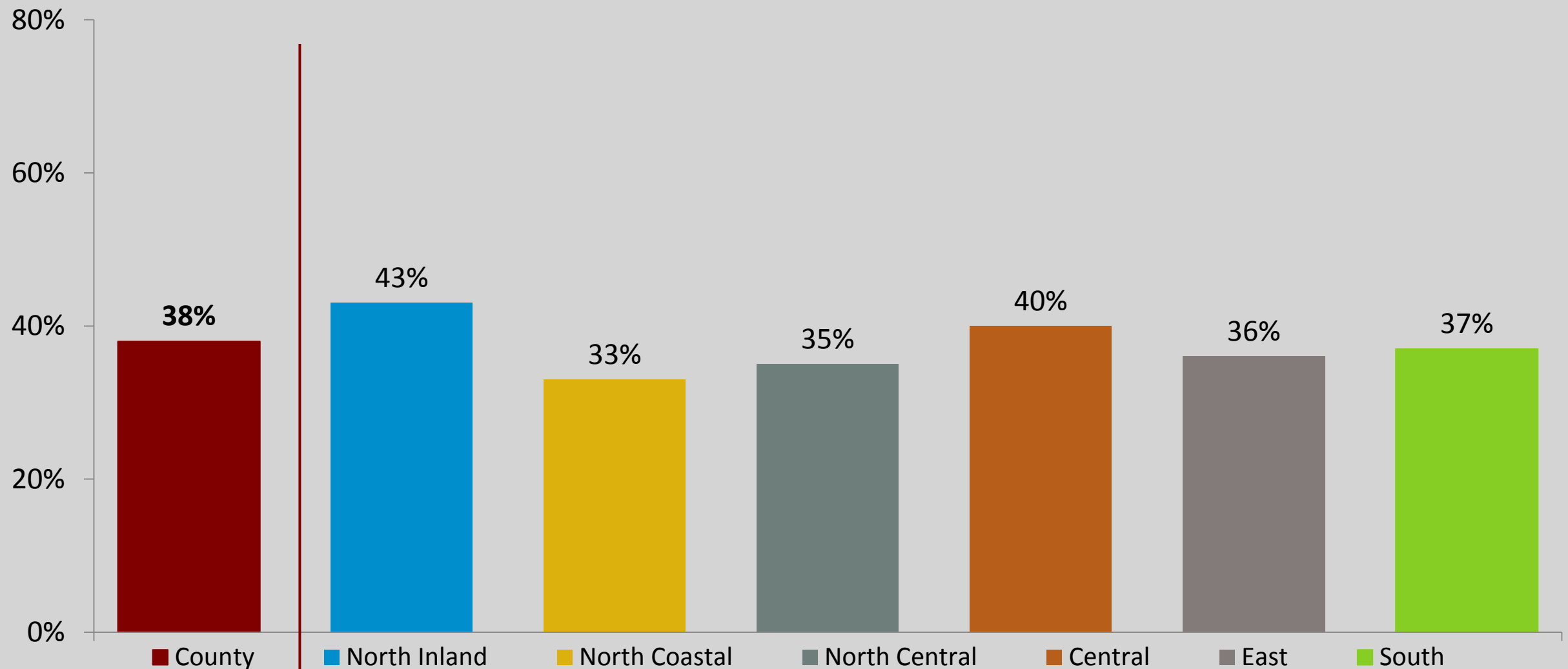
COMMUNITY SURVEY FINDINGS

Percentage of respondents indicating that the following marijuana-related items cause problems in their communities:



COMMUNITY SURVEY FINDINGS

Percentage of respondents indicating that “Drugged Driving” causes problems in their community:

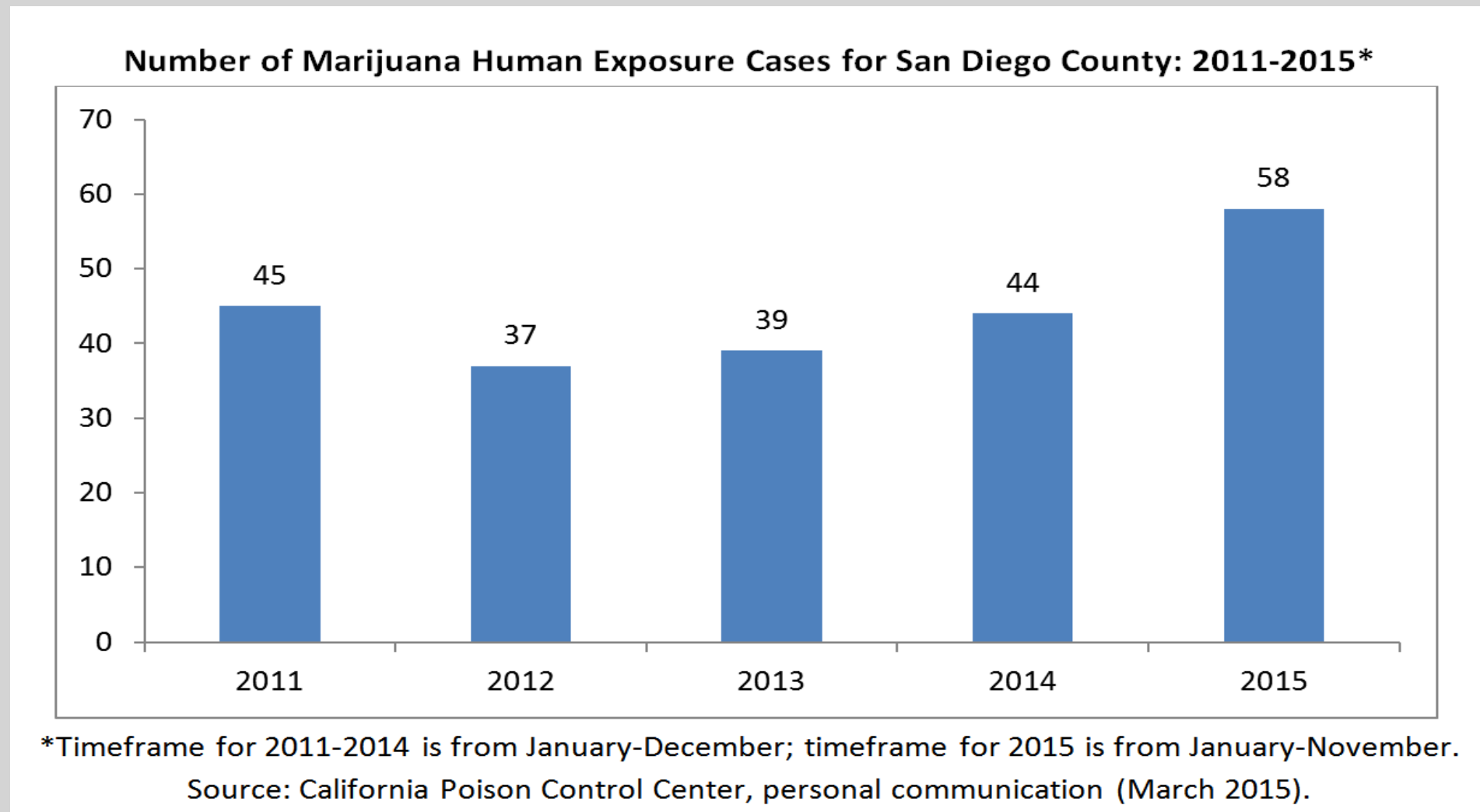


2016 COMMUNITY SURVEY FINDINGS

	Harmful 2011	Harmful 2014	Harmful 2016
Smoking marijuana if a person is under 21 years old.	--	76%	77%
Smoking marijuana every day or every week.	80%	77%	76%
Eating edible marijuana food products.	--	--	67%

POISON CONTROL 2011-15

- Increase in the number of marijuana exposure cases from 2011 - 2015



EMERGENCY DEPT. DISCHARGE DATA

Marijuana-Related Emergency Department Discharge Data San Diego County 2006-2014

This fact sheet summarizes data obtained from the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, Emergency Department Discharge Database on County of San Diego Emergency Department visits related to cannabis use over a nine-year time frame (i.e., 2006-2014).¹ Table 1 provides data on discharges in which cannabis use was (1) the primary diagnosis or (2) either the primary or secondary diagnosis upon discharge (i.e., all diagnoses that included coding for cannabis).² For most secondary cases, individuals came into the Emergency Department for something else (e.g., broken arm, injury, flu, etc.) and cannabis use was added as a secondary diagnosis. In these cases, the drug use may or may not have contributed to the reason for the Emergency Department visit.

Table 1. Cannabis-related San Diego County Emergency Department Discharges by Year									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total ER Discharges	573,858	601,102	612,310	643,091	635,302	671,815	698,303	727,510	781,289
Primary Cannabis-related Diagnosis Only									
Primary Cannabis-related Discharges	86	107	77	111	136	188	205	171	232
Primary Cannabis-related Discharge Rate* by Total ER Discharges	15.0	17.8	12.6	17.3	21.4	28.0	29.4	23.5	29.7
Primary Cannabis-related Discharge Rate* by County Population	2.9	3.5	2.5	3.6	4.4	6.0	6.5	5.4	7.2
All Cannabis-related Diagnosis (Primary & Secondary Diagnosis Combined)									
All Cannabis-related Discharges	1,108	1,734	1,851	2,362	3,722	4,300	5,311	7,354	10,302
Cannabis-related Discharge Rate* by Total ER Discharges	193.0	288.5	302.3	367.3	585.9	640.0	760.6	1011.4	1318.6
Cannabis-related Discharge Rate* by County Population	37.1	57.5	60.7	76.7	119.6	137.2	168.0	231.0	320.5

*Rate per 100,000 people

¹ Source: California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, Emergency Department Data. Prepared by the California Department of Public Health, Safe and Active Communities Branch. Reports generated from <http://epicenter.cdph.ca.gov> on: March 14, 2016.

² A primary or secondary cannabis-related diagnosis is assigned an ICD-9 code of 304.3 or 305.2 following a positive blood test for the presence of THC or the patient's self-disclosure of use.

USE DATA COLLECTED AND DEVELOP USER FRIENDLY MATERIALS

- MPI develops and disseminates data documents and educational materials
- Examples:
 - Community Readiness Assessment Report
 - 30,000+ Informational Postcards on marijuana,
 - Materials available in English and Spanish
 - County and School District CHKS Snapshot
 - *At-A-Glance, San Diego County Marijuana Prevention Initiative*
 - *Key Data: Marijuana Prevention Points of Consideration*
- Materials also posted on MPI website:

<http://www.mpisdcounty.net/>

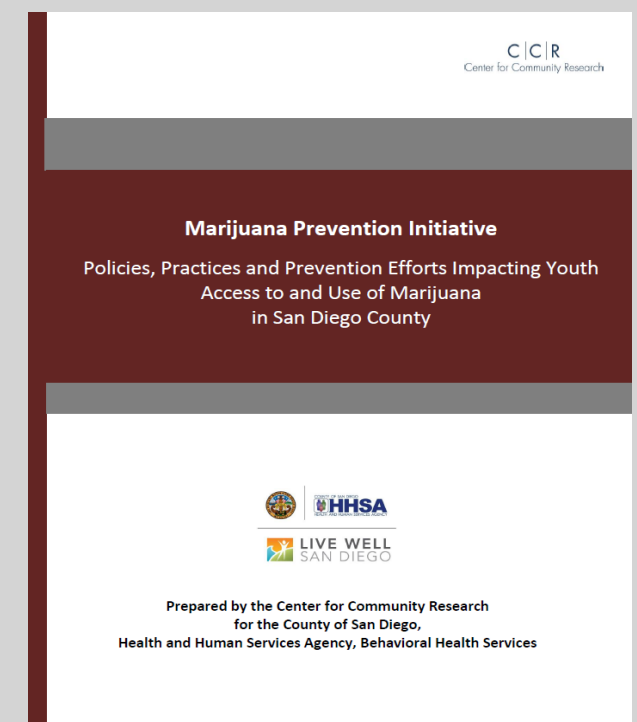


EDUCATION ON EMERGING TRENDS

- **Trainings/Presentations:**
 - On marijuana, synthetic drugs, butane hash oil, edibles
- **Community Forums, Town Hall Meetings & Seminars:**
 - *Impacts of Chronic Marijuana Use among Youth*
 - *Vape Pens, Marijuana and the Teen Brain: What Every Parent Needs to Know*
- **Community Partnerships:**
 - UCSD Dept. of Neuropsychiatry, Toussaint
 - Academy, SDUSD Police Dept., Regional Prevention Providers
- **Youth Trainings/Outreach:** Non-traditional schools, middle/high schools, regional youth groups, focus groups
- **Spice Prevention:** Postcards, presentations, Spice Fact Sheets, environmental scans in collaboration with Regional Providers

MPI REPORT - 2016

- Centralized location for county-wide data points
- Meant to be used as a roadmap for the county
- Available on SUD website



MPI

Marijuana
Prevention
Initiative

San Diego County

Changing Landscape

CHANGING POLITICAL LANDSCAPE!

- Prop 64 - Recreational Use Initiative called the Adult Use of Marijuana Act
- Creation of the MMRSA (Medical Marijuana Regulatory and Safety Act) - Medical use
- States that have legalized marijuana
 - Alaska
 - Oregon
 - Colorado
 - Washington
 - DC

Group aims to legalize marijuana use in California

Marijuana advocacy group says it will pursue pot legalization ballot measure in California

AP September 24, 2014 11:00 AM



FILE - This Feb. 1, 2011 file photo shows medical marijuana clone plants at a medical marijuana dispensary in Oakla...

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The nation's largest marijuana policy advocacy group plans to begin raising funds for a ballot measure in 2016 to legalize recreational marijuana use in California.

The Marijuana Policy Project says it will file paperwork Wednesday with the California secretary of state's office for a new committee that



DEA

POT REMAINS SCHEDULE 1

What it means to be a Schedule 1 Drug:

- No medical value
- High propensity for abuse and addiction



A DIFFERENT GENERATION!

- All about the “experience” vs. material possessions.
- Access to everything all the time! Constant distractions!

“Imagine being a 7 year old and sitting in front of a computer where you could type anything you wanted into a search engine (Google) and have it appear in front of you.”

“Our issue is that the world and what we have access to is expanding so fast, and we have no idea how to create simplicity for ourselves.”

...source: Nicholas Cole - Inc.com

DISPENSARIES

- 150 designated locations for dispensaries in Un-incorporated San Diego County and two currently operating legally. **Temporary moratorium on new storefronts. March - 2016**
- County Collective/Dispensary Ordinance prohibits the sale of edible products. Can sell dry ingredients!
- The City of San Diego allows (4) dispensaries per (9) council districts.
- Several other San Diego cities have bans!
- **Many non-compliant operations**

In 2014-15, 582 medical cards were issued countywide



**REGARDLESS OF THE POLITICAL
OUTCOMES!**

**Prevention around youth marijuana
use must continue!**

EVOLVING PRODUCT

MPI

Marijuana
Prevention
Initiative

San Diego County

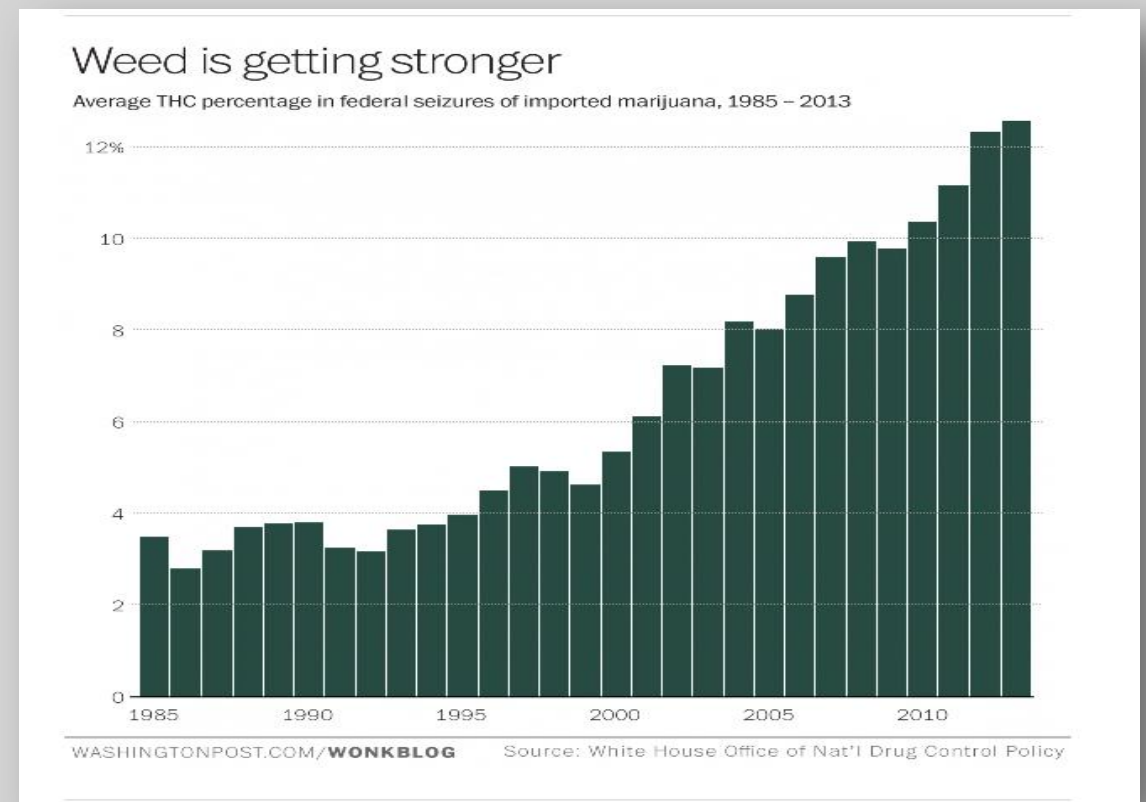
ERA OF HIGH POTENCY POT!

- Improvements in gardening technology (Grobo.)
- Cross breeding (Indica & Sativa species).
- Genetic modification, breeding out certain chemicals to enhance others.
- Extraction methods that create resins using chemicals such as butane.



THC INCREASE

- Strength of weed seized by federal authorities has steadily risen over time
- Local retail outlets advertise strains containing 26% + THC
- National Institute on Drug Abuse caps research on marijuana at 12% THC



CONCENTRATES - WAX, BUTANE HASH OIL, EDIBLES

(BUD CONTAINING - 26% THC, CONCENTRATES MAY CONTAIN 30 - 90%)



THE POT PLANT



- The pot/cannabis plant has over 400 chemicals.
- **Tetrahydrocannabinol or THC** is the chemical responsible for marijuana's high.
- Some chemicals derived from the pot plant may help control seizures and aid with appetite.

Legitimate Prescriptions- (Dronabinol to treat nausea caused by chemotherapy and boost appetite in patients with AIDS wasting syndrome and Nabilone - MS)

You do not need the psychoactive components to get the medical value

MEDICAL BENEFITS

- Most of the beneficial health effects from marijuana are from the chemical - Cannabidiol or CBD not THC.
- CBD is not psychoactive. THC is!
- CBD interferes with the “high” caused from the THC.
- CBD is non-psychoactive because it **does not** act on the same pathways as THC.
 - These pathways, called CB1 receptors, are highly concentrated in the brain and are responsible for the mind-altering effects of THC.
- Many of today's strains contain low doses of CBD.

EVOLVING PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACTS

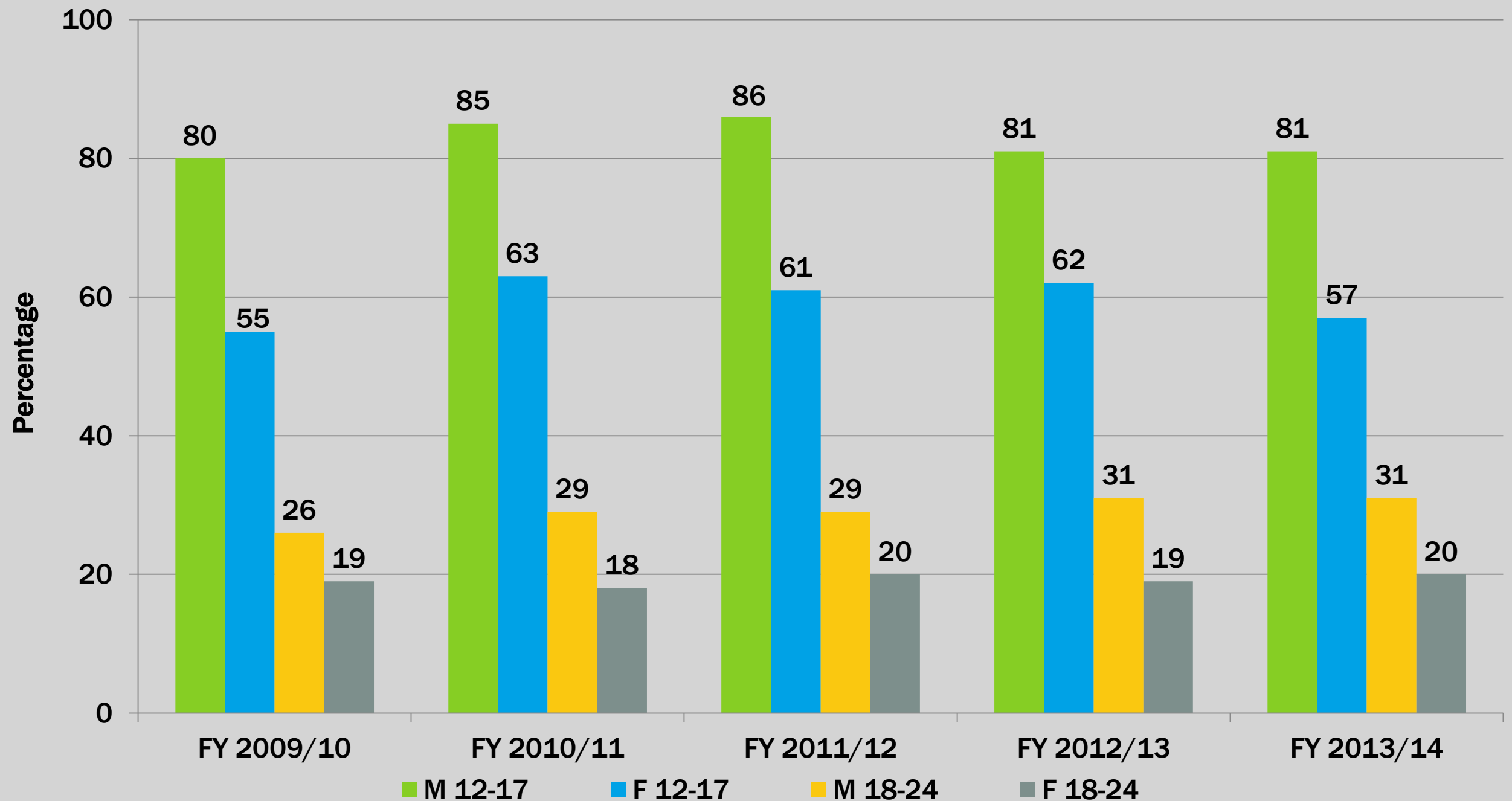
MPI

Marijuana
Prevention
Initiative

San Diego County

PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH TREATMENT ADMISSION RATES BY GENDER & AGE RANGE

MARIJUANA AS PRIMARY DRUG OF CHOICE - SAN DIEGO COUNTY TREATMENT PROGRAMS



WHY TREATMENT FOR POT?

- No one ever overdosed from marijuana, so why treatment? **How do you know if the ME's office is not looking for it????**
- Treatment is not just about saving peoples lives from a chemical overdose it is about managing the addiction to allow for a healthy productive life.

NEED FOR TREATMENT

The drug use is impacting the individual in a way that:

- Disrupts daily life!
- Impacts family, friends, health, grades, use interferes with a healthy daily routine (use as a coping mechanism).
- When use is causing involvement with Law Enforcement and School Officials, truancy/attendance issues, curfew violations, drug sales, poor grades, unsafe driving, other public safety hazards.

LOCAL HEALTH ISSUES

- Many people who smoke marijuana have lung issues including chronic bronchitis. Marijuana smoke contains many of the same cancer causing carcinogens as cigarettes.
- Too much marijuana, has resulted in Cyclical Vomiting Syndrome, severe abdominal pain and vomiting.



EVOLVING PREVENTION STRATEGIES

MPI

Marijuana
Prevention
Initiative

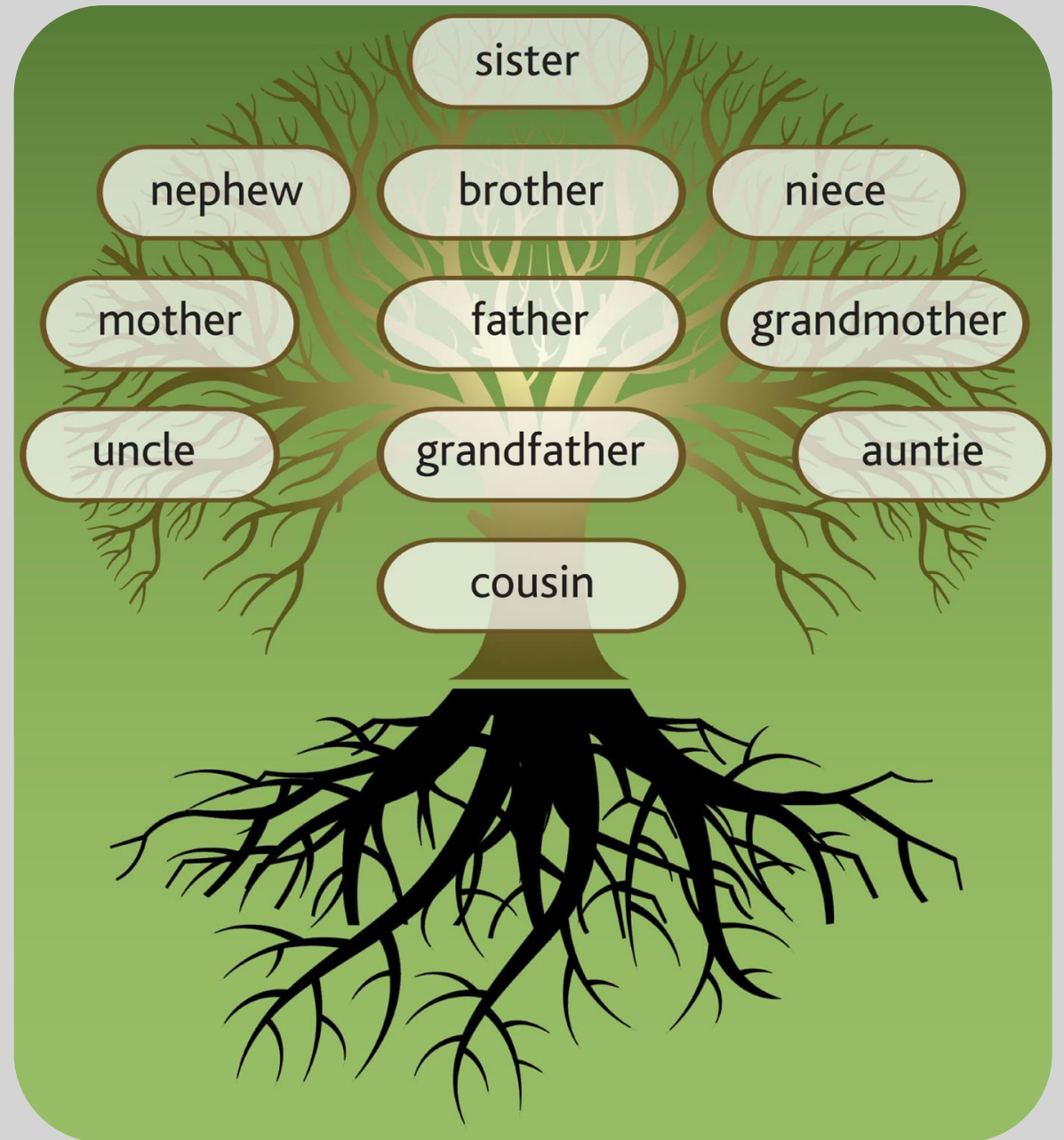
San Diego County

SPEAKING TO YOUTH

- **Be honest!**
- **Discuss the information, allow for many questions!**
- **Know what you are discussing! Co- present with someone that does.**
- **Do not get lost in a political debate.**
- **Telling them not to do it, is not enough!**

EVERYONE REACTS DIFFERENTLY TO DRUGS AND ALCOHOL!

- Metabolism - Your Body
- Family History
- Environment



IF YOU NEED MEDICAL ADVICE GO TO YOUR PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN!

- Do not take yourself off of Doctor prescribed medication and supplement with marijuana!



DIRECT STUDENT CONTACT

- MPI and collaborative partners continue to directly engage youth regarding marijuana and health.
- Continue to conduct emerging drug trainings with school staff, SRO's, Probation.
- MPI is a member of the Grossmont district SARB (Student Attendance Review Board).
- Access to MPI materials are disseminated through www.mpisdcounty.net. Staff can schedule trainings through the website.

IMPACTS

Mr. Ebeestien,

Sorry to make you read this but I really wanted to talk to you after class and didn't have the courage to. I've "used" this as a coping mechanism for around half a year. I'm aware continuing on this path leads to using it to cope as an adult, but I didn't plan on using long term, I just used to run away from my feelings. Slide after slide, you really made me realize that this does have negative effects, contrary to popular belief. I sincerely think I would've stayed on this path but thanks to specifically you, I'm two days sober and trying to never substance abuse again. Me and my parents made a list of better coping strategies, like drawing and

reading books I like. To wrap it up, I want to thank you a million times with my life for opening my eyes on what I'm really doing. Because if you didn't come in, I wouldn't have woken up and eventually would've died from my using. You gave me the courage, I've never had, to actually do something and help myself for once. I will get therapy if I experience withdrawal, because you motivated me to help myself and stop, so thank you.

-Ryan

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) TRAINING 2013

- **Focus:** Trends related to youth and marijuana, synthetic drug, and prescription drug use/abuse; administrative and juvenile justice issues; and campus intervention policies
 - Attendance: 80 SROs from across San Diego County
- **Partners:** San Diego County Office of Education, Sheriff's, Probation, Assistant District Attorney, Grossmont School District and Grossmont College
- **Key Findings:** Almost all SRO Post-Training Survey respondents said:
 - The SRO training was relevant to their work
 - They learned new AOD-related trends on campus
 - They would participate in similar trainings



REGIONAL PREVENTION COLLABORATIONS

MPI

Marijuana
Prevention
Initiative

San Diego County

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT: BHO EXPLOSIONS



PREVENTION IN THE MEDIA

The San Diego Union-Tribune

Today's Paper Weather 76° F Traffic Surf Newsletters SUBSCRIBE Search

NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS A&E LIFESTYLE MILITARY OPINION VIDEO OBITS DEALS & CLASSIFIEDS JOBS HOMES CARS

OPINION | COMMENTARY

Illegal pot shops jeopardizing neighborhoods

By Monte Jones | 3:15 p.m. July 29, 2016



Outlets in an unincorporated part of El Cajon, in the first licensed medical marijuana dispensary in San Diego County. The Board of Supervisors is considering a ban on storefronts on new storefronts. — E.C. Alford

Meet Javier Rodriguez. Born and raised in Columbia, Rodriguez immigrated to the United States in 1989. He set down roots in Logan Heights as the owner and manager of Restaurante Antojitos Colombiano.

Serving authentic Colombian cuisine by an attentive, knowledgeable staff, Rodriguez's restaurant soon cultivated a loyal customer following. His business thrived, until an unpermitted, unregulated marijuana outlet opened for business next door.

In no time, Rodriguez's restaurant was enveloped in a persistent, pungent cloud of marijuana smoke. As Rodriguez, his staff and patrons reeled from the fumes, a steady stream of people frequented the pot shop next door during all hours of the day and well into the night.

Diners complained to Rodriguez of the overpowering marijuana smoke seeping into the restaurant as they attempted to enjoy their meals. His kitchen staff was impacted particularly by the marijuana smoke, complaining of shortness of breath and headaches, as well as nose and throat irritation.

While Rodriguez's legal, permitted business suffered, an outlaw marijuana outlet bustled with business, selling drugs to a suspicious, at times disruptive, clientele.

Rodriguez's story is not uncommon. In fact, his experience is shared with many small business owners, across the city of San Diego, who have the misfortune of operating a restaurant, retail or professional establishment next door to an illegal pot shop.

Despite San Diego City Attorney Jan Goldsmith's recent success in shutting down several illegal marijuana dispensaries, dozens remain open for businesses.

Operating in defiance of municipal laws — and at times, court orders to close shop — these unpermitted, unregulated businesses are a blight on neighborhoods.

Complaints filed with the City Attorney's Office describe the negative impacts illegal marijuana operators and their customers impose on neighborhoods: loitering, littering, graffiti, vulgarity, smoking marijuana in public view, and at times, violence.

San Diego: Eat at the best restaurants around for next to nothing. Exclusive deals available today! [see today's deal](#)

TOP STORIES

- UCSD ranks No. 2 in graduate success measures
- Search colleges for score on success metrics
- Teacher chronic absence rate exceeds students
- Military families unlawfully evicted from rental homes
- I'd rather be free than entombed in my body

dyson pure cool link

Keep yourself cool this summer.



Purifies all year round. Purifying fan in summer.

[Learn more](#)

TRENDING

7 SAN DIEGO

Home News Weather Olympics Entertainment ...

WATCH LIVE TV 76° Connect

Local U.S. & World California SportsWrap Decision 2016


HAS BEEN

Unincorporated East County Residents 'Fed Up' With Illegal Pot Dispensaries

One official said some dispensaries have been operating illegally for at least a year

By Candice Nguyen

f t i e p



Residents in San Diego County's Casa del Oro area have formed a group to address the problem of illegal marijuana dispensaries operating in their area, saying more needs to be done to crack down on the problem.

Residents of the unincorporated East County area formed the the Casa del Oro Community Alliance six months ago to fight the issue. Members say the San Diego County Sheriff's Department (SDSO) and County Supervisor Dianne Jacob's Office is working with them, but there are still lingering concerns.


HAS BEEN


Image shown with optional LED headlights.




TRENDING STORIES

- 1 Body Found on I-8 in Mission Valley
- 2 VIDEO Canyon Fire Sparks in University City
- 3 VIDEO Mother of Baby Found Dead in Bag Likely Trafficking Victim
- 4 Things to Do This Weekend: Aug. 18-21

EDIBLES



**LifeLock**
PROTECT NOW

 DETECT  ALERT  RESTORE

3 Layers Of Protection
For Your Unique Identity

ALL POLITICS CRIME BUSINESS SPORTS EDUCATION ARTS MILITARY TECH LIFE OPINION

LATEST NEWS A Cautionary 'Dinner With Marlene' at Lamb's Players Theatre [NEW! Buy & Sell w/ TRUSTED locals](#)

[Home](#) » [Opinion](#) » This Article

The Hidden Danger in Unregulated Marijuana Edibles

POSTED BY EDITOR ON MARCH 15, 2016 IN OPINION | 690 VIEWS | 1 RESPONSE

Share This Article:
      

Medical marijuana shop. Image via Wikimedia Commons

By Dr. Roneet Lev

Buying snack foods and beverages is a common occurrence. We routinely review the package label of all the ingredients, as well as the serving size and calorie content. We trust that the products we buy are made in a safe, clean environment.

Yet, for marijuana infused food products, no set standards exist. Currently, the food and beverage products containing tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the psychoactive ingredient in pot, have absolutely no oversight, and there is no way a consumer can know how potent the snack item is or if it contains an allergen. Users of these products really have no idea what they are smoking or eating and this unknown can be deadly.

Last October, five Crawford High School youth were taken to the hospital for eating brownies containing marijuana. The principal took the time to write a letter to parents stating, "Unfortunately,

 DETECT  ALERT  RESTORE

**LifeLock**
PROTECT NOW

GET TIMES OF SAN DIEGO BY EMAIL

Our free newsletter is delivered at 8 a.m. daily.

Email Address

SUBSCRIBE

**SUNGEVITY**Hey CA
Business
Owners

Spending \$500+



DRUGGED DRIVING

Ramona Sentinel

Find

News Sports Business Lifestyle Opinion Columns Real Estate Obits Classifieds



Bankruptcy Counseling & Representation
Bankruptcy • Family Law • Divorce
Child Custody • Adoptions
Personal Injury • Prompt Personal Attention
Reasonable Fees! Payment Plans!

Law Offices of **Krysak & Assoc.**
760-789-9314
Ramona's only full time bankruptcy attorney. Why go down the hill?



2014 BEST OF RAMONA
READER'S POLL



View this week's
Open Homes

NEWS

Montecito High students rally against drugged driving

Leadership class cautions public about driving under the influence

By JESSICA KING 4:19 p.m. March 4, 2016

Print Comments 0



Montecito High School students join mental health officials in a rally against drugged driving. Jessica King

ParadiseSewing
We love to sew... Time to get creative!

Fun & Informative Classes For All Ages
Sewing • Embroidery • Quilting
We're Your One Stop Shop!

12639 Poway Road, Poway
(618) 679-9808
[CLICK FOR INFO](#)

Newsletter

Sign up for Ramona
Sentinel Email
Newsletters

Signup

Regina Flores
REAL ESTATE GROUP
BIGBLOCK REALTY
CA BRE# 01297858
CA BRE# 01885775

"Our teamwork makes your dream work."

619.606.3513

South Bay Youth Takes On Drugged Driving

SOUTH BAY YOUTH BRINGS AWARENESS OF DRUGGED DRIVING TO DUI CHECKPOINTS

By Barbara Rodriguez (Open Post) - March 7, 2015 7:41 pm ET



(South Bay)— Think alcohol is the only substance that impairs drivers? Think again. Drugged driving is now a public health and safety issue on our roads and highways.

According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), in 2009, one-in-three drivers killed in motor vehicle crashes who were tested had drugs in their systems.

In response to the increase in drugged driving, the South Bay Youth 4 Change—a local group of high school students who work to increase their communities health and safety by reducing underage drinking and drug use in the South Bay—are partnering with the Chula Vista Police Department during the March 7th DUI checkpoint.

At the DUI checkpoint, youth distributed developed informational flyers from the Marijuana Prevention Initiative on the consequences of driving under the influence of drugs.

"I'm doing this because I want to see a change in my community", said Alexander Rodriguez, South Bay Youth 4 Change. "My cousin was killed by a drunk driver and I wish we can make a change for future generations," he said.



Trending Now Across Patch

1. Mother Swims More than 2 Hours to Shore After Family Nearly Drowns
2. Watch Live Stream: Donald Trump Speaks In Michigan
3. 2017 NBA All-Star Game Will be Played in New Orleans
4. NYC Parks Department Mocks Donald Trump Statue's Tiny Man Parts
5. Patch's Live Back-To-School Deals Blog!

Stay Connected

SOCIAL MEDIA

POSTED GRAPHICS ALONG WITH A FACTOID ON BOTH INSTAGRAM AND FACEBOOK EVERY
DAY FROM MARCH 28 - APRIL 19 ■

KNOW WEED?

Marijuana & our youth

Keynote Speakers:

Dr. Susan Writer: Aurora Behavioral Health - Early Intervention
Dr. Roneet Lev: Scripps Memorial Hospital - Overdose Incidents
Joe Eberstein: Center for Community Research – Current Trends
Patrick Foley: N. Central Teen Recovery Center - Treatment
Jeanne McAlister: McAlister Institute - Long Term Recovery

SAVE THE DATE

Teens, Parents, &
Community Members
Are Invited to
Join the Conversation

April 19, 2016

North Central Region
Community Forum
@ Madison High
(in the Auto-torium)
4833 Doliva Drive
5:30-7:30 pm

Dinner from "Fat
Tony's" @ 5:30 pm

KNOW THE FACTS

- One in five 9th graders (18%) reported using marijuana sometime in their life.
- One in three 11th graders (32%) reported using marijuana sometime in their life.
- 10% of high school students reported trying marijuana before they were 13.

(CHKS, San Diego County, SDUSD, 2015)

ASK THE EXPERTS

- Why is marijuana use associated with attention and memory problems?
- How does marijuana use accelerate the onset of psychotic disorders?
- Can habitual marijuana use lower IQ over time?
- Why is marijuana considered a gateway drug?
- What's different about today's marijuana?
- How do I know if my child is using and what should I do?



Did You Know...

Marijuana smoke contains 50% - 70% more carcinogens than tobacco smoke.



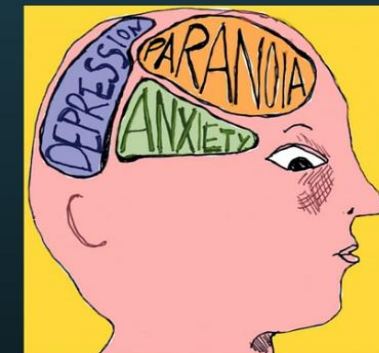
These carcinogens can lead to phlegm production, wheezing, bronchitis, and injure the cell lining of your lungs.

Source: American Lung Association

#ichoosenottouse

#uthinkuknowweed

Did You Know...



Marijuana doubles the risk of psychosis and schizophrenia with withdrawal symptoms of anxiety, insomnia, loss of appetite, and depression.

Source: Telegraph Media Group Legacy

#uthinkuknowweed

#ichoosenottouse



Put Drugged Driving
“On Your Radar”

MPI
Marijuana
Prevention
Initiative
San Diego County

**DRUGGED DRIVING
CAMPAIGN KICK OFF JUNE 11, 2015**

MPI

Marijuana
Prevention
Initiative

San Diego County

CLEAR MESSAGE!

“No one should be driving under the influence of any substance that can impair your driving ability.”

California's drugged driving law is found at [Sec. 23152 of the California Vehicle Code](#): It states that:

(c) It is unlawful for a person who is addicted to the use of any drug to drive a vehicle. This subdivision shall not apply to a person who is participating in [an approved] narcotic treatment program

(e) It is unlawful for a person who is under the influence of any drug to drive a vehicle.

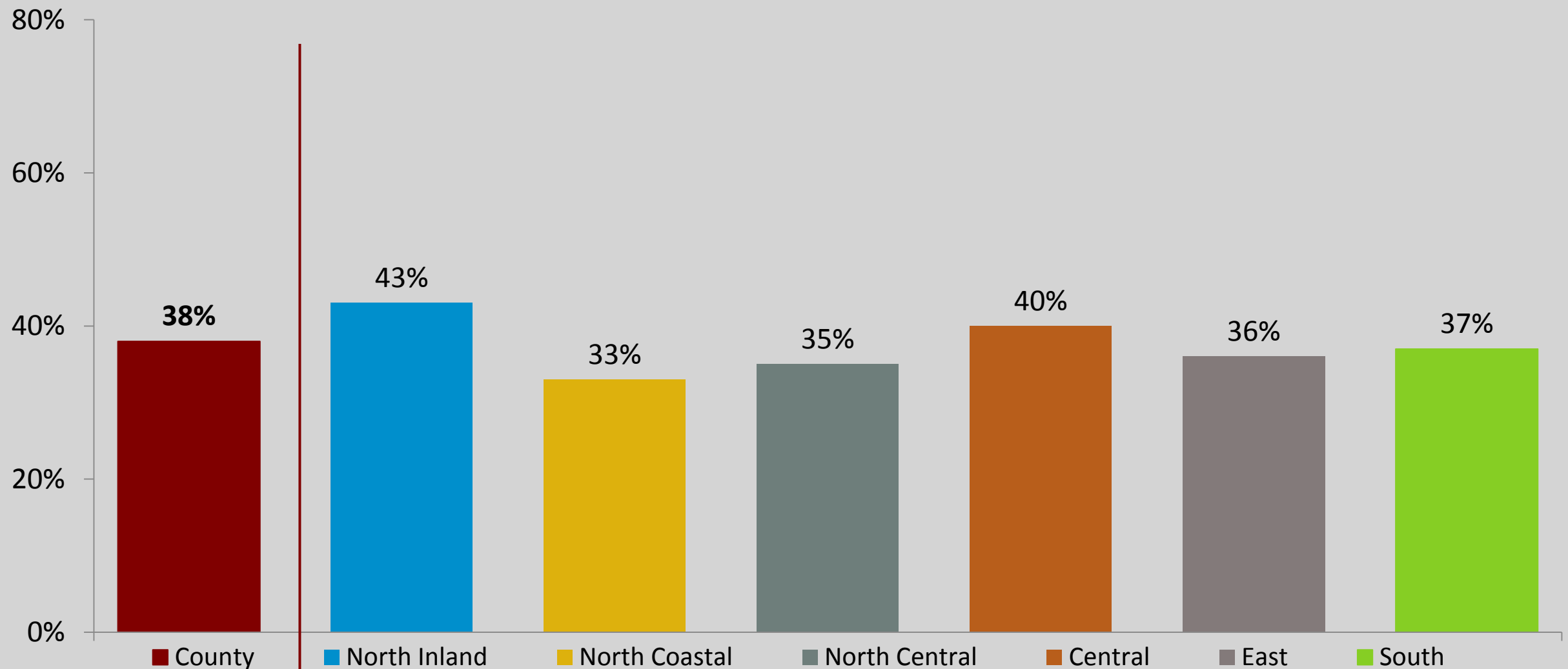
(f) It is unlawful for a person who is under the combined influence of any alcoholic beverage and drug to drive a vehicle.

In California it's a crime to drive while impaired from drug use. No blood testing standard is established in California – that is, there is no fixed amount of drugs within the blood system that determines conviction. Whether a driver is impaired is determined on a case-by-case basis and at the discretion of the prosecutor.

California also prohibits driving by someone who “is addicted to the use of any drug” unless the person qualifies as participating in an approved recovery program. “Addicted” refers to emotional and physical dependence on a drug so that it is taken compulsively. See [People v. O'Neil, 62 Cal.2d 748 \(1965\)](#)

COMMUNITY SURVEY FINDINGS

Percentage of respondents indicating that “Drugged Driving” causes problems in their community:



PUT DRUGGED DRIVING ON YOUR RADAR!



YOUTH ACTIVITIES



MPI
Marijuana
Prevention
Initiative
San Diego County

Drugged Driving Facts

Deaths from drugged driving have nearly doubled since 1999, accounting for nearly one-third of traffic deaths in 2010. Marijuana was the primary drug involved in the increase. **Why so many deaths?**

Because driving under the influence of marijuana is associated with:

- Impaired ability to estimate time and distance
- Slower reaction times
- Lack of coordination

Today's marijuana is much more potent than it was 30 years ago – and the risks associated with smoking today's marijuana are also much higher (NIDA, 2009).

Young, inexperienced drivers are the most at-risk for crashes on the roads (World Health Organization, 2012).

Despite the risks associated with driving high, the number of persons testing positive for marijuana in California continues to increase (OTS, 2012).

A national study of 22,000 high school seniors found that 27% had been involved in a traffic crash and 42% had received traffic tickets or warnings after smoking marijuana and driving while high (Monitoring the Future, 2013).

The number of traffic crashes and tickets in 2012 was twice as high for high school seniors who smoked marijuana before driving than for those who did not (O'Malley & Johnston, 2013).

Vehicle crashes are the #1 cause of death for young drivers, and substance-impaired driving is one of the main culprits in those deaths (O'Malley & Johnston, 2013).

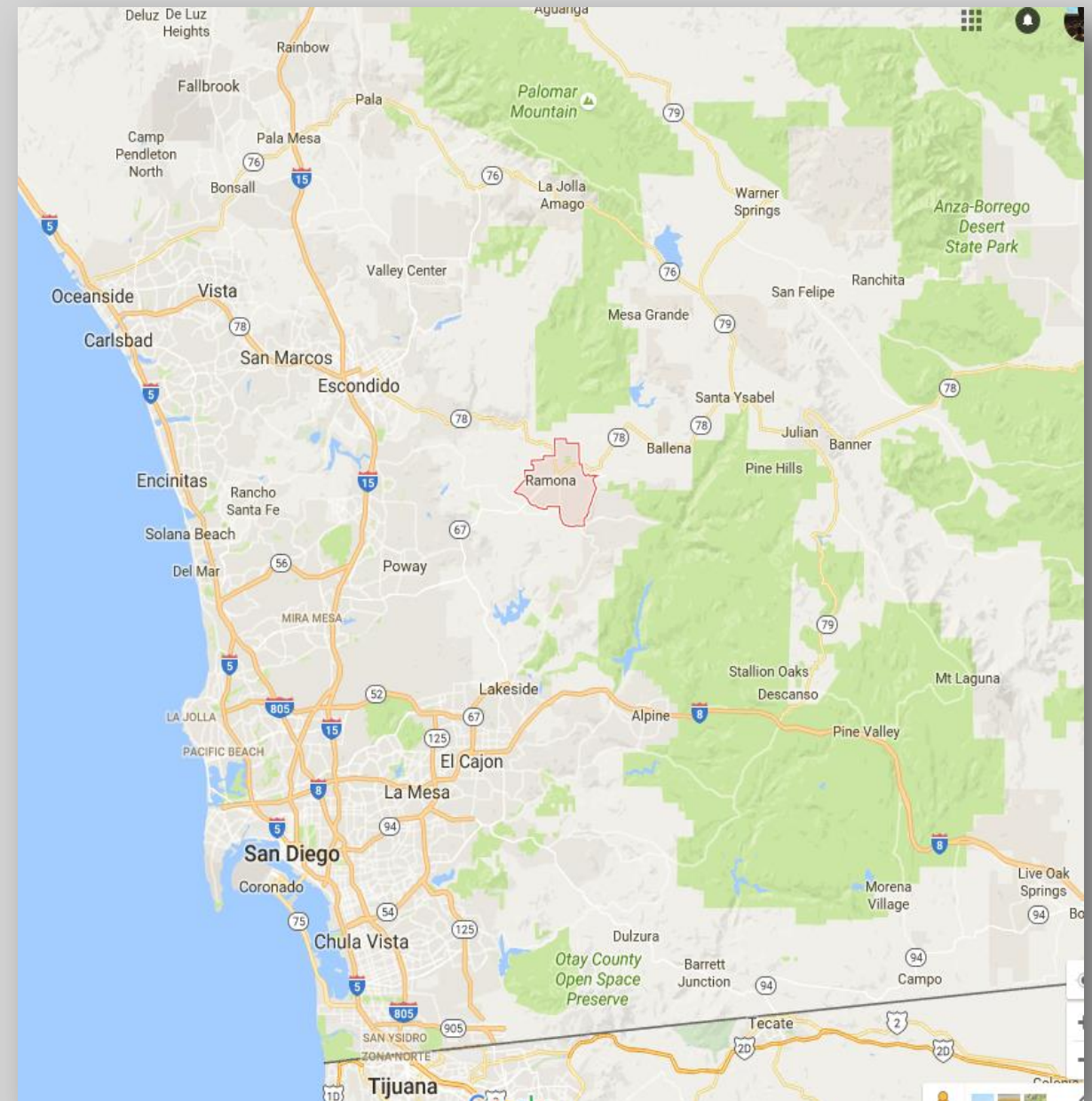


CITY OF RAMONA

City of Ramona (pop. 20, 292)
Rural area, windy mountain roads

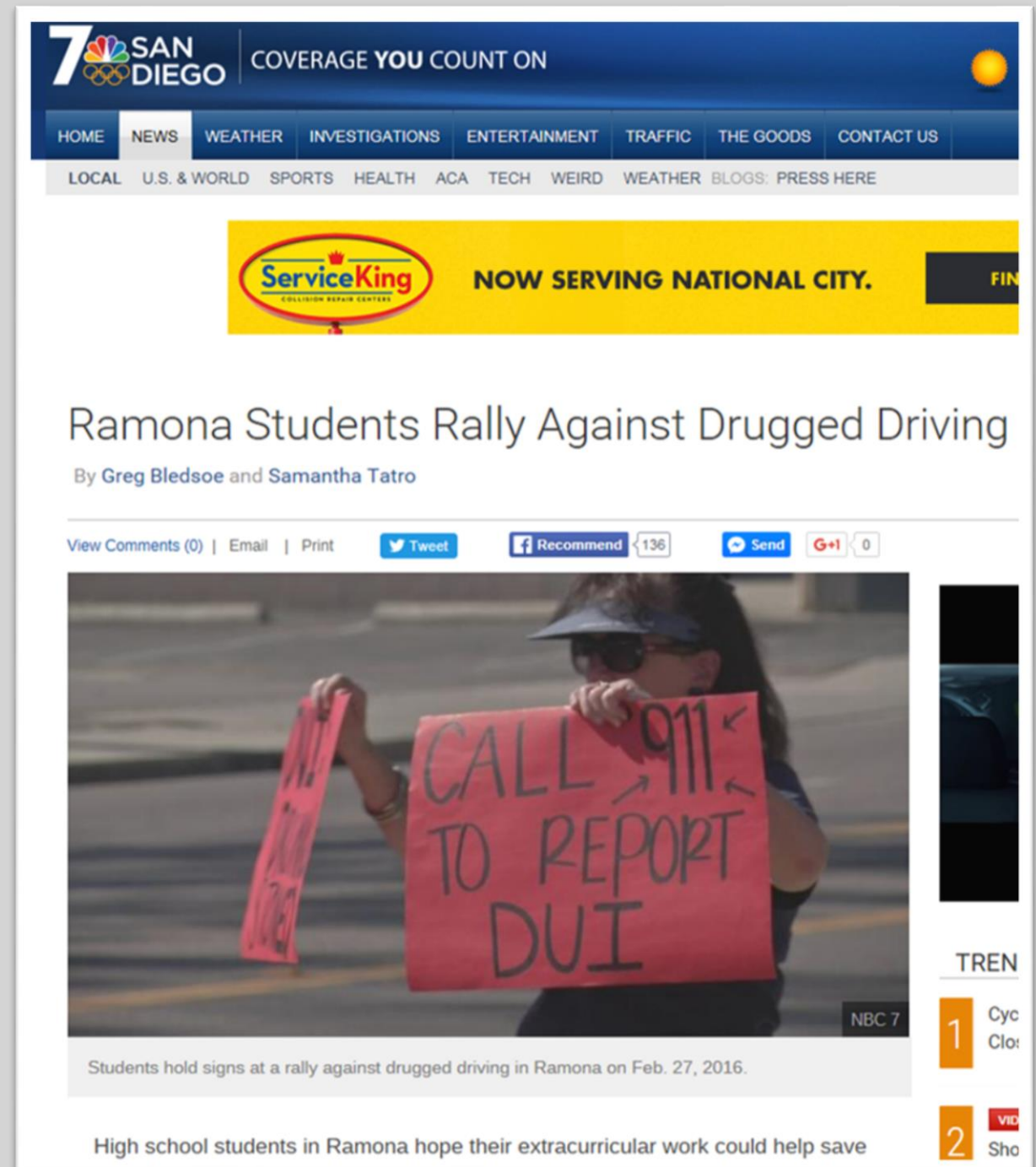
City was set to get 6 marijuana dispensaries. (One existing and five were permitted to open.)

The County ordinance was written with specific land use regulations.



PREVENTION EFFORTS

- Regional provider partnered with NT School.
- Developed Drug Awareness week with partners including MADD and CHP.
- Organized a Drugged Driving rally and invited media.



SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

Utilizing prevention to support the concerns of local residents.

PAGE A2 • APRIL 14, 2016 • RAMONA SENTINEL

www.ramonasentinel.com

Planning group addresses dispensary moratorium

Receives update on parks account

BY KAREN BRAINARD

The county's 45-day moratorium on medical marijuana collectives might be extended, according to Ramona Community Planning Group chair Jim Piva.

"What I'm being told by (county) staff, from Supervisor (Dianne) Jacob, is there's a high probability that the moratorium will be extended 10 months," he said at the planning group's April 7 meeting.

The county Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the moratorium March 16 and directed staff to research information for consideration of banning collectives or amending the county ordinance regulating them. Piva said if staff does not have enough time to research, supervisors can extend the moratorium by 10 months.

The planning group brought the issue to the county's attention because several applicants were interested in opening dispensaries in Ramona. One dispensary, ShowGrow on Montecito Way, had already received its operating certificate and was open before the moratorium.

Resident Joe Minervini said he is concerned there could be lawsuits because two dispensary locations — 1210 Olive St. and 618 Pine St. — had building permits and were close to opening, but the moratorium prevents final approval. Minervini suggested the county allow the one that is open and amortize the other two so the applicants can



Lynn Thomas shows a map of where he wants to build a single-family residence to planners Elio Noyas and Donna Myers, as planner Jim Cooper looks at a copy of the map.

recoup expenses.

Planner Donna Myers also addressed the medical marijuana issue, stepping down from her seat to share thoughts from residents. Myers said many came to the planners' March 3 meeting for the agendaized medical marijuana discussion but talk ran so long on development projects that they left beforehand. Piva said the planners can change the agenda order, and suggested checking public speaker slips at the start of the meeting to see if there are a lot of on one topic.

In other business:

• Dan Scherer, chair of the group's Parks and Recreation Subcommittee, said the latest tally in Ramona's Park Lands Dedication Ordinance account overseen by the county is \$904,283. The planning group wants to apply the funds to its list of park-related projects but money cannot be released until county staff and supervisors give final approval.

Piva has complained that the county deducts an amount from the account each year for an administrative fee, and the

community loses out on that money. Jim Cooper said county Parks and Recreation Department staff is working with the subcommittee and believes they are heading in the right direction.

• Applicants for a property on Main Street, next to Auto Pala streets, gave an information presentation. No trees were in front of the site, they said.

• Planners approved Es Ridge's waiver request to utilities on the development Hanson Lane, as there was a reduction in the 15-reside development.

• Planners endorsed a request for the corner of Hanson Lane to include four lots and a 0.27 acres owned by Jim said he will keep his organic farmstand on the remaining motion included adding along Ashley and Hanson.

• Also approved was a request for a family residence on a lot open space at 17132 Highway Court. Because the property is in the area, applicant Lynn Thomas D-8 waiver request. That will be removed, there are outcroppings, no setback vegetation removal will be required. Absent from the meeting: Tomlinson, Barbara Jensen, Torrey Brean, Paul Stykel.

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

County extends ban on medical pot facilities

Supervisors to look at dispensaries already in the works



By Joshua Stewart | 4:43 p.m. April 27, 2016



MPI

Marijuana
Prevention
Initiative

San Diego County

DRUGGED DRIVING RESEARCH

MMRSA

- Research underway by the **Center for Medical Cannabis Research CMCR** at the University of California, San Diego will be supported by the MMRSA. (<http://www.cmcr.ucsd.edu/>)
- The research will lay the groundwork for new marijuana-specific field sobriety tests and other tools to detect drug-impaired drivers.



CURRENT CMCR RESEARCH:

Cannabis has a definite effect on driving similar to other RX, with swerving effects at the highest levels 3 hours after consumption of fairly low cannabis dose.

Key Findings:

- Slower breaking times
- Impaired ability to judge speed and distance
- Poor lane maintenance

The CMCR is allowed to study up to 12% THC in driving simulators. NIDA caps the amount at 12%. We know that dispensaries are advertising THC products ranging from 20% - 90%.

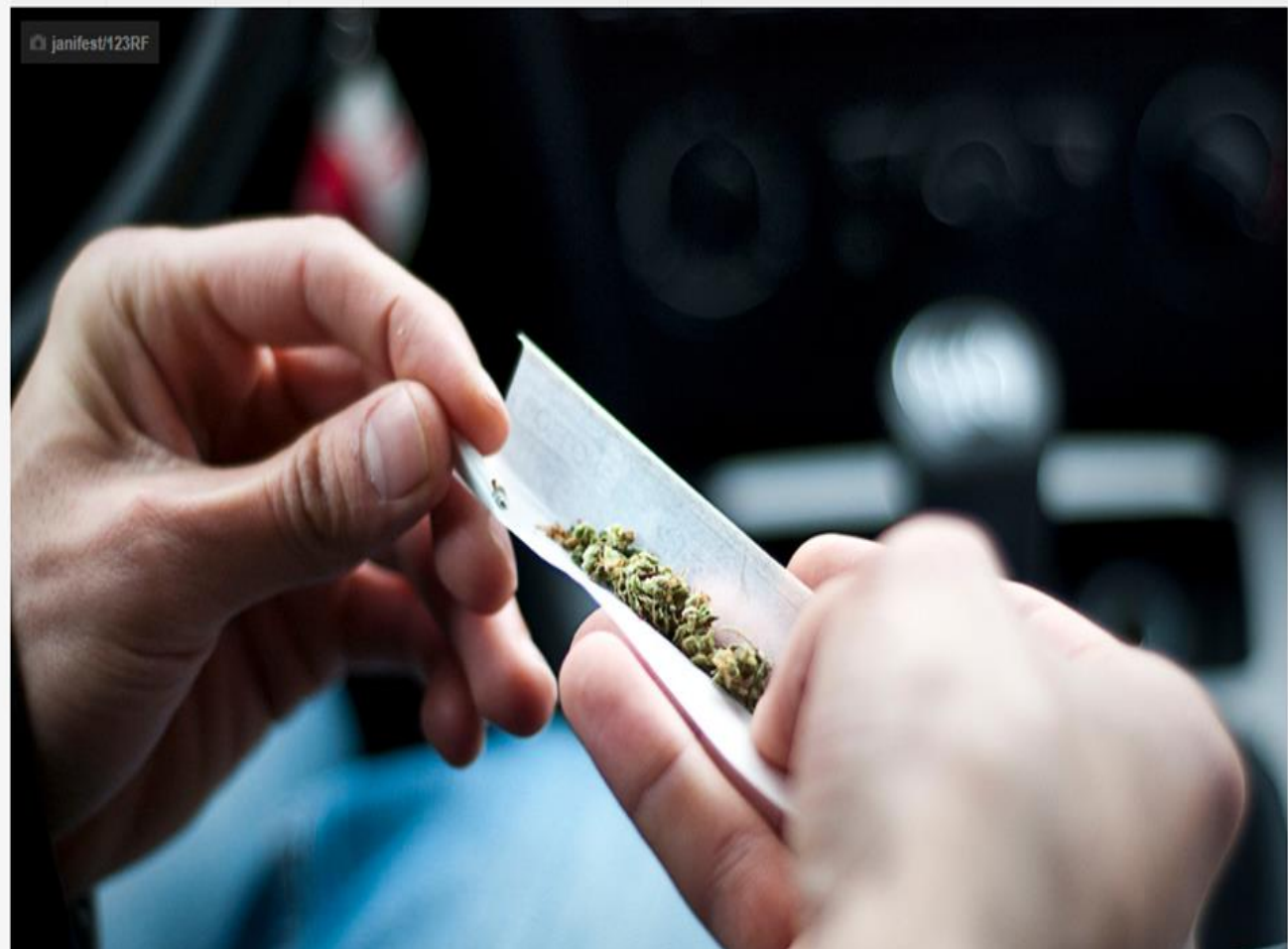
NEW TECHNOLOGY

- The device uses a magneto - nanosensor able to detect traces of marijuana in saliva as rapidly as three minutes.
- No reason to take saliva samples back to the lab for analysis.
- CMCR in process of developing iPad-based cognitive impairment tests and new saliva based tests. (Edible marijuana can be detected in a saliva test).

NEWLY DEVELOPED 3-MINUTE SALIVA TEST COULD HELP COPS DETERMINE IF YOU'RE DRIVING WHILE HIGH

By Luke Dormehl — August 11, 2016 3:26 PM

18 f 190 + Subscribe to this topic



STILL QUESTIONS?

- How many hours after using pot is it “OK” to drive?
- What is the relationship between THC levels and driving?
- What recommendations can doctors make for persons taking marijuana for medical reasons regarding safe driving windows?

PREVENTION STRATEGIES TO PREVENT DRUG DRIVING

- Working with Law Enforcement to increase their DRE capacity
- Raising Awareness among youth groups.
- Consistent messaging with regional providers.
- Collaborations with UCSD researchers.

UPDATES

COLORADO & WASHINGTON



January 2016

The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: *The Impact*

Latest Results for Colorado

MARCH 2016



Washington State Marijuana Impact Report

Northwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

MPI

Marijuana
Prevention
Initiative

San Diego County

CHALLENGES RELATED TO MARIJUANA

NO REGULATIONS

- No quality assurance!
- No potency limits!
- No sanitary requirements!
- No labeling requirements!
- No advertising requirements!



EDIBLE EFFECTS

- May not feel anything for **30 to 60 minutes** (on a full stomach may take nearly two hours to feel full effects).
- The high can last **4 to 8 hours** while the effects from smoking can wear off in an hour or less.



23 YEAR OLD LUKE GOODMAN

- Consumed 5 peach tart candies
- Each candy containing 10mg of THC
- Started becoming jittery and speaking incoherently
- Shot himself

Food Safety News

Breaking news for everyone's consumption

Home

Foodborne Illness Outbreaks

Food Recalls

Food Politics

Events

Subscribe

About Us

Third Death in Colorado Linked to Marijuana Edibles

BY NEWS DESK | MARCH 27, 2015

The third death associated with marijuana edibles could not have come at a worse time for the state's 15-month-old legal pot industry. Services are being held today in Tulsa, OK, for Luke Goodman, 23, who reportedly killed himself last Saturday night in a condo at Colorado's Keystone Ski Area, where he was staying for two weeks with his family.

It will be a few weeks before toxicology reports will be returned, but Goodman's family and friends suspect that edible marijuana was a factor in the self-inflicted gunshot death. His mother, Kim Goodman, blames her son's death on "a complete reaction to the drugs."

Another controversy from a death linked to marijuana edibles was not what the industry needed, especially this week when it was making legislative moves to kill a regulation taking effect in 2016 calling for all marijuana-infused foods to have a distinct look.

The bill to loosen the coming requirement that marijuana-infused cookies or candies be clearly identified as pot-infused did not get a single vote in the committee. The outcome was hailed as a bipartisan agreement that pot-infused food is going to look different than regular food in Colorado come 2016.

It left the conservative Colorado Springs Republican who sponsored the bill to repeal the requirement, state Sen. Owen Hill, charging his colleagues with "micromanagement."

Edibles account for about 45 percent of Colorado's newly legal pot market.

Goodman and his cousin, Caleb Fowler, reportedly purchased \$78 worth of marijuana products, including edibles, last Saturday afternoon. They began ingesting peach tart candies, each containing the recommended dose of 10 mg of THC, or tetrahydrocannabinol, which is the chemical responsible for most of marijuana's psychological effects.

Fowler says his cousin ate at least five of the candies and later became jittery and was talking incoherently.



1ST WRONGFUL DEATH CASE AGAINST A RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA COMPANY



He got high and killed his wife. A lawsuit claims edible marijuana is to blame



Kristine Kirk's husband has been charged with first-degree murder.

By **David Kelly**

JUNE 1, 2016, 3:00 AM | REPORTING FROM DENVER

Kristine Kirk's last moments were a harrowing collision of terror and confusion. Her husband, Richard, had burst through the door ranting about the end of the world. He began climbing in and out of the first-floor window, lying on the bedroom floor and asking for someone to kill him. Then he retrieved a pistol from his safe.

"He's taking the gun out, sir," Kristine, 44, told the Denver 911 dispatcher. "I don't know

SPONSORED CONTENT



Labor Market Solid, But Claims Increase

ADVERTISEMENT

In Case You Missed



How George Takei's boyhood made him a fan of Donald Trump —

3:00 AM



Watch the final Democratic National Convention in less than 4 minutes

4:10 AM



Teachers, dishwashers, engineers: Other professionals who move without their parents

3:00 AM

- Suspect shot wife while she was on the phone with 911.
- The victim, told dispatchers her husband was so impaired after eating the "Karma Kandy Orange Ginger" that he was crawling through a bedroom window and cutting his legs on broken glass.
- Only substance found in Kirk's blood was THC.

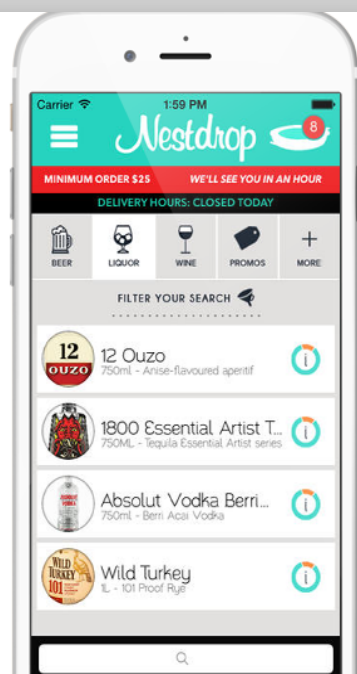
DRUG ACCESS



APPS TO ACCESS WEED

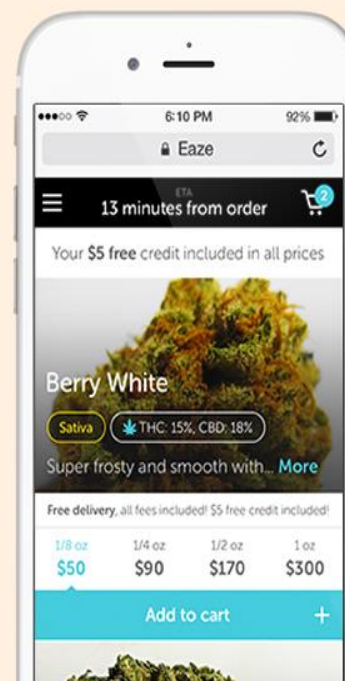
1 Nestdrop

Nestdrop is a Los Angeles startup that began as an alcohol delivery app and has been in and out of the law's good graces since it made the jump to medical marijuana delivery last year. After downloading the app, it quickly let me know that the service was not available in Los Angeles despite delivering to nearby Pasadena. Nestdrop currently functions for weed delivery in Orange County, Oceanside, San Francisco, Stockton, Portland and Seattle. While Nestdrop touts itself as available in Seattle, other Washington-based cannabis industry startups such as Canary and have not been able to stay operating legally within the state. I guess you can't stay legal in a city if your business started there. That's, unless you're Eaze.



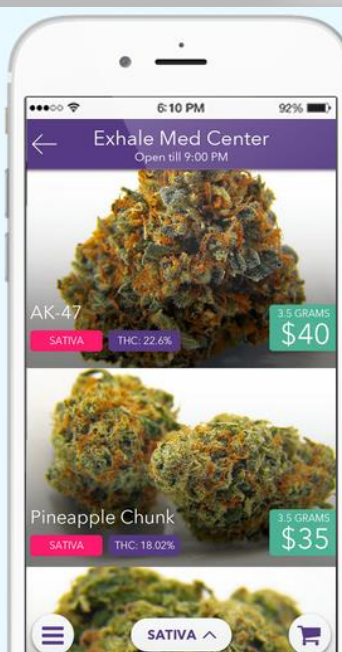
2 Eaze

After a failed attempt at using Nestdrop, I tried ordering through the San Francisco-based app Eaze (which touts Snoop Dogg as one of its investors). Although the app is advertised as being for both iOS and Android, in LA I could only find it in the Google Play store. After quickly getting an account verified via a photograph of my medical marijuana prescription and photo ID, the system let me browse through a selection of flowers (what the legal smoking community calls weed in plant form), prerolls, edibles and concentrates. But when I attempted to order any of their products, Eaze said that none of their drivers were in my area but that I should try again later. I doubted I would have had much luck later though, it's clear from the app's map that the drivers are steering clear of LA city proper and only driving in the nearby cities of Santa Monica and Culver City. The fact that any delivery drivers are showing up on the map at all is surprising because according to Eaze's website, the app is only available in San Francisco and the Bay Area.



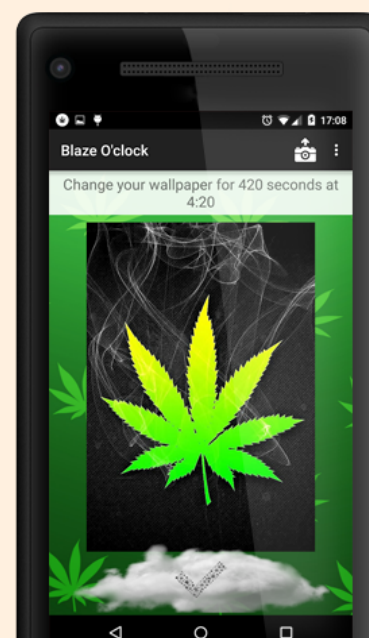
3 Nugg

Nugg is the only app that is legally functioning in all of Los Angeles, but it is no longer available for download on iOS or Android, meaning you have to order through its web browser application. Despite not being able to get weed with the press of a single button, Nugg sorts out the closest dispensary and tells you which ones have delivery service, a similar function to that of Yelp, except it's pot.



4 Blaze O'clock

Speaking of 420, in case you didn't know when to smoke up, one of the most prevalent weed culture apps are those that remind users when it's 4:20. This includes Blaze O'Clock (or more obviously called, the [420 Wallpaper Changer](#)) which will not only give a quick audible alert, but also converts your phone's background to one of eight weed themed wallpapers (two of which feature Snoop Dogg) for 420 seconds. I'm not quite sure what happens on iOS but on my Android device there is also a little cannabis leaf that appears in the upper left-hand corner where my roaming and data error symbols might show up.



DRUG TRANSACTIONS TODAY!



POT AND VAPING -NATIONAL DATA

Among high school students who had used marijuana at least once in their lifetime, **23% reported using e-cigarettes to vaporize dried cannabis leaves**; 15% reported using e-cigarettes to vaporize hash oil; and, 10% reported using e-cigarettes to vaporize “wax”(a high-potency marijuana product)

Source: Morean, et al., 2015



HOW SAFE ARE THE DEVICES?

Vaper Severely Injured When His E-Cigarette Blows Up In His Face, Creating A New Hole In His Mouth

BY BRANDON WENERD • 09.10.15



... or not vaping is safer than smoking. We've posted like four articles on it at BroBible ([here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)). It's a contentious subject with the conclusion is that both have their inherent risks that all users should be

... uria is an awful one, however. According to **Fox 5 DC**, he was ... te device exploded in his face.

... ed James. "I'm at work and things quieted down and I stepped away for a second like I always do. Next thing I know, it exploded and I was on my way to a hospital in an ambulance, and that is the last thing I remember."

A 16-Year-Old Teen Suffered Second Degree Burns When an E-Cigarette Exploded in His Face

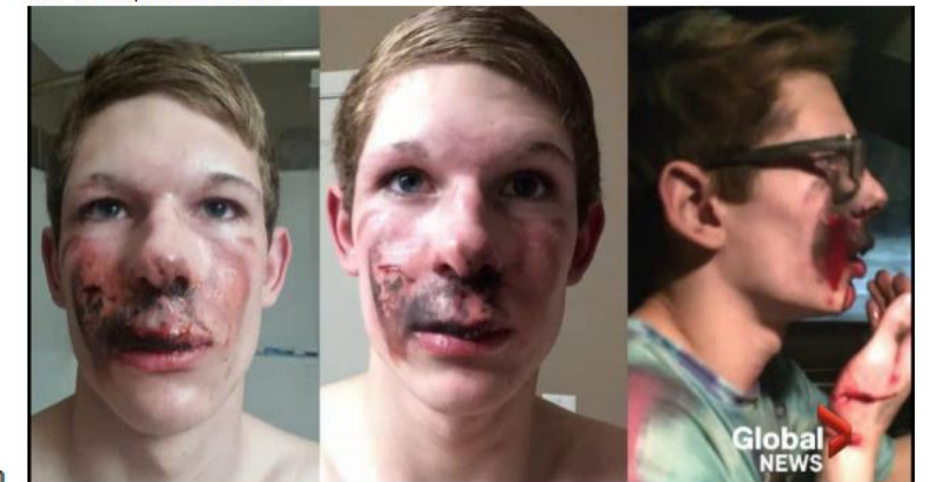
mic.com 20 hours ago



E-cigarettes are all the rage these days, as the grim fates of chain smokers make traditional drags increasingly [unpopular](#). But as researchers continue to [look into](#) whether the e-cigarette presents the same risks as its predecessor, it would seem there's another horrifying hazard e-cigs pose that cigarettes never did: explosions.

Such was the fate of 16-year-old Ty Greer, a teen in Alberta, Canada, who suffered second degree burns and broken teeth after his e-cigarette spontaneously exploded just inches from his mouth while he was using it in his car.

"It lit my kid's face on fire, busted two teeth out," Perry Greer, Ty's father, told the [Canadian Press](#). "It burned the back of his throat, burned his tongue very badly. If he wasn't wearing glasses, he possibly could have lost his eyes. ... He wanted to die. That is how much pain he was in."



LAWSUITS

E-cigarette explosions prompt three lawsuits in California

Vicente Garza

October 16, 2015



- Severe injuries to his mouth, tongue, and left index finger
- 7 day hospitalization
- Two surgeries on his tongue
- Two surgeries on his left index finger, including amputation at the knuckle
- Ongoing treatment at the Grossman Burn Center



An image provided by Shernoff Bidart Echeverria Bentley LLP shows Vicente Garza's injuries after an electronic cigarette exploded near his face. (Shernoff Bidart Echeverria Bentley LLP)



ADVERTISEMENT

In Case You Missed It



Doctors' message to Asian Americans: Watch out for diabetes even if you're young and thin

3:00 AM

VAPING DEVICES

- Vaping devices can be used for many drugs and may look like familiar products.



SPICE (SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA)

- A chemical sprayed on plant material.



DOWNTOWN AREA SPICE POISONINGS

EMS reporting 4-5 poisonings a day!

- Possibly new “Spice” compound with unknown health effects.
- Just between March 2015 and February 2016 - 400 percent increase in Emergency Medical System (EMS) incidents involving Spice.
- Taxed EMS system and resources expenditures of \$2.4 million.
- Increase production and accessibility of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS).

KEY TAKE AWAYS FOR PREVENTION EFFORTS IN A DYNAMIC ENVIRONMENT

- Use data to inform prevention efforts and track trends
- Strategic coordination between key prevention partners to ensure consistent messaging
- Engage in innovative prevention
 - DRE
 - No scare tactics
 - Include drugged driving information in driver education classes/Start Smart classes
- Prevention messaging throughout the year

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Prevention should start in elementary and middle school.
- Parent involvement in drug prevention efforts.
- Recruit key stakeholders from many sectors.
- Frequent training for staff and administration on emerging drugs.
- Learn lessons from the alcohol and tobacco industries. Maintain local control over access points.
- Collaborate with local businesses to gauge the environmental conditions.
- Identify public health issues in States that have recreational use.
- Develop strict standards/protocols for drugged driving and edibles.

MPI WEBSITE

mpisdcounty.net



- Multiple resources, info cards, data, PowerPoints available for download.
- Half day trainings available marijuana, RX and synthetics.

MPI

Marijuana
Prevention
Initiative

San Diego County

Discussion

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some innovative strategies you are working on in your counties or agencies?
1. What the greatest challenges you encounter in your work?
1. Where are you finding the greatest resistance?
1. Are you seeing any emergent trends that we haven't discussed around marijuana?

MPI

Marijuana
Prevention
Initiative

San Diego County

QUESTIONS?