Great Plains IDeA-CTR
Statistical Data Brief

Time and Geographic Trends of Marijuana Use in the Great Plains Region and the U.S.

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Aim:
To examine the time and geographic trends of marijuana use in Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota compared to the U.S. where data are available.

Definitions:
• **Prevalence**: The proportion of people in the population affected by a (medical) condition

Data Source:
The brief used most recent data available through National Survey on Drug Use & Health (NSDUH), Monitoring the Future.
• NSDUH is conducted every year in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and provides information in the United States on health-related issues including tobacco, alcohol, and drug use, mental health. NSDUH is under the Substance Abuse and mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), an agency in the US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS ).¹
• Monitoring the Future is a study of Americans from adolescence to young adulthood providing information on behaviors, attitudes, and values. This research is funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, a part of the National Institute of Health.²

¹ [https://nsduhweb.rti.org/respweb/homepage.cfm](https://nsduhweb.rti.org/respweb/homepage.cfm)
² [http://monitoringthefuture.org/](http://monitoringthefuture.org/)
According to the most recently available data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), marijuana use in the United States and across the Great Plains region is increasing. In 2018, 15.5% of persons above the age of 12 in the United States reported having used marijuana in the last year. Across the Great Plains region, the reported values were 12.4% in Nebraska, 12.4% in South Dakota, and 11.5% in North Dakota. These numbers can be compared to the national level in 2008, which was 11%. 

Data Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA), The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH).
This graph provides detailed information about the age of the individuals reporting marijuana use in the past year. 34.8% of adults (18-25) in the United States reported marijuana use in the last year, while one in four (25.5%) reported in North Dakota. Use among adults (26+) was consistently lower in the Great Plains region than in the US overall. For example, the national prevalence is 12.7%, while in Nebraska, it is 8.4%.
According to the most recent data from Monitoring the Future, past month prevalence of marijuana use among 8th, 10th, and 12th graders has remained mostly constant. The prevalence of use varies greatly between grades, however. In 2018, only 6.6% of 8th graders reported marijuana use in the past month, while 18.4% of 10th graders and 22.3% of 12th graders reported use.
The above graphs represent marijuana use in the past month by gender and race/ethnicity. Males use marijuana at higher rates than females, while the proportion of individuals who use marijuana is lowest in the Asian population. Use of marijuana is the highest among those who identify as more than one race, at 19.2%, while Native American use is the second highest at 17.4%. Use is mostly similar among other demographics.
The figure above demonstrates that there has been an increase in marijuana use in Nebraska since 2008. It is also clear that Region 6 (see map) has the highest prevalence compared to the other subregions. For the most part, marijuana use has remained constant across subregions of Nebraska over the last decade.
The data for North Dakota does not span as far back as that for Nebraska does, as the subregions in North Dakota were redefined in 2012. Reports of marijuana use in the past year in some regions increased from the first time period to the second (North West, North East) and decreased in others (West Central, Lake Region, South East).
Past Year Marijuana Use in South Dakota Substate Regions: NSDUH Substate 2012-2016

The above graph demonstrates that past-year marijuana use increased in each substate region of South Dakota between the two measured time periods. The data from the period prior to 2012 is not shown because the subdivision classification was different.
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