

# Youth Now PREVENTION INITIATIVE

## Youth Marijuana Prevention Community Needs Assessment: Executive Summary

This report summarizes the regional needs assessment conducted through the PREVENT! Youth Now Prevention Initiative, in partnership with Clark County Public Health. The assessment occurred April-June 2016 and included two phases: analysis of the Healthy Youth Survey (HYS) data and a stakeholder survey regarding community priorities and needs. Both were essential to developing effective strategies to meet the local community's challenges around youth marijuana use.

HYS data clearly established that marijuana use and related risk factors affect all communities in the region. The workgroup decided to select specific issues influencing youth marijuana use as "priority populations", instead of focusing on particular geographical areas, ethnicities, or school-related factors. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), while familial and individual in effect, become an environmental and community-wide issue, due to prevalence and known correlation to substance abuse risk across the lifespan. The workgroup analyzed rates of use among 10th graders in the general population and among 10th graders who also reported ACEs-related risk factors.

### Key findings:

- Youth who perceive no or low risk of harm from regular use of marijuana were identified as a priority population.
- Youth who report marijuana is easy to get were identified as a priority population.
- Youth are significantly more likely to use marijuana if they experience any of the ACEs related risk factors.
- Effective strategies to prevent youth marijuana use must include all aspects of community (individuals, peer groups, families, schools, and community).

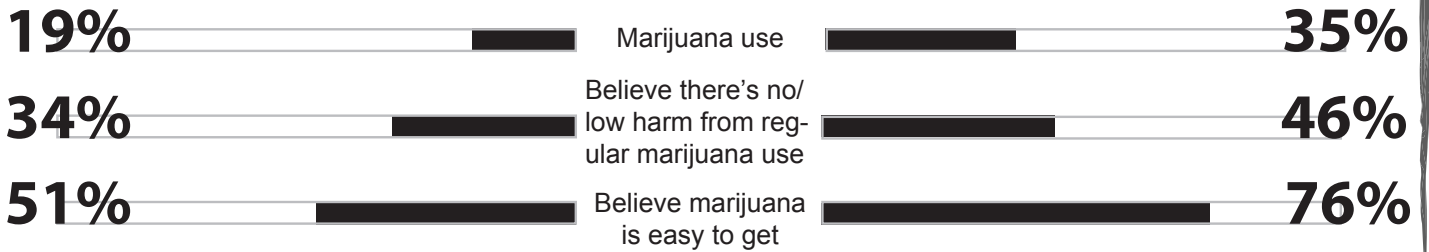
By examining the HYS data in conjunction with the gaps and needs identified in the stakeholder survey, it was clear that the highest risk factors involve issues that crossed ethnicity, behavioral, and other demographic categories.

As this report is shared with community leaders, it is important to consider the role of resilience and cross-sector strategies in primary prevention; and to continue capturing local conditions to assess the best opportunities for community-based prevention efforts. Our next steps include expanding the stakeholder survey to include all sectors and disseminating these findings to our partners as we develop strategies to educate youth and parents, decrease access to cannabis products, and build resilience for youth and their families.



**Clark County  
10th Graders**

**Skamania County  
10th Graders**



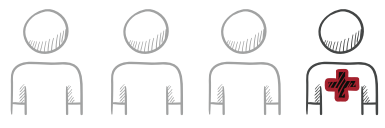
# #s to know

**19%** of Clark County 10th graders have used marijuana

## Of all Clark County 10th Graders



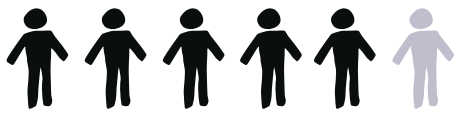
**1 in 3 is depressed\***  
\*Clark & Skamania Co's



**1 in 4 is physically abused**



**1 in 5 considers suicide**



**1 in 6 lacks adult support**



**1 in 10 attempts suicide**

**29%** of depressed kids use marijuana

**35%** of physically abused kids use marijuana

**35%** of kids considering suicide use marijuana

**34%** of kids lacking adult support use marijuana

**44%** of kids who have attempted suicide use marijuana

All data comes from the 2014 Healthy Youth Survey.

Find more information at [preventclarkcounty.org](http://preventclarkcounty.org)