

Youth Facts: Drug Use

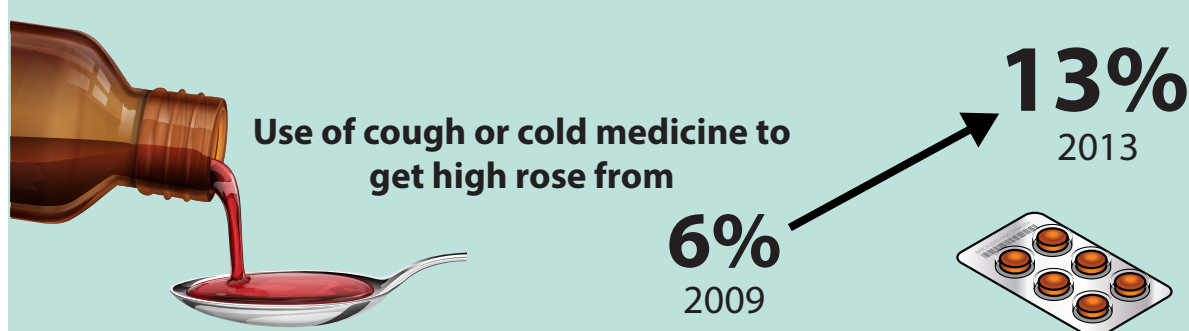
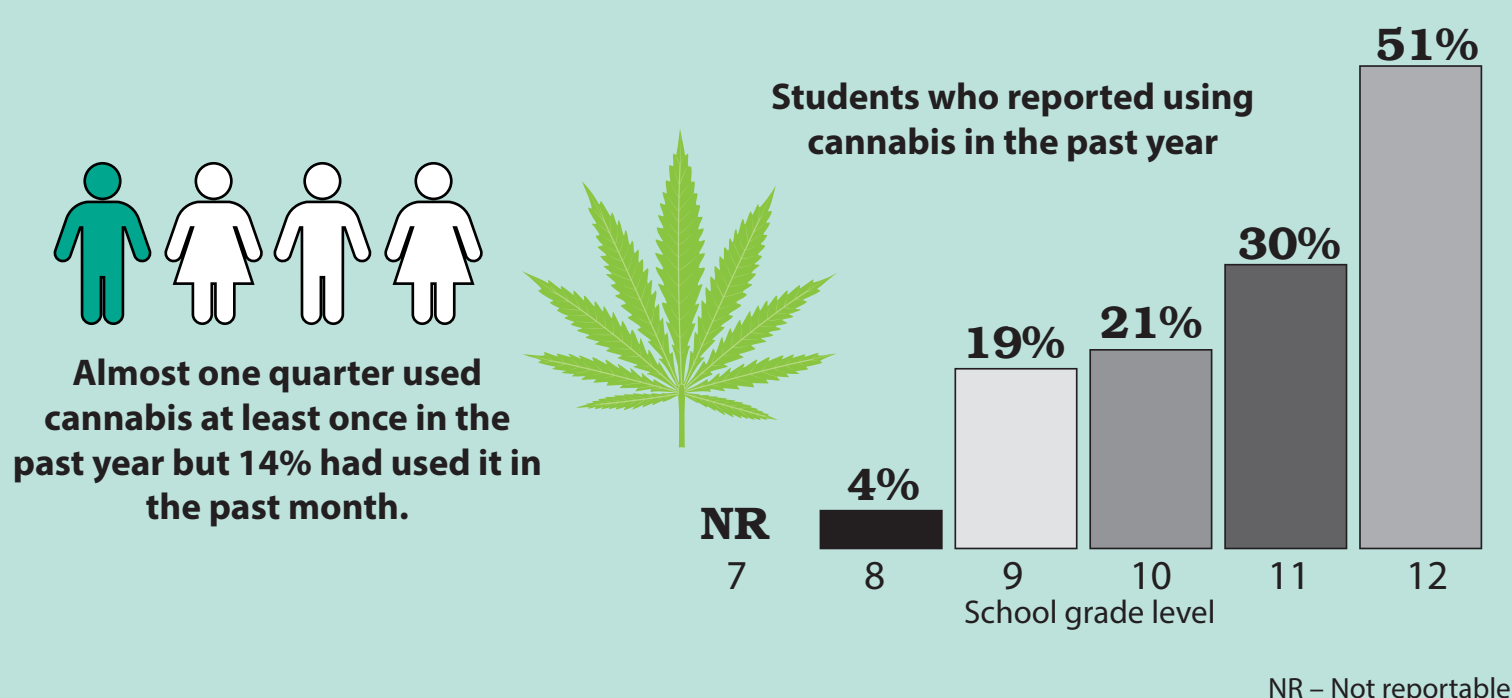
Ottawa Student Drug Use and Health Report, 2014



Youth are more likely than adults to experience harm from substance use. Chronic marijuana use is associated with memory, thinking and attention difficulties, particularly among those who began using marijuana in early adolescence. Non-medical use of prescription drugs is associated with injury, dependence and accidental death from overdose.

To learn more about Youth Facts and other topics, and view an accessible version visit:
<http://www.ottawa.ca/healthreports>.

Students are more likely to use cannabis, prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) drugs non-medically rather than other illicit drugs such as hallucinogens, cocaine, or ecstasy.



Non-medical use of prescription drugs decreased from 21% in 2009 to 14% in 2013.

21%
2009

14%
2013



13%
of students used an opioid pain reliever non-medically in the past year, and two-thirds got the drug from a parent, sibling or someone else they live with.

16%
of students have been the passenger of a car driven by someone who has been using drugs.



14%
of high school students holding a G1 licence or higher have driven within an hour of using cannabis.

Resources:

- Rideauwood Addiction and Family Services (www.rideauwood.org) is a non-profit agency serving individuals and family members who are or have been affected by addictions, substance abuse, problem gambling or related mental health issues. Contact your school or Rideauwood Intake: 613-724-4881.
- Maison Fraternité provides services to the francophone population who have a substance use problem, including services for adults, adolescents, and specific programming for women: www.maisonfraternite.ca.
- Dave Smith Youth Treatment Centre provides residential and community-based agency dedicated to helping youth (13-21) overcome substance misuse: www.davesmithcentre.org.
- Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa provides youth and family counselling and crisis support, including walk-in clinics: www.ysb.on.ca.
- Local Community Health and Resource Centres offer many programs and services for youth and families: www.coalitionottawa.ca
- The Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health provides comprehensive and culturally relevant services for Aboriginal (First Nation, Inuit and Métis) individuals, couples and families, including several programs for youth. These include "I Am Connected" is a holistic substance prevention programming for children and youth aged 10 to 24. The Centre also offers the "Wasa-Nabin Urban Youth Program," a one on one program offered to At-Risk Youth age 13-18, and the "Wabano Way Youth Diversion Program" which offers a culturally-sensitive prevention and intervention program that provides diversion from court www.wabano.com.

The data used in this publication came from the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey conducted by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and administered by the Institute for Social Research, York University.