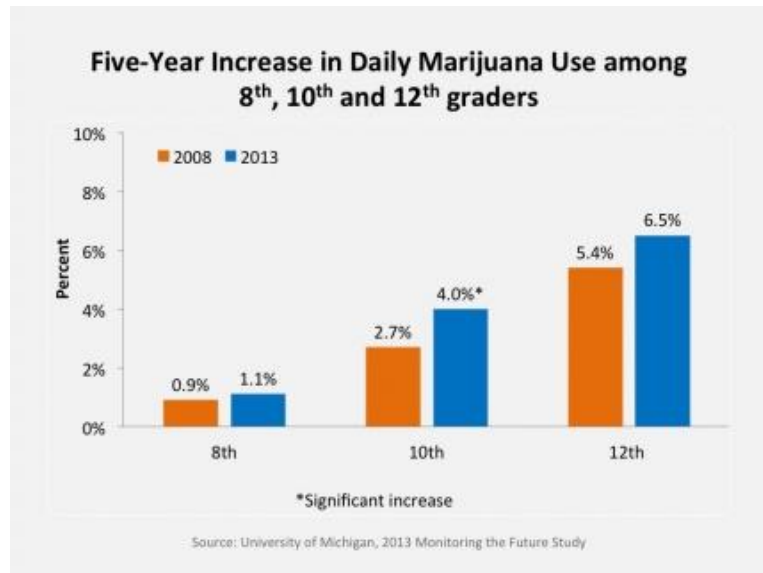


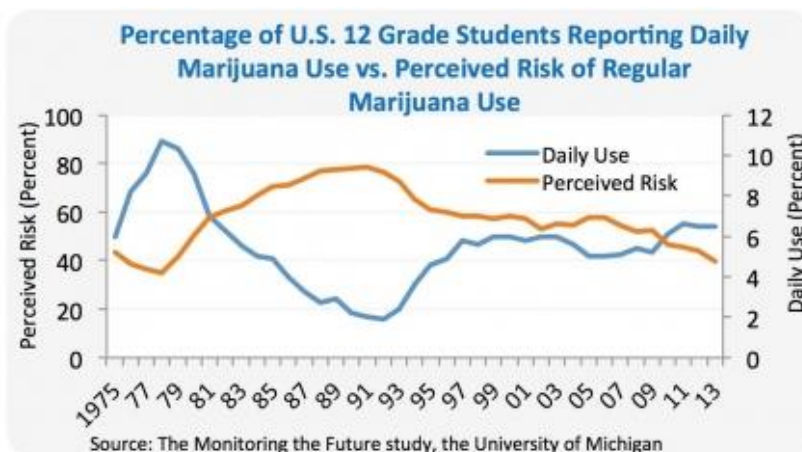
Marijuana Use, Increased Availability and Youth Perception of Harms- Floridians Get the Facts

What Floridians Need to Know about Marijuana Use, Increased Availability and Youth Perception of Harms

According to the 2013 Monitoring the Future [Survey](#) findings, five-year trends show a significant increase in current marijuana use among 8th, 10th and 12th graders. For example, from 2008 to 2013, reported past-month use increased from 5.8% to 7.0% among 8th graders, from 13.8% to 18.0% among 10th graders, and from 19.4% to 22.7% among 12th graders surveyed. Alarming, the survey noted that this trend coincides with a decrease in the perceived risk of harm of marijuana use among the same group of students.



In Colorado, where marijuana has been legal for so-called medical purposes since 2000, the Colorado Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) 2013 report states that, as of 2011, the national average for youth 12 to 17 years old considered “current” marijuana users was 7.64 percent, the highest average since 1981. Colorado’s average among the same age group was 10.72 percent.



We urge all Floridians to consider the impact of the availability of so-called medical marijuana and its consequences on young people’s perception of harm and usage.



For more information on “medical” marijuana legalization in Florida, please visit Don’t Let Florida Go to Pot: <http://www.dontletfloridagotopot.com/>

For more information on drug policy issues, please visit Save Our Society From Drugs at: www.saveoursociety.org